

Document Pack



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WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, CARMARTHEN AT 10.00 AM. ON TUESDAY, 26TH JULY, 2016** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Mark James

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP 10 MEMBERS

Councillor	Portfolio
Councillor Emlyn Dole	Leader (Plaid Cymru) Corporate Leadership and Strategy; Chair of Executive Board; Represents Council at WLGA; Political Advocate for Council; Appoints Executive Board Members; Determines EBM Portfolios; Liaises with Chief Executive
Councillor David Jenkins	Deputy Leader - Resources (Plaid Cymru) Finance & Budget; ICT; Property / Asset Management; Procurement; Housing Benefits; Revenues; Armed Forces Champion; and Chairs Executive Board in Leader's absence
Councillor Pam Palmer	Deputy Leader - Communities (Independent) Council Business Manager; Community Champion; Customer Focus & Policy, Police Liaison; Community Safety; Social Justice / Crime & Disorder Community Planning; Anti-Poverty Champion; Sustainability; Bio-diversity; Youth Ambassador; Rural Affairs and Chairs Executive Board in Leader's absence
Councillor Hazel Evans	Technical Services (Plaid Cymru) Refuse; Street Cleansing; Transport Services; Grounds Maintenance; Building Services; Catering Services; Caretaking; Building Cleaning; Transport Services; Emergency Planning; Flooding
Councillor Linda Evans	Housing (Plaid Cymru) Housing – Public; Housing – Private; Equalities; Older People
Councillor Meryl Gravell	Regeneration & Leisure (Independent) Economic Development; West Wales European Centre; Community Development; Sports; Leisure Centres; Museums; Libraries; Country Park
Councillor Gareth Jones	Education and Children (Plaid Cymru) Schools; Children Services; Special Education Needs; Safeguarding; Respite Homes; Regional Integrated School Improvement Service; Adult Community Learning; Youth Services; Lead Member for Children and Young People; Eisteddfod Ambassador
Councillor Jim Jones	Environmental & Public Protection (Independent) Environmental Enforcement; Litter; Unlicensed Waste; Dog Fouling; Parking Services; Trading Standards; Environmental Health.
Councillor Mair Stephens	Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration (Independent) Human Resources; Training; Simpson Compact; Priority Based Budgeting (PPB); Corporate Efficiencies; Welsh Language Champion; Town and Community Councils Ambassador.
Councillor Jane Tremlett	Social Care & Health (Independent) Adult Social Services; Residential Care; Home Care; Learning Disabilities; Mental Health; NHS Liaison/Collaboration/ Integration; Carers' Champion; Disability Ambassador; Dementia Care Champion; 50+ Champion.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.
3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:-
 - 3 .1 20TH JUNE, 2016; 21 - 34
 - 3 .2 4TH JULY, 2016. 35 - 40
4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED).
5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 - 5 .1 QUESTION BY MRS KAREN HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“There have been a number of failures on the consultation process with the headmaster admitting on the 26th April that they had been naive about the consultation process. We have received correspondence confirming the school were aware of a proposal from the LEA in September 2014, followed by a proposal letter in January 2015 to the school which makes reference to 5 issues which were agreed as a package which had to be taken as a whole. With the insistence that the package must be accepted by the governors and LEA as a whole and already accepted in February 2015 it does make us wonder if this was already a ‘done deal’. Why wasn’t this made public to all stakeholders in September 2014 showing openness and transparency?”

- 5 .2 QUESTION BY MR STEVE HATTO TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“We have exchanged extensive correspondence with CCC with one subject concerning safety risks involved when transporting pupils to alternative English Medium Schools. One of the main concerns is that families who are unable to drive would have to walk with small children in all weather conditions over 2 miles depending on where in Llangennech they live. They would have to cross a busy 40 mph road and three motorway slip roads to reach their designated school. However, LEAs outlook

on this states: that it is parental choice not to enrol our children at Llangennech and therefore it is parental responsibility to transport their children to other schools. However, the English Medium is being withdrawn by the Local Education Authority. It is not parent's choice to remove children from Llangennech but is a course of action forced upon us to take our children to a suitable English Medium. Not every child is able to learn through the medium of Welsh due to various reasons. However, there are 170 surplus Welsh medium places available in the local area at Brynsierfel and Furnace. But the three alternative English medium schools Bryn, Bynea and Hendy are already over capacity. No regard has been given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy, the 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais and also in Bynea. Surely this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Currently any family in Llangennech speaking either welsh or English can have their child taught in either of the official languages of wales. Is it not the case that this choice of education at the local school is being removed and people requiring their child to be educated in one of the official languages will be discriminated against... If the English Medium is removed can you please explain how is this parental choice? And where will you provide alternative English Medium Education for our children?"

5.3 QUESTION BY MS JULIA REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"From the information supplied by the LEA, it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. There are 121 pupils in the school that do not live in Llangennech. But there are 96 children from the village travelling to other schools out of the area. 81 of them are attending an alternative English medium school. If the 81 children could attend their community school, the figures would then show more of a 50/50 demand for English and Welsh in the community of Llangennech. Parents who sought English medium education in the past at Llangennech have been turned away because the school was full. But this wasn't the case, as some parents proved during a tribunal, and who were then offered a place at Ysgol Llangennech. Why were English medium places refused when the capacity for English medium was half the capacity of Welsh classes? How can the school publicise its green credentials when it will support transporting a large number of pupils into and out of the village?"

5.4 QUESTION BY MRS MICHAELA BEDDOWS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium stream or the language of their home environment .Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really cannot cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. Many children with learning difficulties, especially ASD feel very isolated even in a supported environment. If they were made to attend a school out of the area this would isolate them further from the community as a whole. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?”

5.5 QUESTION BY MR KARL HARRIES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“I am a parent of 3 former pupils and grandfather of two current pupils at Llangennech School, one of whom was nonverbal at age 4 and has learning disabilities. All of my children attended Llangennech School through the Welsh medium. My wife and I being non Welsh speakers watched them struggle and were unable to help them. This left us with a feeling of helplessness that we would not wish upon any parent let alone a parent of a child with learning disabilities. This in itself is a very stressful and demanding task without the addition of a language barrier. I would like to ask if actual proof and not conjecture and the constant use of the word belief can be provided in order to substantiate claims which state that Welsh medium education is as successful if not more successful than English medium education for children who have a learning disability? With emphasis placed upon children with significant learning disabilities, nonverbal children and moreover children with disabilities from non Welsh speaking homes.”

5.6 QUESTION BY MR DARREN SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“You have stated that as an Authority you are endeavouring to

increase the number of bilingual pupils within Carmarthenshire and have developed a policy in order to delivery this strategy.

We contacted Mr. Sully on the 29th June requesting information as to which schools had already gone through this process prior to Llangennech and which were the ones programmed to follow the initiative after Llangennech. In his response Mr. Sully stated that, I quote, 'The situation at other schools has no bearing on the proposal for Llangennech'

Can you please outline that the imposition of Welsh Medium education at Llangennech is part of a wider policy strategy being pursued by the Authority?"

5.7 QUESTION BY MS NIKKI LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

Change for a community or organisation is generally seen as a good thing. Change for change sake is seen as counter-productive. Change based on no demand is to be avoided at all costs. Following a recent FOI request regarding the supply and demand of Welsh books within the library at Llangennech we have been advised the following.

English Books 5,186 stocked - 13,909 lent within the year = over twice the demand of stock.

Welsh Books 531 stocked 10% of English Stock - 414 lent within the year = under demand on availability.

Total books lent = 14,440 Welsh lent = 2.8% of all books

From this relatively simple piece of research that not only are you attempting to socially engineer a change within the school but through your actions are attempting to socially engineer a community which has no demand or leaning towards a pure Welsh approach. Do you agree?"

5.8 QUESTION BY MR NIGEL HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Parents have been subjected to many contradictions regarding the languages taught in reception classes leaving them confused and distressed at the impact this situation might be having on their children.

Gareth Jones has recently made a statement refuting the

claims that 'Llangennech Infant's School has acted illegally in terms of language provision in the foundation phase.'

He goes onto state that 'The County wishes to reassure all parents that this allegation is completely untrue. Provision at the school is entirely appropriate and the school wishes to preform to high standards with pupils achieving good outcomes.'

It is interesting to note that this statement does not actually elucidate anything...but adds to the confusion.

Mr Rob Sully stated in the Scrutiny meeting of the 23rd May 2015 that Reception Classes were Welsh, but teachers at the new parents meeting held a couple of weeks ago were told it is taught in English Welsh English.

Carmarthenshire County Council have also stated that reception class are welsh learning to some parents who have contacted them. The children's homework and reading books are completely in welsh.

We are concerned that figures have been engineered and English Stream was not naturally declining but hurdles placed in parent's way to achieve the Welsh Medium goal. Were the Local Authority aware about the false information being provided to parents about the reception classes and the differing views and also confirm the date it changed to Welsh, who proposed it and how was it communicated to affected persons such as parents?"

5.9 QUESTION BY MS KAZ DEACON TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"On page 28 of the Consultation document it shows all children within Derbyn 1 and Derbyn 2 classes of Llangennech Infant School are in Welsh medium, please can you confirm the exact date the language category changed from bilingual to Welsh medium for these classes?"

5.10 QUESTION BY MR ROBERT WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"On the programme week in week out Councillor Campbell said and I quote" Research shows over many years when you provide choice the numbers of welsh medium decreases. So you have a dilemma if you provide choice fewer people opt for

various reasons but with a level of compulsion you are giving young people those opportunities to be bilingual. Even though this level of compulsion of lack of choice contravenes article 2 of the first protocol to the European convention on human rights. Do you agree with Councillor Campbell's remarks?"

5.11 QUESTION BY MR DEAN BOLGIANI TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Following on from the potential benefits of bilingualism which have been highlighted such as health and educational achievements but Llangennech is a green flagged, bilingual school. Surely the local authorities' efforts should be focused upon increasing Welsh within English Medium schools and possibly making them Dual Stream. This would increase and promote bilingualism in its truer sense whilst also giving parents increased choices. This type of strategy would capture a larger percentage of the Carmarthenshire school population and is a unifying approach as opposed to divisive. Can you explain why Llangennech is being targeted under new policy?"

5.12 QUESTION BY MS OLRA WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"International studies have shown that only inclusive equal status of dual languages actually increase use of both languages into young adulthood. Current CCC and WG policy of excluding non-Welsh speaking families is not cost effective and does not positively promote the Welsh language. Are the Council aware that a high percentage of those leaving the dual English and Welsh stream in Llangennech go on to do well at GCSE Welsh and continue studying Welsh or chosen subjects through the medium of Welsh in Bryngwyn and Coleg Sir Gar?"

5.13 QUESTION BY MS SARAH MARTIN TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"On P138 of the consultation report the summary/conclusion from Estyn's states "In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Llangennech close". The report time and time again cites it will

be a parent's choice to send the child elsewhere yet there will be no coverage of cost and alternative English provision is deemed to be full. The local government response to Estyn on p140 also concurs stating "...the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending English medium provision on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through their medium of English". Although current students are considered what viable alternatives are there for future students who do not wish to follow a Welsh education and how can the council justify a proposal that is not backed by both Estyn and local government?"

5.14 QUESTION BY MRS LAURA PEARCE TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"During the last meeting it was clear that the committee / chair understands the many benefits of bilingualism from an early age and how a dual stream school offers this and indeed this was repeatedly referred to. To be very clear, Llangennech School is currently a dual stream school offering bilingualism to children from both English and Welsh families locally in a close knit community. Three of my children have been through or are in the English stream and 2 are in the Welsh stream, this choice has been fundamentally important depending on them as individuals (none have special needs). My question regarding this is quite simply, how can it possibly be a benefit to remove one language (The English language) from a dual stream (bilingual) school - how is one language (Welsh) better than two (Welsh and English) when the very essence of bilingualism is 2 languages?"

5.15 QUESTION BY MRS MAUREEN JONES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"I am a former pupil of Ysgol Llangennech, my sisters, my daughter, my grandchildren and great grandchildren have attended, or are currently attending Llangennech schools.

Could I please ask why, after over 60 years of successful bilingual education taught through the medium of English and Welsh, many years of excellent reports, and a proven record, that Carmarthenshire County Council feels the need to split a close community, with the school at its heart, and alienate those who choose, often for social, personal, or disability reasons, English medium education for their children, and promote single stream education."

5.16 QUESTION BY MS SALLY ANN THOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“In this climate of austerity, cutbacks and uncertainty, why is CCC spending so much time, money and valuable resources on FIXING a school that is NOT BROKEN? Llangennech is a very successful green, bilingual, dual stream school, whose motto is "Education for ALL". Wouldn't this valuable money and resources be better spent on yellow and amber English medium schools to strive for them to achieve a high standard of bilingual dual stream education like Llangennech?”

5.17 QUESTION BY MRS EMMA LOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Following the report provided by Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the responses from the consultation process we have been approached by several parents stating that their proforma's were not included in the document, even though they had been submitted and receipts received. From the responses received it would appear that there is strong support for keeping the dual stream with a total of 154 recognised responses as well as a signed petition of 505 signatories (which has already been submitted). The against group have been open in sharing their names and relationship to the school whilst the for campaigners have continued with the clandestine approach of not wishing to be named with over 30 anonymous entries. Many of the pro change consultees were past teachers, councillors, head teachers and current staff. It was suggested that the responses were relatively equal with for and against. The total number of those against compared to those for is a ratio of 5:1. How is this considered to be equal when the consultees for supporting the change do not appear to include many parental opinions and a vast number of those against the change do not appear to have been included?”

5.18 QUESTION BY MRS JACQUELINE SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“It is acknowledged that the Welsh Assembly led by the Labour

Government has set out a vision to increase the Welsh language in Wales across various aspects of life. The Assembly has confirmed in writing that no targets have been given regarding the Welsh language so how this is implemented is at the discretion of each Local Authority. For example, the Counties of South Wales such as Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Cardiff each have a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan that aim to increase Welsh without using authoritarian approaches. We are not aware of any headline deliverables within any political manifesto to forcibly change the existing language choices at primary schools within the County without consideration for the preferences of choice of parents and the community being taken into account. Can you please advise under what mandate and promises made to the electorate by members is this initiative is being undertaken?"

5.19 QUESTION BY MRS KATE WARNER TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"In complying with the Schools Standards & Organisation Wales Act (2013), the Welsh Government directed every Local Education Authority in Wales to produce a 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' to implement its policy of expanding Welsh medium education. Carmarthenshire County Council complied with the Government's directive and produced the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which was approved by the Welsh Government. If the proposal for Llangennech School is not implemented, surely the Council would not be then complying with the Welsh Government's approved 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' for Carmarthenshire. Is this interpretation correct?"

5.20 QUESTION BY MRS ELIN GRIFFITHS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Bilingualism offers many benefits and research shows that children who understand more than one language have the ability to think more flexibly and creatively. Two languages can offer economic benefits when searching for a job in the future, it enables communication with a wider range of people, the ability to experience two different cultures and gives people the opportunity to be part of all aspects of social life. Does the Executive Board agree that no child should be at a disadvantage, educationally, socially or economically, therefore by agreeing that Llangennech Infant and Junior schools continue along the language continuum, assurance will be

given that each child will enjoy the same benefits?"

5 .21 QUESTION BY MR OWAIN GLENISTER TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Considering the pressure on Carmarthenshire County Council to respond to the Welsh Language Measure 2011, i.e. to provide basic services through both languages, does the Executive Board consider that developing individuals with the ability to communicate effectively in two languages is essential as a long term strategy when trying to develop a workforce that can provide services through the medium of Welsh and English. If so, do you feel that this change to Ysgol Llangennech will give children better opportunities to develop into bilingual adults, and therefore more likely to secure a post in the public sector?"

5 .22 QUESTION BY MRS HELEN MAINWARING TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"As Labour was leading the Council when the 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017' was announced in 2013, which stated the intention to change dual stream schools into Welsh schools, does the Labour Party's commitment to this policy remain the same, and can we have the same assurance, now that the Leadership of the Council has changed, that this Strategic Plan will continue to have the support of the Councillors and be implemented in the same way?"

5 .23 QUESTION BY MR HYWEL DAVIES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Are members of the Executive Board aware of the fact that the Assembly has a cross-party commitment to create a bilingual Wales and that employers are increasingly looking for bilingual skills as recent legislation insists that public bodies must provide services in the language choice of the customer?"

5 .24 QUESTION BY MRS CATHRIN JONES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Have members of the Executive Board read the recent

research in Canada that proves that bilingualism can have a positive impact on the brain in later life by keeping it alert and helping to reduce the possibility of suffering dementia?”

5 .25 QUESTION BY MR MARTYN WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“In Welsh medium and Dual stream schools, there is a specific emphasis on developing Welsh through immersion methods across all areas of learning of the Foundation Phase, whatever language the child speaks at home. The ‘Welsh in the Foundation Phase’ report by Estyn published in December 2013 states “that the standards in pupils’ language, literacy and communication skills are similar to those in English-medium schools and settings, and are line with the expected level at that age”. Therefore does the Executive Board agree that Welsh in the Foundation Phase is successful in providing children from Welsh speaking homes and English speaking homes the best start in their education?”

5 .26 QUESTION BY MR MICHAEL REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“As a retired primary school teacher in Carmarthenshire with my final post as a Deputy Head Teacher in a Llanelli school, I would like to ask a question about the strength of a Welsh language education. My wife and I were both brought up in entirely English speaking homes, however, we decided to send our children through Welsh medium education. As English speakers we as parents experienced no problems with our childrens’ homework, rather the opposite as it enhanced our knowledge and understanding. During my years in teaching, I did experience teaching in dual stream schools. I have seen at first hand that teaching Welsh as a second language in dual or English medium schools is an overall failure and that dual streams do dilute the Welsh language as is so evident on the playground. Does the Executive Board agree with my observations that the most effective education to produce totally fluent bilingual children - speaking, reading and writing in English and Welsh is a Welsh language medium education?”

5 .27 QUESTION BY MRS RHIANEDD REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Between 2000 and 2006, the number of children at Ysgol y

Ffwrnes had doubled and as a result of this, and other reasons, a new school was built to ensure that there were sufficient places, according to the projections, for the naturally increasing demand by parents for Welsh medium education in the Llanelli area. As these extended early years classes at Ysgol Ffwrnes are full or close to being full for September 2016, does the Executive Board agree that this concrete evidence is the only way to ensure that this continued demand for Welsh medium education in the Llanelli area, which ensures that children leave primary school bilingual, is to ensure that Llangennech Infant and Junior schools continue along the language continuum and change to a Welsh medium school?"

5 .28 QUESTION BY MRS MANON WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Ysgol Dewi Sant, the first Welsh medium school in Wales to be adopted by the local authority, was opened in 1947. Since then, Welsh medium education has expanded considerably in Wales in general, not as a result of promotion by local authorities, but mainly due to increasing demand by parents, as seen in Llangennech schools. Today, there are over 387 Welsh medium primary schools in Wales and this continues to increase gradually, at the same time the percentage of primary school aged children who received Welsh medium education increased from 18.8% in 2000/01 to 24% in 2014/15. Considering the success and the benefits of this type of teaching and bilingualism in general, which have been recognised world wide, will this Council now consider backing up the wisdom and far-sightedness of parents by actively promoting and marketing Welsh medium education?"

5 .29 QUESTION BY MRS SIAN LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

"Does the Executive Board agree with me that national data published over recent years by the Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire Education Authority shows clearly that pupils from Welsh schools or streams perform better in external tests and assessments in core subjects (including English as a subject) than pupils in English medium schools or streams, which shows that Welsh medium schools have clear educational benefits?"

5 .30 QUESTION BY MR CURTIS ROBERTS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

“Can the Executive Board confirm, on the basis of their long term experience of introducing the Welsh language to children with special educational needs, with many having come from non-Welsh speaking homes, that this hasn’t had any negative effect on their education or development as individuals?”

6. QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:-

6 .1 QUESTION BY MR DARREN SEWARD

“Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a document describing its proposal to CLOSE/DISCONTINUE Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors school and open a new Welsh Medium only Llangennech community primary school. Why is CCC pushing the Welsh assembly directives on Welsh language so far when it is not happening in other counties like Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot and Newport?”

6 .2 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD

“There are 121 pupils currently in the School who are not living in the village of Llangennech. However, there are 96 children living in the village travelling to other schools, out of area. Only 15 of those children are attending welsh medium so that leaves 81 attending alternative English medium. Why such a differentiation? Some of these could have had places in Llangennech but have been turned away making the English stream look as if it is declining.”

6 .3 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD

“We have already had one parent that we know of refused a place in Bryn due to 54 requests for only 30 places. Hendy is full also, where are you going to provide provision for parents who want or NEED to educate their children in English medium?”

6 .4 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK

“Out of the 121 children currently in the school 91 are attending Welsh medium. Why is this so when the new Furnace school is

under capacity by 132 places and Brynserfiel under by 38.5 Pupils according to section 2.3 of the consultation document. There's surplus capacity at Welsh Mediums which is not in alignment with School Organisation Code 2013 which states no more than a 10% surplus. There are 1,710 as per Carmarthenshire Councils website surplus places in all Welsh medium primary schools in Carmarthenshire figures taken from CCC own website. So doesn't justify any further spaces being created. The School Organisation code 2013 states when developing proposals relevant bodies should have regard to Local plans for economic or housing development. Why has there been no regard given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy and 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais? Surely, this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Hendy is one of the nearest schools for English medium if this proposal goes through. However, Llanedi school is facing closure and advised to relocate to Hendy. Hendy school are already nearing full capacity and as a dual stream are earmarked for changing to Welsh Medium Only. The other nearest English medium is the Bryn School but the county have already been issuing reject letters as they have received 54 applications so far and only have 30 spaces. As well as the proposed new school being unfit for purpose as it does not serve the community it's meant to support, English speaking children appear to have no nearby alternatives?"

6 .5 QUESTION BY JACQUELINE SEWARD

"Following the closure of a school and the consequential loss of a language stream, provision should be offered to at least equivalent standards to learners according to the School Organisation Code 2013. However, Llangennech is currently Green. Hendy is yellow and the Bryn is Amber. How is this equivalent?"

6 .6 QUESTION BY NIGEL HUGHES

"The consultation document is a flawed document that does not recognise those disadvantaged by the proposals from within Llangennech village. To state that there is nobody affected by these proposed changes is naïve and ignorant and shows that the Authority has failed to show 'due regard' under the Public Duty Act to those affected by simply saying they don't exist. In doing so, they have not covered the Health and Safety aspects or capacity issues at alternative schools. If walking to Hendy for example, crossing a dual carriageway, will put lives at risk. There is a CrashMap available online which shows along that particular route, one accident occurring every 2 months on average. Therefore, this consultation

simply exposes a rush to a predetermined outcome irrespective of any views that were to be gathered throughout the process. We believe that we can evidence the fact that either the LEA or the governing body or both have failed to comply with The School Organisational Code 2013 and possibly the law. Do you think this is acceptable to put young children at risk daily?"

6 .7 QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD

"Is there need for additional nursery places in the area when we already have two providers? Specific factors need to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes as outline in the School Organisation Code 2013. Relevant bodies should take into account specific factors: the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach. Within the consultation document, there is no evidence that these have been taken into consideration and the effect of the proposals on other private sector providers?"

6 .8 QUESTION BY MICHAELA BEDDOWS

"Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium Stream or the language of their home environment. Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really can't cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?"

6 .9 QUESTION BY STEVE HATTO

"Figures manipulated – From the information supplied by the

LEA as the groups knowledge of the school it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. We can evidence that the current English streams at the school make up over 30% of the total number of pupils. The consultation states Llangennech infant school total pupils in 2015 had 186 in Welsh stream. This is not a true figure as it includes all pupils in Derbyn 1 and 2 which totals 94 pupils, irrelevant of it they are registered to continue into the English stream they have been falsely identified for the purpose of the consultation document as Welsh stream pupils. Also if we factor in the 27% coming from outside areas, together with a potential loss of English Stream, current projections will show that Llangennech School will have over 50% of pupils coming from outside the area. Do you believe, that we then have 'the right school, in the right place and can you confirm if these figures are correct?'

6 .10 QUESTION BY KAREN HUGHES

"There are approximately 11 dual Stream Schools in Carmarthenshire which according to the Welsh Language Strategy, are being earmarked for Welsh Medium only. It must be recognised that not all these schools will be suitable based upon their logistics as they will be dual stream for a reason, so how and who is assessing the demand and suitability? Has an horizon scanning exercise been conducted for Llangennech community i.e to assess how the village/population of Llangennech will look in 5, 10, 15 years time? With an increased number of new builds, an influx in migration, being close to the M4 corridor, can we confidently say that Welsh Medium Only will meet these demands when 80% of the population is already English speaking. After all, 27% of pupils are coming from outside areas and village figures do not show an increase in demand for Welsh. The Welsh Language Strategy Impact has also not been assessed properly if at all. There is no reference to English speakers having less of an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales if they attend English Medium only, more people are likely to try the Welsh stream if they know they can fall back to English within the same school. This will have the adverse effect. The use of Welsh within the community is minimal and does not support the linguistic demographics or the stats from the 2011 consensus. Why aren't these risks being factored in?"

6 .11 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK

"The Community Impact Assessment is not actually an Impact Assessment at all. It has not recognised any risks or risk assessed them (given a positive, negative or neutral rating).

One would expect consideration to be given to the impact on neighbouring schools, impact on parents and families, impact on pupils, travel implications, impact of community demographics, environmental impacts, impact upon community activities, impact on residents. These are the areas which are likely to be negatively assessed and have totally been overlooked! Why?"

7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL.	41 - 214
8. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT 2015/16 - CAR PARKING CHARGES.	215 - 262
9. CARMARTHESHIRE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY.	263 - 276
10. REVENUE BUDGET OUTLOOK 2017/18 - 2019/20.	277 - 300
11. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2015/16.	301 - 316
12. SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV).	317 - 328
13. PARC HOWARD MASTERPLAN.	329 - 340
14. PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK MASTERPLAN.	341 - 348
15. JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND OTHER INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS.	349 - 352
16. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - CARMARTHESHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.	353 - 378
17. MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS.	379 - 402
18. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.	

19. THE REPORTS RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION AS THEY CONTAIN EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 14 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) (WALES) ORDER 2007. IF, FOLLOWING THE APPLICATION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST, THE BOARD RESOLVES PURSUANT TO THE ACT TO CONSIDER THESE ITEMS IN PRIVATE, THE PUBLIC WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DURING SUCH CONSIDERATION.
20. POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF GUILDHALL, CARMARTHEN. 403 - 410
21. WIND STREET - TIRYDAIL LANE JUNCTION, AMMANFORD - LAND ACQUISITION. 411 - 422
22. PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC CAR PARK - KING STREET, LAUGHARNE. 423 - 428

MONDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, M. Gravell, D.M. Jenkins, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present as observers:

Councillors C.A. Campbell, D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand, W.G. Hopkins, G. Thomas and J.E. Williams.

The following officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
Ms R. Mullen	-	Director of Environment
Mr R. Sully	-	Director of Education & Children
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Corporate Property
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr N. Daniel	-	Performance & Information Manager
Mr S. Davies	-	School Modernisation Manager
Mrs D. Hockenhull	-	Media & Marketing Manager
Mrs L. Grice	-	Childcare & Play Sufficiency Manager
Mrs C. Alban	-	Play Sufficiency Officer
Mrs M. Thomas	-	Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 12.40 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES AND OTHER MATTERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G.O. Jones and T.J. Jones.

The Board extended its sincere condolences to the family of the late Jo Cox, MP, on her sad and untimely passing.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor E. Dole	12 – Transfer of Parks, Playgrounds, Amenity Areas – Community Asset Transfer Update	Hi is member of Llannon Community Council
Councillor D.M. Jenkins	12 – Transfer of Parks, Playgrounds, Amenity Areas – Community Asset Transfer Update	He is a member of Cwmamman Town Council

Councillor D.M. Jenkins	21 – Lease of Land at Penybont Park, Glanamman to Cwmamman United A.F.C.	He is a member of Cwmamman Town Council
Councillor P.A. Palmer	12 – Transfer of Parks, Playground, Amenity Areas – Community Asset Transfer Update	Chair of Peniel Community Association
Councillor L.M. Stephens	8 – MEP – Proposal to Change the Language Category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh Medium (WM)	She represents the Authority on the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Myrddin

3. MINUTES

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board held on the 9th and 23rd May, 2016 be signed as correct records.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair welcomed to the meeting members of the public who had submitted public questions on notice to Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children. The Chair explained that, due to a longstanding commitment, Councillor Jones had tendered apologies for today's meeting and in his absence, Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children would respond to the questions.

Concern was expressed that the questioners were unable to exercise their right to ask a supplementary question of the member to which their question was addressed as the Executive Board Member was not in attendance. It was therefore

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the questioners who wished to ask their questions at today's meeting proceed to do so and the questions submitted by questioners who wished to address their question directly to the Executive Board Member for Education & Children and have the opportunity to ask a supplementary question be deferred to the meeting of the Executive Board to be held on 26th July, 2016.

Consequently, the questions submitted by Mr Steve Hatto, Ms Nikki Lloyd, Mrs Michaela Beddows, Mrs Jacqueline Seward, Ms Kaz Deacon, Mrs Karen Hughes, Mr Nigel Hughes and Mr Robert Willock were deferred to the meeting to be held on 26th July, 2016.

[NOTE: Mr Steve Hatto, Ms Nikki Lloyd and Mrs Michaela Beddows had already asked their questions and the Director of Education & Children had responded prior to the decision to defer and, in view of the above decision, those questions

and responses have not been recorded in the minutes as they will be asked again at the meeting to be held on 26th July, 2016.]

5.1. QUESTION BY MRS RHIANEDD RHYS

“First of all, I would like to thank the Council for its vision and like to ask, are the members of the Executive Board aware of the fact that, on the whole, pupils educated through the medium of Welsh in Wales (including pupils at Llangennech Infants and Junior School) perform better in teacher assessments and external exams than pupils educated at English medium schools and that any variations usually reflect the quality of the teaching rather than the medium of the teaching?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“It is the experience of this County Council that children who receive their education through the medium of Welsh generally achieve at consistent levels to children receiving their education through the medium of English in all subjects, including English language.

Data for 2014/2015 at the Llangennech schools, the most recent complete data set available. Reinforce these findings, demonstrating that children in the Welsh and English streams achieve comparably in teacher assessments and national literacy and numeracy tests. In 2015 all children in both schools achieved the expected levels at both key stages in the national tests in all subjects. The children in the Welsh stream and the English stream achieved good and comparable results in English language at the end of Key Stage 2. The children in the Welsh stream also achieved good results in Welsh first language but the children in the English stream were unable to achieve this outcome as they did not study through the medium of Welsh.

In November 2014 Estyn published a report on the findings of its examination of outcomes in ten bilingual secondary schools and commented that “...(some) teachers ... and pupils have the misconception that studying subjects through the medium of Welsh can hinder their academic success. In fact, pupils who follow their GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE courses through the medium of English”.

Furthermore, evidence gathered internationally through research demonstrates that children who are developed bilingually benefit from additional learning capacity, including enhanced cognitive ability, improved task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, and so on.

5.2. QUESTION BY MR MICHAEL REES

“As a non-Welsh speaker who chose Welsh-medium education for my children, would members of the Executive Board share with me the great delight and personal satisfaction that I’ve had over the years in seeing my children grow up to become confident bilingual adults who use both languages in their every day work and life and acknowledge the huge success of Welsh-medium education and the many benefits that bilingualism brings to individuals from all social backgrounds?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The Department agrees with the views expressed by the questioner, as in the experience of this Authority children succeed well in Welsh medium education irrespective of the language of the home.

It is the belief of the Department that children benefit from a truly bilingual education and that as many children as possible should receive this opportunity. It is also the Department’s view that Welsh medium education in the primary phase is the most effective means of developing bilingual young people.

Furthermore, being bilingual extends a young person’s cultural and social opportunities and can be a career advantage in some circumstances.”

5.3. QUESTION BY MS ELIN GRIFFITHS

“Are the Executive Board members aware of the fact that pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes who attend Welsh medium schools, including Llangennech School, on the whole perform as well as if not better in the core subjects than pupils who are educated through the medium of English?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“It is the experience of this County Council that children who receive their education through the medium of Welsh generally achieve as well as children receiving their education through the medium of English in all subjects, including English language and other core subjects. This includes children from homes where Welsh is not the main language.”

5.4. QUESTION BY MRS HELEN MAINWARING

“Your “Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-2017” was published in 2013 which clearly states that you are eager to move Llangennech School along the linguistic continuum. What steps will you be taking to ensure that Carmarthenshire and Llangennech’s children develop to become bilingual citizens?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The proposals for the Llangennech schools have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which sets out the Council’s broad strategy to develop bilingualism within the education service, principally by means of expanding Welsh medium education. The local authority has set out to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” As an explicit part of the strategy the Council has made a commitment to “work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools”.

In addition to proposals for Dual Stream schools the WESP expects every school, including schools that are currently designated as English medium, to progress along the language continuum, to increase the proportion of education that is delivered through the Welsh language. Clearly the pace at which schools will be

able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.

The WESP sets out a comprehensive programme of language development for schools and children across Carmarthenshire. The WESP is currently under review and a refreshed programme will shortly be presented to elected members for endorsement.

The WESP is founded upon the understanding that schools are a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.

5.5. QUESTION BY MRS MANON WILLIAMS

“Are the Executive Board members aware of the fact that no international research proves that immersion education is damaging to the development of a child with additional learning needs and that Carmarthenshire has extensive experience in providing first class education and care to children who have additional learning needs through the medium of Welsh and English?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The Department is not aware of any evidence to suggest that receiving a Welsh medium education is detrimental to the development of children, including children with additional learning needs. On the contrary, international evidence demonstrates that bilingual development stimulates additional skills for learning and life within young people and that the most effective way of embedding these advantages is to immerse young children in the less common language from an early age.

This is the experience of Welsh medium schools across Carmarthenshire which have succeeded for many years in developing skilled bilingual young people, including those with additional learning needs.

Only in a very few cases will learning through two languages be a challenge for a child with specific additional learning needs. Differentiated teaching in mainstream classroom is able to support the vast majority of learners through reinforcement of a child’s strongest language, whilst also developing the second language. It is important to note that some children with additional learning needs will benefit from teaching principally through the medium of Welsh whilst for others it will be principally through the medium of English. In all cases a bespoke package of support will ensure the most appropriate provision for the individual.”

5.6. QUESTION BY MRS RACHEL BENDALL

“Over the last few years, the percentage of the population who can speak Welsh in Llangennech area has decreased from 53.3% in 1991 to 39.9% yn 2011 – does the Executive Board agree that establishing a Welsh School in the village in order to provide everyone with bilingual skills is the most effective way of preventing this downturn?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The census of Population conducted in 2011 confirmed a disappointing decline in the proportion of the population with language skills across Carmarthenshire.

Carmarthenshire County Council has established a comprehensive strategy to address this decline through a progressive programme of action across a range of services, including education.

The County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) sets out a range of actions for the education service and schools to expand Welsh medium education with the objective of increasing the number of bilingual citizens and maximising opportunities for children to benefit from a truly bilingual education.

The proposal for primary schools in Llangennech emerges from the Council’s WESP as it is the policy of the County Council that Welsh medium education in the primary sector offers the most effective means of improving the language skills of children, whilst also providing them with the wider developmental benefits that a bilingual education offers.”

5.7. QUESTION BY MR CURTIS ROBERTS

“Are the Executive Board members aware that the vast majority of Welsh Medium schools have strategies in place to assist non-Welsh speaking families with homework, which includes sending a bilingual note home explaining the tasks that need to be completed?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“Welsh medium schools across Carmarthenshire have a range of strategies in place to support children from non-Welsh speaking families, in school and at home, especially with regard to homework. Examples of the support that can be given are set out in the Consultation Report.

The good outcomes achieved by children from all backgrounds in Welsh medium provision confirm the success of these support programmes.”

5.8. QUESTION BY MRS CATHRIN JONES

Are the Executive Board members aware of the fact that immersion education in the target language has been proven to be the most successful model worldwide in terms of ensuring a child is completely bilingual?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The County Council’s WESP is founded upon the principle, established through international research, that the most effective means of developing truly bilingual

children is to immerse them in the less common language from an early age whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The County Council has accepted the guidance of the Welsh Government that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.”

5.9. QUESTION BY MR ALAN WARNER

“Do the Executive Board members realise that parents/guardians, while discussing homework in English with their children, can actually develop their trans-linguaging skills which is considered by language experts to be a high level skill?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“It is the view of the Department that children and parents or guardians all benefit from discussing school life and homework through both languages.”

5.10. QUESTION BY MR MARTYN DAVID WILLIAMS

“Are the members of the Executive Board aware of the fact that teacher assessments and external exam results in English as a subject have been consistently higher amongst pupils who have received a Welsh medium education compared with pupils educated through the medium of English?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The evidence in Carmarthenshire is that children who receive their education through the medium of Welsh generally achieve as well as children receiving their education through the medium of English in all subjects, including English language and other core subjects. This includes children from homes where Welsh is not the main language.

The Department holds the view that Welsh medium education is the most effective means of developing bilingual children by the time they leave primary school and that this form of education offers children additional personal development and educational benefits.

Estyn has confirmed from a review of outcomes in ten bilingual secondary schools that “...pupils who follow their GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE courses through the medium of English”.

5.11. QUESTION BY MR OWAIN GLENISTER

“Considering the fact that 65% of the world’s population speak at least two languages, are the Executive Board members aware of the fact that no academic research has been published anywhere in the world that proves that immersion education has a damaging effect on a child’s educational development – on the contrary, research in Canada proves that IQ levels amongst children who have bilingual immersion education are consistently higher than children in monolingual education and research from Catalonia proves that children in bilingual immersion education are better at reasoning and more creative?”

Response by Mr Robert Sully, Director of Education & Children:-

“The Department is not aware of any evidence to suggest that a Welsh medium education is detrimental to the development of children. On the contrary, international evidence demonstrates that bilingual development stimulates additional skills for learning and life within young people and that the most effective way of engendering these advantages is to immerse young children in the less common language from an early age.

It is the belief of the County Council that all children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc, and that children should receive these opportunities.”

6. QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

In view of the decision made earlier in the meeting to defer consideration of the public questions until the next meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred to the meeting of the Executive Board to be held on 26th July, 2016.

7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME- PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

In view of the decision made earlier in the meeting to defer consideration of the public questions until the next meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred to the meeting of the Executive Board to be held on 26th July, 2016.

8. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH MEDIUM (WM)

[NOTE: Councillor L.M. Stephens had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Executive Board considered a report detailing a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from bilingual (2A) to Welsh medium (WM).

In recent years the school has moved along the language continuum naturally in accordance with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17. Currently there were no pupils studying mathematics in English in years 7 to 10 and only one group of pupils had chosen to study science in English in year 7. The change had occurred organically over a period of years and offered an opportunity therefore to proceed further by establishing the first WM category secondary school in Carmarthenshire.

The Department for Education and Children fully supported the school’s desire to

continue along the Welsh language continuum and to change the language category to Welsh Medium.

The statutory consultation process was completed in the Autumn Term 2015, following which a Statutory Notice was published on 13th April, 2016. The Statutory Notice period ended on 10th May, 2016 and a total of 2 objections were received, details of which were appended to the report for consideration.

The Board was informed that the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee had considered this report at its meeting held on 17th June, 2016 and had unanimously resolved that:-

- It be recommended to the Executive Board that it proceeds with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin from Bilingual 2A to Welsh-medium and implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice, as from 1st September, 2016;
- the Executive Board be asked to recommend to Council that it lobby the Welsh Government to simplify the process required for changing school language categories, thus making it easier for schools to move along the Welsh language continuum and to change their language categories to Welsh-medium.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 8.1 that the objections be noted but that that the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin from bilingual 2A to Welsh medium, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, effective from 1st September, 2016;**
- 8.2 that Council lobbies the Welsh Government and requests it to simplify the process required for changing school language categories, thus making it easier for schools to move along the Welsh language continuum and to change their language categories to Welsh-medium.**

9. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT

The Executive Board considered the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) Biennial Review report, which provided an update on the status of the MEP, in line with the decision made by Council in 2010 that the MEP be reviewed and revised in the future every two years or otherwise as required to ensure consistency with the timeframe of the national 21st Century Schools Programme.

Congratulations were extended to the Chief Executive, the Director of Education and Children and his officers for all their work in ensuring the success of the 21st Century Schools project.

RESOLVED that the updated Modernising Education Programme be approved.

10. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which

provided a near actual financial position in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

The near actual figure indicated an overspend for the year at departmental level of £33k. This had been offset by an underspend of £1,399k on capital charges and the resultant outturn meant that the Authority forecast a transfer of £280k into its general reserves. The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting an underspend of -£1.9m to the year end for 2015/16.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the budget monitoring report be received.

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Executive Board considered an update report which provided the near actual spend against budget for the 2015/16 capital programme, as at the 31st March, 2016.

The Board was informed that officers across the Authority had been successful in securing an additional £8m of external funding during 2015/16.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the capital programme update report be received.

12. TRANSFER OF PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, AMENITY AREAS - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

[NOTE: Councillors E. Dole, D.M. Jenkins and P.A. Palmer had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Further to the decision made by the Executive Board at its meeting held on 15th December, 2014 (minute 11 refers) in relation to the asset transfer of parks, playgrounds and amenity areas, the Board considered a report providing an update on the current position.

Out of the 27 Town and Community Councils with relevant assets, 18 had submitted Expressions of Interest covering 81 assets, prior to the deadline of 1st April, 2016. That left 9 Community Councils involving 35 assets where no expressions had been received or an initial interest had been lodged but subsequent correspondence indicated otherwise. An additional 13 expressions of interest had been received from various sporting groups for a range of assets. There were a further 30 Community Council areas where recreation assets are already managed locally rather than by the County Council.

The Council was in various stages of discussion with a range of Community Councils and groups that had expressed an interest in the facilities. The majority of transfers were currently in the hands of solicitors, with others remaining at an early discussion stage.

RESOLVED

12.1 that the outcome of the Expressions of Interest process be noted;

12.2 that the proposed way forward, as detailed in the report, be approved;

12.3 that, in relation to the form and timing of formal consultation on the future management of facilities not subject to an Expression of Interest for asset transfer it was agreed that this should take place in 2017 and that, in the meantime, informal discussions should continue with the 9 Town and Community Councils which had not yet submitted an Expression of Interest;

12.4 that Park Howard be removed from the asset transfer process and that ongoing discussions continue in relation to its future maintenance.

13. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN 2016

The Executive Board considered the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016, which had been prepared in line with the requirements of Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and placed a duty on Local Authorities across Wales to complete and submit a Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying Action Plan every three year. Where the assessment identified an insufficiency in play opportunities for children in the Local Authority area, the Action Plan must set out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children.

Concern was expressed over the financial implications of this scheme for the Authority and the fact that the Welsh Government was imposing statutory obligations on Local Authorities without any additional funding.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016 be endorsed for submission to the Welsh Government.

14. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN CARMARTHENSHIRE 2015/16

The Executive Board considered the draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire in 2015/16.

There was a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to Council on the delivery and performance as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of social services.

The report related to performance for the year 2015/16 and outlined progress made on areas identified for improvement in last year's report and highlighted those areas to be developed in the current year.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2014/15 be approved.

15. UNESCO LEARNING CITY CONFERENCE

The Executive Board was advised that Swansea is one of the 12 cities

internationally to have achieved the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Learning City Award for its work in developing lifelong learning across all age groups.

UNESCO holds an international Learning City conference every two years and the City and County of Swansea was preparing a bid to become the host city for the 2017 conference. The 3 day conference would be held in the summer of 2017 and would be based largely at the Swansea University Bay Campus.

The City and County of Swansea were seeking a letter of support from Carmarthenshire County Council to accompany their bid to UNESCO. If successful, Swansea would be requesting financial support from partners for certain activities, which had not been specified yet.

RESOLVED to provide the City and County of Swansea with a letter of support, in principle, for their bid to host the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Learning City Conference in 2017.

16. AMENDMENTS TO E-MAIL USAGE AND MONITORING POLICY

The Executive Board was advised that the Email Usage and Monitoring Policy had been amended following a review to ensure that it met all current legislative requirements. The amendments were proposed in order to strengthen the policy thus enabling it to meet statutory obligations.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the amended Email Usage and Monitoring Policy be approved.

17. PORTABLE DEVICE USAGE POLICY.

The Executive Board was advised that there was currently no policy in place to define acceptable practices, responsibilities and procedures for using Council provided portable devices (smart phones, tablets, Ipads etc).

The Portable Device Usage Policy defined those accepted practices, responsibilities and procedures for the use of portable devices that the Council authorises to connect to its network.

In its drive to mobilise the workforce, the Council has seen a significant increase in the number of portable devices in use, which facilitate greater flexibility for elected members and staff to access various Council systems. With the ongoing drive towards greater mobile working, it was anticipated that there would be a continuous increase in the number of portable devices being used.

In light of this increase in use, a policy was required which governed the use of portable devices to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and best practices in mobile devices management.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Portable Device Usage Policy be approved.

18. CONSULTATION ON PROCUREMENT REGULATION IN WALES

The Executive Board was advised that on 5th April, 2016 the Welsh Government published a consultation document containing 7 proposals for new Procurement Regulation in Wales. The consultation period ended on 28th June, 2016 and the Executive Board considered a draft response which had been prepared by officers.

The increased regulations would take away the freedom and control within Local Government of managing their procurement responsibility and would also add an additional burden and potential cost to Local Government.

Concern was expressed over the implications of the regulations for Local Authorities and the resultant detrimental effect on the local economy. The Authority had been forced to move from a position of having good joint purchasing arrangements across the regions to a national system which was simply not working.

RESOLVED that the response to the Welsh Government consultation document on Procurement Regulation in Wales be approved.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as the report contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

20. LEASE OF LAND AT PENYBONT PARK, GLANAMMAN TO CWMAMMAN UNITED A.F.C.

[NOTE: Councillor D.M. Jenkins, having earlier declared an interest in this item, left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof.]

Following the application of the public interest test it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute Number 19 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)

The Executive Board considered a report detailing a proposal for the lease of land at Penybont Park in Glanamman to Cwmamman United A.F.C.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a new lease be entered into with Cwmamman United A.F.C. on the terms recommended by the Head of Property, as detailed in the report.

CHAIR

DATE

MONDAY, 4TH JULY, 2016**PRESENT:** Councillor D.M. Jenkins [Chair]**Councillors:**H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, M. Gravell, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer,
L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett**Present as observers:**

Councillors T. Devichand and J.S. Edmunds

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James - Chief Executive
 Mr C. Moore - Director of Corporate Services
 Mr J. Morgan - Director of Community Services
 Ms R. Mullen - Director of Environment
 Mr G. Morgans - Chief Education Officer
 Mr P. Thomas - Assistant Chief Executive
 Ms W. Walters - Assistant Chief Executive
 Mrs M. Thomas - Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 10.40 a.m.**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E. Dole.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor L.D. Evans	7 – Premature Retirement and Redundancy Discretionary Policy for Teachers	Her daughter teaches in the county.
Councillor G.O. Jones	7 – Premature Retirement and Redundancy Discretionary Policy for Teachers	His wife teaches in Carmarthenshire.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

The Chair advised that no public questions on notice had been received.

5. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT (2015/16) AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2016/17)

The Executive Board considered the Council's draft Annual Report 2015/16 and Improvement Plan (2016/17) which provided information on the Authority's services and how it was performing. Under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure the Authority was required to publish an Improvement Plan as soon as was reasonably practicable after the commencement of the financial year and to publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.

The Authority combined these two documents which enabled the previous year's results to be evaluated and future outcomes to be agreed. Combining both in a single document was seen as good practice by regulators.

Reference was made to the excellent achievements made by the Authority over the past year.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16 and Improvement Plan 2016/17 be approved.

6. ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS - LICENSING FEES

The Committee considered a report summarising the responses received following a consultation exercise undertaken to gather views on the Authority's proposed new fees structure for Animal Establishments.

Following consideration of the responses it was deemed necessary that, in the instance of home boarding licences, a further review of the fees charged for this category was necessary. The reason for this decision was the fact that these operators have a maximum number of animals they are allowed to board in their own homes i.e. 5 for dogs and 6 for cats. Inspections of these properties are far less onerous and time consuming than other licensed establishments. In many of the other licensed premises there was a sliding scale of fees depending upon the number of animals.

It was therefore proposed that the fees set using the toolkit remain as previously reported for all licensed establishments other than for those who board animals in their own home. For those who board animals in their own home it was proposed that new applicants be charged a licence fee of £242.00 as outlined in the fees toolkit. For currently licensed establishments and for any renewals it was proposed to reduce this fee by 50% to £121.00 in view of the fact that for an initial application a pre licensing visit is undertaken to ascertain the suitability of the premises which would also necessitate extra initial administration.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposed licensing fees for animal establishments be approved for adoption, subject to the amendment of the fees for home boarders.

7. PREMATURE RETIREMENT AND REDUNDANCY DISCRETIONARY POLICY FOR TEACHERS

[NOTE: Councillor L.D. Evans and G.O. Jones, having earlier declared an interest

in this item, left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof.]

The Board was advised that, under the current Premature Retirement and Redundancy Discretionary Compensation Policy for Teachers, those made redundant with five or more years of pensionable service are awarded three added years to their pension entitlement.

These benefits are paid in full by the Local Authority as the “compensating authority” in cases of efficiency or redundancy added years i.e. not funded from the school’s budget. The discretionary compensation payments are payable by the employer for the life of the pensioner.

Carmarthenshire was the only Welsh Local Authority still awarding added years and it was proposed that the added years be removed from the Premature Retirement and Redundancy Discretionary Compensation Policy for Teachers. This would bring the policy in line with the Authority’s Discretionary Compensation Policy (Local Government Pension Scheme).

UNANIMOSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the updated Premature Retirement and Redundancy Discretionary Compensation Policy for Teachers be endorsed for adoption.

8. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S 2016/17 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN AND CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Board was advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

9. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL GYNRADD BETWS FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Executive Board considered a report on the proposal to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years of age and was reminded that at its meeting held on the 28th July, 2014 (minute 12 refers) it had resolved to formally consult on the proposal. A formal consultation exercise was undertaken from the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016, with the responses thereto detailed within the report.

In April 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 2nd June, 2016 and no objections were received.

The Executive Board was advised that as this proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, the Executive Board was provided with the opportunity of commenting and recommending to Council whether or not to implement the proposal detailed in the Statutory Notice. Unfortunately, due to the constricted statutory process it had not been possible to consult with the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at this stage. However, at all previous stages the Scrutiny Committee had unanimously resolved to proceed with the proposal to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

If Council decided to implement the proposal, the age range of Betws Primary

School would change from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st January, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposal to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 be implemented, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, effective from 1st January, 2017.

10. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BYNEA SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Executive Board considered a report on the proposal to change the age range of Bynea Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years of age and was reminded that at its meeting held on the 28th July, 2014 (minute 12 refers) it had resolved to formally consult on the proposal. A formal consultation exercise was undertaken from the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016, with the responses thereto detailed within the report.

In April 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 2nd June, 2016 and no objections were received.

The Executive Board was advised that as this proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, the Executive Board was provided with the opportunity of commenting and recommending to Council whether or not to implement the proposal detailed in the Statutory Notice. Unfortunately, due to the constricted statutory process it had not been possible to consult with the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at this stage. However, at all previous stages the Scrutiny Committee had unanimously resolved to proceed with the proposal to change the age range of Bynea Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

If Council decided to implement the proposal, the age range of Bynea Primary School would change from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st January, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposal to change the age range of Bynea Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 be implemented, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, effective from 1st January, 2017.

11. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL GYNRADD PEMBREY FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Executive Board considered a report on the proposal to change the age range of Pembrey Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years of age and was reminded that at its meeting held on the 28th July, 2014 (minute 12 refers) it had resolved to formally consult on the proposal. A formal consultation exercise was undertaken from the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016, with the responses thereto detailed within the report.

In April 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 2nd

June, 2016 and no objections were received.

The Executive Board was advised that as this proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, the Executive Board was provided with the opportunity of commenting and recommending to Council whether or not to implement the proposal detailed in the Statutory Notice. Unfortunately, due to the constricted statutory process it had not been possible to consult with the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at this stage. However, at all previous stages the Scrutiny Committee had unanimously resolved to proceed with the proposal to change the age range of Pembrey Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

If Council decided to implement the proposal, the age range of Pembrey Primary School would change from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st January, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposal to change the age range of Pembrey Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 be implemented, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, effective from 1st January, 2017.

12. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL GYNRADD PWLL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Executive Board considered a report on the proposal to change the age range of Pwll Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years of age and was reminded that at its meeting held on the 28th July, 2014 (minute 12 refers) it had resolved to formally consult on the proposal. A formal consultation exercise was undertaken from the 7th December 2015 to the 29th January 2016, with the responses thereto detailed within the report.

In April 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 2nd June, 2016 and no objections were received.

The Executive Board was advised that as this proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, the Executive Board was provided with the opportunity of commenting and recommending to Council whether or not to implement the proposal detailed in the Statutory Notice. Unfortunately, due to the constricted statutory process it had not been possible to consult with the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at this stage. However, at all previous stages the Scrutiny Committee had unanimously resolved to proceed with the proposal to change the age range of Pwll Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

If Council decided to implement the proposal, the age range of Pwll Primary School would change from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st January, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposal to change the age range of Pwll Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 be implemented, as detailed in the Statutory Notice, effective from 1st January, 2017.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as the reports contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

15. USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS FOR ROAD JUNCTION WORKS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute Number 14 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The Executive Board considered a report seeking approval for the use of capital receipts to undertake junction improvement works in connection with a key redevelopment scheme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the use of the specified capital receipts to undertake the junction works detailed in the report be approved.

CHAIR

DATE

EXECUTIVE BOARD 26TH JULY 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that Executive Board approves:

1. The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached).
2. The publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted - YES (23RD May 2016)

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED:

- That the report be received.
- That the proposal to publish a Statutory Notice be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.
- That the public questions submitted by members of the Dual Stream Committee be included in the report to the Executive Board and that detailed answers be provided to these questions as part of this report.

County Council Decision Required - NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans</p> <p>Report Author: Simon Davies</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Chief Education Officer</p> <p>School Modernisation Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246450 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

20TH JUNE 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools.

Following the retirement of the Llangennech Infants school Headteacher at the end of the Summer term 2013 a soft federation has already taken place with the Headteacher of Llangennech Junior school. On 24th September 2014, the Governing Bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015.

The Authority now wishes to proceed with a proposal to create a Community Primary school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The details of the proposal are outlined below and in the Consultation Document.

The Local Authority currently offers full time learning provision for 4-11 year olds through the medium of Welsh and English at the Federated Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. As part of the new 3 – 11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream – (DS) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream – (DS) to a new Welsh Medium – (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area. It will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

Proposal

As a result of the small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period; the dates for the proposal have changed below. This is to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period does not impede on the process.

- To discontinue Llangennech Infant school on 31st August 2017
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior school on 31st August 2017
- As from 1st September 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with nursery provision (hereinafter called 'Llangennech Community Primary School') on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The current capacity of both schools will remain unchanged but will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demands arise in the future.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 25th January 2016 to 18th March 2016. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report.

The ECS Scrutiny Committee were provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the Executive Board whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice. Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish week beginning 5th September 2016.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board and ultimately County Council for determination.

Recommendation

That the Executive Board approves the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

<p>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Appendix A – List of Respondents to the Consultation Period</p> <p>Appendix B – Executive Summary of Observations Received</p> <p>Appendix C – Summary of observations received following the publication of the Consultation Document and Local Authority related responses</p> <p>Appendix D – ESTYN response to the Consultation Document</p> <p>Appendix E – Consultation with the Pupils</p> <p>Appendix F – Revised Options for Change</p> <p>Appendix G – Why are we promoting a bilingual education?</p>
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IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **G. Morgans** **Head of Education Services**
 S. Davies **School Modernisation Manager**

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority’s Corporate Strategy, Children and Young People’s Plan and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

Policy Implications

National Policy Considerations

Welsh Government Welsh-Medium Education Strategy (2010)

In 2010 the Welsh Government published its national policy for developing Welsh medium education across the nation. The following extracts from the national strategy set out the Welsh Government’s views on the importance of Welsh medium education to outcomes for learners and to the ambition to develop bilingual citizens.

“Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.

A key focus is on supporting learners to achieve fluency in Welsh and English through Welsh medium education, from the early years onwards.

For children from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds, whose initial and main contact with Welsh is through school, this intensive Welsh medium provision is through a process of linguistic immersion.

Welsh medium education between the ages of three or four and approximately seven usually means delivering provision primarily through the medium of Welsh. At Key Stage 2 English language skills are also developed through appropriate use of the language as a subject and medium. A key consideration is the nature of the linguistic balance between Welsh and English and the intensity of Welsh required in order for learners to reach fluency in both Welsh and English over time. It is generally accepted that at least around 70% of curricular time should be through the medium of Welsh if learners are to acquire a sufficiently sound command of the language to enable them to use it across a broad range of contexts with confidence and fluency. The Welsh Assembly Government accepts this guiding principle for Welsh medium schools at primary and secondary level.

Learners in Welsh medium settings achieve comparable outcomes in both Welsh and English first language, which suggests the success of the sector in developing natural bilingualism.

The advantages that bilingualism can bring are well documented and include the promotion of cognitive skills, increasing mental agility and broadening speakers' range of cultural experiences. Research in Canada reveals that bilingualism enhances attention and cognitive control in children and older adults and in 2007 highlighted the impact of bilingualism on delaying the onset of dementia symptoms. Research findings published by the University of Edinburgh in 2009 revealed that speakers of two languages found it easier to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions.

Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual."

The Government's Strategy sets targets for local authorities to increase the proportion of seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh.

There is a clear expectation that all local authorities incorporate the provisions and requirements of the national strategy in their own local Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, which are on a statutory footing.

Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy 2012 to 2017 – A Living Language: A Language for Living

This national policy considers the conditions that are needed to promote a greater use of the Welsh language by children and young people in all aspects of their lives and proposes a set of high level actions to secure this goal.

The Strategy declares its aim as *"to increase the provision of Welsh medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language"* with the desired outcome being *"children and young people using more Welsh"*.

It includes the following statements related to education and schools:

"Over the last thirty years we have seen a considerable increase in the number of young people able to speak Welsh (from 14.9% of 3 to 14 year olds in 1971 to 37.2% in 2001). But these figures need to be treated with caution, since it is likely that over half of these are learning Welsh as a second language. As such, for many Welsh speaking children from homes without Welsh speaking parents/carers, the school provides one of the few

opportunities for them to use the language.

Providing practical opportunities for children and young people to use Welsh ... the best way of developing a feeling of value towards using the language.

Among other factorsthe perceived value of the language as a skill for work ... important elements.

We ... face challenges within the education system to ensure that children and young people continue to choose Welsh medium education when making choices at key stages of the education – between the primary and secondary sectors, and between the secondary sector and further or higher education. While the Welsh Medium Education Strategy addresses these challenges, we believe that the success of those measures depends, to a great extent, on convincing children and young people of the value of Welsh, economically and culturally.”

Welsh Government – Increasing the Number of Communities where Welsh is the Main Language (December 2013)

In December 2013 the Welsh Government published the report of its Task and Finish Group that had been established to review the status of the Welsh language and advise on the actions required to regenerate the use of the language. The following brief statements from the report are relevant to the schools sector.

In his introduction the Group Chair declared “*we call on the education system to be progressive ... so that all young people can become fluent and confident in using Welsh and English.*”

Recommendations were made, with a particular focus upon Carmarthenshire and other targeted areas of Wales, for action to “*increase the number and percentage of pupils who are fluent in Welsh and English by the time they leave school.*”

Estyn

In November 2014 Estyn published a document entitled “*Linguistic Progression and Standards in Ten Bilingual Welsh Schools*” which reported the findings of its review into the linguistic progression of pupils in Key Stage 4 and identifying and sharing good practice in relation to bilingual education.

Included amongst the findings of the review are the following conclusions:

- “*In general, pupils who follow the most additional GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh have the best ability to discuss and write in Welsh*”.
- “*Pupils have the misconception that studying subjects through the medium of Welsh can hinder their academic success. In fact, pupils who follow their GCSE course through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE course through the medium of English*”.

Local Policy Considerations

Carmarthenshire County Council Welsh Language Development Strategy

In 2013 Carmarthenshire County Council established a cross-party group of elected members to review the status of the Welsh language in the county following the outcome of the 2011 Census of the Population, which recorded a significant decline in the proportion of the population with Welsh language skills.

The group published a comprehensive report in early 2014 and at its meeting on the 15th April 2014 the County Council formally accepted the recommendations made by the group for the development of the Welsh language in the county.

The County Council adopted a total of 73 recommendations made by the group, including 21 that are directly related to the education service, including the following:

“The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.”

All of the schools related recommendations were integrated within the Carmarthenshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017)

Section 85(1) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires the County Council to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for its area, keep the Plan under review and, if necessary revise it. Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been adopted by the County Council and approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with Section 85(2) of the Act.

Section 2 of the Plan sets out a series of actions to realise the Council’s objectives for the development of the Welsh language in its schools.

For Outcome 1, to increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh, the Plan includes a specific action to *“target 3 dual stream/transitional schools to transfer to being Welsh schools by 2017”*.

There are also targets to increase the percentage of learners achieving Level 4 Plus at the end of Key Stage 2, i.e. increasing fluency, and to increase the number and percentage of learners from Welsh/bilingual primary schools transferring to Welsh/bilingual secondary schools.

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation will need to be initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

4. ICT

NONE

5. Risk Management Issues

The proposal to close Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools and open a new Llangennech Community Primary School and also change the language category from Dual Stream to Welsh Medium may impact on the demand for school places at the school and other schools in the Llanelli area. The situation will be monitored as part of the Schools Admission Process and ongoing data forecasting and analysis through the Authority's Modernising Education Programme.

6. Staffing Implications

Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Redeployment Policy and Procedures.

7. Physical Assets

Arrangements are in place to install a Double Mobile classroom on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but it will not increase the capacity of the new school. We will monitor the situation and will review the situation if the pupil figures continue to rise.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:	G. Morgans	Head of Education Services
	S. Davies	School Modernisation Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee – Were consulted during the consultation period. The committee were asked to consider and comment on the findings of the statutory consultation period on 23rd May.

2. Local Member(s) – Local members were formally consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas, Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins and Cllr. Theresa Bowen.

3. Community / Town Council – The community council were consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from members of the community council.

4. Relevant Partners – Were consulted during the consultation period.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Teaching and non-teaching unions were consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from UCAC and UNISON.

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

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk County Council Agenda 14 th January 2015

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CONSULTATION REPORT

Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools
Observation Received List

Number	Name	Position/Category of Respondent
1	Karen Hughes	Parent
1.1	Nigel Hughes	Parent
1.2	Anna Edwards	Parent
1.3	Rachel King	Parent
1.4	Sallyann Thomas	Parent
1.5	Rebecca Davies	Parent
1.6	Jacqueline Seward	Parent
1.7	V. A. Willock	Grandparent
1.8	Robert Willock	Guardian
1.9	Michelle Gramann	Parent
1.10	Lucy Edwards	Parent
1.11	Nicola Charles	Parent
1.12	Julia Rees	Parent
1.13	Catrin Richards	Parent
1.14	Darren Seward	Community Member
1.15	Charlotte Charles	Parent
1.16	K. E. Thomas	Parent
1.17	C. Y. Thomas	Grandparent
1.18	Julia Rees	Parent
1.19	Lynda Morgan	Past Parent
1.20	Emma Webborn	Parent
1.21	Carys Williams	Community Member
1.22	Sarah Martin	Parent
1.23	Huw Thomas	Grandparent
1.24	Glen Graydon	Parent
1.25	Mr & Mrs Harvey	Parent
1.26	Lynne Graves	Teaching Assistant
1.27	Crystal Bolt	Teaching Assistant
1.28	Sally-Ann Sheen	Parent
1.29	Sue Broad	Parent
1.30	Robert and Vanessa Willock	
1.31	Samantha Thomas	Past Parent
1.32	Terry Lewis	Grandparent
1.33	Sheena Lewis	Grandparent
1.34	Robert Willock	
1.35	J Brodrick	Grandmother
1.36	Cllr. Theresa Bowen	
1.37	Angela Edwards	Teaching Assistant
1.38	R Hopkins	Past Parent
1.39	M Hopkins	Past Parent
1.40	Tracy Siddell	Teaching Assistant/School Governor
1.41	David and Arlene Thomas	Grandparents

1.42	T Hooper	Parent
1.43	Dr Marian Slader	Llangennech School Governor/ Community Councillor/ Past village GP
1.44	Richard Colman	Prospective Parent
1.45	Tammy Bryan	Past Parent
1.46	Kevin Sourbutts	Community Member
1.47	M M T Fuge	Grandmother
1.48	Jean Ring	Grandparent
1.49	H T Hughes	
1.50	Sam Oakley	Parent
1.51	Paula Williams	Parent
1.52	Phillip Lumley	Prospective Grandparent
1.53	Dave Jones	Past Parent
1.54	Kerry Matthews	Parent
1.55	Louise Perkins	Parent
1.56	Fiona Ring	Prospective Parent
1.57	Arron Ring	
1.58	Lynne Peet	
1.59	Barbara Brereton	Great Grandmother
1.60	Jonathan Lomas	Parent
1.61	Donna Williams	Past Parent
1.62	Anonymous	
1.63	Dave Williams	Past Parent
1.64	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.65	Orla Williams	Past Parent
1.66	Lauren Gill	Prospective Parent
1.67	Rebecca Grice	Prospective Parent
1.68	Donald Melrose	Parent
1.69	V Allen	Community Member
1.70	Delyth Humphreys	Community Member
1.71	S Hill	Community Member
1.72	Christopher Evans	Parent
1.73	M Beddows	Parent
1.74	Joshua Murphy	Pupil
1.75	Louise Davies	Parent
1.76	Richard Davies	Parent
1.77	Nicholas Sullivan	Parent
1.78	Supranee Sullivan	Parent
1.79	Zoe Evans	Past Pupil
1.80	Phillip Willock	Parent
1.81	D Prigmore	Grandparent
1.82	M Prigmore	Grandparent
1.83	Christian Evans	Parent
1.84	J Hancock	Grandparent
1.85	T Evans	Grandparent
1.86	Lindsey Evans	Parent
1.87	Denise Williams	Aunt

1.88	Nathan Lewis	Parent
1.89	Byron Williams	Grandparent
1.90	Paul Parry	Parent
1.91	Karen Green	Parent
1.92	Stephen Hughes	Student
1.93	Gaynor Hughes	Community Member
1.94	Nicola Lloyd	Parent
1.95	Lyndsey Andrews	Parent
1.96	Della Maides	
1.97	B Thomas	Community Member
1.98	M Beaton	Past Parent
1.99	S Kormylo	
1.100	Rita Maides	Grandparent
1.101	Stephanie Hughes	Past Parent
1.102	Alisha Maides	Past Pupil
1.103	Tammie-Jo Jones	
1.104	Julie Cahill	Grandparent
1.105	Michael Cahill	Grandparent
1.106	Leanne Edwards	Parent
1.107	Geraint Williams	
1.108	Jayne Lloyd	Past Parent
1.109	Elizabeth Chick	Grandparent
1.110	Philippa Davies	Parent
1.111	Mark Davies	Parent
1.112	Laura Davies	Potential Parent
1.113	Dafydd John	Past Pupil
1.114	D Thomas	Parent
1.115	Jordan Thomas	Past Pupil
1.116	Taylor Thomas	Pupil
1.117	Geraint Thomas	Parent
1.118	Ian MacDonald	Parent
1.119	Eddie Jones	Community Member
1.120	Linda Jones	Community Member
1.121	D Thomas	
1.122	Alex and Rachel James	Parents
1.123	C S Thomas	Past Pupil
1.124	Jacqueline Williams	Grandparent
1.125	Kimberley Williams	Parent
1.126	Gary Jones	Community Councillor
1.127	Sian Edwards-Schildt	Parent
1.128	Ellis Edwards	Grandparent
1.129	Rob Willock	Guardian
1.130	Stefan Ryszewski	Conservative Candidate
1.131	Danielle Carter	Prospective Parent
1.132	Luke Bolt	
1.133	A Colton	Grandmother
1.134	Peter Colton	Grandfather
1.135	David Colton	Past Pupil

1.136	C J Fletcher	
1.137	G Daniel	
1.138	Patricia Seward	Grandparent
1.139	Lindsey Evans	
1.140	Irene Edwards	Grandparent
1.141	K M Seward	Pupil
1.142	C L Thomas	Pupil
1.143	R Willock	Guardian
1.144	R Willock	Guardian
1.145	Jeanette Davies	Grandparent
1.146	A Williams	Parent
1.147	Stephen Davies	Community Member
1.148	Michael Schildt	Parent
1.149	Alyson White	Parent
1.150	Garry Tuckett	Grandparent
1.151	Kim Thomas	Parent
1.152	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.153	Christopher Slader	
1.154	Gary Jones	Llangennech Community Councillor
1.155	Petition by members of the community.	Members of Llangennech Community
2	Mr Steven Mears	Governing Body Bryngwyn/Glan-Y-Môr
3	S. Griffiths	Community Member
3.1	Anonymous	
3.2	Annona Thomas	Grandmother
3.3	Angharad Gealy	Teacher
3.4	Ian Williams	Community Member
3.5	Sian Lloyd	
3.6	Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	County Councillor / Governor
3.7	C. A. Reynolds	Parent
3.8	Meilyr Bowen Hughes	Community Member
3.9	Anonymous	
3.10	Nerys Estelle Burton	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli
3.11	Dr. Rhian Eleri Jones	Community Member
3.12	Keith Abbott	Community Member
3.13	Davinia Lewis	Parent
3.14	Heather Lewis	Headteacher, Ysgol Y Strade
3.15	Nicholas Daniels	Community Member
3.16	Colin Gwyn Jenkins	Community Member
3.17	P. Richards	Community Member
3.18	Glendon Davies	Past Parent and Governor
3.19	Anonymous	
3.20	Anonymous	
3.21	Anonymous	
3.22	Anonymous	
3.23	Anonymous	
3.24	Anonymous	

3.25	Anonymous	
3.26	Anonymous	
3.27	Anonymous	
3.28	Anonymous	
3.29	Anonymous	
3.30	Anonymous	
3.31	Anonymous	
3.32	Louise Parry	Assistant Head, Llangennech Infants
3.33	Anonymous	
3.34	Anonymous	
3.35	Anonymous	
3.36	Anonymous	
3.37	Anonymous	
3.38	Anonymous	
3.39	Anonymous	
3.40	Anonymous	
3.41	Desmond Jones	Community Member
3.42	W. D. Griffiths	Community Member
3.43	Patricia Jones	Grandmother
3.44	Veronica Davies	Past Teacher
3.45	Einir Smith	Community Member
3.46	Rita Jones	Community Member
3.47	Elen Mai Jones	Community Member
3.48	David Gerald Jones	Community Member
3.49	Mair Jones	Community Member
3.50	Alun Jones	Community Member
3.51	Arnold James	Past Pupil
3.52	Ann Evans	Grandparent
3.53	Tim Davies	Parent and Chair of Governors
3.54	Jennifer Clarke	Former Headteacher Llangennech Infants
3.55	Heledd Wyn Clarke	Community Member
3.56	Rhianedd Rhys	Aunt
3.57	Aimee Hopkin	Parent
3.58	Gary Anderson	Pennaeth Ffederasiwn Ysgolion Llangennech
3.59	Ffred Ffransis	
3.60	Anonymous	
3.61	Eireen Nelson	Past Pupil
3.62	Roger Fewster	Governor
3.63	Lynwen Williams	Parent
3.64	William Glyn Williams	Past Pupil
3.65	Craig Jones	Community Member
3.66	Lynn Davies	
3.67	Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	Past Parent/Governor Llangennech Infants School/County Councillor
3.68	Miriam Thomas	Parent
3.69	Peter Dutton	Vice Chairman – Ysgol y Strade

3.70	Linda Sidgwick	Past Parent
3.71	Michael Rees	Grandfather
3.72	Alun Stephens	Governor Llangennech Junior School
3.73	S E Williams	Community Member
3.74	Lis Fidler	
3.75	Anonymous	
3.76	Wyn Davies	
3.77	Anne Loughran	Past Mentor – Cardiff University
3.78	Martin Davies	
3.79	Eiry Wyn Miles	
3.80	Anonymous	
3.81	Anonymous	
3.82	Anonymous	
3.83	Anonymous	
3.84	Alun Jones	
3.85	Owain Davies	Past Pupil
3.86	Jill Davies	Past Parent
3.87	Anonymous	
3.88	Ciwb Gwawr y Sosban – Helen Mainwaring	
3.89	Anonymous	
3.90	Y Lle, Llanelli	
3.91	T. Gordon Lewis	Vice Chairman of Llangennech Schools Federation Governing Body and Vice Chairman of Llangennech Community Council
3.92	Manon Williams	Parent
3.93	Dylan Evans	Pennaeth Ysgol y Dderwen
3.94	Elaine Edwards	
3.95	Arwyn Thomas	
3.96	Hedd Tudur	
3.97	Gethin James	
3.98	Heledd Mathias	
3.99	Euros Evans	Former School Inspector
3.100	Martyn David Williams	Parent
3.101	Eleri Soanes	
3.102	Rhydwyn Ifan	Past Pupil
4	Linda Thomas	Past Parent
4.1	Bethan McDermot	Supply Teacher
5	Michelle David	Owner Bright Beginnings Preschool
6	Nia Griffith	Member of Parliament
7	UNISON	Union
7.1	UCAC	Union

Appendix B

Executive Summary of Observations Received

Executive Summary of Observations Received

The County Council's proposal to change primary school provision in the community of Llangennech has generated a considerable response from interested parties, with a total of 267 submissions received in response to the formal consultation.

The consultation period commenced on the 25th January 2016 and was due to close on the 11th March 2016 but in response to requests from some interested parties the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the period for responses by one week until the 18th March 2016. All consultees were formally notified of the extension of the consultation period.

The County Council's proposal is constituted of three elements as follows:

- to close the current Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior School and create a new community primary school on the site and in the premises of the current schools;
- to extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years, introducing new part-time education for three year olds; and
- to create the new school as a Welsh medium school in place of the present dual stream arrangement in both existing schools.

Very little comment has been made within the consultation responses to the element of the proposal that proposes creating a new primary school in place of the two current schools. Both schools have been operating under a formal federation since April 2015, with a single governing body and a shared head teacher and this progressive move appears to be acknowledged as a success and that the formal amalgamation of provision within a single primary school is a natural step forward.

Broadly speaking there is support for the introduction of part-time nursery provision within the school, but some respondents have expressed concern over the impact that this may have on existing independent sector childcare and nursery providers in the community who have hitherto been commissioned to provide part-time nursery education. These respondents are concerned that the removal of funding for part-time nursery education could undermine the financial viability of the settings for the future.

The element of the proposal that has generated the greatest response is the intention to change the medium of instruction for all pupils to Welsh in place of the current dual stream arrangement which has provision in either the Welsh or English language operating side by side. Opposing opinions have been submitted by respondents with some strongly opposed to the proposal whilst others are in favour of it. Those opposing the change have presented a number of reasons why they consider that it is not desirable whereas those in support of the change generally consider that it would be a natural progression for the school given the changes that have been taking place in the balance of language provision over recent years and that it will be advantageous for all children.

All of the submissions received to the consultation document within the (extended) consultation period are noted in Appendix C, together with the response of the County Council's professional officers. The following table presents an executive summary of the

main points raised in opposition to, or in support of the proposal, along with the response of officers to each one.

	Observation	Local Authority Response
1.	<p>In opposition</p> <p>The dual stream system works very well as it is and therefore there is no need to change a system that already works.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</p> <p>In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</p>
2.	<p>The removal of choice from the community. The community will no longer have an option to attend an English stream.</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.</p>
3.	<p>The proposal is inconsistent with community make-up.</p>	<p>It is noted that many members of the community do not speak the Welsh language and that many pupils come from non-Welsh homes; therefore it is important to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to ensure “linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</p>
4.	<p>Children who would</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils</p>

	<p>prefer an English medium education or who struggle with the Welsh language will be forced to move to another school.</p>	<p>remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Some children may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The ability of non-Welsh speaking parents to support their children with their school work and homework.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils and currently visit the school twice a week.</p> <p>Pupils and parents are currently supported by the school through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open door policy where teachers can translate the work for parents and provide an explanation of what is required at that time e.g. either before or after school • Parents can contact the school via telephone or e-mail. • Homework is provided bilingually when needed. • Welsh lessons are provided to parents at specific periods throughout the year. • In the Foundation Phase, special books are regularly sent home to parents in the home language which enables the parents to see what the pupils achieve in school. • A homework club is held for an hour after school once a week to provide support for pupils who require help with their homework. • Sports, choir and IPad club are held bilingually. • Urdd club – many children from the English stream currently attend.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual school website. • Bilingual staff members in both streams. • Bilingual school assemblies and singing sessions. Pupils learn a mixture of Welsh and English songs. • Bilingual school productions. • “Athrawon Bro” provide support help develop the Welsh skills of pupils. • “Athrawon Bro” hold a language centre for a full week during the summer term for groups of year 5 pupils. These are pupils who currently perform at level 3 but who can attain level 4 with professional input. • Older pupils have strong Welsh skills which enables them to explain the homework to their parents. • “Athrawon Bro” provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh skills. • The Welsh language is heard daily by English stream pupils. <p>The school are also intending to hold an evening for parents of all classes at the beginning of September detailing the themes of work for the year and the contents of the work.</p> <p>Parents could also access support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking the child to explain the homework – the pupil could translate the homework for non-Welsh speaking members of the family. • Using online translation tools. • Asking a Welsh speaking friend/family member/neighbour for help.
6.	Children with SEN/ALN may not be able to cope	All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed

	with the Welsh language.	support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school states that through the years; children with various additional learning needs have attended the school through both streams successfully.
7.	The standard of the pupils' English development will decline through receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.	It is important to note that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards at the school.
8.	Welsh medium education may disadvantage children entering further or higher education.	There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
9.	Transport difficulties and costs for families who opt for their children to attend other schools (especially for parents without private transport).	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that " the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility. " This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.
10.	Capacity at other schools.	Should parents decide to place their children in an alternative school; parents should note that pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – " Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to

		<i>the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.</i>
11.	Standards of education at other schools.	Parents should consider the educational standards of any alternative schools should they decide that their child needs to attend an alternative school.
12.	The impact of introducing a nursery class in the school on existing independent providers.	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that <i>“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”</i> Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.
	In Support	
1.	The proposal supports the aim of Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority welcomes the observations that understand that the proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</i>
2.	The change will promote bilingualism in the Llangennech area.	The Local Authority notes the support. It is noted that many people in the area do not speak the language and that many pupils attending the school come from non-Welsh background. The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a

		Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2." The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
3.	The change will be a natural step for the school.	The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh stream in comparison to the English stream. This data proves that there is a demand for Welsh medium education.
4.	There are many advantages to being bilingual.	The Local Authority welcomes the responses which realise that being bilingual has many advantages. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
5.	3 year old pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.	The local authority has a responsibility to " increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages. " The Local Authority will be able to ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector by providing a formal education to 3 year olds.
6.	All pupils in Wales have a right to a Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of

		KS2. ” The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
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It is to be noted that a number of representations have been made to the County Council after the closure of the formal consultation period, with exchange of correspondence and conversations continuing for several weeks thereafter. Submissions made after the end of the (extended) consultation period have not been included in this Report in order to maintain consistency in the treatment of respondents and to ensure compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. Should the proposal proceed to the next stage of the statutory process all interested parties will have another formal opportunity to present their views prior to the County Council taking a final decision.

Appendix C

Summary of observations received following publication of the Consultation Document and Local Authority related responses

OBSERVATION	RESPONSE
<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>1. The consultee is concerned that the proposal does not cater for the community's needs. Federation would be a suitable option for the community regardless of language category. The school has been dual stream for years and worked well, catering for the whole community. This proposal does not cater for the socially diverse community of Llangennech. The consultee is also concerned that there is only one other dual stream school in the local area.</p> <p>1.1 The consultee is concerned that English speakers are no longer welcome at the school. The consultee supports the Welsh language and culture and feels that Llangennech School already provides a good understanding. The community is socially diverse and this proposal will destroy the community spirit of the area.</p> <p>1.2 The consultee is concerned that pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than change to the English stream. There are also concerns that families may then have children in two different schools if they no longer have the option of an English stream. This causes travel implications for families especially families with no</p>	<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</i></p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide</p>

means of private transportation. The community should continue to have a choice of either stream. The consultee feels that this proposal will split the community. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision as there is already nursery provision in the area. The nursery is open from 9am-1pm and the consultee is concerned that the school will not provide care for the same length of time.

sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.3 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move to the English stream. If families decide to place their children in other schools in order to receive English medium education, they may have children in two different schools. There are concerns on the travel implications if this happens. The school should be kept dual stream.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be

1.4 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will need to move school rather than change to the English stream. The community needs a bilingual school. Some parents who have younger children may have to place them in other schools if pupils require English medium education – therefore having children in different schools. This causes difficulties for parents without private transport and there are concerns that pupils will not receive the same standard of education as they would at Llangennech School. This is discrimination against English speakers when the community have been happy to have a school which provides education through both mediums.

implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This

1.5 The consultee opposes changing the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils with learning difficulties or pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to move to the English stream and will need to move to a different school, outside of their catchment area. Every pupil should have the right to attend their local school and to receive their education through the medium of Welsh or English. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision. Nursery provision is already available in the community and this proposal would be detrimental to this organisation, its staff and to children who attend the nursery. Should these organisations close, the community council would lose vital revenue from these businesses.

is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."*** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.6 The consultee feels that that choice should not be taken away from the community when the school has been dual stream for over 60 years. Pupils who require English medium education would have to attend schools outside their local area meaning that they could no longer walk to school and circles of friends will be split. The community is a very close community and this will mean that members will now not be able to attend the same activities. The school cannot be called a community school when it does not cater for English speaking children.

1.7 The consultee is opposed to changing the language category to English medium as this takes the right of choice away from the pupil. This choice will be taken away from English speaking children. The consultee feels that this is racism against English speaking children. This will split the community in two and the consultee is concerned that English speaking families have not been consulted and how families who require

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both***

English medium education will be able to travel to the proposed English medium schools if they have no means of private transport.

1.8 The consultee is concerned with the feasibility of pupils attending other schools if they require English medium education. Perhaps the education department could liaise with housing to relocate families near to their chosen school. This is racism against English speaking families. A large number of community members do not speak Welsh and this proposal does not cater for these people. The school should remain dual stream.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future

1.9 The consultee is concerned with the consultation process and how the community has been consulted. The consultee states that there will be implications for travel time between schools for parents with children in separate schools whilst Llangennech School is in walking distance. There will also be implications on parents with children in two schools when it comes to different activities should they coincide. Also, pupils who require English medium education may not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School. Younger pupils should receive the same opportunities as their older siblings.

1.10 The consultee is concerned that non-Welsh parents will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork and therefore the pupil's education will suffer. There are also concerns for pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language – what provision is available? The consultee is concerned whether there is capacity at other schools should pupils require English medium education and what transport will be available. Also, will Llangennech School be accepting pupils from other areas if they require Welsh medium education and

prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary

will English be taught to as high of a standard as Welsh?
Community spirit will be lost as not all pupils will be attending the village school.

where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However,

The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will be taught to the highest of standards. Pupils will be admitted to Llangennech School and the English medium schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.11 The consultee feels that the school works well as it is. The consultee is concerned about what options are available if pupils struggle with the Welsh language. Transitions to starting school can be stressful enough without having to move school if they are not happy with learning through the medium of Welsh.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new

1.12 The consultee is concerned that the community will no longer have a choice. At the moment parents can choose a stream based on the needs of their children. This proposal means that younger children will not get the same opportunities as their older siblings of attending an English medium stream. This causes problems for families who wish for their children to receive English medium education as they will have to take their children to two schools. Some pupils with learning difficulties have no option but to receive an English medium education – these pupils will need to move school. Parents who are non-Welsh speakers will not be able to help pupils with their homework which could be detrimental to the pupil's education. This is discrimination against many members of the community. It would be better to increase the number of Welsh lessons for pupils in the English stream.

pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each

1.13 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language; especially pupils with parents who are non-Welsh speakers will have to move to an English medium school rather than move to the English stream. This would mean separating children from their friends and leaving their local community. This could be detrimental to a child's education. Pupils should be treated equally and should be able to be educated in the language of their choice.

1.14 The consultee is concerned that this will cause a divide in a diverse community where solidarity should be encouraged. Every pupil should have the right to be educated in the

individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school will provide sufficient support to parents who are non-Welsh speakers.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

language of their choice and receive a good quality education.

1.15 The consultee feels that this will cause a divide in the community and is unfair to pupils who wish to be educated through the medium of English. Children who will choose to attend English medium schools will be unfamiliar with other children in their local area and this will cause social exclusion. This will cause problems for families who already have pupils at Llangennech schools but have younger children requiring English medium education.

1.16 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will not be able to be educated in their local area and therefore will not be fully

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

part of the community. This proposal will cause a divide in the village and deprive some children of socialising in their own community. The proposed schools are also not of the same standard as Llangennech School.

- 1.17 The consultee opposes to changing the language category to Welsh medium as they do not feel that the proposed English medium schools are satisfactory alternatives. Both schools are not easily accessible for parents who do not drive and neither are of the same educational standard as Llangennech School. The consultee is concerned that pupils who live in the same area will not be able to attend the same school – not all pupils will be able to adapt to the Welsh language.

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free***

1.18 The consultee has concerns that some families may not be able to have all of their children attending the same school if the English stream is no longer provided. Pupils with learning difficulties can often only grasp a single language – that being English, this will mean that these pupils will have to move to a different school. The school cannot be called a community school if it does not cater for the whole community. There are concerns for families who do not have means of private transport and families whose first language is neither Welsh nor English.

transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The school will also provide sufficient support to parents.

1.19 The consultee is concerned that the wellbeing of families will be affected if pupils cannot attend their local school. Pupils who require English medium education but have no means of private transport will be greatly affected. The community should continue to have a choice of both Welsh and English streams as the Welsh language should not be forced onto people. Many members of the community are English speaking and they should not be isolated. Pupils in the English stream have much more exposure to the Welsh language than what they would by attending an English medium stream. This promotes bilingualism and could help pupils feed the bilingual classes that are available in Bryngwyn School. Choice is available when choosing secondary schools so there is no need to take it away now. There are also concerns that changing the age range to 3-11 will have a detrimental effect on the nurseries in the village. Also, if Bryn and Hendy catchment areas are not extended to include Llangennech, are pupils guaranteed to be offered a place at these schools? The consultee is also concerned that pupils will not receive the same standard of education at Bryn and Hendy schools as they would in Llangennech.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours***

1.20 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will need to move schools. Parent who do not speak Welsh will not be able to help their children with school work and moving schools could be detrimental to a pupil's wellbeing. It is fair to all residents to have a choice of both English and Welsh streams.

per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday. Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.21 The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the

English medium schools, travelling times for families will be increased. Also, if the proposal is implemented, pupils will lose the opportunity to choose their local school and will be separated from their friends and possibly siblings.

1.22 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. Pupils who attend the English stream are able to receive their education through the medium of English but are also able to leave school as Welsh speakers. This proposal will cause a split in the community. Pupils should have a right to attend their local school but this proposal will cause many pupils to leave their community. The consultee is also concerned that there is no capacity at the proposed English medium schools to cater for pupils from Llangennech. If pupils wish to attend the English medium school, this causes travel implications for families, especially for families who will have children in two different schools. The local authority should be looking at why so many pupils are attending from outside of catchment and whether this is due to lack of Welsh medium education provision in those areas. The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend the proposed English medium schools due to parental preference, then the cost of transportation is the parent's responsibility, yet the choice has been taken away from parents.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school

1.23 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their local school. The school has worked well as dual stream for many years. English speaking children should not have to receive their education outside of their local area. Pupils attending the English stream are able learn and use the Welsh language whereas they would not get this opportunity if they attended an English medium school. Some parents will not have a choice but to send their pupils to the Welsh medium Llangennech irrespective of whether they speak the Welsh language. The pupil's education could suffer due to not being able to be supported at home. Those children would not have the additional support at home, which is nearly as important as being taught in school. The consultee is concerned that some County Councillors who are also on the Community Council have extreme views on this proposal. The current situation works very well and the consultee does not feel that the data used for reception years does not really reflect the Welsh/English split.

and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils

1.24 The consultee is concerned that those wishing to attend the proposed English medium schools are not guaranteed to be accepted. Dual stream schools provide good community cohesion and meet the demand of the whole community. Other means should be used to promote the Welsh language other than restricting English medium education. Parents have a right to choose the education which is best for their children.

will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. County Councillors have a right to voice their own opinions.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual***

1.25 The consultee expresses that some parents choose for their children to attend Llangennech School in order for them to have an opportunity to learn the Welsh language although that they do not speak the language themselves. Dual stream schools are able to support the needs of these families. There is no need to change the school.

1.26 The consultee is concerned about their job security at Llangennech Infants School as they are not bilingual and are currently working in the English stream.

stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

1.27 The consultee feels that children should be given opportunities to learn values, traditions and beliefs about themselves and others. Learning in diverse environments allows for all to feel valued. The consultee is concerned about their job security as they do not speak the Welsh language and they are currently working in the English stream.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

1.28 The consultee feels that the school should cater for both Welsh and English speaking families.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.29 The consultee feels that as this is the only school in the village, it is unacceptable for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English to have to attend schools in neighbouring areas. This will destroy the community spirit.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

1.30 The consultee states that some years back a Welsh only clause was introduced into the reception class which was then extended to year 1. If parents wish for their children to be educated at Llangennech School they must agree to this. Every pupil has a right to practice their own cultures and the government has a responsibility to protect these rights. This proposal means that this right is being taken away from the pupils.

1.31 The consultee feels that pupils are able to have a full school life at Llangennech School. Although that some pupils attend the English stream, they are still able to attend many school activities including competing in the Eisteddfod. It has also been noted by secondary school teachers that pupils who have attended the English stream in Llangennech had a very high standard of Welsh. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams as this provides a good foundation for pupils in the English stream who would like to learn the Welsh language.

medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.32 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school works well as it is and there is no need to change it. This is discrimination against English speaking pupils and causes segregation between pupils who will have been used to socialising with each other. The consultee is also concerned that both proposed English medium schools are not easily accessible and will cause congestion around peak times.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.33 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school is working well and therefore there is no need to change it and option 4 should be the preferred option. Dual stream schools help pupils in the English stream school to grasp the Welsh language – this would not happen if pupils attended an English medium school. Dual stream also enables parents to choose the appropriate language medium for their children, depending on their needs. The proposal may lead to families having children attending different schools. Many members of the community are English speaking and therefore this proposal does not cater for these people's needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with

1.34 The consultee would like to put the following option forward for consideration. The consultee feels that the status quo in regards to the language category should be maintained but with modifications. The English stream would receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and would mimic the amount English lessons that the Welsh stream receive. This would ensure that pupils from both streams would be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would also ensure an increase of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. By following this proposal, pupils from both streams would be able to change stream if needed.

This proposal has been considered in detail in **Appendix F**.

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** This proposal would mean that there would be an increase in the provision of Welsh second language; however this percentage of Welsh lessons would not be successful in creating bilingual individuals who are fluent and confident in both English and Welsh languages. This proposal won't deliver Carmarthenshire's targets of improving the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education. It is more important for non-Welsh pupils to be immersed in the Welsh language and this can be done successfully through a Welsh medium school.

Please see **Appendix F** for further analysis of this proposal.

1.35 The consultee is concerned how non-Welsh families can be included in a pupil's learning if they attend a Welsh medium school. These pupils may have to attend English medium schools outside of the local area and therefore divide the community. These pupils would then learn no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.36 The consultee expresses the concerns of several parents regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

Some pupils who have learning difficulties will not be able to learn easily through the medium of Welsh. With this proposal there will be no option available for these pupils to move to the English stream. There are also concerns with new homes being built, neighbouring schools will be at their capacity. There will be a strain on teachers if pupils from Llangennech will also move to these schools. The local authority should consider not allowing pupils from other catchment areas attending other schools.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.37 The consultee feels that some pupils in year 6 will still transfer to English medium secondary schools if the language category of the school changes to Welsh medium. Also, if pupils are to receive their education through the medium of Welsh up until the age of 7, their English skills will suffer. Pupils should not have to move out of their village to receive their education. There is no need to change the school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils.

1.38 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has worked well as a dual stream school for a number of years. The school has an excellent reputation and the pupils are happy with the system. The community should continue to have a choice.

1.39 The consultee is supportive of the Welsh language but feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many people have placed their children in the school purely as it is a dual stream school and this choice should not be taken away from the community. Pupils from both streams interact well with each other and the school has an excellent reputation. It would not be possible for some parents to move their children to the proposed English medium school and they should not need to

This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the

do this. There is no need to change a system that already works well.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.40 The consultee states that as an employee at the school and a school governor they were firstly supportive of the proposal. However, the consultee states that they are now opposed to the idea. At the moment, staff who do not speak Welsh are able to practice their Welsh skills – this would not be able to happen at an English medium school. The school caters for all members of the community and creates a strong bond between children of different languages. Pupils should not have to travel outside of their local area to receive English medium education – this will cause segregation between pupils of different languages. This also causes problems for families without means of private transport and the local authority have a responsibility to cater for all families. This proposal will surely divide the community and the best way to promote the Welsh language would be to increase the amount of Welsh lessons per week, whilst keeping choice for the

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all

community.

1.41 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Preference has been given to the Welsh language over the last few years – both languages should be treated equally. The majority of the families that have moved into the area are English speaking and these parents should be given a choice for their children.

1.42 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many parents do not speak the Welsh language and will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork. The Welsh language can only be used in Wales and cannot be

parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to **“ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium**

used in 95% of universities. The consultee is concerned that the proposed English schools do not have enough capacity to accept pupils from Llangennech who desire an English medium education. There would also be travel implications for families wishing to attend these schools.

education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s ***“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental***

1.43 The consultee supports the promotion of the Welsh language but feels that this proposal will be counterproductive. There is no need to force the Welsh language onto people. Llangennech School is working well and most parents are supportive of a bilingual education. This proposal does not cater for the many English speaking members of the community and these members should not have to move out of their local area to seek English medium education. There are other ways of promoting the Welsh language other than changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams. The consultee has accepted that providing education for 3 year olds will standardise education for this year group – however this proposal will have a detrimental effect on other nursery providers in the area.

1.44 The consultee is concerned that pupil's choices will be reduced and that pupils will be forced to learn through the medium of Welsh or move school.

responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s

1.45 The consultee is concerned that pupils with learning difficulties/disabilities or pupils that find the Welsh language difficult will not be able to move into the English stream and will have to move to another school.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

1.46 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will alienate non Welsh speaking children and parents by forcing them to seek English medium schools outside of the community.

1.47 The consultee expresses concerns regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting English medium education will have to attend other schools and some parents might have several siblings in different schools which will cause difficulties for parents.

1.48 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will mean that the family may have to take one of their children (who will start after proposal is implemented) to an English medium school outside of the village if they wish for the child to have a mainly English medium education. The consultee expresses concern that the pupil will not receive the high standard of education that Llangennech School would provide.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Parents should also consider any other issues which may arise.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

1.49 The consultee is concerned with how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of awareness by the local community. The consultee feels that there are a number of inaccuracies within the proposal and appears to be centred on the opinion of a minority. The proposal has caused discontent in the local area. The consultee also feels that the proposal lacks an evidence based approach and fails to meet 21st Century School programme to have the “right school in the right place.”

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in the number of pupils attending both streams, with the majority of pupils attending through the Welsh stream. This shows that there is demand for a Welsh medium school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

1.50 The consultee expresses concern that the change in language category would be detrimental to the community in Llangennech as parents who wish for their children to be educated in English will have to choose a school outside of the village. The consultee is also concerned that multiculturalism within the school will be reduced and that it will cause more difficulties for parents who are non- Welsh speakers when helping their children with their homework.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that

1.51 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will affect those pupils who will choose to move to an English medium school by limiting the amount of Welsh that these pupils will learn. By attending a dual stream school, non-Welsh pupils are able to learn more Welsh than what they would be able to at an English medium school. Pupils who also struggle with the Welsh language would also have to move school rather than moving into the English stream.

all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the

1.52 The consultee is concerned with the how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of effort made by the school, LA and community council to engage with parents and prospective parents. The consultee believes that the school have been trying to move to a Welsh medium language category for a number of years. If pupils were to choose to attend an English medium school this would mean having young children of 4/5 walking a great distance to school or if they were to qualify for transport, being bussed to another school. This proposal would seriously affect English speaking members in the community and will split the community from an early age. Brynsierfel and Ffwrnes provide Welsh medium education where those desiring Welsh medium education can attend.

support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.53 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force many parents to send their children to an English medium school – which will incur financial implications and the sense of detachment from the village. The consultee is also concerned that parents who do not speak Welsh may feel pressured to send their child to the school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be available to parents who do not speak Welsh.

1.54 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force parents who do not wish for their children to have a Welsh medium education to move them to an English medium school. The consultee is concerned that this would affect current traffic situations and also some parents would have to walk their children to school along busy roads. The consultee also expresses concern that pupils who would attend the English stream at a dual stream school but choose to attend an English medium school will be at a disadvantage as they will not be able to pick up the Welsh language as they would in a dual stream school. The consultee states that pupils from both streams currently mix through different school activities and this would not continue if the school became Welsh medium.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the**

1.55 The consultee is concerned that pupils who find learning through the medium of Welsh difficult will not have the option of moving to the English stream and will have to move to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travelling implications for those parents wanting to place their children in an English medium school. The consultee states that pupils in the English stream are able to learn the Welsh language by attending a dual stream school whereas this would not be possible by attending an English medium school.

provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages. In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who***

1.56 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category will force parents to move their children to an English medium school, outside of the village and therefore causing a divide within the village. This will result in the pupils learning no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language. The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language or who have learning difficulties will not be fully supported and will also, have to move to an English medium school, where they may not receive education of the same standard. The consultee expresses concern for traffic implications by changing the language category as parents who want their children to attend English medium schools will have to travel outside of the village whilst some pupils out of catchment may travel to Llangennech for Welsh medium education.

do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be

1.57 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that the proposal will force families to either choose a fully Welsh medium education or move to an English medium school which will then limit the pupils from learning Welsh. This will then mean additional transport costs for parents who decide to move their children to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about how the change will affect pupils with additional learning needs and disabilities and what support will be available to pupils.

available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each

1.58 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. It is the consultee's opinion that this will divide the community and lead to a breakdown in the community spirit of the village. It is also unfair to ask parents who wish for their children to be educated through the medium of English to move to school outside of the village. Dual stream schools enable children who learn through the medium of English to teach enough Welsh to get by.

1.59 The consultee is concerned that the children's education will suffer if the English language is treated as a second language. English is the language of the business world and therefore pupils will be at a disadvantage later on in life.

individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual***

1.60 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will disadvantage pupils later on in life when they enter further education through the English language.

1.61 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. Choice will be taken from the community and the consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to change stream and will have to move to a different school. The consultee also feels that this change will cause a divide in the community.

education?” document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s **“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the

1.62 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause segregation in the community and would limit pupils who are taught in different language mediums from interacting with each other. Pupils who want an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of their community and will have to provide their own transport. The consultee feels that learning through the Welsh language will disadvantage pupils later on in life and that pupils forced to learn through the Welsh medium will not achieve their full potential. The consultee is also concerned that the proposed changes will mean job losses for school staff and for staff members in other organisations in the community.

1.63 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. This would cause a divide in the community and mean that children wanting English medium education would have to leave their community and attend another school. The consultee feels that Llangennech School is unique because families can have children attending different streams depending on their needs

medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's **"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in

and by changing the language category this choice will be taken away.

Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

1.64 The consultee is concerned with changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that parents who already have children attending the school through the English stream and will have children starting after January 2017 may have to move pupils to another English medium school. This means that families will have children in two different which could cause difficulties and may result in having to move all children outside of the community. The consultee is also concerned that the change will alienate non-Welsh parents who have no choice but to send their children to a Welsh medium school and will also alienate pupils who are not able to practice the language at home.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be provided to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.

1.65 The consultee expresses concern with regard to changing the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils should be able to attend their local school and not be forced out of the village if they want an English medium education. This change would cause a divide in the community rather than promoting inclusion. The consultee is also concerned that choice is being taken away from families and pupils who may struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school as the English stream will no longer be available.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.66 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause difficulties for families whose children require education through different mediums. This would cause even more difficulties for families without means of private transport. The consultee also states that pupils receiving education through the English medium have a very good understanding of the Welsh language whereas this would be limited by attending an English medium school. The consultee also has concerns regarding changing the age

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all

range to 3-11 as offering 2 hours a day of childcare is not suitable for working parents compared with other organisations in the village.

parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.67 The consultee is concerned that changing that language category will divide the community if pupils have to travel outside of the community to receive English medium education. Pupils should be able to attend the school in their own community and be a part of that community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

1.68 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will force some people to seek

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

English medium education outside of the village. The consultee is concerned that pupils who choose to move to English medium schools will not be exposed at all to the Welsh language, whereas by attending the English stream at Llangennech School they are able to pick up the language. The change would also cause a divide in the community and would segregate pupils attending different schools.

1.69 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will prevent pupils who have moved to the area from attending the village school. The consultee is also concerned that not all pupils will be able to achieve their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh.

1.70 The consultee feels that the families will suffer if they are unable to take their children to the village school and this will also include additional travelling costs.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."*** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free***

1.71 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause a divide in the community and would be detrimental rather than beneficial. The consultee is also concerned about the 'knock on' effects on the community centre, playgroups and nurseries and the effects on employees of these establishments.

transport is a parental responsibility." This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.72 The consultee is concerned that changing the language

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the

category to Welsh medium will cause a divide in the community, by forcing children seeking English medium education out of the village. Pupils will no longer socialise both in and out of school.

1.73 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will be detrimental to the language. At the moment English stream pupils are able to learn more Welsh than they would be able to by attending an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travel implications to English medium schools.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all

1.74 The consultee feels that pupils seeking English medium education should not have to attend schools outside of their village.

parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.75 The consultee feels that the only option for pupils seeking English medium education would be to attend a school outside of their village.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.76 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and not have to commute in order to receive an English medium education.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.77 The consultee feels that the parents should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both***

1.78 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community and that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

1.79 The consultee feels that pupils attending the English stream have a very good understanding of the Welsh language and that there is no need for change.

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1.80 The consultee is concerned that the proposal is not based on the needs of all children. As many pupils are from outside catchment the consultee is concerned how this will increase the use of the Welsh language in community of Llangennech.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.81 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and should not have to attend schools outside of the village if they wish to receive an English medium education.

1.82 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.83 The consultee is concerned about the financial and physical strain on families wishing to receive an English medium education. They also feel that bonds will be broken between pupils attending the same nurseries who will then attend different schools.

1.84 The consultee feels that there is no need for change. There is also concern for families who do not speak Welsh who will not be able to help their children with school work and also that choice is taken away from the community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all

1.85 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community as some families have children attending both streams and this will not be an option in the future.

future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.86 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has an excellent reputation as a bilingual school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity**

1.87 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of sending their children to either stream.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.88 The consultee is concerned with the number of pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area and feels that the village school should be for pupils within catchment.

1.89 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of both streams as everyone has a chance to learn the Welsh language. There would be travel implications on those wishing to receive an English medium education.

Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English

1.90 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from families especially from English speaking families who wish for their children to learn some of the Welsh language but without having an impact on their education. It is also felt that this would cause a divide in the community.

will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.91 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire

from families, especially when the current situation has worked well for so long. This will cause a divide in the community.

1.92 The consultee is concerned that choice is taken away from families. There will be implications for families wishing to seek English medium education and this will mean that pupils will not have the opportunity to learn the Welsh language whereas in a dual stream school they would pick up the language.

County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that

1.93 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the current situation as it is working very well. The community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

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1.94 The consultee feels that the proposal has split the community and that parents should have a choice of both streams. There are concern for pupils with additional learning needs who may struggle with learning through the medium of Welsh. These pupils would have to move to an English medium school rather than changing stream. The change would also mean that pupils seeking English medium education would not be able to learn any Welsh at all. The consultee also has concerns regarding the consultation process.

Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning

1.95 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will remove choice from the community. It is unfair that younger pupils will not have the same choice as their older siblings have had.

1.96 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause segregation within the village. There is no need to change the school.

need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current

1.97 The consultee feels that the choice should be kept for families. There are concerns for people who move to the area will chose for their children to attend schools outside of the village.

pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

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Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."***

1.98 The consultee feels that the Welsh skills of pupils attending the English stream are enhanced by attending a dual stream school. There is no need to change the school.

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1.99 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school and that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority

1.100 The consultee feels that pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh and that the school should remain as it is.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.101 The consultee has concerns that changing the language category to Welsh medium will divide the community. Pupils wishing to receive English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village and this will include travel implications for families.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.102 The consultee feels that the school is successful as it is and there is no need to change it.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that *“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”* The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of *ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”* It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that *“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”* This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to *“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key*

1.103 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream.

stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to **“ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector”** and are able to achieve this by providing nursery provision at the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s

1.104 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is unfair to families who do not speak the language.

aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh

1.105 The consultee feels that pupils are entitled to receive their education in their local area. Both English and Welsh speakers should be incorporated in order to develop the Welsh skills of non-Welsh speakers.

language.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.106 The consultee is concerned that if pupils wish to receive their education through the medium of English, they will have to attend schools outside of their local area and will be separated from their friends already at the school. There are also concerns for the travel implications if pupils chose to

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

attend an English medium school.

medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.107 The consultee is supportive of a bilingual education but does not support a monolingual Welsh education system.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.

1.108 The consultee feels that the community have a right to the choice of which language their children should receive their education in. This proposal could also have an effect on the

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a

local community.

- 1.109 The consultee feels that the school should remain bilingual. The pupils attending the English stream have a good understanding of the Welsh language and culture.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in***

1.110 The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village. The school works well as a dual stream and other schools should be made dual stream in order to promote the Welsh language.

1.111 The consultee feels that pupils in the English stream are exposed to the Welsh language – this will not happen if pupils choose to attend English medium schools and therefore these pupils will not learn any Welsh. The school should be kept dual stream.

Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

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1.112 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. This proposal would segregate non-Welsh speakers who won't be able to attend their local school. Pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh.

them to become Welsh medium schools." It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."**

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

1.113 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as many people in the area are not fluent Welsh speakers. Pupils should also be able to attend a school in their local area.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.114 The consultee is concerned that the pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English and move to the proposed schools will not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School as they do not have the same rating as Llangennech School.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

1.115 The consultee feels that the school should remain as it is as the presence of the English stream is beneficial to pupils with additional learning needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium***

1.116 The consultee is concerned that friends will leave Llangennech School in order to obtain English medium education and feels that the school should remain as dual stream.

education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and***

1.117 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school and is concerned that if the school changes to Welsh medium then not all pupils' needs will be met.

English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.118 The consultee supports the progression of education

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire

through the medium of Welsh but feels that a dual stream school can be used flexibly with the changing demand for English or Welsh education. Pupils at a young age should be able to start school with their friends.

County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.119 The consultee agrees that the Welsh language is an integral part of the Welsh education system but does not agree to changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium as not all pupils in the area speak Welsh.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

1.120 The consultee does not feel that there is need to change the school as it is working well as it is. The Welsh language is

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the

important but there is no need to change the school to be completely Welsh medium.

Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.121 The consultee opposes the changing of the language category to Welsh medium as the school is already working well as dual stream. There are a number of people living in the area who do not speak the Welsh language and would have to attend schools outside of their local area.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the

1.122 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both English and Welsh streams as the current situation has worked well for many years. The consultee is concerned that pupils will be at a disadvantage if their parents are not able to help them with their school work because they are unable to speak the Welsh language. Pupils have a right to be educated in their first language and in their local area.

school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh language.

1.123 The consultee feels that all children have a right to be educated in their first language, whether it be Welsh or English. It is felt that this proposal will divide the community and parents should not be punished for deciding which education is best for their children.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.124 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream as the majority of the village are English speakers. This proposal will cause a divide in the community.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority

1.125 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community. The pupils would not have a choice of changing to the English stream if they struggle to learn through the medium of Welsh. There would also be travel implications if pupils choose to change school to receive an English medium education and also pupils may find it difficult to settle in to a new school.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive

1.126 The consultee does not agree with changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. There are concerns regarding how pupils will be educated if they choose to move to Bryn or Hendy Primary Schools as these are already at capacity. The consultee also has concerns as to how the consultation process has been managed.

their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – **"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."**

1.127 The consultee feels that the community should have the choice of attending an English or Welsh stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English. The majority of the community are English speaking and the local school should cater for all pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.128 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English and the school already provides an excellent education as it is.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority

1.129 The consultee is concerned that less privileged families will suffer as they will either have to accept a Welsh medium education or face the financial implications of traveling to English medium schools outside their local area. Pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move stream.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.130 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream and that the Welsh language should not be forced on people. The community should have the choice of whether to

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a

attend an English or Welsh stream. The consultee also feels that there has been a lack of consultation regarding the proposal.

1.131 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream as it works as it is. The pupils should have the right to be educated in their local school through their first language. Pupils who are from non-Welsh backgrounds will suffer as parents will not be able to provide support and there will be travel implications for those who wish to attend an English medium school.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.132 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents who do not speak the Welsh language. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity**

1.133 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for a number of years. Pupils should continue to have a choice of an English or Welsh education. There is no need to change something that works.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.134 The consultee feels that individuals should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of English or Welsh. There are a number of non-Welsh speakers living in the area and this proposal would not cater for their needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.135 The consultee feels that this proposal would cause a split in the community. The school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for many years.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.136 The consultee feels that this proposal will divide the community. This will alienate English speakers who wish to receive their education through the medium of English who will have to attend English medium schools outside of their local area.

1.137 The consultee feels that the school is working well as it is; providing both Welsh and English medium education and therefore there is no need to change it. It is difficult for parents who do not speak Welsh to help their children with their school work and this may cause pupils' education to suffer.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be available to parents who do not speak the language.

1.138 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause English speakers to lose their local school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.139 The consultee feels that the community should continue to have a choice of whether to attend an English or Welsh stream. The school has worked excellently as a dual stream and therefore there is no need to change it.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.140 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school. This enables Welsh speaking pupils to develop their English skills and enables English speaking pupils to develop their Welsh skills. This proposal is unfair towards pupils attending the English stream.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary***

1.141 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

1.142 The consultee believes that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary**

1.143 The consultee believes that this political ideology will blight the community.

1.144 The consultee feels that there is no need for change as Carmarthenshire has got the highest turnover of Welsh medium schools in Wales. No thought has been given to the pupils.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary**

1.145 The consultee is concerned how this proposal will affect pupils' education. Some members of the community do not drive and there are concerns regarding how they will be able to transport pupils to two schools if they have other children wishing to receive English medium education.

1.146 The consultee is concerned that pupils will lose the option of changing to the English stream if they struggle with the Welsh language, they will have to move to an English medium school. The current situation works and therefore there is no need to change it.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they

1.147 The consultee is concerned that this proposal does not cater for the whole community. A dual stream school caters for both Welsh and English speaking members of the community.

currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.148 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. This causes transport issues for families requiring English medium education and will increase class sizes in other schools. This proposal will divide the community causing segregation and isolation.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.149 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.150 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will affect pupils' education if they struggle with the Welsh language. This is not fair to the pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.151 The consultee is concerned that this proposal will push English speaking pupils out of their own community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.152 The consultee would like to ask the Local Authority whether there is any information available to explain the benefits of educating a child through the medium of their second language. Also, is there any evidence to prove that teaching a child through their second language is successful? The consultee states that Wales is a diverse community and that the local authority should be aiming to educate the whole community successfully. The best way for pupil's to learn

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the

Welsh and become bilingual would be for pupil's to attend a dual stream school or at an English medium school where Welsh is taught as a second language.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s ***“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools already successfully educate pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds.

1.153 The consultee believes that all members of the community should have been notified of the consultation process. This is a significant change for the village and the consultee feels that every person in the village is a stakeholder, not just parents, teachers, and school governors. The consultee is concerned that the Community Council were not notified.

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). Page 30 of the consultation document states clearly which interested parties were notified of the consultation. Llangennech Community Council were made aware of the proposal.

1.154 The consultee feels that parents were given very little information about the process. The consultee also disagrees with the Community Council’s decision to not discuss the proposal and feels that the School/County Council should

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). It is the decision of the Community Council whether or not to discuss the proposal. The School Organisation Code (2013) states

have held a meeting with community members. The consultee is also concerned with the methods of submitting responses to the consultation document.

1.155 A petition was signed by members of the community of Llangennech. The community is concerned that English speaking pupils will be pushed out of their own community to attend English medium schools. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams and all pupils should have the right to attend their local school. 505 people signed the petition.

that from time to time proposers will have conducted 'informal' consultations with particular stakeholders – however this is not a legal requirement. Consultees were able to submit their responses either by e-mail or by post to the Director of Education and Children's Services.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on the Secondary School

2. The consultee supports the drive to increase the use of the Welsh language and Bryngwyn School is successful in this with the introduction of bilingual provision. However, the consultee is concerned that 10% of current pupils at Bryngwyn School have originated from Llangennech School. Any change in pupil numbers in feeder schools such as Llangennech would have an effect on the population base of Bryngwyn School and would therefore have an effect on the funding that the school receives. The school wonders whether a catchment review could be undertaken in order to minimise the effect on secondary schools as re categorization of feeder schools tends to have an effect on secondary schools. The school is also concerned that they were not informed of the change by the school or the local authority but instead found out through the local newspaper. The school works well with its family of schools and are happy with the existing structure where pupils have a choice at both primary and secondary level. The school supports the development of Welsh language provision but not where it would have a negative impact on secondary schools.

Support the Proposal

3. The consultee supports the change as this supports Carmarthenshire's goal of increasing the Welsh medium provision and to ensure that all pupils become completely

Impact on Secondary School

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. It is also important to note, that the proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become fully Welsh medium. The local authority will monitor how this change will affect the local secondary school. The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. Bryngwyn School were notified of the link to the consultation document via e-mail on 25th January 2016.

Support the Proposal

The Local Authority (LA) welcomes the large number of positive responses to the proposal to discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-

<p>bilingual. The number of pupils attending the English stream has declined over recent years and this is a golden opportunity for the area of Llangennech.</p> <p>3.1 The consultee supports the change to Welsh medium and believes that all children should be educated through the medium of Welsh. This will ensure that all children will become bilingual and able to communicate through Welsh. This gives every child a fair chance to become fluent in the Welsh language.</p> <p>3.2 The consultee feels that the future of the Welsh language depends on Welsh medium education.</p> <p>3.3 The consultee feels that this proposal ensures that all pupils will leave primary school as bilingual and skilled in speaking, reading and writing through the medium of Welsh. It is the local authority's duty to provide pupils with the best opportunities that will benefit them in later life.</p> <p>3.4 The consultee feels that it is imperative for immediate action to save the Welsh language. The consultee supports the proposal.</p> <p>3.5 The consultee feels that Welsh medium education will ensure continuity from nursery through to secondary school and will increase bilingualism in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>3.6 The consultee supports the change as it will comply with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The governing body and staff of the schools are supportive of the proposal and the decline in pupils attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. This is a natural change for the school and there are English medium schools available for pupils wishing to receive English medium</p>	<p>11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body. The responses are very encouraging.</p> <p>Many of the responses focus on the changing of the language category to Welsh medium and how this will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area.</p> <p>In addition, many responses focus on the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream and how changing the language category to Welsh medium will be a natural step for the school.</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."</i></p> <p>The Authority has also conducted a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
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<p>education. This proposal will ensure that all pupils leave school bilingual.</p>	
<p>3.7 The consultee supports the proposal as being bilingual is an essential skill and will help preserve the Welsh language. The consultee is sure that support will be given to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.8 The consultee supports the proposal as there is a significant increase in the pupils attending the Welsh stream and therefore this will be a natural step for the school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.9 The consultee supports the proposal as it will secure the future of the Welsh language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.10 The consultee supports that proposal as receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that all pupils become bilingual in both Welsh and English. This is an important step in increasing the use of Welsh language in the Llangennech area and will nurture pupils who are only able to communicate through English. Assistance will need to be provided for parents who are not able to speak the language so that they are able to support their children with their education.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.11 The consultee states that they are surprised that there isn't a Welsh medium school already in Llangennech. This proposal will ensure that all pupils will become bilingual. Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils and will open doors for them throughout their lives. The authority has a responsible to provide pupils with the best education and a Welsh medium education will be best for the pupils.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.12 The consultee supports the proposal as it will promote</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area. Being able to communicate through the medium of Welsh is an invaluable skill which provides many opportunities through life. The Welsh language is important to the successful future of the nation. The consultee is delighted to see the increase of Welsh medium education in the area.

3.13 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education will provide the best education possible. A Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils.

3.14 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the number of pupils attending the Welsh streams has increased over recent years. This is a natural change for the school. The proposal will promote bilingualism in the area and answers Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

3.15 The consultee supports the proposal as it is becoming more and more important to be bilingual. Bilingualism is extremely important in Europe and we should be promoting this. The consultee feels that community members may be poorly informed about a bilingual education and what this entails and that the benefits of a bilingual education should be discussed. The area has always had a choice of dual stream school but the local authority must look at the demand for Welsh medium education. The consultee is also concerned with the negative responses of some consultees and the media.

3.16 The consultee supports the proposal as it responds to Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the vision of the Welsh Government. The decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the demand for Welsh medium education. This proposal will also promote bilingualism as well as providing many opportunities and educational

Observation noted. Please see response above.

benefits.

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| <p>3.17 The consultee feels that a bilingual education provides many advantages. Receiving Welsh medium education at primary school will assist in the preservation of the language which is facing massive pressures.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |
| <p>3.18 The consultee feels that there is evidence to show that learning Welsh as a second language is not successful in creating bilingual individuals. Establishing a Welsh medium primary school will ensure that all pupils are bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This is a natural change for the school and the staff and governing bodies of both schools are supportive.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |
| <p>3.19 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |
| <p>3.20 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |
| <p>3.21 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |
| <p>3.22 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p> | <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> |

<p>3.23 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.24 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.25 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.26 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.27 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.28 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.29 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>3.30 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.31 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.32 The consultee feels that receiving a Welsh medium education provides pupils with many opportunities in the future including finding work. All children should have the opportunity to learn another language to help them with their future opportunities.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.33 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.34 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.35 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.36 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

3.37 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.38 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.39 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.40 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.41 The consultee agrees with changing the language category of Llangennech School to Welsh medium.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.42 The consultee supports the proposal. The demand for Welsh medium education in the area is high and the majority of the pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh stream. The change would be a natural step for the school. There will be room for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. The Council will need to address the limited spaces available at the school which includes other primary schools in Llanelli.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.43 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the majority of pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh

Observation noted. Please see response above.

stream. The consultee feels that as we are in Wales, pupils should learn through the medium of Welsh. If pupils attended schools in other countries, they would have no choice but to learn their language.

3.44 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.45 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.46 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.47 The consultee feels that there is need for a Welsh medium school in the village.

3.48 The consultee feels that Llangennech is the perfect place to have a Welsh medium school.

3.49 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.50 The consultee supports the proposal to change the language category of the school to Welsh medium.

3.51 The consultee agrees with the proposal to change the language category to Welsh medium.

3.52 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

3.53 The consultee supports the proposal. Some parents have to transport their children to ensure that they receive Welsh medium education. There are benefits Welsh medium education over dual stream.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.54 The consultee states that the growth in demand for Welsh medium education has been enormous. This change will be a natural step for the school. Establishing a nursery in the school is very beneficial to ensure that the foundations for Welsh education is completely sound and is actioned and presented under the leadership of the school. These changes will create bilingual individuals and promote the Welsh language in the area.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.55 The consultee feels that, changing the language category to Welsh Medium would be beneficial to the local community and to the future of the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.56 The consultee feels that the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. There has been a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the village and this proposal will help to increase this. At the moment pupils desiring a full Welsh medium education have to travel to other schools and this proposal will help relieve this burden on other schools. It is important that parents are aware of the advantages of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities that are available in Carmarthenshire. It is only through a Welsh medium education that pupils can become completely bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.57 The consultee supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee does not speak Welsh but feels strongly that children should have the opportunity to learn through the Welsh language.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.58 The consultee feels that the next natural step for Llangennech Schools Federation is stepping towards joining the two schools to create on new school under one governing body. The proposal will ensure that every pupil develops to be fluent

Observation noted. Please see response above.

speakers, readers and writers in both Welsh and English. The proposal will ensure that Llangennech School moves along with Welsh language continuum and offers bilingualism to every pupil and not just pupils in the Welsh stream. Including a nursery provides pupils of the catchment equal opportunities to attend a three year old nursery classroom within the village of Llangennech. This proposal will enable pupils to think, play and work in English and Welsh which will open countless doors for them throughout their lives.

3.59 The consultee is happy that the Council are using this opportunity to change the language category to Welsh medium. Only Welsh medium education creates bilingual individuals.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.60 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.61 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.62 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.63 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.64 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.65 The consultee agrees with the developments at Llangennech.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.66 The consultee is supportive of the proposal. The Welsh language shouldn't be a barrier to non-Welsh speakers it should be seen as an advantage. Pupils are able to they learn a new language in a completely natural way by listening and practicing every day. This also encourages non Welsh parents to learn a

Observation noted. Please see response above.

little bit of the language. There should be no reason to move pupils to an English medium school. The Council should make every effort to reason with consultees who do not support the proposal in order to try and gain their support.

3.67 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal. The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education enriches the learning experience for pupils and opens many doors throughout their careers. The demand for Welsh medium education has increased significantly over the last few years whilst the demand for English medium education has declined. It is important for all schools to follow the language continuum and offer more opportunities to their pupils to learn through the medium of Welsh.

3.68 The consultee feels that this change will be an excellent change for the community. The local area needs more Welsh medium schools and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

3.69 The consultee feels that this would be a natural and necessary change for Llangennech School. Llangennech is a traditional Welsh village and this needs to be protected along with developing the future of Welsh medium education. There is a choice available for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English.

3.70 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would promote bilingualism in the village of Llangennech and the surrounding areas. This is an excellent opportunity for all pupils residing in Llangennech to receive a bilingual education and to develop these necessary skills.

3.71 The consultee feels that a bilingual education can only be beneficial to a pupil, with cognitive, social and linguistic

Observation noted. Please see response above.

advantages. The consultee feels that dual stream schools only dilute the Welsh language skills of pupils whereas a full Welsh medium education can provide opportunities for pupils to reach their full potential.

3.72 The consultee believes that a bilingual education is of great benefit to a pupil. A bilingual education improves a pupil's ability to learn a third language and increases job prospects within Wales. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that the school goes from strength to strength, but stakeholders need a clear understanding of the meaning bilingual –English will still be taught at the school.

3.73 The consultee believes that the area needs a Welsh medium school. This will ensure that pupils residing in the area will be completely bilingual.

3.74 The consultee feels that there are a number of advantages for being bilingual including educational, professional and social advantages. It is also easier for children to learn different languages at an earlier age rather than later on in life. Every pupil in Wales have a right to Welsh medium education and this is the only way to create confident, bilingual adults.

3.75 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will increase Welsh medium education provision in the area and promote bilingualism. Being bilingual greatly enriches a pupil's life by providing them with opportunities for varied cultural experiences. The standard of English taught in the Welsh stream is of a high standard and therefore pupils are not at a disadvantage later on in life.

3.76 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will

Observation noted. Please see response above.

ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.77 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all pupils in the Llangennech area can take advantage of a Welsh medium education and become completely bilingual. The school is already effective in promoting the Welsh language to pupils from non-Welsh background who attend through the Welsh stream. The consultee feels that the pupil's standard of English will not be affected by attending the Welsh stream.

3.78 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.79 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.80 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is a natural step whilst considering the history of the village and the statistics of pupils attending the Welsh and English streams.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>3.81 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language locally. There are more opportunities available to people who are bilingual and English medium education cannot produce Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.82 The consultee feels that all pupils in Wales should have the opportunity to be bilingual and changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote this. Being able to speak Welsh is a great advantage and it is important and people are able to speak the language of their country.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.83 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is the only way to promote bilingualism. The change would be a natural step for Llangennech School as the statistics show that much more pupils attend the Welsh stream than the English stream. Parents who do not wish for their child to receive a Welsh medium education will have the choice to send their child to an English medium school. Being bilingual is a skill that pupils will benefit from throughout their lives.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.84 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will give pupils more opportunities to use the language outside of the classroom. It is important that pupils are fluent and confident in the Welsh language in order to be completely bilingual country.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.85 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education provides invaluable skills that are of benefit to every pupil. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote the language in the local area and will allow the whole school to engage in many more opportunities that are offered through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.86 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal to change</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>the language category to Welsh medium.</p> <p>3.87 The consultee is supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. There are only three Welsh medium schools on the area compared to around 15 English medium schools. Being educated through the medium of Welsh ensures that all pupils leave school as bilingual and this is an advantage to every individual educationally and socially. It is important that the council promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in order to ensure the future of the language.</p> <p>3.88 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. Receiving education through the medium of Welsh is the best way to promote bilingualism. This will also ensure the development of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. There are many advantages to being bilingual including developing processing skills and having a greater understanding of different topics.</p> <p>3.89 The consultee is fully supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. The statistics show that many more pupils attend the Welsh stream compared to the English stream and many of those pupils attending the Welsh stream come from non-Welsh homes which shows that they have faith in Welsh medium education.</p> <p>3.90 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will ensure the protection of the Welsh language and the development of Welsh language education. The number of Welsh speakers in the Llangennech area has deteriorated over recent years and changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that this increases.</p> <p>3.91 The consultee supports the changing of the language</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
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category to Welsh medium and believes that every pupil should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. However, the consultee feels that the consultation period should have been conducted in a more open and transparent manner.

3.92 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will be of benefit to the pupils and the school and will promote bilingualism in the area. Receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that pupils are fluent and confident in using the Welsh language. At the moment, parents who want a full Welsh medium education have to take their children out of the village.

3.93 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.94 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.95 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium.

3.96 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	
<p>3.97 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.98 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.99 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.100 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. The change will be a natural change for the school and is essential in maintaining Welsh as a community language.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.101 The consultee feels that changing the language category to</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.102 The consultee fully supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The only way to ensure the future of the Welsh language is to develop Welsh medium education. There is no reason why pupils leaving primary school should not be able to speak, read and write in Welsh. A bilingual education is of benefit to a pupil not a disadvantage.

Undecided

4.0 The consultee feels that the school are very supportive towards pupils attending the Welsh stream who do not have a Welsh background and believe that that receiving a bilingual education is advantageous. The consultee is supportive of a Welsh medium education if there is need in the village as long as it does not disadvantage anyone with regards to travelling to other schools.

4.1 The consultee feels that the school has naturally increased in size and has turned into a Welsh school. However, there are many English speaking pupils at the school and it is important for them to receive a bilingual or and English education if that is their wish.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Undecided

The difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh and English streams shows that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write***

Impact on other organizations

5.0 The consultee is concerned for the future of their business and staff should the proposal be implemented. The consultee is also concerned about how this proposal will affect the community library and community center should it be implemented. The consultee is concerned that this proposal will divide the community, and force some children to attend other schools outside the village which contradicts the Foundation Phase framework which is based on inclusion, diversity and a sense of belonging.

Member of Parliament Response

6.0 The consultee feels that every child in Wales should have the opportunity to access school education through the medium of Welsh. Pupils in Llangennech currently have that opportunity through attending the Welsh stream. It would be counter-productive to the aim of increasing the number of pupils who can use the

Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on other organizations

The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision. It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Member of Parliament Response

Although pupils in Llangennech currently have access to education through the medium of Welsh, these proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the**

Welsh language if pupils chose to attend English medium schools because of this change.

Union Response

7.0 UNISON advises that its members believe that dual stream provision should continue. The members are not opposed to creating a new school of age range 3-11 or federation but feel that dual stream provision should be maintained if the consultation is to consider the culture and views of parents and school support staff.

provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. It is also important to note that it will take 7 years for the proposal to be fully implemented and for the school to be completely Welsh medium.

Union Response

Observation noted. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

7.1 UCAC are supportive of the proposal as they believe that the proposal coincides with the objectives of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and with the Welsh Government's vision of developing Welsh medium education from the early years. UCAC are aware of the opposition towards the proposal and are fully committed to ensure the wellbeing of staff. UCAC will work with the local authority for the sake of the teaching staff they represent and the wider educational community within Llangennech.

The observation and support was noted.

Appendix D

ESTYN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Estyn's response to the proposal to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales have prepared this report.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body that is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortium, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body.

The changes would be implemented in January 2017.

Summary/Conclusion

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a detailed and clear rationale for the proposal to merge the two schools. It has given a good outline of the reasons for ending the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establishing a new school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It notes that there will not be any transport implications for pupils at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech nor for Ysgol Iau Llangennech and that there will be no change in the catchment area of either school. It states clearly that if a child attends a school in the catchment area or the school nearest to the home address and this decision is based on parental choice, the responsibility is on the parents /carer to transport the pupil to and from the school and to pay the cost of that transport.

The proposer outlines clearly that both governing bodies have already federated formally, and that that is an important step towards merging the two schools and to create one primary school.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer gives thorough consideration to the effect of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the school.

It makes valid reference to the outcomes of Estyn's most recent inspection reports on both schools and their categories and support bands.

It makes the reasonable assertion that there would be benefits in terms of sharing resources effectively, developing staff's skills for the whole primary age curriculum and locating all pupils on one site under the leadership of one headteacher.

It notes that the proposal would ensure specific nursery provision at the school. It has conducted an assessment of the effect of the change on equality and claims that the proposal should not have an adverse effect on any specific groups. It asserts reasonably that Welsh-medium provision for pupils who have special needs will be strengthened to provide a wide range of expertise in different areas.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to possible disruption for current pupils. The proposer has given suitable consideration to the effect of the proposal on staff and the implications for them as a result of implementing this proposal.

The Local Government Response to Estyn

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for a place at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that this change will not affect current pupils at the school and they will continue to receive their education through the medium of English. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for provision at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

Appendix E

Consultation with the Pupils

Consultation undertaken on the 4th March 2016

By

Mrs Llinos Jones

Challenge Adviser

ERW

Carmarthenshire County Council

Listening to 'Learner Voice'

School – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors Schools

Date: - 4th March 2016

Session undertaken by Llinos Jones

Interviewed School Council / Pupils

1. What do you know about the proposed changes?

Comments

- Two schools becoming one with the same name.
- Maybe the school will change to become a Welsh school.

2. What are you most looking forward to?

Comments

- Getting to know new teachers.
- One school instead of two schools.
- Developing new activities.
- Using more of the top school. Perhaps doing a show together.

3. Are you worried about anything?

Comments

- If the school is big, some pupils might be nasty.

4. How would you feel if three year old children started in the school?

Comments

- It's a good thing. Pupils can see their siblings coming to the school.
- The children would learn Welsh from an earlier age.
- Pupils would make friends from an earlier age.
- It's a good thing. More teachers and staff might be needed.

Negatives:

- Difficult for staff because there will be more pupils.
- Perhaps some nurseries in the village will have to close because of the lack of children.

5. Would you like a new school uniform and badge for the new school?

Comments

- No. Everyone is happy with the uniform and it should be kept the same.

6. Would you like to be a part of a big school?

Comments

- Happy to be a part of a big school.
- Happy, there will be more classrooms and more children.
- Happy with the school building.

7. What would be your opinion be if the new pupils in the school had to have a Welsh medium education?

Comments

- Happy because they would be able to speak two languages.

- Not good because pupils that find Welsh hard would have to go to another school.
- Happy, because the pupils would be bilingual.
- The Welsh pupils would be able to help the English pupils.

8. How do you feel if the two schools became one?

Comments

- Everything would be ok because Mr Anderson will still be the head teacher.
- Infant pupils will be able to do more activities with the older pupils.

Appendix F

Revised Options for Change

5. Revised Options for Change

In developing a preferred option the County Council considered a range of alternative options. Each option was evaluated against key objectives and criteria to determine which option best suited the aspirations of Carmarthenshire.

5.1 Main Options Considered

Option 1	Status Quo – Maintain both schools in present format
Option 2	Federation
Option 3	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.
Option 4	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.
Option 5	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM at Bryn primary school.
Option 6	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS at Hendy primary school.
Option 7	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.
Option 8	Status Quo (language category) – with modifications English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream. The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.
Option 9	Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.

Note:

Options 8 and 9 are additional to the options presented and evaluated in the County Council's published Consultation Document.

Option 8 was presented as an alternative option during the consultation period by a group of people including some parents of children in the English stream at the schools and members of the local community opposing the County Council’s preferred option as identified in the published Consultation Document. Council officers agreed to receive and evaluate this option alongside the options identified by the County Council.

Option 9 is a variation of Option 8 that could facilitate change over a longer period of time.

5.2 Advantages / Disadvantages of Each Option

Option 1 – Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues present arrangements with lack of coherence in provision. • Would not address the current demand in the schools. • Higher cost option. • Higher Staffing costs. • Opportunities for synergies will be lost. • Clearly expressed Council policies for school organisation and Welsh medium education development could not be met.

Option 2 – Federation	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation has been an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would benefit from integrated governance and leadership. • No increased travelling times for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. This would be contrary to established policies for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the both schools. • Consistent, integrated governance across the new school. 	<p>linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 – 2017). • Doesn't align with MEP strategy to remove Infants and Junior schools. • Federations can be undone.
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Option 3 (Preferred Option)

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a designated WM language category school in line with established County Council policies. • Improved resource efficiency. • Two schools would become one primary school. • An increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area with every pupil becoming fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some stakeholders, especially some parents, will be dissatisfied by the removal of choice of language stream from the local school.

<p>Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the new school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 - 2017). • There will be a designated nursery provision at the school. • All pupils leaving primary school will benefit from having two languages with expanded choice and opportunity in their future lives and education. 	
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Option 4

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a designated DS language category school following a period of federation. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary school. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met.

Option 5

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at Bryn primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated DS language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport. • Not enough capacity at Bryn CP School to accommodate the EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

Option 6

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS education at Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Not enough capacity at Hendy CP School to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 7

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Secure long term English education provision in the Bryn area. • Secure long term Welsh and English education provision in the Hendy area. • Having three schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn, Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Hendy CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Bryn CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 8 – as put forward by some members of the community:

This option was presented by a group of Llangennech schools stakeholders, including some parents of pupils in the English stream and some members of the local community, as an alternative option during the consultation period. The following is a verbatim reproduction of the option presented to officers:

“After a meeting with County Councillor G Thomas and Community Councillor Dr Marian Slader on Wednesday, 24th February what was proposed and accepted as a fair and just alternative to all the other proposals is that the status quo is to be upheld with some additions, i.e. the English stream would have a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons per week and mimic the amount of English lessons that the Welsh stream have. If this is the case these two streams should be a mirror image of each other in year 11. Both streams should be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would be a wonderful opportunity and innovation to Llangennech School. There would be an increase in Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and continuity of Welsh medium provision. No child will be displaced, any child having difficulties with either language can be helped in situ. Brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace. There needs to be a bit of engineering to be done, putting into place the frame of work to assist parents, for example, help lines or homework lines. Monitoring for both streams, the possibilities are boundless. No more need for Welsh only schools, dual stream and 30% is the way forward.”

Option 8 – as interpreted by the Local Authority

Option 8 – Status Quo (Language Category) with modifications	
<p>English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream.</p> <p>The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.</p>	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Pupils could not develop sufficiently strong Welsh language skills through a curriculum time

	<p>commitment of 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for statutory procedures.
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Further analysis of Option 8

This option would mean that the language category of the school would remain as dual stream. However; the proposed percentage of Welsh being taught in the English stream would mean that the English stream would be officially categorized as an English with significant Welsh stream. This results in a dual stream school with a Welsh stream and an English with significant Welsh stream which differs to the classification of dual stream with a Welsh stream and an English stream as stated in “**Defining Schools as according to Welsh medium provision**” produced by the Welsh Government. This option would require statutory procedures to change the classification of dual stream for the school and a new consultation process will need to be started.

Although the stream would be known as an English with significant Welsh stream with an increase in Welsh (second language) medium provision, the option would still be biased towards an English medium education. This is not consistent with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim of increasing the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “**increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.**” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “**the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.**” With this option, it is recommended that pupils in the English stream receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week, however these lessons would be Welsh second language as it is not possible to deliver Welsh first language through such limited curriculum time. It is not believed that this percentage of Welsh second language lessons would be successful in ensuring “**that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages**” as is Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim. WESP recommends that “**at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2**” in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2 and therefore receiving 30% Welsh lessons would not be sufficient. It is therefore unlikely that a pupil receiving 30% of Welsh (second language) lessons at primary school would be able to successfully undertake a GCSE exam in Welsh first language at secondary school level.

By promoting a bilingual education Carmarthenshire County Council are supporting the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a “*Bilingual plus 1*” nation and are Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stages 2 and 3. The Welsh Government’s document Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and 3

document states that: ***“As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.”*** Bilingualism provides children with early separation of two languages and an understanding of how language works. This makes it easier for pupils to then learn a third language. However, this option would not create individuals who are confidently bilingual in both English and Welsh languages, therefore depriving them of vital skills which make learning a third language easier. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. It is also believed that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The consultee states that “pupils with learning difficulties with either language can be helped in situ and that brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace.” However; all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil at all times. It is also important to note that should option 4 be implemented there would be no change to current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so whilst in the school. All pupils with additional learning needs have a specific educational learning plan based on the needs of the individual and tailored support is provided for these individuals. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support through the medium of Welsh. Only on rare occasions will a child’s needs require a change of school due to language. In the vast majority of cases specific support ensures that every child is able to succeed in the home school, irrespective of language. The school will also provide sufficient support for parents who do not speak the language and will adjust the amount of support provided to pupils and parents as required. It is also worth noting that Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools are already successfully educating pupils from non – Welsh backgrounds. It must not be forgotten that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.

Carmarthenshire County Council have a target to increase the amount of Welsh (first language) medium provision available in Carmarthenshire. This option would not align with this target. The best way to ensure that all individuals become fluent in both Welsh and English languages is by immersing them in the Welsh language, this can be successfully done in a Welsh medium school. Option 4 provides children with opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities through the medium Welsh enabling the pupils to develop their Welsh skills outside of the classroom.

Option 9 – as discussed during conversations with consultees.

Option 9 – Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. • Allows additional time for existing staff to develop their language skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category until much later on. • Delay in meeting WESP (2014-2017) objectives of increasing Welsh medium education by changing dual stream schools to Welsh medium schools. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Very complex for teachers to adjust proportion every year. • Changes from second language curriculum to first language curriculum. • Need for several statutory procedures.

Further analysis of Option 9

This proposal suggests that the provision of Welsh medium education could be increased year by year until the school finally becomes a Welsh medium school. The data presented in the consultation document shows that the number of pupils attending through the English stream is much less than for those attending through the Welsh stream, showing that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. This data suggest that this change will be natural change for the school however; this option of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would delay this change. The Council’s proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary***

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

This option would also be difficult for teachers to operate. Increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean adjusting the curriculum that the teachers follow every year. It is also important to note that pupils who attend through the English stream follow a Welsh second language curriculum whereas the pupils attending through the Welsh stream follow a Welsh first language curriculum. The curriculum that the teachers are required to follow depends on the percentage of Welsh lessons provided and this would mean that the curriculum for pupils attending the English stream would change from Welsh second language to Welsh first language at some point during the transition. It is important to note that this would be a significant change for the pupils as it would not be possible to deliver a Welsh first language curriculum with a low percentage of Welsh lessons.

Changing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean that several statutory procedures would need to be taken as changing the percentage of Welsh medium provision yearly would mean changing the language category of the English stream several times. Once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 20%, the language category of the English stream would need to be changed to English with significant Welsh. However, once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches over 50% the language category of the English with significant Welsh stream would need to be changed to Transitional. It is only when the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 70% can the stream be changed to Welsh medium. These language categories are as defined in the Welsh Government’s **“Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision”** document.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** A Welsh medium education provides pupils with opportunities to be immersed in the Welsh language through engaging in extra-curricular activities outside the classroom. WESP recommends that **“at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2”** in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2.

This option as it stands would not ensure that **“every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages”** as not all pupils will have received the appropriate amount of Welsh lessons during their primary school lifetime. Ensuring that all pupils become fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages is stated as an aim in Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and therefore this is not a viable option.

It is important to note that there will be no changes for pupils currently attending the school and all pupils currently receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will also provide sufficient support to both pupils and parents who are non-Welsh speakers and this support will be adjusted as required.

Appendix G

Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

We live in a world of great linguistic diversity. More than half of the world's population **grows up with more than one language**.

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

One brain...Two languages...many advantages.

‘The person who knows only one language does not truly know that language’

Goethe



Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire Report'

One of the most important principles in the report is that every pupil should have the opportunity to be fully bilingual by the time they leave school, so that they can use and develop their language skills in the community and in the workplace. Promoting the economic and community advantages of bilingualism to parents and pupils is central to this...

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategy'.

Achieving the key aim as agreed by full Council-

- *Increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.*
- *Ensure that Welsh medium or bilingual education is an educational experience available to every child and that it should be within a reasonable travelling distance from children's homes. This refers to children of pre-school age and above.*

To support the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

Our vision is to see the Welsh language thriving in Wales. To achieve that, the strategy aims to see an increase in the number of people who both speak and use the language. Our six aims are:

- *to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families*

- to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language
- to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community
- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

A living language: a language for living Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition as set out in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy

To have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

Welsh-medium Education Strategy, April 2010

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a ‘Bilingual plus 1’ nation AND Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

‘As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.’

Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

National and international research- bilingualism is much more than two languages

Research shows that children who speak more than one language have advantages over their monolingual playmates – in communication, cognition and social interaction. These include-

- The child’s brain is not ‘*naturally monolingual*’; it can deal with two (or even more) languages. Children can acquire any language without any ‘effort’, just like learning to walk
- Early separation of the two languages
- Similar stages and milestones in bilingual and monolingual language development
- Spontaneous understanding of how language works ⇔ in all languages
- Competence and creativity in language mixing
- Bilingualism helps children’s learning because they can think about their ideas in both languages. Having two words for objects, ideas and processes helps understanding

- Smaller vocabulary in each language but wider vocabulary across languages
- Better metalinguistic abilities (*relation between language and other cultural factors in a society*)
- Transfer of aspects of reading skills from one language to the other
- Children acquiring two or more languages from birth are able to differentiate the grammatical systems of their languages from very early on and without apparent effort.
- Earlier awareness of other people's perspective
- Social advantages- access to two cultures, more tolerance towards and interest in other cultures, easier to travel, find a job
- Better control of attention and ability to handle conflicting information
- One aspect of research shows that bilingual children '*notice*' better how language works and outperform monolingual children in tasks linked to language awareness.
- Studies show that a bilingual child is better able to cope with tasks that involve attention, memory and concentration. The mental gymnastics needed to constantly manage two or more linguistic systems increases cognitive flexibility and makes learning easier.
- Bilingual children have an extra '*gear*' that can give them an advantage in some situations.
- Children will use words that they know rather than not say anything at all. For instance, if a child knows the word for 'ice cream' in one language and not the other he/she will use the word in the language he/she knows rather than not ask for ice cream at all. The child is not confused; he/she is simply making use of all the language he/she has.
- Some new studies suggest bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
- **Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development.** When children continue to develop their abilities in two or more languages throughout their primary school years, they gain a deeper understanding of language and how to use it effectively. They have more practice in processing language, especially when they develop literacy in both, and they are able to compare and contrast the ways in which their two languages organize reality.
- Research suggests that bilingual children may also develop more flexibility in their thinking as a result of processing information through two different languages.

No studies/research reports bilingualism as being a disadvantage

Based primarily on the work of Bangor University, University of Edinburgh (Antonella Sorace) and Jim Cummins (University of Toronto Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)

Websites/Further information

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/bilingualism/>

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/bilingualism-is-good-for-learning>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_advantages_of_bilingualism

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/does-being-bilingual-make-you-smarter>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-35170392>

<http://theconversation.com/speaking-in-tongues-the-many-benefits-of-bilingualism-49842>

<http://www.spring.org.uk/2013/09/10-superb-psychological-advantages-of-learning-another-language.php>


Canolfan ESRC Centre
dros Ymchwil
i Ddwyieithrwydd
for Research
on Bilingualism

Potential Advantages for Children

Communication
Cultural
Curriculum
Cognitive
Character
Cash

Therefore, is a child not given the chance to become bilingual being disadvantaged?

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

26th JULY 2016

Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Final Report 2015/16:

Car Parking Charges

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That consideration be given to the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group's recommendations, which are outlined within the executive summary and the attached report.

Reasons:

- At its meeting on 15th May 2015, the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a task and finish group to research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.
- The recommendations contained within the report have been formulated by the Group following the consideration of a range of evidence over a series of meetings held between September 2015 and April 2016.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted: YES

Scrutiny Committee and date: Environmental & Public Protection – 13th May 2016

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Hazel Evans (Technical Services)

<p>Chair of the Task & Finish Group: Cllr. Peter Cooper</p> <p>Report Author: Matthew Hughes</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Chair of the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Assistant Consultant</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224028 apcooper@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246121 mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD 26th JULY 2016

Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Final Report 2015/16:

Car Parking Charges

Review Background

The Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development.

At its meeting on 15th May 2015, the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a task and finish group to research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.

Following consideration of a report on Llanelli Car Parks at its meeting on the 28th September 2015, the Executive Board also requested that the Group explore the option of introducing a pay on exit system at the Llanelli multi-storey car park in lieu of the pay and display / pay on foot system.

Objectives and Scope

Following its first meeting, the Group agreed that its main objective for the review would be to:

- Research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.

The Group agreed that the scope of the review would focus on:

- Charging Policy (to include Parking Strategy & Policy)
- Legislation relating to Traffic Management and Parking
- The purpose of parking charges
- Car park demand / usage
- Revenue distribution and impact of reducing charges

- Research evidence on the impact of car park charging
- Main town centre footfall
- Car park charges and competitiveness including socio-economic issues

Approach

A total of 6 meetings were held between September 2015 and April during which the Group considered evidence and information from a wide variety of sources. The sessions were designed to provide the Group with the relevant information, context and background to the topic.

The Task and Finish Group's membership was as follows:

- Cllr. Peter Cooper (Chair)
- Cllr. Alun Davies
- Cllr. Ivor Jackson
- Cllr. John Jenkins
- Cllr. Elwyn Williams

The Democratic Services Unit based in the Chief Executive's Department, provided research and general support to the Group. The following officers provided specialist advice and support during the Group's review:

- Steve Pilliner (Head of Transport & Engineering)
- John McEvoy (Road Safety & Traffic Manager)

Recommendations

The Group recommends that:

1. The County Council proceeds with on-going collection of data for footfall in key towns.
2. The Carmarthenshire Integrated Parking Strategy be updated.
3. Consideration be given to the mix of short / long-stay bays in the Authority's car parks where there is high demand for short-stay parking.
4. The accessibility of on-street parking bays designated for blue badge holders be reviewed and standardised according to the legislative requirements, where feasibly possible.
5. Given the competitive nature of Carmarthenshire's current charges, the current pricing strategy be retained but that footfall in towns be kept under regular review and consultation be undertaken where future changes to parking charges are proposed.

6. Town / Community Councils and Chambers of Trade be reminded of the free-parking day scheme and be encouraged to fully utilise this initiative.
7. The free parking at the Council's Coleshill Car Park (Llanelli) at weekends be further promoted.
8. The number of free parking days available to the County's towns be increased to 7 days per year but that the exclusion period be extended to cover the whole of November, as well as the whole of December.
9. The Council pursues the potential change in legislation with the Welsh Government and subject to clarification and affordability, proceeds with a phased programme of introducing an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Pay on Exit system across its car parks.
10. Where feasible, the Council introduces 'shop and drop' bays in the county's towns, in proportion to the size of the town and spaces available, for a limited waiting time of up to 30 minutes.
11. The Council proceeds with introducing 'cashless payment' technology by undertaking a pilot in the County's key towns.

Additional comments by the Environmental & Public Scrutiny Committee

At its meeting on the 13th May 2016, the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee considered the report and resolved that subject to the inclusion of its comments and additional suggestions, the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for its consideration. The Committee's comments in relation to the recommendations are listed below:

1. The County Council proceeds with on-going collection of data for footfall in key towns – *The Committee suggested that economic data also be collected as footfall in itself did not guarantee a positive economic benefit.*
2. The Carmarthenshire Integrated Parking Strategy be updated – *The Committee suggested that the Strategy be totally reviewed rather than simply updated.*
3. Consideration be given to the mix of short / long-stay bays in the Authority's car parks where there is high demand for short-stay parking – *The Committee suggested that consultation with local members be carried out prior to any changes.*
4. The accessibility of on-street parking bays designated for blue badge holders be reviewed and standardised according to the legislative requirements, where feasibly possible – *The Committee suggested that where possible, bays on one-way streets be positioned so that the driver could alight onto a pavement and not onto the road, thus reducing the potential danger to themselves and causing obstruction to other drivers. The Committee also suggested that a solution to blue badge holders parking in resident zones be explored further.*

5. Given the competitive nature of Carmarthenshire's current charges, the current pricing strategy be retained but that footfall in towns be kept under regular review and consultation be undertaken where future changes to parking charges are proposed – *The Committee suggested that more investment was needed in the service, particularly on the maintenance of car parks themselves.*
6. Town / Community Councils and Chambers of Trade be reminded of the free-parking day scheme and be encouraged to fully utilise this initiative – *The Committee agreed with this proposal.*
7. The free parking at the Council's Coleshill Car Park (Llanelli) at weekends be further promoted – *The Committee agreed with this proposal.*
8. The number of free parking days available to the County's towns be increased to 7 days per year but that the exclusion period be extended to cover the whole of November, as well as the whole of December – *The Committee welcomed the proposal but was of the opinion that the exemption be kept for the whole of December, rather than November as many towns held pre-Christmas festivities in November and that free parking days were often used to boost attendance at such events.*
9. The Council pursues the potential change in legislation with the Welsh Government and subject to clarification and affordability, proceeds with a phased programme of introducing an ANPR Pay on Exit system across its car parks – *The Committee agreed with this proposal.*
10. Where feasible, the Council introduces 'shop and drop' bays in the county's towns, in proportion to the size of the town and spaces available, for a limited waiting time of up to 30 minutes – *The Committee was of the opinion that this option needed to be feasible in each area so as not to discriminate against different towns and that consideration be given to 2 hours free on-street parking (with no return in an hour) rather than 30 minutes.*
11. The Council proceeds with introducing 'cashless payment' technology by undertaking a pilot in the County's key towns – *The Committee agreed with this proposal.*

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Parking Services contribute to the following strategic objectives and outcomes in Carmarthenshire County Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-2020 and the Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Strategy 2011-16:

- People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer
- Carmarthenshire's communities and environment are sustainable
- Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy.

3. Finance

Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10 will have a financial implication for the Authority. The details are set out below:

2. The car parking strategy review anticipated cost is £5,000

3. The re-designation of short and long stay bays where there is high demand for short stay car parking could generate additional income. The level of income is dependent on generating additional demand from parking currently displaced to other available facilities and subject to further consultation. The financial impact can only be evaluated when the detail has been finalised.

4. The anticipated cost of reviewing the accessibility and standardising on street parking bays for Blue Badge holders is estimated at £2,500.

7. The cost of promoting the free parking at the Council's Coleshill Car Park (Llanelli) at weekends is estimated to be circa £500.

8. The cost of extending the number of free parking days available to the County's towns from 5 to 7 days per year but that the exclusion period be extended to cover the whole of November, as well as the whole of December, is estimated at £14,000 and if it was implemented without extending the exemption period to November, would be £20,000.

10. The introduction of shop and drop bays for a limited waiting time of up to 30 minutes is anticipated to cost £10,000 to cover the required change to the Order with the potential for a reduction in off street car parking income, depending on the number of bays available at each town.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Scrutiny Committee – The Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on the 13th May 2016 and resolved that subject to the inclusion of its comments and additional suggestions, the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for its consideration.

2. Local Member(s) – N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – Carmarthen Town Forum submitted suggestions to the Group as part of its review.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Officers from the Environment and Chief Executive's departments contributed to and supported the work of the Task & Finish Group.

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
Task & Finish Group Final Report 2015/16: Car Parking Charges – E&PP Scrutiny Committee (13th May 2016)	<p>Report: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s5861/Report.pdf</p> <p>Minutes: Not yet available online</p>

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Task & Finish Group Planning and Scoping Document – E&PP Scrutiny Committee (11th January 2016)	Draft Planning and Scoping Document / Minutes: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&Mid=272&Ver=4
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2015/16 – E&PP Scrutiny Committee (15th May 2015)	Report: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/ENMT20150515/REP07.HTM Minutes: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/ENMT20150515/MINUTES.HTM

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Scrutiny

in Carmarthenshire

Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

Task & Finish Review 2015/16
Final Report

Car Parking Charges



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Members of the Task and Finish Group



Cllr. Peter Cooper
(Chair)
Saron
Labour



Cllr. Alun Davies
Saron
Plaid Cymru



Cllr. Ivor Jackson
Llandovery
Independent



Cllr. John Jenkins
Elli
Unaffiliated



Cllr. Elwyn Williams
Llangynnwr
Plaid Cymru

Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the final report of the Task and Finish Group which has been reviewing car parking charges.

It is fair to say that car parking charges is an emotive subject both nationally and here in Carmarthenshire where the topic is regularly discussed by elected members.

This review provided us as group members with an opportunity to consider the issues and evidence in more detail. Of particular importance has been the opportunity to consider the legislation and policies that impact on traffic management and parking, the demand for parking and the purpose of parking charges. Parking also plays an important part in contributing to a number of other transport objectives.

During the review it was clear that the rationale and policies for charging are complex and that contrary to common perception, no parking is completely 'free'. It was therefore important for us as a Group to satisfy ourselves that there was a clear and fair rationale to the Council's parking policy and pricing strategy.

The review also provided us with an opportunity to consider any additional initiatives that might be introduced. One initiative already in place was the 'free parking days' for our towns but the Group was disappointed to note that not all our towns were making use of these opportunities. It is clear that town centre traders and community or town councils themselves need to play their part in making such initiatives work for their respective areas. The opportunities afforded by advances in technology were also considered during the review and these could certainly improve customer experience of our parking services.

It was pleasing to receive representations and suggestions from members of the public during this review and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions.

Finally, I would like to thank officers from the Environment and Chief Executive's, Departments for their advice and support, as well as to the members of the task and finish group for their contribution to the review.

Cllr. Peter Cooper
Chair of the Task and Finish Group

1.0 The Task & Finish Review

The Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development.

At its meeting on 15th May 2015, the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a task and finish group to research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.

Following consideration of a report on Llanelli Car Parks at its meeting on the 28th September 2015, the Executive Board also requested that the Group explore the option of introducing a pay on exit system at the Llanelli multi-storey car park in lieu of the pay and display / pay on foot system.

1.1 Objectives and Scope

Following its first meeting, the Group agreed that its main objective for the review would be to:

- Research different approaches to car parking charges that could be applied in the county.

The Group agreed that the scope of the review would focus on:

- Charging Policy (to include Parking Strategy & Policy)
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- The purpose of parking charges
- Car park demand / usage
- Revenue distribution and impact of reducing charges
- Research evidence on the impact of car park charging
- Main town centre footfall
- Car park charges and competitiveness including socio-economic issues

1.2 Approach

The Task and Finish Group's membership was as follows:

- Cllr. Peter Cooper (Chair)
- Cllr. Alun Davies
- Cllr. Ivor Jackson
- Cllr. John Jenkins
- Cllr. Elwyn Williams

The Democratic Services Unit based in the Chief Executive's Department, provided research and general support to the Group.

The following officers provided specialist advice and support during the Group's review:

- Steve Pilliner (Head of Transport & Engineering)
- John McEvoy (Road Safety & Traffic Manager)

A total of 6 meetings were held between September 2015 and April 2016 (see Appendix 5) during which the Group considered evidence and information from a wide variety of sources. The sessions were designed to provide the Group with the relevant information, context and background to the topic.

2.0 Key Findings and Recommendations

2.1 Parking Policy and Charges

The Traffic Management Act 2004 places a legal obligation on local authorities to secure the expeditious movement of traffic. Parking policy and charges have an important role to play in assisting local authorities in securing the safe movement of people and goods within their respective areas. Without both on and off-street parking facilities, traffic would inevitably suffer increasing disruption and lead to chaos in town centres. Parking is also an important policy lever to secure a number of transport objectives.

Parking demand is mainly influenced by the type and function of land use and the quality of a public transport system. The parking policy developed for any particular area depends on the local situation.

In villages and smaller towns and in the outer areas of larger towns, parking policy is often based on providing enough parking spaces (supply) to meet demand (vehicles). In large towns and cities however, the overall transport objectives of reducing accidents and safeguarding accessibility of town centres and the quality of life in and around town centres (air, noise and environmental pollution) are important.

The control of parking supply, charging, enforcement and regulation are the key tools to achieve wider transport objectives. When dealt with properly, a well formulated parking policy (as part of the overall transport policy) is an important economic asset for the local community.

Pricing is relative to demand and supply. Without effective demand management measures such as price and the level of supply in towns, achieving the right balance of social, economic and environmental gains would prove impossible.

The development of parking policy can be aligned to car ownership and traffic growth. Since the 1950s, traffic growth has increased significantly. The UK Government's Department for Transport figures show the overall motor vehicle traffic volume in 2013 was 303.7 billion vehicle miles. This was over 10 times more than the figure for 1949 (28.9 billion vehicle miles).¹ The two charts overleaf illustrate the traffic growth and the parking policy responses to traffic growth.

¹ Annual Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2013 – UK Department for Transport Statistical Release (June 2014)

Figure 1 (below) illustrates the growth in traffic since mass ownership of the motor car started in the 1950s.

Figure 1: Road traffic in Great Britain, from 1949²

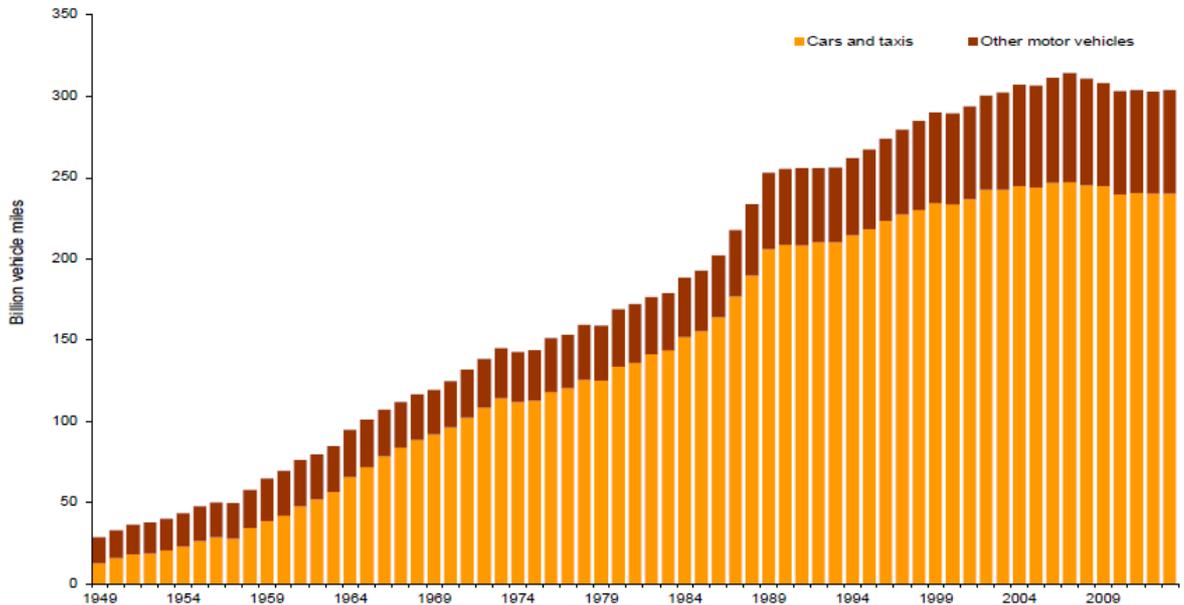


Figure 2 illustrates the development of parking policy in light of the growth in traffic volumes.

Figure 2: Parking policy and growth in traffic volumes



² Annual Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2013 – UK Department for Transport Statistical Release (June 2014)

This 'evolution' of parking policy was summarised in an EU Technical Committee on Transport report, entitled 'Parking policies and the effects on economy and mobility'. The report identified the key stages of parking policy:

- 1) **No parking measures** – No formal action required, available parking space is used until the level of parked cars has a negative impact on the attraction and quality of the area.
- 2) **Parking regulation and control** – This will be the first step taken. In certain streets, parking will become prohibited and in other locations the parking places will be more clearly marked, creating a more efficient use of available space.
- 3) **Time restrictions** – With continuing lack of available space the concept of time restriction in parking will be introduced. In this way available space is used more efficiently by increasing the turnover of cars. This measure encourages long-term parkers (mostly commuters) to look for other spaces that are often further from the town centre or to use another mode of transport and visitors and shoppers, to park time-efficiently. In this way, more motorists can be served by the same number of places. Initially, time-control is often carried out by means of a parking disc (in some countries called blue zones) but eventually, the time restriction will be achieved by a parking fee. As parking control becomes tighter, resulting in an overflow of parkers to neighbouring areas which are often residential, residents parking schemes (which require residents to satisfy a set of criteria and pay a permit fee), will often be introduced to alleviate this situation. These schemes allow residents to park in preference to non-residents.
- 4) **Paid Parking** – As parking demand grows further and the accompanying need for more control, paid parking will be introduced as a means of control. The (differentiated) parking tariffs then becoming the key to control the use of parking spaces.
- 5) **Park + Ride** – Given the on-going growth in car ownership and use of cars with, simultaneously, the slow down or even reduction in the provision of parking spaces in city-centres and at other important venues or attractions, the concept of the provision of parking places at greater distances will become apparent. The concept of Park and Ride (P+R) was introduced as a means of attracting motorists (initially commuters, eventually also visitors) to park on the outskirts of a town. In most countries this involves the provision of a parking place at the outskirts of a town or in the region at railway or light rail stop. In the United Kingdom Park & Ride sites are usually serviced by a dedicated fleet of high specification buses that operate a fast and frequent service between the P+R site and the town/city centre. This concept is a particularly attractive concept for historic towns where the provision of extra parking spaces could detract from the architectural heritage of the area. This type of service is attractive for commuters and also benefits visitors and shoppers.
- 6) **Mobility Management** – More recently the concept of 'mobility management' has been introduced in some countries. This concept involves, as related to parking, the combination of private and public transport in order to provide an acceptable mobility-chain for travellers. This is aimed at maintaining and enhancing the accessibility of towns and cities for visitors and not necessarily only for car-traffic. Within this concept, parking is an important element. If car-

users are to use public transport for part of their trip it must be possible for them to park their car easily somewhere on their journey in order to travel onward by public transport, trying to achieve the so-called 'seamless journey'. This development is mainly driven by the following factors:

- Increasing car ownership and car use
- Increasing populations
- Less available space for car parking
- Less available road infrastructure
- Available alternative means of transport.³

2.2 Parking Charges and Town Centre Footfall

Contrary to common perception, no parking is 'free'. Whether it is parking at home or in a town centre, there is a price for parking which is reflected in the value and tax for a property at home, or through a fee paid or the opportunity cost of the land in town centres.

The general perception that reducing parking prices can influence footfall in town centres is often made without due consideration being given as to why charges are levied in town centres in the first place. Across the United Kingdom, there are considerable differences of opinion regarding the relationship between car parking provision and town centre prosperity.

For example, in his report 'The Grimsey Review: An alternative future for the high street' Bill Grimsey states that everyone his team spoke to during his review: *"whether it was an independent retailer, shopper or Town Teams stated that 'levelling the playing field' to out of town convenience with regards to parking was essential to give the high street a fighting chance to compete"*.⁴

In her 'Independent review into the future of our high streets', published in December 2011, Mary Portas suggests that: *"local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres."* However, she adds that: *"to offer free parking all day is not the solution"* and recognises that *"this would be potentially open to abuse by local workers."*⁵

In recent years, several studies have been undertaken to examine whether there is any evidence to demonstrate a link. In 2013, the British Parking Association undertook research in conjunction with the Association of Town and City Centre Management. Their research concluded that there was no clear relationship between car parking charges and the amenities on offer in a location.⁶

In 2010, the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) undertook a review of parking measures and policies. It recognised the importance of parking and pricing policy and confirmed that modern car parking policies strive to use parking facilities efficiently by linking optimal parking supply and price. It also suggested that too

³ Parking policies and the effects on economy and mobility by EU Technical Committee on Transport

⁴ The Grimsey Review: An alternative future for the high street by Bill Grimsey (September 2013)

⁵ Independent review into the future of our high streets by Mary Portas (December 2011)

⁶ Re-Think! Parking on the High Street: Guidance on Parking Provision in Town and City Centres by Ojay McDonald, 2013

much supply was as harmful as too little, with prices that were too low being as harmful as those that were too high. The TRL review confirmed that there are two roles of parking:

1. To balance supply and demand.
2. Use parking to meet other policy objectives such as traffic management goals, accessibility for business and shoppers.

The TRL report recognised that there are often conflicting perspectives on parking whilst parking charges represent only a relative small proportion of a journey's cost. It also confirmed that if parking policy is viewed independent of transportation policy and as long as on and off street parking is treated independently, there will be a dysfunction, leading to a degradation of public transport services and infrastructure.

Whilst charging for parking has been traditionally treated as a step function, with prices increasing incrementally at infrequent intervals, parking demand is a continuous function, having experienced steady growth over recent years due to increases in traffic growth. As a result, parking charges tend to lag behind increases in demand so pressure is continuously placed on the highway network. In this way parking pricing policies applied in isolation from other interventions may not be an effective management measure.

Other studies undertaken have also arrived at a similar conclusion, that is, the main motivation for choosing parking location is convenience rather than expense. Research undertaken by the RAC Foundation in 2012, identified that the average annual parking cost is approximately £42 per vehicle registered and £47 per household. By contrast, the amount spent on fuel is approximately £1,600 per annum. A typical family motor car averaging 10,000 miles per annum will cost between 37 and 42 pence per mile travelled to own and run.⁷

There is therefore a need for careful application of policy if the right balance is to be achieved. The right balance will assist with:

- Sustaining a public transport network as much as possible
- Ensuring there is no excess of demand over supply for parking

The Group explored available data on footfall in the County's towns. The available data demonstrated that the general trend in footfall reflected overall sales in parking tickets which continues to see an increase year on year. The Group learnt that the Authority was introducing more data collection devices across the County's towns.

Recommendation

That the County Council proceeds with on-going collection of data for footfall in key towns.

⁷ Spaced Out: Perspectives on parking policy by John Bates and David Leibling, RAC Foundation, July 2012

2.3 Car Parking in Carmarthenshire

2.3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council Policy and context

Carmarthenshire County Council's policy on parking and charging is set out in the Integrated Parking Strategy (IPS). The Strategy, published in 2005, reflects wider national and regional transport policy which aims to strike a balance between the economic, environmental and social priorities for a modern day society.

The Strategy acknowledges that parking charges help balance the needs of local communities, individuals who rely on public transport, local economies and business needs with the needs of the environment. It sets the following aims and objectives to help the Authority achieve this:

- To facilitate parking provision and management that maximises the use of existing stock by encouraging churn.
- To ensure that parking facilities are safe, accessible and convenient and that they comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.
- To promote more sustainable travel choices through parking provision and pricing at the same time as maintaining economic viability.
- To be consistent with national and regional parking objectives and with the strategic transport policy in the Council Local Development Plan.

The strategy prioritises actions to achieve the objectives. The actions include the following:

- To prioritise short stay car parking in town centres. This maximises the number of vehicles that can use the space in one day and thus the economic benefit to the local business community. This is supported by long stay car parking on the periphery of towns.
- To encourage Shopmobility in Town Centres to support the Disabled.
- To improve integration with public transport (e.g. facilities near rail and bus stations).
- To provide coach and other parking.

Whilst the Group was concerned that the County Council's Integrated Parking Strategy had not been updated since 2005, it noted that the document was still consistent with the Wales Transport Strategy, the former SWWITCH Regional Transport Plan and now the Local Transport Plan for the Swansea Bay City Region. These important strategies and plans seek to:

- Encourage safer, healthier and more sustainable travel.
- Improve the sustainability of transport by improving the range and quality of, and awareness about transport options including those which improve health and well-being.
- Improve the efficiency, reliability of the movement of people and freight within and beyond south west Wales to support the regional economy.
- Improve integration between polices, service provision and modes of transport in South West Wales.

- Implement measures which make a positive contribution to improving air quality and reducing the adverse impact on health and climate change including reducing carbon emissions.

In working to these objectives, the County Council supports a mix of transport interventions and services within town centres. For example, investment is made into the maintenance and support of highway and parking infrastructure, the public transport system through direct revenue support for services and concessionary fares, bus stations and publicity, cycling and walking facilities and Shopmobility.

The former Regional Transport Plan also confirmed that the local authorities should work collaboratively to adopt a consistent approach to charging relative to economic activity and the availability of public transport or other alternatives in the specific area.

Recommendation

The Group recommends that the Carmarthenshire Integrated Parking Strategy be updated.

2.3.2 Car Parks

Carmarthenshire County Council's Parking Services manages both open and multi-storey car parks across the County. There are 54 town / village car parks managed by the Service of which, 25 are pay and display. The Authority operates one multi-storey car park in Llanelli and there are 63 pay and display machines in operation throughout the County. The locations of these car parks and others operated by the County Council's other departments, can be found via the County Council's [i-Local site](#).

These car parks offer a mix of short and long-stay parking bays with the allocation of such bays dependent on the location of the car park and its proximity to a town centre. Not all the Services' car parks are pay and display but the Group concluded that for many of these, it would not be viable to introduce charges due to their size and location. The Group acknowledged that whilst charges might be considered for some larger car parks (e.g. Burry Port, Whitland, Llansteffan), this should not be pursued at this time.

See Appendix 1 for details of the town / village car parks managed by Parking Services.

The Group noted that the mix of short and long-stay bays within car parks managed by the Division did not always match the demand for short-stay parking. One example of this would be John Street Car Park in Carmarthen which is situated closer to the town but has a number of long-stay bays. The Group suggested that the combinations of short and long-stay bays be amended not only to provide better provision of short-stay bays for shoppers but to also encourage footfall through particular parts of the County's towns.

Recommendation

- *That consideration be given to the mix of short / long-stay bays in the Authority's car parks where there is high demand for short-stay parking.*

2.3.3 On-Street Parking

The Group considered a request from a member of the public (see Appendix 3), that all on-street parking bays designated for blue badge holders, were of a length sufficient to accommodate a vehicle adapted to lift a wheelchair. The Group learnt that all on-street bays were currently being surveyed and discussions were now to be held with the Authority's Access Officer in order to consider the options available. The Group also noted that standardising the spaces might reduce the overall number available across the County but agreed that these should be reviewed.

Recommendation

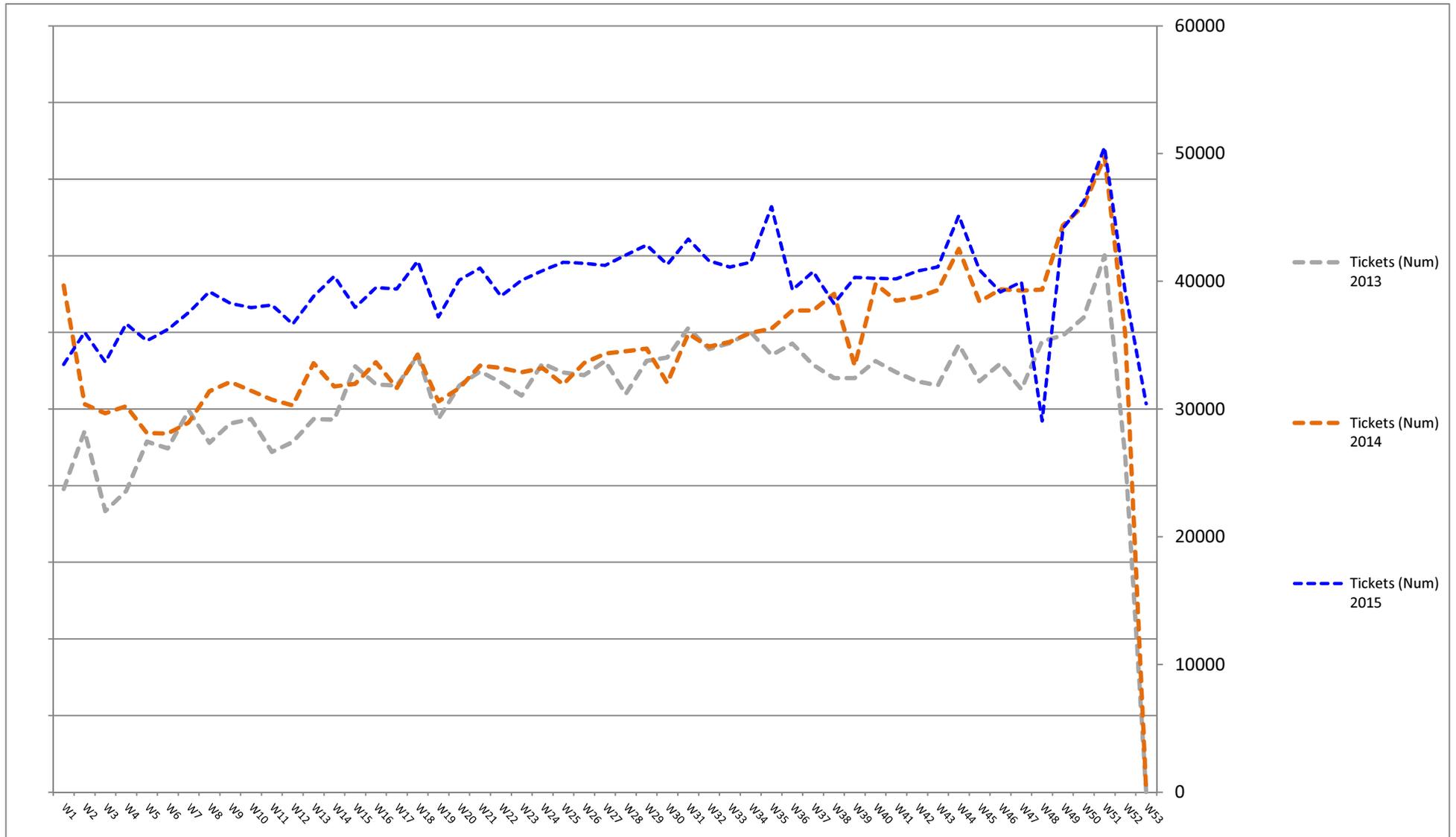
That the accessibility of on-street parking bays designated for blue badge holders be reviewed and standardised according to the legislative requirements, where feasibly possible.

2.3.4 Performance

The performance of car parks is analysed to establish trends on usage.

The Group found that the trend in terms of overall ticket sales for car parks was positive both for year on year sales and in-year sales, as outlined in Figure 3 (on next page). The ticket sales for Carmarthen, Llanelli, Ammanford and the Market Towns (e.g. Llandovery, Llandeilo, St. Clears) are included in Appendix 2.

Figure 3: Total Carmarthenshire Car Park Ticket Sales for 2013-2015



* Changes were introduced in late August 2014 with the introduction of charging for Sundays and Blue Badge holders.

Table 1: Total Carmarthenshire Car Park Ticket Sales for 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015	Total
Carmarthen	859,046	937,083	1,064,138	2,002,080
Llanelli	285,888	338,713	399,223	1,023,824
Ammanford	251,198	268,902	306,568	826,668
Market Towns	253,127	276,536	303,842	833,505

The Group noted that there were seasonal variations across the years and sales were also influenced by the free car parking days introduced for events in town centres, held outside of the core Christmas trading period.

2.3.5 Charges

The County Council recognises that price is a key demand management tool to encourage turnover of parking spaces, thereby reducing congestion, stimulating traffic flow to improve air quality and road safety. The greater the churn of cars parking, also means the more people are likely to be spending money in town centres. Charges are also set relative to the socio-economic factors of town centres with different charge rates and charge bands for Carmarthen, Llanelli and the rural towns. Details of the current charges (2015/16) for Carmarthenshire County Council's car parks are [available online](#). The car park charges are inclusive of VAT (20%).

Revenue from car parking sustains key highway and transportation-related services for the County Council and any reduction in revenue will therefore have an impact on service provision. For example, public transport support helps sustain over 800,000 passenger journeys per annum, with many of the journeys concluding in town centres. A reduction in revenue for public transport will impact on visitors to the towns and also have a longer term impact on the Social Care and Health system as keeping people mobile helps sustain independence for longer. Many elderly people rely on public transport.

From a Carmarthenshire perspective revenue from car park charges has helped sustain:

- public transport
- major capital investment into the Llanelli Multi-Storey Car Park
- the highway infrastructure
- Shopmobility

The revenue ensures that the Authority is able to support a mix of transportation options for the town centre. This is consistent with the Integrated Parking Strategy's policy objectives set out above and good practice identified in the research.

A comparison of car park charges across similar towns in South and West Wales is set out in Table 2 (on next page).

Table 2: Comparison with other local authority areas*

Town	1 hour charge	2 hour charge	3 hour charge	4 hour charge
Abergavenny	1.00	1.00	1.50	2.00
Bridgend	0.70	1.50	3.00	6.00
Brecon	1.00	1.50	2.50	3.20
Cardigan	1.20	1.50	2.20	Max Stay 3 Hours
Machynlleth	1.00	1.50	2.50	3.20
Neath	1.30	1.80	2.30	2.80
Port Talbot	1.30	1.80	2.30	2.80
Aberystwyth	1.30	1.80	2.50	3.50
Ammanford	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
Carmarthen	1.60	2.20	3.40	3.40
Llanelli	1.20	1.60	1.80	2.00
Llandeilo	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
Llandovery	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
Newcastle Emlyn	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
St Clears	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
Cardiff	2.00 3.10 2.00	3.40 3.10 3.00	5.20 3.60 4.00	5.20 4.10 5.00
Swansea	1.20 1.40	2.40 2.80	3.50 4.00	4.70 5.50

* These charges were correct when considered by the Group at its meeting in November 2015

The Group concluded that there was a clear rationale for the Council's parking policy and pricing strategy and that Carmarthenshire's current charges were extremely competitive when compared with towns of a similar demographic and function. It also noted that from the performance data and research considered, it was evident that it was the attraction of the offer in town centres which influenced demand.

Given the competitive nature of Carmarthenshire's current charges and being mindful of representations it had received, the Group agreed that these charges be retained but that footfall in towns be kept under regular review and consultation be undertaken on future changes to charges.

Recommendation

Given the competitive nature of Carmarthenshire's current charges, the current pricing strategy be retained but that footfall in towns be kept under regular review and consultation be undertaken where future changes to parking charges are proposed.

2.3.6 Investment in the service and infrastructure

Llanelli Multi-Storey Car Park – The Authority continues to invest in the service and its parking infrastructure. In 2012, work was carried out to completely refurbish the Murray Street Multi-Storey Car Park in Llanelli. This 40 year old of structure was in need of an overhaul to extend its service life for another 25 years.

The work also gave a lighter and safer environment to users of the car park. The life care plan indicated that strengthening works were required to the pre-cast parapets and concrete decking. Refurbishment works included:

- Concrete slab and column repair
- Deck wearing surfaces
- Vehicle edge restraints
- New eye mesh cladding
- New lifts and lift machinery
- New energy efficient lighting scheme
- Works to three stair wells
- New customer foyer
- New CCTV surveillance
- New active and passive signage.



The overall contract value was £1,845,525 and was funded by Carmarthenshire County Council's capital projects budget. The project attained the Safer Parking Award in May 2013.

Use of technology – Networking technology has been installed for all 63 pay-and-display ticket machines. The network:

- Connects each parking machine with Parking Services' back office.
- Provides two way communication between the parking machine and the back office enabling the tariff information to be adjusted and monitoring of the status of the machines.
- Enables the data transferred between the parking machine and the back office to be used to produce very accurate and comprehensive reports related to ticket sales.

The Authority has also replaced the Civil Enforcement Officers' hand-held computers with smart phones which are far smaller than the larger hand-held computers. The smart phones offer the same functionality as the old hand-helds and were purchased at a quarter of the cost. In addition, the smart phones provide mobile communication and download functionality, as well as a camera.

2.3.7 Existing initiatives

Park + Ride – The Carmarthen Park and Ride service runs every 30 minutes from 7:00am to 7:00pm, Mondays to Saturdays and is provided by Carmarthenshire County Council in conjunction with Hywel Dda University Health Board.

The service starts at Nant-y-Ci Car Park and stops at Carmarthen Bus Station, the main stopping point in the town centre, before moving on to Spilman Street. In March 2015, the service was extended to West Wales General Hospital at Glangwili before returning to Nant-y-Ci.

For those commencing their journey at Nant-y-Ci, parking is free but there is a charge of £1 for a day return ticket, with free travel for children under-16, if accompanied by an adult buying or using a £1 ticket. All Wales Concessionary Travel Pass holders can travel for free from and to Nant-y-Ci.

Free Parking Days – In 2013, the County Council introduced an initiative which provided discretionary free car parking for town centres to a maximum of five days per financial year. These free parking events are subject to the following conditions:

- The event days must support the whole of a town and are not specific to one or a select group of retailers.
- Events must be organised through a town centre management group where the Council is represented or a similar organisation.
- The total number of event days must not exceed five in any one year.
- Event days should, where possible, be agreed a minimum of one month in advance or earlier.
- The year will operate from 1st April to 31st March.
- Event days held during the busiest trading periods (i.e. from 1st December to 31st December each year) will not qualify for the free parking support.
- Event organisers will be encouraged to advertise in 'Carmarthenshire News' with the advert paid for by the organisers.
- Whilst the discretion will only apply to Council operated car parks, the event organisers must demonstrate evidence that any private sector car park operator in a town has been approached to match the Council Offer.
- The Council's support is acknowledged in all marketing literature, adverts and publicity for events.

However, the Group found that in previous years, not all towns within the County had taken up their full quota of free days available to them. Table 3 (on next page) lists the number of free parking days held across the county since 2013.

Table 3: Use of Free Parking Days by the county's towns

Town	Year		
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Ammanford	3	5	5
Carmarthen	-	-	5
Llandeilo	2	3	3
Llandovery	-	3	4
Llanelli	3	3	5
Newcastle Emlyn	-	-	5
St. Clears	-	1.5	1

The Group therefore suggested that Town/Community Councils and Chambers of Trade be reminded of this initiative and encouraged to make use of the opportunities it provided.

Recommendation

That Town / Community Councils and Chambers of Trade be reminded of the free-parking day scheme and be encouraged to fully utilise this initiative.

Llanelli Free-Parking Pilot – During October 2015, the Local Authority piloted a free-parking initiative in Llanelli. At its meeting held on 15th April 2015, the County Council considered a motion requesting a 6 month trial of 2 hour free parking in Council car parks in Llanelli Town Centre. The County Council resolved that the motion be supported and the proposal be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

The Executive Board, at its meeting on the 28th September 2015, agreed that that a two hour period of free car parking be introduced between 3:00pm and 5:00pm each day for a period of one month in October to enable further analysis of off-street parking demand to measure the impact of free parking.

All pay and display machines in the Llanelli town centre car parks have modems installed so that accurate and detailed information about ticket issue can be downloaded remotely and allowed a detailed assessment of ticket issue to be undertaken. The town centre car parks subject to the free parking initiative during October 2015 were:

- Church Street
- Eastgate
- Edgar Street
- Murray Street Multi-Storey
- Vauxhall

The records of tickets issued in 2014 and 2015 were compared to establish what changes had occurred. In addition, public perception surveys were undertaken on

street and on-line. During October 2015 motorists were required to acquire a ticket from the parking machine (at no cost) to display on their vehicle between the allocated hours of 3:00pm and 5:00pm.

Following the pilot, the Group found:

- The increase in tickets issued during the free parking trial period in October 2015 was in-line with the increased ticket sales figures for the period September to December 2015. Comparison in the trends in tickets issued in 2014 compared with 2015 can only be made for the four month period September to December in each calendar year. Ticket sales data up to September 2014 cannot be used for the purpose of analysing current trends in car park usage given that Sunday charging and charging blue badge users to park came into force on the 28th August 2014.
- The evidence confirmed that the increase in sales during the trial period was in line with the previous month's trend. There were also exceptional events and weather (e.g. new Bond film 'Spectre', the Rugby World Cup and unseasonably moderate weather taking place at the time).
- The figures in the detailed analysis and the distribution of sales by hour, suggested that there was evidence of displacement as tickets sales were down on the time bands before 3:00pm which will partly explain the increase in sales later in the day.
- There was a significant increase in tickets sales for the period 5:00pm to 6:00pm during October 2015 when compared with October 2014.
- The results of a car parking perception survey conducted during the October 2015 half-term shows a relatively positive view of car parking facilities in Llanelli in terms of access, security and cleanliness. Almost half of those questioned found parking charges to be expensive. That said, a mere 7% were aware that income derived from parking charges were used to support the provision of transport services.
- According to the results of the perception survey only 11% of those asked had taken advantage of the free car parking available in Llanelli Town centre during October (between 3:00pm – 5:00pm).

During discussions on parking in Llanelli, the Group also learnt that the Authority's staff car park off Coleshill Terrace was already free to members of the public at weekends. However, the Group felt that this was not advertised sufficiently and suggested that this provision be promoted more widely.

Recommendation

That the free parking at the Council's Coleshill Car Park (Llanelli) at weekends be further promoted.

2.4 Alternative Parking Approaches / Options

2.4.1 Increasing the number of free parking days

The Group suggested that the number of free days available for towns to use during the year be increased to seven. However, it noted that the traditional Christmas shopping period now began in November and so it was suggested that the core period be extended into November should an additional day be offered at a different time of the year. The Group was advised that this would have a financial impact of approximately £14,000. This was based on the average daily income for each of the towns in the 2015 calendar year.

Recommendation

That the number of free parking days available to the County's towns be increased to 7 days per year but that the exclusion period be extended to cover the whole of November, as well as the whole of December.

2.4.2 Simplified charging bands

Carmarthen Town Forum suggested (see Appendix 3) that the charging bands be simplified so that motorists be charged £1 an hour for the first 3 hours and given a free 4th hour. The Group was advised that standardising bands would push up some ticket prices and because of the hike in some tickets, experience had shown that it was likely that there would be a 'displacement' in the demand from 2 hour tickets to 1 hour tickets, which in turn would impact on the amount of time shoppers stayed in the town centre. The Group was also advised that changing bands would risk a backlash from the public and that due to inflation, ticket prices could not be kept at £1, £2, £3 pounds indefinitely. Any gain would be short lived. If this was proposed, it would require, as a minimum, detailed surveys of the public to be undertaken first.

2.4.3 Reintroduction of free parking on Sunday

This suggestion was made by Carmarthen Town Forum (see Appendix 3) who claimed that the measure had proved deeply unpopular for several reasons. The Group was advised that reintroducing free parking on Sundays would result in a financial impact of £132,259 for the Authority. This would mean increasing charges elsewhere or cutting services. The Group also noted that there were charging exemptions already in place on Sundays, introduced as a result of consultation relating to an Off-Street Parking Places Consolidation Order in 2014 (see Appendix 4 for more details).

2.4.4 Free parking after 3:00pm on 'quiet' days (i.e. Tuesdays and Thursdays)

This proposal by the Carmarthen Town Forum (see Appendix 3) suggested that such an initiative would need to be supported by a campaign to encourage

shoppers into towns on those days and times. The Group received information that such an initiative would shift demand to the free parking period, and result in a drop in income and lead to reductions in other highway related services. The Group noted that this shift had been experienced during the Llanelli pilot and such an initiative was unlikely to increase demand and would rather shift it to another time period.

2.4.5 Pay on Exit Schemes

The Group considered the Executive Board's request (at its meeting on the 28th September 2015)⁸, that it explore the option of introducing a 'pay on exit' system at the Llanelli multi-storey car park in lieu of the pay and display / pay on foot system.

'Pay on exit' systems allow drivers to park for an indefinite period of time and pay when they leave the car parking facilities. A ticket is dispensed when a driver enters the car park which is then used to determine the charge upon on leaving. This system is commonly found in larger and enclosed facilities such as multi-storey car parks.

The Group found that initial investigative work had indicated that to install a pay on exit system at Llanelli Multi-Storey Car Park, would require an up-front capital investment of £61,000. This would cover the installation of meters and barriers as well as cover the first year's running costs. The Group noted that this was only likely to work in the County's enclosed car parks (with one entrance and exit) such as the Llanelli Multi-Storey and Friar's Park in Carmarthen and not in other car parks which had multiple entrances and exits. The Group suggested that whilst it would be possible to install such systems, the cost to the Authority would be significant.

Following further investigative work, the Group found that a new variation of the system was now in use. This new ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system works by taking an image of the vehicle on entry to the car park. Following their visit, the user enters their vehicle registration and is presented with an image on a screen that match the details entered. The driver then selects and confirms their vehicle and pay for the amount of time they have stayed. The Group noted that the system would:

- Eliminate the need for the pay-and-display system of managing the use of town centre car parks.
- Allow drivers to pay on return rather than try to estimate how long they will be at appointments.
- Not require a barrier to control entry or exit from the car park.

However, the Group learnt that Welsh local authorities could not use ANPR cameras in their off-street car parks. The reasons for this were complex and varied, but rested on the following legal constraints:

⁸ Llanelli Car Parks – Carmarthenshire County Council Executive Board Meeting, 28th September 2015

- Local authorities do not currently have the powers to use CCTV / ANPR in public car parks.
- All parking Penalty Charge Notices must be delivered by hand as the Civil Enforcement Officer must check the validity of a penalty charge notice and may also potentially become a witness in any subsequent adjudication action.
- The Welsh Government has not at this time given approval for the use of camera enforcement devices for use in off-street car parks.
- Statutory guidance produced by the Welsh Government recommends that approved camera devices are used only where enforcement is difficult or sensitive and Civil Enforcement Officer enforcement is not practical.

The Group noted that officers were currently pursuing the matter with both the Welsh Government and PATROL.

Recommendation

That the Council pursues the potential change in legislation with the Welsh Government and subject to clarification and affordability, proceeds with a phased programme of introducing an ANPR Pay on Exit system across its car parks.

2.4.6 Shop and Drop Initiatives

Carmarthen Town Forum suggested that this would assist the increasing number of high-street shops who operate an on-line 'click and collect' service in order to compete with internet shopping companies.

The Group considered 'shop and drop' initiatives, particularly given anecdotal evidence that there was no provision for those wishing to simply stop for a few minutes in order to 'buy a newspaper' early on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Reference was made to the BID Scheme for Llanelli which had been supported by traders in Llanelli. One of the initiative's pledges is to: "*create a more accessible town centre with more affordable parking on and off-street*".⁹

Recommendation

Where feasible, the Council introduces 'shop and drop' bays in the county's towns, in proportion to the size of the town and spaces available, for a limited waiting time of up to 30 minutes.

⁹ Llanelli Businesses vote for BID (11th December 2015)

2.4.7 Pay by Phone / Cashless Payment System

The Group learnt that the Authority had been exploring the introduction of a cashless parking service in its key towns, through the use of 'pay by phone' technology. The system would enable drivers to pay a service provider via a mobile phone or smart phone / PC using a payment card. The system requires a driver to confirm the following details either online or over the phone:

- Number plate, the colour and make of vehicle
- Car park location parked
- How long they want to stay
- Payment card details

The vehicle details and duration of stay would then be relayed to the Civil Enforcement Officers' smartphones so that it can be verified that the vehicle in question has paid for parking. The Group noted that the uptake of this technology would be cost-neutral to the Authority.

Recommendation

That the Council proceeds with introducing 'cashless payment' technology by undertaking a pilot in the County's key towns.

3.0 Conclusion

Whilst there is a perception that parking pricing spoils economic activity by discouraging customers, there is evidence that fair parking pricing provides economic benefits as it increases turnover of parking spaces. It makes finding a space easier, reduces the number of parking spaces required at a location, which can provide longer term financial benefits and reduce traffic problems such as congestion and air quality. General levels of provision may also affect modes of travel, in turn impacting on the quality of the shopping environment.

The Group suggests that:

- Contrary to common perception, no parking is 'free'. Whether it is parking at home or in a town centre, there is a price for parking which is reflected in the value and tax for a property at home, or through a fee paid or the opportunity cost of the land in town centres.
- There is a clear rationale to the Council's parking policy and pricing strategies which is supported by a body of research undertaken at national and international level.
- The performance data and research indicates that ticket sales are increasing and it is the attraction of the offer in town centres which influences demand for parking.
- There are initiatives that could be introduced to develop the parking service further and improve the customer's experience, although systems such as ANPR would require investment beforehand.
- The free parking scheme for the County's towns is popular although not all towns are utilising the opportunity as much as others. More needs to be done to promote this initiative and to encourage towns themselves to make better use of the opportunity.
- A parking strategy is key although this clearly needs updating in order to give future direction to the service.

4.0 Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Town / village car parks in Carmarthenshire managed by Carmarthenshire County Council's Parking Services
- 4.2 Appendix 2 – Parking trend graphs
- 4.3 Appendix 3 – Submissions by members of the public
- 4.4 Appendix 4 – Charging exemptions on Sundays
- 4.5 Appendix 5 – Task & Finish Group meetings and attendance
- 4.6 Appendix 6 – Bibliography / References
- 4.7 Appendix 7 – Glossary of Terms

4.1 Appendix 1 – Town / village car parks in Carmarthenshire managed by Carmarthenshire County Council's Parking Services

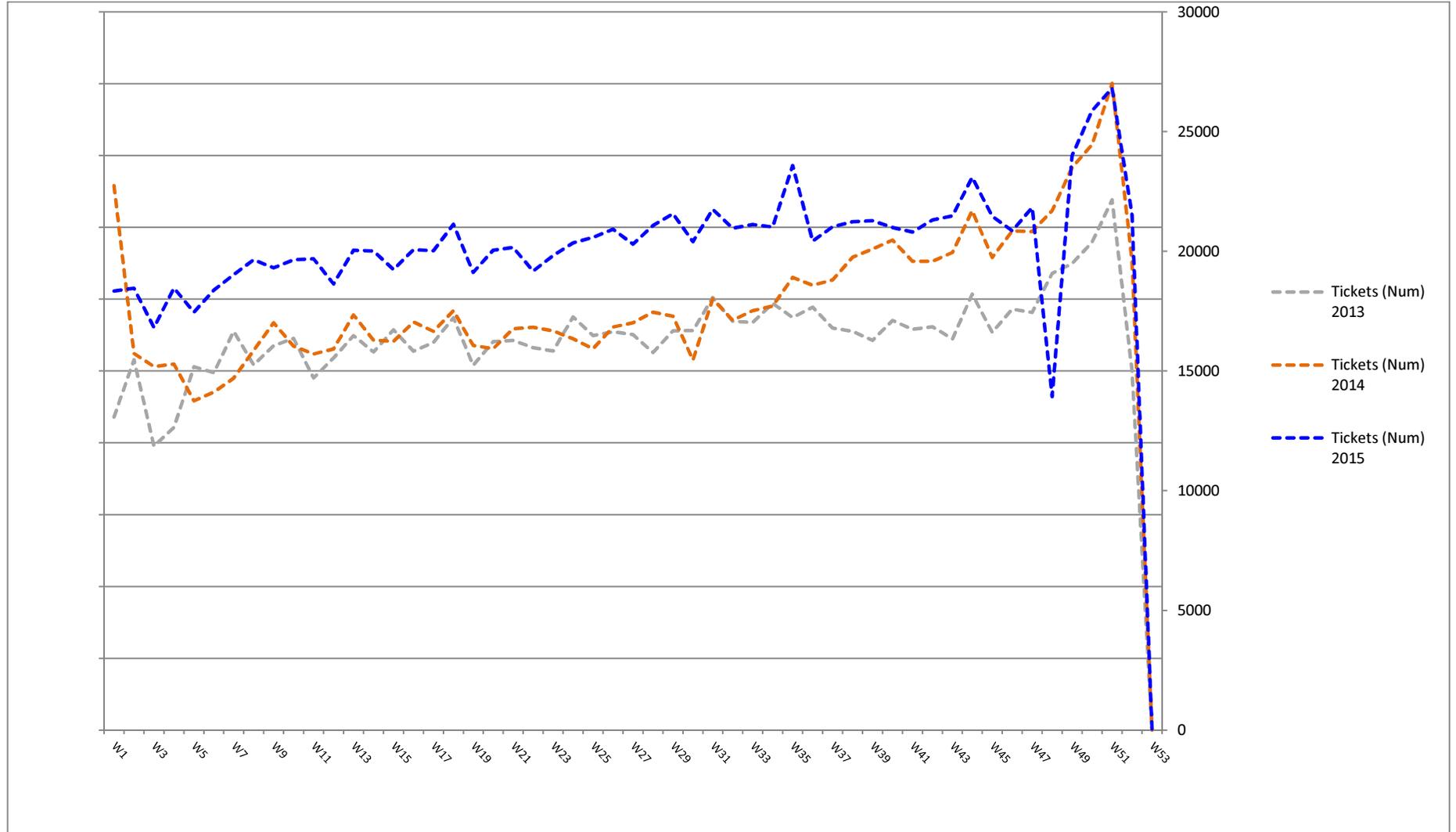
Town / Village	Car Park	Type	No. of Bays	Park Mark Award	CCTV
Ammanford	Baltic	Pay & Display	51		
	Carregaman	Pay & Display	161		
	Iscennen Road	Free	18		
	Lloyd Street	Pay & Display	27		
	Margaret Street	Pay & Display	246	✓	✓
	Wind Street	Pay & Display	45		
Brynaman	Hall Street	Free	Unmarked		
Burry Port	Seaview Terrace	Free	30		
	Seaview Terrace Interchange	Free	200		
	Tramway	Free	Unmarked		
	Neptune Terrace (Train Station)	Free	Unmarked		
Carmarthen	Blue Street	Pay & Display	39		
	County Hall	Pay & Display (Weekends only)	124		
	Friars Park	Pay & Display	374	✓	✓
	John Street	Pay & Display	464		
	Lammas Street	Pay & Display	27		
	Nant-y-Ci Park + Ride	Park + Ride	300 (approx..)		
	Parc Myrddin	Pay & Display (Saturday only)	115		
	Priory Street	Pay & Display	56		
	Quayside	Pay & Display	14		
	3 Spilman Street	Pay & Display (Weekends only)	80		
	Station Approach Bus Park	Pay & Display	16		
	Station Approach	Pay & Display	33		
	St. Peter's Car Park	Pay & Display	458		
Cross Hands	Llandeilo Road	Free	20		

Town / Village	Car Park	Type	No. of Bays	Park Mark Award	CCTV
Ferryside	Eva Terrace	Free	30		
Garnant	Bowls Pavilion	Free	75		
Glanaman	Cwmaman Road	Free	36		
Kidwelly	Glan-yr-Afon	Free	18		
	Station Road	Free	32		
Llandeilo	Carmarthen Road	Free	15		
	Crescent Road	Pay & Display	190		
Llandovery	Llandovery Castle	Pay & Display	166		
	Station Car Park	Free	24		
Llanelli	Church Street	Pay & Display	83		
	Coleshill Terrace	Free (Weekends only)	Unmarked		
	Dafen	Free	40		
	Eastgate	Pay & Display	214	✓	✓
	Edgar Street	Pay & Display	89		
	Great Western Crescent	Free	32		
	Mincing Lane	Disabled only	6		
	Murray Street Multi-Storey	Pay & Display	512	✓	✓
	Pottery Street	Free	Unmarked		
	Station Road	Free	17		
	Vauxhall	Pay & Display	23		
Llansteffan	The Green	Free	100		
Llanybydder	Station Terrace	Free (charges on Market Days)	206		

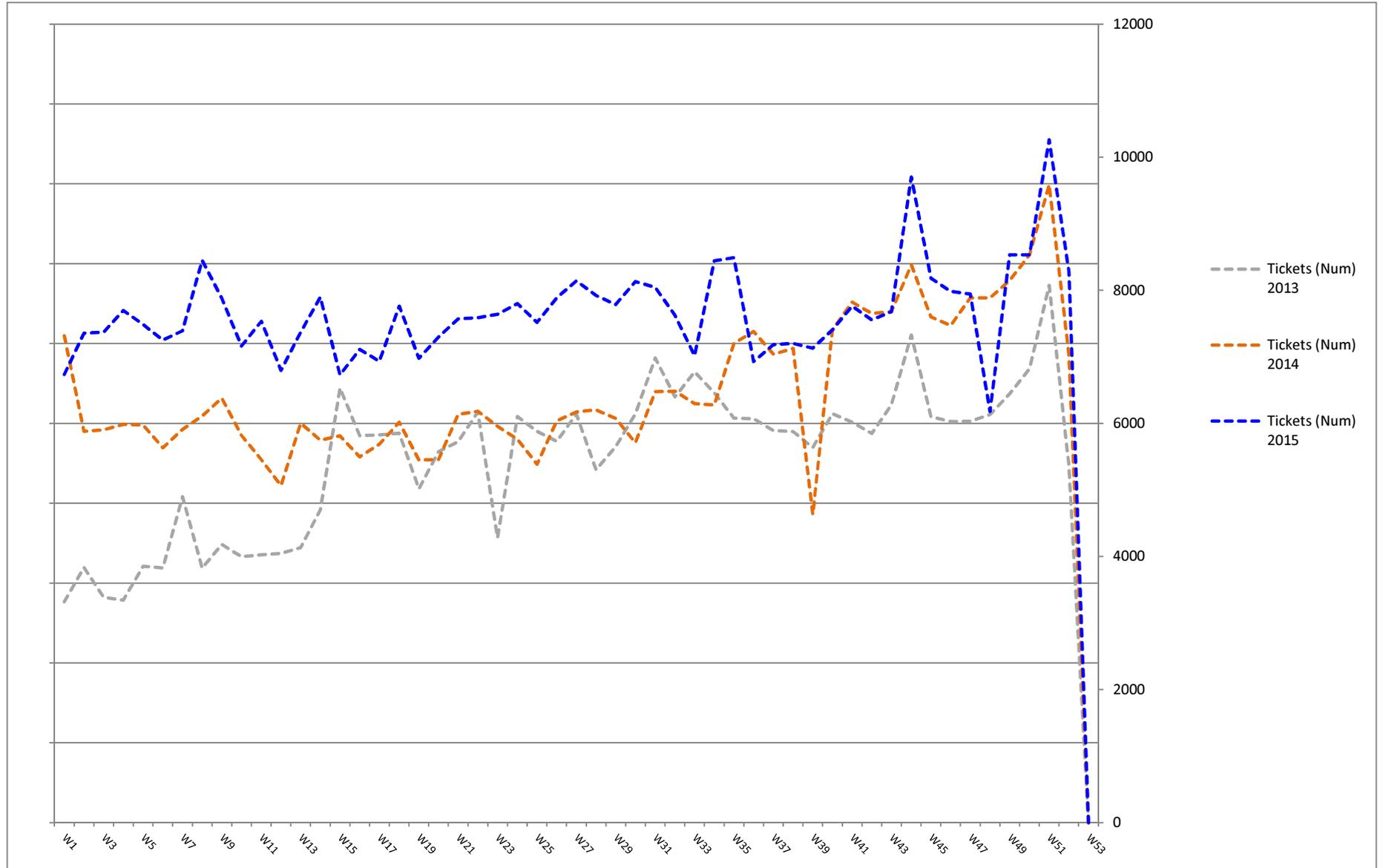
Town / Village	Car Park	Type	No. of Bays	Park Mark Award	CCTV
Newcastle Emlyn	Castle Street	Pay & Display	27		
	Cawdor	Pay & Display	67		
	Mart	Pay & Display	122		
Pendine	Marsh Road	Pay & Display (Summer only)			
St. Clears	Pentre Road	Pay & Display	179		
Tumble	Heol-y-Neuadd	Free	44		
Whitland	King Edward Street	Free	Unmarked		
	North Road	Free	40		
Ystradowen	Pen-y-Craig Road	Free	13		

4.2 Appendix 2 – Parking trend graphs

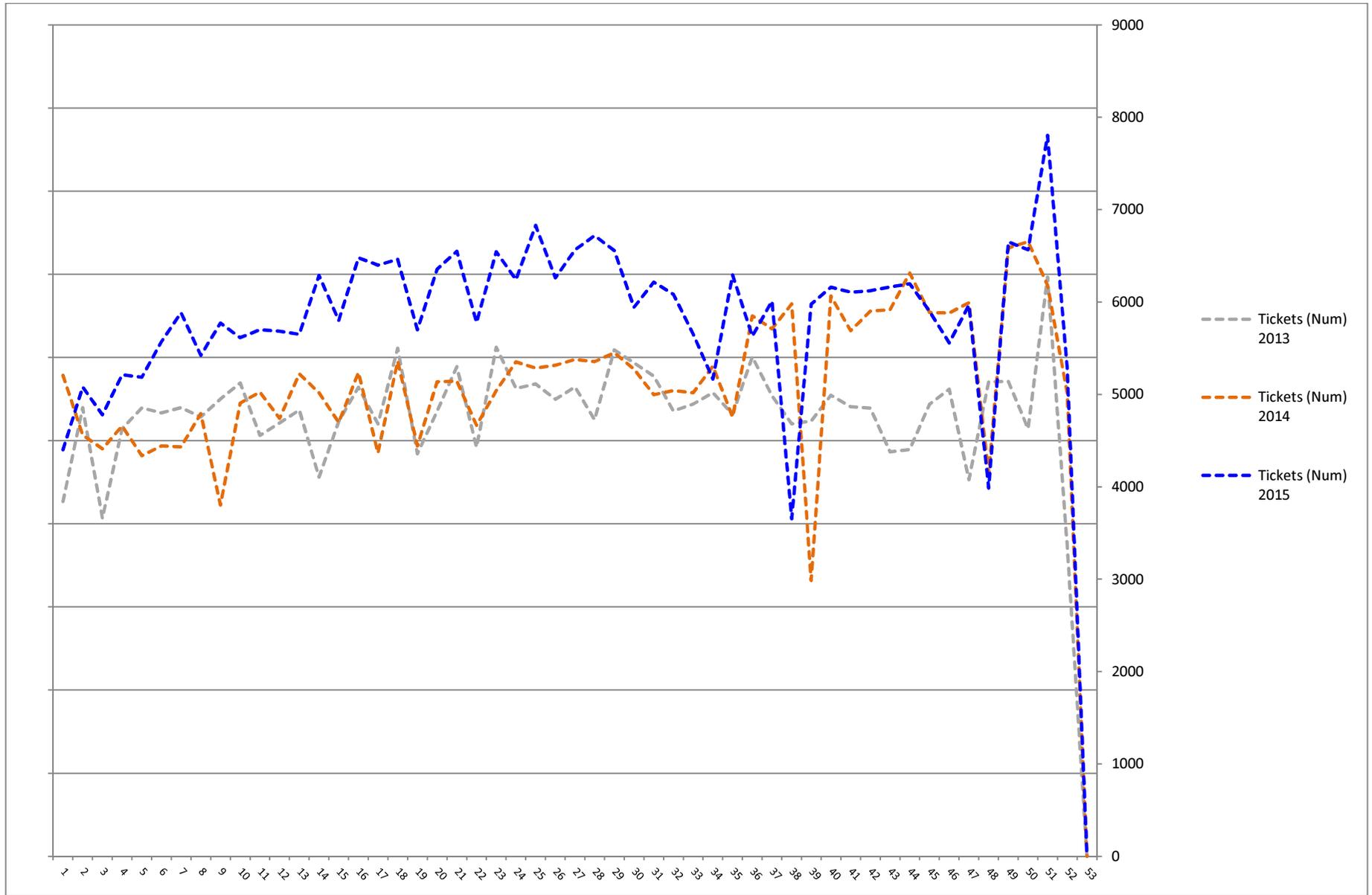
Carmarthen Car Park Ticket Sales 2013-2015



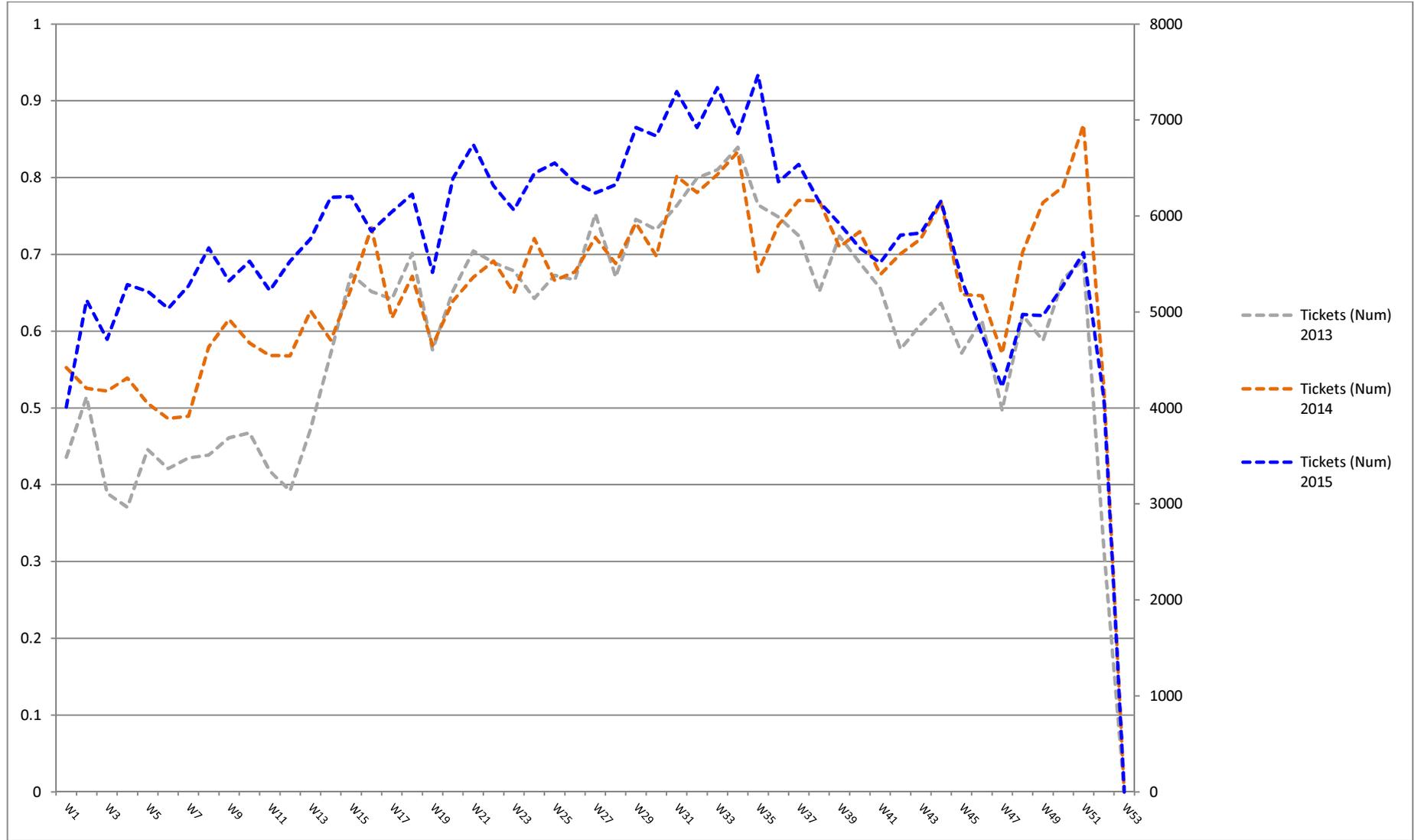
Llanelli Car Park Ticket Sales 2013-2015



Ammanford Car Park Ticket Sales 2013-2015



Market Towns Car Park Ticket Sales 2013-2015



4.3 Appendix 3 – Submissions by members of the public

Cllr. Alun Lenny on behalf of the Carmarthen Town Forum

While it is very gratifying indeed that Carmarthen town now has the 4th highest footfall of any shopping centre in Wales, its success is driven by the more recent developments around M&S and St Catherine's Walk. Constant efforts are needed to encourage shoppers to visit the older parts of town and frequent the independent shops in those streets.

To this end, the County Council set up the Carmarthen Town Forum in 2013. Key issues were identified and strategies suggested as part of a 15-year Masterplan. Footfall pattern and parking are central parts of the Masterplan.

The suggestions below are based on recent county council data during a short free parking period and reflect the views and experiences of town councillors and traders in Carmarthen. The conclusions could apply county-wide.

We would welcome:

1. Free parking for the first 30 minutes. This would be a big help for the increasing number of high-street shops who operate an on-line 'click and collect' service, in order to compete with internet shopping companies.
2. Simplified charge bands. £1 an hour for the first 3 hours, and a free 4th hour. This might not necessarily mean a drop in income.
3. Reintroduce free parking on Sunday. This measure has proved deeply unpopular for several reasons – one being that traffic wardens are very active on a day when a more relaxed attitude towards parking was traditionally taken e.g. someone might stop on yellow lines to pop into a shop to buy a Sunday paper, pause for a quick chat, and come out to find a warden issuing a ticket. Extra wardens are employed on Sunday since the charges came in. This cost could be offset against the drop in income from parking charges if Sunday charges were scrapped.

The same drop in income might be offset against spending on regeneration and promotion, as there's firm evidence that free parking would boost trade in towns on Sunday. There was free parking for three days in Carmarthen over the 'Black Friday' weekend (Nov. 27-29) in an effort to compete with heavy shopping on the internet and out-of-town stores. Evidence indicates that the initiative was a success.

A 'people counter' installed by the County Council in King Street recorded an increase of 15.1% in footfall on the Sunday of that weekend. Traders testify to a marked increase in business – not just in shops, but in restaurants and hotels providing Sunday lunches. This e-mail by John Nash, manager of St Catherine's Walk, is well worth noting: *"Performance was up 237% Month-on-Month and 47% up Year-on-Year, and I am certain that the Black Friday free parking contributed to these great figures. We must make sure that we publicise heavily any free parking in the future as it the whole issue of parking features heavily in the shoppers mind when choosing where to shop."*

4. Free parking after 3pm on 'quiet' days i.e. Tuesdays and Thursdays, coupled with a campaign to encourage shoppers to come into town on those days and times.

Representation received from the Office of Rebecca Evans AM (for Mid & West Wales)

The Transport & Engineering Division received representations from a county resident via the office of Rebecca Evans AM (for Mid & West Wales), regarding the suitability of on-road parking spaces for wheelchair users. It was requested that all on-street disabled persons parking bays were of a length sufficient to accommodate a vehicle adapted to lift wheelchair.

The Group considered the matter at its meeting on the 15th January 2016.

4.4 Appendix 4 – Charging exemptions on Sundays

Carmarthen

- St Peters car park - charges will apply from 12.00 to 18.00.
- Priory Street car park - no charges.

Newcastle Emlyn

- Castle car park - no charges.

Llanelli

- Vauxhall and Church Street car park's - charges will apply from 12.00 to 18.00.
- Edgar Street car park - no charges.

Ammanford

- Carregaman car park - charges will apply from 12.00 to 18.00.
- Wind Street and Baltic car parks - no charges.

4.5 Appendix 5 – Task & Finish Group meetings and attendance

Meeting	Councillors Present	Officers Present
Thursday 24th September 2015 10:00am Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Alun Davies Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. John Jenkins	Steve Pilliner John McEvoy Matthew Hughes
Monday 9th November 2015 10:00am Committee Room 1, Spilman Street	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Alun Davies Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. Elwyn Williams	Steve Pilliner John McEvoy Matthew Hughes Kevin Thomas
Thursday 17th December 2015 10:00am Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Alun Davies Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. Elwyn Williams	Steve Pilliner Matthew Hughes Kevin Thomas
Friday 15th January 2016 10:00am Committee Room 1, Spilman Street	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. Elwyn Williams	Steve Pilliner John McEvoy Matthew Hughes Kevin Thomas
Tuesday 9th February 2016 10:00am Committee Room 1, Spilman Street	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Alun Davies Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. John Jenkins Cllr. Elwyn Williams	Steve Pilliner John McEvoy Matthew Hughes
Thursday 21st April 2016 2:00pm Democratic Services Committee Room, County Hall	Cllr. Peter Cooper Cllr. Alun Davies Cllr. Ivor Jackson Cllr. John Jenkins Cllr. Elwyn Williams	Steve Pilliner John McEvoy Matthew Hughes

4.6 Appendix 6 – Bibliography / References

Annual Road Traffic Estimates: Great Britain 2013

UK Department for Transport

Statistical Release – 5th June 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/317454/annual-road-traffic-estimates-2013.pdf

Llanelli Businesses vote for BID

Carmarthenshire County Council Press Team

11th December 2015

<http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/news-archive/2015/12/llanelli-businesses-ensure-successful-outcome-in-vote-in-favour-of-bid/>

Llanelli Car Parks – Carmarthenshire County Council Executive Board Meeting

28th September 2015

<http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=122&Ver=4>

Parking policies and the effects on economy and mobility

August 2005

EU Technical Committee on Transport, Action342

[http://www.europeanparking.eu/cms/Media/COST%20Action%20342%20final%20report\[1\].pdf](http://www.europeanparking.eu/cms/Media/COST%20Action%20342%20final%20report[1].pdf)

Parking Measures and Policies Research Review by TRL Ltd.

May 2010

<http://www.britishparking.co.uk/write/Documents/Library/Reports%20and%20research/parkingreport.pdf>

Re-Think! Parking on the High Street: Guidance on Parking Provision in Town and

City Centres by Ojay McDonald

2013

ISBN: 978-1-901799-08-8

Report by: Association of Town & City Management, British Parking Association, Parking Data & Research International and Springboard Research Ltd

http://www.britishparking.co.uk/write/Documents/Re-thinking_Car_Parking.pdf

Spaced Out: Perspectives on parking policy by John Bates and David Leibling

RAC Foundation

July 2012

http://www.racfoundation.org/assets/rac_foundation/content/downloadables/spaced_out-bates_leibling-jul12.pdf

(Ctrl+Click to follow the hyperlinks and read the documents)

4.7 Appendix 7 – Glossary of Terms

ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition
BID	Business Improvement District
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
EU	European Union
IPS	Integrated Parking Strategy
P+R	Park and Ride
Park Mark	The Safer Parking Scheme is a national standard for UK car parks that have low crime and measures in place to ensure the safety of people and vehicles. A 'Park Mark' is awarded to each car park that achieves this standard.
PATROL	The Joint Committee of England and Wales for the civil enforcement of Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London
RAC	Royal Automobile Club
TRL	Transport Research Laboratory
VAT	Value-Added Tax

EXECUTIVE BOARD 26TH JULY 2016

CARMARTHENSHIRE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

Recommendations / key decisions required:

The strategy to be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

Reasons:

- The Road Safety Framework for Wales, published in July 2013, sets new targets for casualty reduction to be achieved by 2020.
- The strategy is aimed at reducing the number of killed and serious injuries on Carmarthenshire's county roads in line with national casualty reduction targets.
- To formulate views for submission to the Executive Board for consideration.

PEB :

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted

YES - Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny – 15th April 2016.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Refer to Consultations section

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr H Evans

Directorate

Environment

Name of Head of Service:

S G Pilliner

Report Author: J McEvoy

Designations:

Head of Transport & Engineering

Tel Nos. 01267 228150

E Mail Addresses:

sgpilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH JULY 2014**

CARMARTHENSHIRE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

Carmarthenshire's second road safety strategy (2016 -2020) builds on the progress and understanding provided by the first strategy (2006 to 2010).

The strategy aims to help save lives and prevent serious injury by reducing the number and severity of road collisions on the county road network.

The road safety casualty reduction targets for 2020, by comparison to the average for 2004-2008, are: -

- 40% fewer people killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads
- 25% fewer motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads
- 40% fewer young people (aged 16-24) killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads.

The strategy will focus on the above targets to reduce death and serious injury on Carmarthenshire's county roads. The strategy will require a collaborative approach across a range of public safety agencies in Carmarthenshire. The County Council and its partners on the Road Safety Action Group (RSAG) are committed to improving road safety for all users.

The Road Safety Action Group brings together the partner agencies in Carmarthenshire and continues to deliver road safety engineering measures, education initiatives and enforcement action to reduce the risk to road users.

The partner agencies on the RSAG will promote and encourage good driver behaviour through educating road users and the re-engineering of the road scape and will penalise errant driving behaviour.

The County Council will continue to invest in road safety through funding of road safety education, evaluation and engineering and continued support for enforcement action by the Police.

The County Council will continue to engage in collaboration and partnership working to deliver road safety education initiatives and identify sites for enforcement and engineering intervention.

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: S G Pilliner

Head of Transport & Engineering

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Road safety is one of the seven key priorities of the Carmarthenshire Community Safety Partnership.

2. Legal

The County Council has a statutory responsibility to improve road safety conditions by reducing collision rates on the county road network.

3. Finance

The road safety education and road safety engineering strategy components will be delivered within budgets available to the Transport & Engineering Division.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: S G Pilliner

Head of Transport & Engineering

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee - Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee, 15th April 2016.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

6.1 The report be received.

6.2 The action measures outlined in the Road Safety Strategy for 2016-20 be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners- Carmarthenshire Road Safety Action Group [Community Safety Partnership].

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

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

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Strategy 2011-16		www.thecarmarthenshirepartnership.org.uk
Carmarthenshire's Community Safety Plan		www.thecarmarthenshirepartnership.org.uk
Road Safety Framework for Wales		Cymraeg http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/130719delplan cy.pdf English http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/130719delpl anen.pdf

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Report of the Director of Environment

EXECUTIVE BOARD

26TH JULY 2016

Carmarthenshire Road Safety Strategy

Head of Service & Designation. S G Pilliner Head of Transport & Engineering	Directorate Environment	Telephone No. 01267 228150
Author & Designation J McEvoy Road Safety & Traffic Manager	Directorate Environment	Telephone No 01267 228190

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Carmarthenshire's second road safety strategy (2016 -2020) builds on the progress and understanding provided by the first strategy (2006 to 2010).
- 1.2 The strategy aims to help save lives and prevent serious injury by reducing the number and severity of road collisions on the county road network.
- 1.3 The road safety casualty reduction targets for 2020, by comparison to the average for 2004-2008, are: -
- 40% fewer people killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads
 - 25% fewer motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads
 - 40% fewer young people (aged 16-24) killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads.
- 1.4 The strategy will focus on the above targets to reduce death and serious injury on Carmarthenshire's county roads. The strategy will require a collaborative approach across a range of public safety agencies in Carmarthenshire. The County Council and its partners are committed to improving road safety for all users. The Road Safety Action Group (RSAG) brings together the partner agencies in Carmarthenshire and continues to deliver road safety engineering measures, education initiatives and enforcement action to reduce the risk to road users.

- 1.5 The partner agencies on the RSAG will promote and encourage good driver behaviour through educating road users and the re-engineering of the road scape and will penalise errant driving behaviour.
- 1.6 The road safety strategy aims to address key challenges over its life, namely: -
- Continue to reduce the number of road deaths and serious injuries,
 - Rural road safety,
 - Working to protect young persons and motorcyclists (road user groups at highest risk of sustaining injury),
 - Reduce inappropriate and illegal road user behaviour including speeding, drink and drug driving, and careless and dangerous driving
 - Protect pedestrians and cyclists,
 - Improve our knowledge and understanding of casualty data to solve road safety problems,
 - To implement the road safety strategy within existing resources
- 1.7 We will continue to invest in road safety through funding of road safety education, evaluation and engineering and continued support for enforcement action by the Police.
- 1.8 We will continue to engage in collaboration and partnership working to deliver road safety education initiatives and identify sites for enforcement and engineering intervention.

2.0 Achievements against the previous road safety targets

- 2.1 A downward trend in death and serious injury was maintained over the life of the previous road safety strategy.
- 2.2 There was an average road safety improvement in Carmarthenshire of 51% less Killed and Serious Injuries a year (during the 10 year period from 2000 to 2009).
- 2.3 The killed and serious injury figures for Carmarthenshire indicated that a considerable improvement in road safety had been achieved, in spite of the fact that traffic volumes had grown.

3.0 Context

- 3.1 Greater numbers of people are walking, cycling and motorcycling in Carmarthenshire, and the trends in those modes of travels are likely to increase. This could lead to an increased number of vulnerable road users using the county roads across Carmarthenshire. Vulnerable roads users usually fare less well in collisions. In addition,

restraints on public expenditure, reform of public transport, changes in population demographics, and the implementation of the Wales Active Travel measure will pose challenges for road safety practitioners and decision makers in Carmarthenshire.

- 3.2 Road safety in Carmarthenshire will therefore need to take account of future needs arising from the changes through factors such as demographic changes and shifts in travel choices.
- 3.3 Road safety information: we will develop our understanding of road safety problems and trends in Carmarthenshire, with the aim of ensuring that the partners who contribute to address road safety problems have access to the best information possible.
- 3.4 We aim to enhance the skills of those who analyse the data in order to improve the quality of analysis to help target road safety interventions more effectively and develop our understanding of road safety problems and trends. The road safety partners will adopt a data sharing approach.
- 3.5 Establishing a sound evidence base is a crucial element in identifying key road safety issues and problems and deciding how to tackle them. The key areas in need of attention include rurality, purpose and destination of journey and demographic profiles.
- 3.6 Road safety partners will meet regularly to jointly consider characteristics and causes of fatal and serious collisions and explore ways to mitigate risks identified. Understanding the causation factors, casualty types and numbers, will enable the redeployment of educational, engineering and enforcement resources to address changes in casualty trends.
- 3.7 Working with the resources available we will continue with road safety initiatives that have worked, identify good practice and work with our partners to better understand the road safety issues in Carmarthenshire and pilot new road safety ideas.

4.0 Safer Roads

- 4.1 Improving the existing road network through the provision of new road safety engineering measures reduces collisions, deaths and serious injuries on the county road network.
- 4.2 There are many long established engineering measures that have improved road safety on the Carmarthenshire county road network and these will continue to be used in the future. We will continue to implement reduced speed limits, new traffic calming, active signage, pavements, controlled crossings, and safety barriers at identified sites with a speeding / accident history.

- 4.3 Road maintenance plays a significant contribution to road safety in Carmarthenshire. The road maintenance operation ranges from regular safety inspections to identify hazards, to resurfacing, and improving skid resistance. Repainting road markings, sign cleaning, grass cutting and gully emptying all contribute to reducing hazards on the highway. It is therefore important that these activities are carried out to best practice standards and frequencies.
- 4.4 We will continue to develop and deliver the Carmarthenshire rural route treatment strategy. This approach to road safety involves improvement through the treatment of an entire route rather than individual sites. This includes the following interventions: - signing of junctions and bends, vehicle activated signs, edge and surface treatments to remove hazards, and reduced speed limits. Good road signs and markings along the whole route will assist drivers in avoiding making a mistake that could lead to a collision, in effect helping the driver to drive as safely as possible.
- 4.5 The rural route action programmes has proven to be a highly effective road safety intervention on the Carmarthenshire county road system.
- 4.6 We will continue to invest in new walking and cycling infrastructure as viable and safer travel modes and to improve health as funding is provided by the Wales Government. The Wales Active Travel Bill requires highway authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for walkers and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use. The Bill also require new road schemes to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage.
- 4.7 Cyclists, especially the younger and older cyclists, are vulnerable alongside moving traffic. We will continue to expand the network of safe cycling routes that segregate cyclists from moving traffic, as resources become available.
- 4.8 We will conduct road safety audits for all new road schemes with the participation of the Police.
- 4.9 We will continue to work with the Roads Policing Unit in identifying speed and accident prone sections of the county highway network.
- 4.10 Parking - our Civil Enforcement Officers will enforce the regulated sections of highway to help improve road safety.

5.0 Safer Road Users

- 5.1 The road user has a responsibility for their driving / riding / cycling / walking competencies, attitudes and behaviour. These are improved through appropriate enhanced road safety education and training.

- 5.2 Children and young people who receive road safety education make safer road users in later life. We are working to train other high risk road user groups, particularly motorcyclists and older drivers, to ensure that they are appropriately prepared to be safer road users.
- 5.3 The road safety partners on the RSAG deliver a comprehensive programme of road safety education in the pre-, primary and comprehensive school and college years for children and young people. The programme extends to structured rider training for new and advanced riders and driver training for older drivers.
- 5.4 **Young people:** We will develop and implement an updated programme of training initiatives to influence young people's attitudes and behaviours.
- 5.5 We will continue to provide cycle proficiency and roadside safety programmes for primary schools.
- 5.6 We will continue to target young, inexperienced, drivers to increase their awareness and understanding about their vulnerability and dangers they face when driving dangerously through education, training and enforcement. We will provide enhanced education for young people through the further education colleges. We will organise pre-driver road safety events for those aiming to take their driving test.
- 5.7 **Older drivers:** The safety of older people has an increasing importance as there are particularly safety concerns about older drivers. We will work with the wider voluntary and community sector to better understand the causes of collisions involving older people and develop the existing training strategies to tackle these.
- 5.8 **Motorcyclists:** We will work with partners to improve training and awareness techniques for motorcycle riders. We will continue to find innovative ways to target motorcyclists with appropriate messages about safe riding to increase their awareness and understanding about their vulnerability and dangers they face.
- 5.9 **Horse Riders:** We will work with partners and stakeholders in the horse-riding sector to help improve safety on the highway.

6.0 Road Safety Promotion

- 6.1 Road safety promotions focusing on the main behaviours and risks that lead to deaths and serious injuries will be delivered via social media and press articles. We will continue to ensure that road users receive appropriate road safety messages.
- 6.2 **Drink and drug driving:** Dyfed Powys Police have a long established procedure to deal with drink driving and will continue to target this offence through intelligence led

enforcement strategies.

- 6.3 **Seatbelts and Child Restraint Wearing:** Increasing seatbelt wearing reduces fatalities and the severity of injuries. An unrestrained child in a passenger car vehicle is at danger of death or serious injury in the event of a collision. Front and rear seat belt wearing on the school run journey is therefore particularly important. We will continue our educational activity to focus on parents of primary school children, to stress the vital importance of securing children in an appropriate restraint on every car journey. We will educate parents and guardians on the correct selection and installation of child restraint seats. We will continue to assist the Fire and Rescue Service and Police with specialist enforcement operations to target non-wearing of seat belts.
- 6.4 **Careless driving:** Driver remedial education and training programmes will continue to be delivered by the Police to discourage re-offending for errant driving and to improve the drivers understanding about the risks associated with careless driving.
- 6.5 **Driving for work:** People who drive for work are at risk of being killed or seriously injured in 'at work' road collisions. We will continue to implement the Council's Driving at Work policies.

7.0 **Speed Management Strategy**

- 7.1 Excessive speed remains an area of concern. Speed, whether it is at a dangerous level or at a level inappropriate with the prevailing road characteristics or driving conditions, causes road collisions and is a factor in death and injury on the county road network.
- 7.2 A review of speed limits on all rural A and B class roads has been undertaken. Reducing the speed limit on primary rural roads contributes to the reduction in the number of casualties. The review of these speed limits has followed the Welsh Government guidance on setting local speed limits.
- 7.3 We will continue to implement the speed limit schemes identified through the review of speed limits on the upper tier (A and B class) rural county roads and liaise with the trunk road authority to ensure a coordinated approach is taken to change limits where the upper tier county roads join with the trunk road network.
- 7.4 Enforcement of current speed limits is crucial. Enforcement resources are targeted to reduce the likelihood of injury where it is found that speeds exceed the posted speed limit.
- 7.5 Motorcyclists are more likely to be killed or seriously injured on a rural road due to riding at high- speed. The Police will continue to conduct special operations targeting speeding by motorcyclists.

- 7.6 Enforceable 20mph speed limits will continue to be introduced in urban areas with priority given to school sites and other pedestrian generator sites where there is a significant presence of vulnerable road users. Enforceable 20mph speed limits will be delivered with traffic calming engineering measures (round bumps, tables, and cushions) to make the limit self-enforcing.
- 7.7 We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of speed enforcement campaigns to increase compliance with speed limits on urban roads.
- 7.8 We will continue to assist the all-Wales GoSafe safety camera scheme through the maintenance and upkeep of safety camera sites on the county road network.
- 7.9 We will assist Dyfed Powys Police to promote their speed watch initiative to enable community support for the enforcement of speeding.

8.0 **Conclusion**

The commitment of the road safety partners is essential to the success of the road safety strategy. The national casualty reduction targets to achieve significant reductions in the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads by 2020 are challenging. The strategy comprises a range of measures which focus on road users and road improvements with the general principle of promoting and encouraging safe driver / rider behaviour and penalising errant road user behaviour.

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Executive Board 26th July 2016

REVENUE BUDGET OUTLOOK 2017/18 to 2019/20

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. The Executive Board receives the initial budget outlook and notes the significant financial challenges it poses;
2. Executive Board endorse the proposed approach to identifying the required savings
3. Executive Board endorse the proposed approach to the budget consultation

Reasons:

To provide the Executive Board with an overview of the budget issues and outlook for the forthcoming years.

PEB :

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted

TBA

Exec Board Decision Required YES / NO / NA

Council Decision Required ~~YES~~ / NO / NA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. David Jenkins

Corporate Services
Directorate

Director

Mr C Moore

Report Author:

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Board

26th July 2016

REVENUE BUDGET OUTLOOK

2017/18 to 2019/20

The report appraises members of the current financial outlook and updates our current financial model covering the next three financial years.

The report outlines the proposals for taking forward the budget preparation for the three year period.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES / NO

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **C Moore** Head of **Financial Services**

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The budget is being prepared having regard for the Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-2020.

Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken on budget proposals in order to consider and assess the potential impact with respect to protected characteristic groups and the Welsh language. All budget proposals considered to have an impact on front line services will undergo a period of public consultation. The Equalities Impact Assessments will be further developed following consideration of possible mitigation measures to reduce the impact once the responses and findings of the budget consultation have been received.

2. Finance

Council Fund

The report provides an updated view of the Budget outlook for 2017/2018, together with indicative figures for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years.

The financial model tabled above will be updated as and when more information becomes available, key amongst which will be the provisional settlement expected from WG in the autumn of 2016.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **C Moore** Head of **Financial Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee

Consultation with Scrutiny Committees will be undertaken during the budget process.

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

All budget proposals considered to have an impact on front line services will undergo a period of public consultation before the final budget is set.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Consultation with Staff Side Representatives and other organisations will be undertaken and results will be reported during the budget process.

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

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2017/18 3 Year Revenue Budget		County Hall, Carmarthen

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Executive Board

26th July 2016

REVENUE BUDGET OUTLOOK 2017/18 to 2019/20

HEAD OF SERVICE & DESIGNATION.	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
O Bowen, Interim Head of Financial Services	Corporate Services	01267 224886
AUTHOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO
O Bowen, Interim Head of Financial Services	Corporate Services	01267 224886

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1.** Appraise members on the current financial outlook
- 1.2.** Update our current financial model covering the next three years;
- 1.3.** Outline proposals for taking forward the budget preparation for the three year period.

2. KEY MESSAGES

The key messages are:

- 2.1.** The period of financial restraint in the public sector is set to continue for some time to come.
- 2.2.** The importance of the choices that the new administration in the Welsh Government (WG) make around funding for the Health Service and any other protection afforded to service areas.
- 2.3.** The impact of any protection for service areas will be significant.

3. BACKGROUND

The Medium Term Financial planning process has had a consistent theme over recent years with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions. Over the last five years the Council has had to manage reductions in service budgets of £53m, whilst at the same time the pressures on the budget have been increasing in terms of demand and expectations.

The current three year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was agreed by Council in February 2016 and was based on estimates of known commitments and formulated in the context of the late financial settlement for 2016-17 with no indicative settlements available from WG for future years.

Our overall financial standing has been maintained at a prudent level. Many of our reserves are earmarked for specific purposes – whether this is to address liabilities now or in the future e.g. Insurance reserves, or for financing specific capital schemes. Our General Fund balance currently stands at 2.6% of our net budget and we have made limited use of such reserves to support ongoing expenditure

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The new administration at the Welsh Government has been formed as a minority government following the May elections, and as yet there have been no new announcements regarding the timing and proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Wales. This outlook has therefore been prepared on an ‘ongoing’ basis

4.2. The Welsh Government has yet to set out its budget priorities over the term of the new administration, and in particular what approach, if any, it will adopt in relation to giving protection or indeed growth to its various service areas. In particular whether it intends to protect or increase the Health or Education budgets.

4.3. The Corporate Strategy for 2015-2020 sets out the Authority’s strategic priorities and aspirations and its overarching themes and core values.

The Corporate Strategy and subsequent Business Plans are key to being able to develop the Medium Term Financial Plan and the vision for Carmarthenshire.

4.4. Members will be aware of the result of the European Referendum where the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The full impact of this decision has yet to be determined. The Chancellor of the Exchequer’s statement to the markets on Monday 27th June 2016 stated that the UK was ready to face the position ‘from a position of strength’ and he indicated that there would be no immediate emergency budget. The Chancellor did however state that there would still need to be an ‘adjustment’ in the UK economy, but added it was ‘perfectly sensible to wait for a new prime minister’ before taking any

such action. Accordingly it is likely to be by the Autumn of 2016 before we know whether there will be any further reductions in funding for the public sector spending over and above that already reflected in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

5. CURRENT FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

In the absence of funding indications beyond 2016-17, and the potential impact from the referendum vote, there is limited information from which we can start to model future funding scenarios for the WG funding.

The spending review (2015) documentation did provide estimates of the Welsh Block Resource DEL, which along with assumptions about growth in business rates has enabled the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to model a number of scenarios for the WG Budget and the impact on the Local Government core grant in the remaining years of the spending review.

Under the most optimistic scenario there is 'weak' protection for non-Local Government Budgets. Under this scenario, the NHS receives future increases based on a 'consequential' of the increase to the English NHS through the lifetime of the Parliament. All other budgets are held cash flat, allowing Local Government's Aggregate External Finance (AEF) to increase by 0.2% in 2017-18, 1.5% in 2018-19 and 1.5% in 2019-20.

A less favourable scenario is to assume that there is 'medium' protection for non-Local Government Budgets. Here the NHS receives more generous uplifts in line with general inflation over the spending review period. All other budgets are held cash flat, allowing AEF to reduce by 0.6% in 2017-18, 1.0% in 2018-19 and 0.9% in 2019-20.

A more pessimistic scenario can be envisaged where, as above the NHS is protected for inflation, and so are all other non-Local Government budgets. AEF reduces by 2.0% in 2017-18, 2.6% in 2018-19 and 2.6% in 2019-20.

For the purposes of our financial outlook, given the current uncertainties, the base model reflects the current MTFP with reductions in AEF of 2% per annum for each of the three financial years. These will be reviewed as more information becomes available.

6. FINANCIAL MODEL

The revised financial model covers the three year period up to 2019/20. The most important part for any financial plan or model is the underlying assumptions, the current key assumptions being:

- 6.1. For the purposes of our financial outlook, the base model reflects the 'AEF reducing by 2.0% in 2017-18, 2.0% in 2018-19 and 2.0% in 2019-20.
- 6.2. The indicative Savings proposals for 2017-18 and 2018-19 approved in February 2016 assume no on-going protection for schools and that school delegated budgets will reduce by £6m in 2017-18 and a further £6.0m in 2018-19.
- 6.3. Estimated effect of Auto Enrolment from April 2017 £1.6m.
- 6.4. The current pay settlement for NJC staff was for a two year period encompassing the 2017-18 financial year. Whilst the future pay awards have been included at 1% in line with the Chancellors 4 year pay cap for the public sector, additional increases have been assumed for the lower scales to meet the anticipated increases in the National Living Wage. Additional estimated cost £900k per annum in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 6.5. Service specific Grants within the current year's budget stands at £107m and it is assumed that this level will be maintained during the three year period of the model
- 6.6. Assumptions relating to the capital programme are as set out in the 5 year capital plan approved by Council in February 2016.
- 6.7. Validation assumptions for 2016-17 and 2017-17 have been revisited and are currently:

	Financial Model		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	%	%	%
Expenditure Inflation	1.8	2.0	2.1
Income Inflation	1.8	2.0	2.1
Pay Awards	1.0	1.0	1.0
Employers Pension Rates	0.3	0.3	0.3
Fuel	3.0	3.0	5.0
Energy Costs	3.0	3.0	5.0
Capital charges	£250k	£250k	£250k

6.8. Service Pressures:

The financial model assumes growth pressures of £3m per annum for each of the three years. The initial growth bids submitted by departments for 2017-18 amount to £3.342m and are attached at Appendix A.

6.9. The 2017-2018 budget makes provision for the introduction of the Apprenticeship levy which is a new government initiative announced in the 2015 Summer Budget. The government proposes to apply the levy to large employers across all industries at a rate of 0.5 per cent of an employer’s wage bill.

The Digital Apprenticeship Service will only be used to fund Apprenticeships delivered in England. £0.5billion from the Apprenticeship Levy will be allocated to governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who will decide how the funds are spent, but details have not yet been released.

6.10. No account has been taken of any new legislative pressures.

6.11. Based upon the above assumptions a financial model has been constructed (see table below) which highlights the impact of the proposed changes, and identifies the likely budget shortfall. Comparative figures from the current MTFP are included for information

Summary of Financial Model

	Current MTFP		Financial Model		
	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Previous Year’s Budget	331,226	330,541	331,226	330,541	328,796
General Inflation	1,416	1,637	1,757	1,825	1,996
Pay Inflation	2,399	3,041	2,399	3,042	2,920
Other	3,083	543	3,182	543	990
Growth	3,230	3,000	3,230	3,000	3000
Original & approved PBB Proposals	-11,013	-10,155			
Net Expenditure	330,341	328,607	341,794	338,951	337,702
Revenue Settlement	-246,651	-241,718	-246,653	-241,720	-236,885
Council Tax Receipts	-83,690	-86,889	-83,689	-87,076	-92,037
Shortfall	0	0	11,453	10,155	8,780

If the shortfalls in each of the three financial years were to be met in full, then the indicative Council Tax rises would be :

2017-18 4.88%
 2018-19 3.37%
 2019-20 5.00%

6.12. Key points:

6.12.1. We are looking at requiring cumulative reductions of £30.4 over the three years.

6.12.2. Our budget, in common with all authorities will contain a number of expenditure items that are essentially ‘fixed’ such as our debt costs, payments to those in receipt of council tax reduction support, the cost of levies, insurance costs, external audit fees, etc. In terms of managing and addressing any reductions we need to exclude these budgets. The net controllable budget of the authority is therefore £275m

6.12.3. It is proposed that the savings requirements for each of the financial years be addressed as follows:

- 2017/18 – departments to deliver savings/make good those now in doubt as per the current three year financial strategy, and submit proposals to achieve the following revised departmental targets:

Targets 2017/18	
	2017/18
Department	£'000
Chief Executive	483
Education	418
Schools Delegated	6000
Corporate Services	432
Community Services	2,792
Environment	1,328
Total	11,453

- 2018/19 – again departments to deliver savings/make good those now in doubt to achieve the targets as per the current three year financial strategy

- 2019/20 – savings targets allocated to all services as a proportion of controllable spend as follows:

Targets 2019/20	
	2019/20
Department	£'000
Chief Executive	305
Education	898
Schools Delegated	3,487
Corporate Services	296
Community Services	2,548
Environment	1,246
Total	8,780

6.12.4. The above model, as stated above, is based upon reductions to the AEF of 2% per annum for each of the three financial years.

6.12.5. Any budget forecast has an element of risk and a large degree of uncertainty when planning over the medium term, and this is particularly so in the current economic climate. The forecast will be monitored and refined as the likely position becomes clearer.

7. TAKING THE WORK FORWARD

There are a number of strands to develop in bringing about change to ensure we achieve balanced budgets:

- 7.1.** A continued real and focused drive to achieve efficiency in what we do – including business processes, taking advantage of technology and reviewing non-employee spend.
- 7.2.** Establishing what is important to members (and other stakeholders) in terms of what they wish to prioritise and importantly what is not and can be 'given up'/or reduced;
- 7.3.** Demand management which explores all the drivers of demand for our services and asks whether we can reduce or manage that demand by other methods and/or by doing things differently – e.g. earlier intervention in a cycle; changing user expectations of services; use of the third sector/other organisations or alternative delivery models etc;
- 7.4.** Innovation and alternative funding sources – whilst innovation will be evident in all the other strands it is felt useful to also have it as standalone to allow some free thinking to emerge and understand

whether that free thinking leads to approaches that may generate further avenues for attracting revenue support or generating income.

7.5. All of the above will involve:

- 7.5.1. Consideration of alternative delivery models/providers;
- 7.5.2. Acceptance of lower performance/reduction/cessation in some areas as an acceptable price to prioritise/protect others;
- 7.5.3. Consideration of alternative and perhaps as yet untapped sources of finance;
- 7.5.4. Some analysis of the cost/benefit equation of what we currently do and what we would propose to do.
- 7.5.5. Council will need to implement measures in 2016-17 to increase as far as possible its options in respect of the 2017-18 budget setting process. The aims of these measures would be to partially mitigate the risk of the council not achieving a balanced budget for 2017-18 and would need to be undertaken following consultation with members. To support this, members have already approved the extension of the severance scheme for the lifetime of the current MTFP.

8. BUDGET PREPARATION FOR 2017/18

- 8.1. The financial model tabled above will be updated as and when more information becomes available, key amongst which will be the provisional settlement expected from WG in the autumn of 2016.
- 8.2. As part of the current Medium Term Financial Plan, Departments are requested to confirm/update their efficiency/service rationalisation proposals for 2017-18 and 2018-19 and to bring forward their proposals for 2019-20. To support the process, the Departmental service Director will challenge/draw up the cost reduction proposals in conjunction with :
 - Executive Board portfolio member, plus
 - Executive Board Portfolio Holder for Resources and/or Executive Board Portfolio Holder for Human Resources, Efficiencies and Collaboration
- 8.3. Officers will continue to refine the budget projections taking account of inflation factors, the collection rate and reviewing the potential for the use of reserves etc.

- 8.4.** Member seminar on budget proposals to be convened in October 2016.
- 8.5.** Public consultation on the budget proposals to commence in November 2016, encompassing a variety of means including on-line surveys, Town & Community Councils, budget roadshows/meetings and digital communications with residents, businesses and staff who live and work within the County.
- 8.6.** Scrutiny Committee consultation in December 2016/January 2017

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- 9.1.** The Executive Board receives the initial budget outlook and notes the significant financial challenges it poses;
- 9.2.** Executive Board endorse the proposed approach to identifying the required savings
- 9.3.** Executive Board endorse the proposed approach to the budget consultation

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	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000	Total £'000	Comment
Chief Executive's					
Coroners	100			100	Review of pay arrangements plus further costs due to more post-mortems/clinical tests etc.
Wellness project	25			25	CCC contribution to Wellness Manager post
Premises costs for Nant-y-ci	50			50	Efficiency not delivered and due to new structure re-alignments the premises is now needed in the medium to long term therefore a re-instatement of premises budgets is required.
	175	0	0	175	
					The code sets out a local authority's legal responsibilities in respect of post-18 living arrangements for young people in foster care. Local authorities are required to set up local 'When I am Ready' schemes in line with the requirements in the code.
Education & Children					
Leaving Care/When I'm ready	200			200	Statutory Code of Practice relating to Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out a local authority's legal responsibilities in respect of post-18 living arrangements for young people in foster care. Local authorities are required to set up local 'When I am Ready' schemes in line with the requirements in the code. Estimated costs in relation to accommodation, education, training, work and maintenance £100k efficiency in 2015-16 was on the basis of agreeing additional income from the LHB for the level of medical related care required at the respite centres. This is to be progressed as part of wider collaboration discussions and there is no timescale currently which has created a budget deficit in a challenging service.
Respite centres	100			100	Legislative changes within the ALN reform bill planned by December 2016, to be implemented during 2017/18, anticipated that additional staffing resource will be needed.
Psychology and ALN reform/CFU expansion	40	20		60	Demand is increasing at an accelerated pace with the budget having overspent by an increasing amount over the past 2 years or more
Education Other than at School	300			300	
School Budgets	?			0	School budgets/staffing levels: the obvious increasing strain on school budgets challenges their ability to enhance provision / raise standards.
School related EVR	500			500	Notwithstanding the relative protection of school budgets the real position is that schools across the county are having to consider reducing staff as their budgets shrink in real terms. The pressure is increased by the ongoing school rationalisation programme
Total Education & Children	1,140	20	0	1,160	
Communities					
Residential Care Pressures	1,000	1,200	1,600	3,800	Cost and demand pressures in older people residential care.
Total Communities	1,000	1,200	1,600	3,800	
Environment					
Streetscene					
Waste strategy	268	453	711	1,432	Waste strategy costings. Legislative pressure due to Part 4 of the Environment Bill (increase trade waste recycling rates)
Potential reduction in Environmental Grant	260	260	260	780	Estimated shortfall in the Single Revenue grant based on the reduction between 15/16 and 16/17.
Residual Waste treatment	460	0	0	460	Estimated increase in prices of £20/tonne in RDF costs
Transport					
Safe walking routes to schools	39	39	39	117	Implementation of revised statutory guidance on the criteria for Safe Walking routes to School
	1,027	752	1,010	2,789	
Total Growth Bids	3,342	1,972	2,610	7,924	

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Current Medium Term Financial Plan Proposals

	MANAGERIAL			NEW POLICY PROPOSALS			TOTAL PROPOSALS		
	2017/18	2018/19	Total	2017/18	2018/19	Total	2017/18	2018/19	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	365	429	794	0	0	0	365	429	794
Education	130	125	255	290	100	390	420	225	645
Schools Delegated			0	6,000	6,000	12,000	6,000	6,000	12,000
Corporate Services	401	568	969	0	0	0	401	568	969
Community Services	1,859	775	2,634	789	1,297	2,086	2,648	2,072	4,720
Environment	592	460	1,052	587	400	987	1,179	860	2,039
	3,347	2,357	5,704	7,666	7,797	15,463	11,013	10,154	21,167

NEW TARGETS	Controllable						
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
		£'000	£'000	£'000	%	%	%
Chief Executive	9,530	483	429	305	5.07	4.50	3.20
Education	28,134	418	225	898	1.49	0.80	3.19
Schools Delegated	109,247	6,000	6,000	3,487	5.49	5.49	3.19
Corporate Services	9,282	432	568	296	4.65	6.12	3.19
Community Services	79,815	2,792	2,072	2,548	3.50	2.60	3.19
Environment	39,042	1,328	860	1,246	3.40	2.20	3.19
	275,050	11,453	10,154	8,780	4.16	3.69	3.19

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£000	£000	£000	
Chief Executive				
Chief Executive				
Health & Safety	100	35	135	Restructuring of Health & Safety function within the authority to yield savings from a reduction in expenditure on external contractors and eliminate duplication of Health & Safety Management
Total Chief Executive	100	35	135	
People Management & Performance				
Human Resources	0	40	40	Severance
Learning & Development	40	35	75	Realignment and reduction in course fees by collaborating with other local users
Total People Management & Performance	40	75	115	
Customer Focus & Policy				
Registrars	13	4	17	Increased income and reduced overtime
Communications - Press	0	46	46	Service Review
Net Customer Services	18		18	Transfer of part of service covered by Senior Manager i.e Careline to Communities, and rest of service to be realigned
Direct Communications	35	4	39	Increased income
Net Policy	0	35	35	Reduction in projects & activities and additional income
Customer Service Centres	20	65	85	Service review and potentially reducing opening times. Also a possibility of moving to an 'appointments only' service with as much traffic as possible encouraged towards online self-service, or failing that, to the telephone, and wider distribution of simple services, eg blue bag provision, via libraries and other possible outlets
Contact Centre	30	5	35	Service review which will result in increased use of 'self help' via council website, increase in telephone call traffic arising from further reductions in CSC opening hours, plus introduction of appointments only CSC service (appointments made via contact centre)
Performance Management	30	5	35	2016-17 - Maintenance agreement on GIS software to cease with implementation of new in-house developed GIS application (Planweb); 2017-18 & 2018-19 Income generation from provision of Performance Management software to other Authorities
Total Customer Focus & Policy	146	164	310	
Administration & Law				
Departmental - Legal	12		12	2016/17 - £2k Reduction in Printing; £2k - Other Hired and Contracted Services; £2k - Staff Travelling. 2017/18 - £10k - Reduction in working hours; £2k - Reduction in costs of Practising Certificates
Net Departmental Administration	6	3	9	2016/17 - Further £6k reduction in stationery budget; 2017/18 - £3k Other Hired and Contracted Services; £3k Reduction in printing
Corporate Management	2	0	2	2016/17 - £2k Advertising; 2017/18 - £2k Printing; £2k
Democratic Process	7	0	7	2016/17 - £4k - Reduction in Conferences; £5k - Reduction in members travelling budget based on previous years claims; £2k Reduction in fuel; £3k - Reduction in Civic vehicles from 2 to 1; £1k - Reduction in newspapers and books; £2k - Reduction in spend on refreshments for meetings 2017/18 - £1k - Further reduction in fuel; £2k - remaining balance on Civic vehicle; £4k - Reduction in spend on Conferences
Departmental Democratic		20	20	2018/19 - Possible Reduction in Working hours/VER
Total Administration & Law	27	23	50	
Regeneration				
Marketing Tourism Development	52	19	71	Realignment of whole of the Division to focus on new economic priorities and to meet efficiencies
3 T's		48	48	Severance
Support Services	0	25	25	Realignment of whole of the Division to focus on new economic priorities and to meet efficiencies,
West Wales European Centre	0	40	40	Review of premises and other costs 17/18; Severance 18/19
Total Regeneration	52	132	184	
Chief Executive Total	365	429	794	

Education & Children

	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
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Strategic Development & Schools' Catering

Catering Services	40	0	40	Review of catering central support resulting in 1 FTE reduction through severance
Business Support	20	0	20	Reduction in support to Departmental Management Team through severance
Total Strategic Development & Schools' Catering	60	0	60	

Governance & Inclusion

SEN & Governance	20		20	Remove external licensed software for SEN and Governor management and replace with internal solution
Total Governance, Inclusion & School Catering	20	0	20	

Children's Services

Education Welfare	0	25	25	Release of staff member through severance
Accommodating Looked After Children	50	100	150	Assuming that trends in reducing the number of looked after children can be sustained into future years
Total Children's Services	50	125	175	

Education & Children Total	130	125	255	
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Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£000	£000	£000	
Corporate Services				
Finance				
Accountancy	127	186	313	2016-17 £57k Structure Realignments, £30k NI savings Car leasing scheme; 2017-18 £30k NI savings Car leasing scheme, £97k structure realignment. 2018-19 Structure realignment
Total Financial Services	127	186	313	
Audit, Risk & Procurement				
Audit, Risk & Procurement	33	57	90	Structure Realignments
Total, Audit Risk & Procurement	33	57	90	
Information Technology				
Information Technology	100	95	195	2016/17 Removal of 2 FTE (£103k) . 2017/18 & 2018/19 Savings from collaboration with Pembs
IT Operational		100	100	2016/17 Reduce IT Operational codes by up to £200K but also seek initiatives across the Division. 2018-19 savings from collaboration with Pembs.
Total Information Technology	100	195	295	
Corporate Property				
Admin Buildings	141	130	271	Savings on building running costs: 2016-17: £15k Sale of 1 & 2 Spilman St, £10k Sale of Coleshill Well House, £40k Vacation and Sale of Ty'r Nant, £50k vacation of Pibwrlwyd Offices, £40k Office Accommodation following staff reduction/agile working 2017-18: £11k Sale of Nurses home and Jobs 2018-19: £130k Office Accommodation following staff reduction/agile working
Total Corporate Property	141	130	271	
Corporate Services Total	401	568	969	

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
Community Services	£000	£000	£000	
Housing & Public Protection				
Housing & Public Protection	35	34	69	No application of increases in supplies, transport & premises
Public Protection	50	50	100	Development fund application for a Financial investigator - forecast income streams for years 2 & 3 (net of salary costs)
Housing & Public Protection	50		50	Service Review / Severances - H&PP Council Fund Services
HOUSING (Council Fund) TOTAL	135	84	219	
Commissioning				
L.A Residential Homes			0	Service review of in house provision
Domiciliary care	20	10	30	Operational efficiency
	20	10	30	
Older People Physical Disabilities				
Private Sector Residential Homes	300		300	Reduction in placements
Private Sector Home Care	300		300	Reduction in care packages
Careline	30		30	Increased income
Divisional Supplies & Services	93	122	215	No inflationary uplift
Management & Support	40		40	Workforce modernisation and service redesign
	763	122	885	
Learning Disabilities				
Private Sector Residential Homes	500		500	£500k each year from Accommodation strategy
Divisional non pay budgets	360	470	830	No inflationary uplift
	860	470	1,330	
Support Costs				
Support Costs	71	69	140	Rationalisation of functions
	71	69	140	
Leisure				
Sport & Leisure West				
Bro Myrddin Indoor Bowling Club	5		5	Phased hand-over to Bowling committee, no subsidy from 2018/19.
Total Sport & Leisure West	5	0	5	
Sport & Leisure East				
Dinefwr Bowling Club	5		5	Phased hand-over to Bowling committee, no subsidy from 2018/19.
Total Sport & Leisure East	5	0	5	
Culture & Heritage				
Theatres		20	20	Realignment of staffing structure with delivery of 1-2 FTEs
Total Culture & Heritage	0	20	20	
Total Leisure	10	20	30	
Community Services Total	1,859	775	2,634	

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£000	£000	£000	
Environment				
Policy and Performance				
Policy divisional cost centre	81	0	81	No posts identified as yet. Efficiencies will be dependant on the outcome of the departmental Admin review and subsequent departmental restructuring.
Total Policy and Performance division	81	0	81	
Streetscene				
Streetscene division	70	0	70	Individual service reviews currently underway on Streetscene functions in order to rationalise service provision in conjunction with a divisional re-structure.
Highway Lighting	173	107	280	Saving in energy consumption arising from investment in LED lighting and installation of timers for part night illumination. Funding options have been explored and a submission for WG Invest 2 Save funding has been made. Proposal is to reduce operating costs without turning lights off.
Ammanford Cemetery	4	0	4	Majority of testing and remedial works will be completed during 2014/15. Remaining budget to be utilised to undertake cyclical grounds maintenance and cyclical testing. Impact : Ensure continued safety to the general public. Reduced ability to undertake substantial remedial works.
Total Streetscene	247	107	354	
Transport				
General - Public & School Transport	0	100	100	Procurement efficiencies
Total Transport	0	100	100	
Property Services				
Building Maintenance, Operational & Services	26		26	Further savings on non operational costs centralised from the other budget headings.
Property Services	0	59	59	Divisional re-alignment and severances
Total Property Services	26	59	85	
Planning				
Development Management	33	20	53	2017/18 - 1 FTE in planning support and fee generation; 2018/19 - new way of working (additional income from pre-application advice)
Building Control - Admin	30	0	30	2016/17 - £10k reduction in travelling costs; Comprehensive review of structure as part of the corporate review of Property Services in 17/18.
Minerals & Waste	0	25	25	Collaboration through providing mineral and waste service (review of SLAs)
Forward Planning	0	14	14	New ways of working - development briefs for service departments
Planning Admin Account	40	0	40	New ways of working leading in the reduction of consultant costs and general expenditure 16/17 and 17/18
Total Planning	103	59	162	
Service rationalisation	65	135	200	Review of service basis currently being undertaken with a view to producing efficiencies in the forthcoming years.
Review of structure	70	0	70	Review of Senior Management in the department
Environment Total	592	460	1,052	

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
Education & Children	£000	£000	£000	
Catering Services - School Meals	100	100	200	It is proposed to increase the cost of a primary school meal price to £2.40 in April 2016, £2.50 in April 2017 and £2.60 in April 2018. There will be similar increases in charges for food in secondary schools.
Catering Services - Free School Breakfasts	10		10	Remodel provision for Free Breakfasts in primary schools to reduce average time from 45 minutes to 30 minutes.
Children Looked After incl Leaving Care, Taxis & Ind Review Service	50		50	Taxis are used to transport children when Looked After, either going to school, or for contact. Care leavers receive ongoing support up to 21, or even 25 if in full time education. A reduction of children coming into care; and the additional resources to support their rehabilitation home through targeted resources should contribute to a fall in numbers; both those in care, and those leaving care, and as a result, should achieve a financial reduction in these areas over time.
Rhydygors Day Centre	50		50	Remodelling behavioural management services, informed by the strategic review of current provision
Youth Services	20		20	Review the use of the Quay Centre.
Educational Psychology	60		60	Reduction of 1 post through review of existing structure.

Delegated Schools Budget

Delegated school budget	6,000	6,000	12,000	Education is a significant area of spend for the Council. This proposal is to reduce the total budget to schools and support schools in achieving a number of cost savings, for example, further collaboration between schools, reducing "back office" costs to prioritise classroom provision, etc.
Education and Children Total	6,290	6,100	12,390	

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
Community Services	£000	£000	£000	
Meals on Wheels	19	19	38	Increase meals cost by £1.00 from £3.70 to £4.70
L.A Residential Homes for Older People		350	350	Implementation of alternative service model either Externalising the service or developing a Local Authority Trading Company model
Domiciliary care	500	500	1000	Implementation of alternative service model either Externalising the service or developing a Local Authority Trading Company model
Sports, Leisure, Theatres Alternative service delivery model (Trust)	250	300	550	The proposal is to save money by delivering Sports, Leisure and Theatres in a different way - i.e. by a trust.
Oriel Myrddin CCC			0	Phased transfer to independent status
Libraries	20	128	148	Year 1 - The proposal is to change the way the mobile library service is delivered to make more effective use of the vehicles. Offering further services from mobile libraries (for instance, photocopying) is being considered as a way of improving the overall service. Years 2 & 3 - to ensure a library service continues to be available in Carmarthenshire, the proposal is to close a number of branch libraries and rely on an enhanced mobile library service
Community Services Total	789	1,297	2,086	

Department	'2017-18 Proposed	'2018-19 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
Environment	£000	£000	£000	
Highways Infrastructure maintenance	478	281	759	Reduction in routine maintenance of highways infrastructure assets (bridges, retaining walls / support embankments, drainage and highways/footway works).Emergency works will have to be addressed through the re-prioritisation of departmental budgets.
Home to College Transport		65	65	post 16 transport is a discretionary service and statutory consultation is underway to sustain the service through the introduction of a charge.
School Crossing Patrols	55	0	55	Efficiencies can be gained by deselection of School Crossing Patrol sites using the criteria for the assessment of school crossing patrol sites, published in RoSPA's School Crossing Patrol national guidance document. Where the School Crossing Patrol is affected, we will work with the school to look at alternative provision if required.
Car Parks	54	54	108	A 20 pence increase in car park charges at major town centres will contribute £54,000 to sustain transport and highway related services
Environment Total	587	400	987	

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EXECUTIVE BOARD 26th July 2016

Subject		
Purpose: ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2015-2016		
Recommendations / key decisions required:		
That the report be received and presented to Full Council.		
Reasons:		
To comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Sector Revised 2012.		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 14 th July 2016		
Exec Board Decision Required	YES	
Council Decision Required	YES	
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. D.M. Jenkins		
Directorate: Corporate Services		
Name of Director: Chris Moore	Designation: Director of Corporate Services	Tel No. 01267 224160; E Mail: CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Anthony Parnell	Designation: Treasury and Pensions Investments Manager	Tel No. 01267 224180; E Mail: AParnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Board

26th July 2016

SUBJECT

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2015-2016

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Council adopted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and the three year capital programme for 2015-2016 on the 24th February 2015. This Annual Report lists the activities that took place in 2015-2016 under the headings of :

Investments

Borrowing

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Prudential Indicators

Leasing

Rescheduling

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: C Moore Director of Corporate Services

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

1. Finance

The authority's investments during the year returned an average rate of 0.56%, exceeding the 7 day LIBID rate.

£99m new PWLB borrowing, which includes £79m relating to the HRA subsidy system buyout, took place during the year. Long term debt outstanding at the year end amounted to £376m.

The Authority did not breach any of its Prudential Indicators during the year.

83.75% of the submitted claim has been received from the administrators of KSF to 31st March 2016.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: C Moore Director of Corporate Services

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on the 14th July 2016.

2. Local Member(s)

Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Not Applicable

4. Relevant Partners

Not Applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not Applicable

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
CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice Revised 2012		County Hall, Carmarthen

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH JULY 2016**

**ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND
PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT
2015-2016**

1. Introduction

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2015-2016 was approved by Council on 24th February 2015. Section B 1.1(2) stated that a year end annual report would be produced.

This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2012 and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and outlines the Treasury Management activities in the 2015-2016 financial year.

2. Investments

One of the primary activities of the Treasury Management operation is the investment of surplus cash for which the Authority is responsible. As well as the Authority's own cash the County Council invests School Funds, Trust Funds and other Funds, with any interest derived from these investments being passed over to the relevant Fund.

All surplus money is invested daily with the approved counterparties either via brokers on the Money Markets or direct. The security of the investments is the main priority, appropriate liquidity should be maintained and returns on the investments a final consideration. It continues to be difficult to invest these funds as the market continues to be insecure and as a consequence appropriate counterparties are limited.

	Maximum to Lend £m
Upper Limit Any one British Bank and Building Society with a credit rating of at least F1, P-1 or A-1 short term or AA-, Aa3 or AA- long term	10
Middle Limit Any one British Bank and Building Society with a credit rating of at least F1, P-1 or A-1 short term	7
UK Banks Part Nationalised Included as investment counterparties, as long as they continue to have appropriate UK Government support	7
Any one Local Authority	10
Any one AAA Rated Money Market Fund	5
Debt Management Office	40

The total investments at 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016 are shown in the following table:

Investments	01.04.15				31.03.16			
	Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total		Call and notice	Fixed Term	Total	
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	£m	%
Banks and 100% wholly owned Subsidiaries	13.50	0.70	14.20	35	13.00	7.65	20.65	45
Money Market Funds	1.50	0.00	1.50	4	15.00	0.00	15.00	33
Local Authorities	0.00	25.00	25.00	61	0.00	10.00	10.00	22
TOTAL	15.00	25.70	40.70	100	28.00	17.65	45.65	100

An analysis of the daily cash schedules indicates that the minimum balance lent over the twelve month period was £32.60m and the maximum balance lent was £73.60m. The average balance for the year was £52.56m.

The total investments made by the Council and repaid to the Council (the turnover) amounted to £931.05m. This averaged approximately £17.81m per week or £2.54m per day. A summary of turnover is shown below:

	£m
Total Investments 1st April 2015	40.70
Investments made during the year	468.00
Sub Total	508.70
Investments Repaid during the year	(463.05)
Total Investments 31st March 2016	45.65

The main aim of the Treasury Management Strategy is to manage the cash flows of the Council and the risks associated with this activity. Lending on the money market secures an optimum rate of return, allows for diversification of investments and consequently reduction of risk, which is of paramount importance in today's financial markets.

The benchmark return for the money market is the "7 day LIBID rate". For 2015-2016 the Council has compared its performance against this "7 day LIBID rate". The average "7 day LIBID rate" was 0.36% whereas the actual rate the Council earned was 0.56%, an out performance of 0.20%.

This outperformance can be quantified as £103k additional interest earned compared to the "7 day LIBID rate".

The gross interest earned on investments for 2015-2016 amounted to £0.305m, which was higher than the estimated figure of £0.300m.

The income from investments is used by the Authority to reduce the net overall costs to the Council taxpayer.

3. Update on the investments with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF)

The latest position with the Council's investments with KSF was reported in the Quarterly Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Reports to Executive Board during the year.

In February 2016 the Council received notification that it would receive a thirteenth dividend from the Administrators, before the end of the financial year. This equated to 1.25p in the £ and amounted to £50k principal.

As at 31st March 2016 the sum of £3.35m principal and £205k interest had been received from the Administrators, which equates to 83.75% of the claim submitted. Further dividends will be paid in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The Administrators have upgraded their estimate of total dividends to non-preferential creditors to a minimum of 85.5%.

4. Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY)

Within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2015-2016, the Council's investment priorities are:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity and
- Yield

The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is still considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow requirements.

Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of the individual investments (excluding the £0.65m in KSF) held as at the 31st March 2016 together with their credit ratings, historic risk of default and the risk weighting attached to each investment.

5. Borrowing

As Members are aware the Authority has a substantial capital investment programme. For 2015-2016 actual capital expenditure was £163.79m. This was financed from:

	£m
Borrowing	90.59
Grants and Contributions	41.48
Usable Capital Receipts Applied	10.05
Revenue and Reserves	21.67
Total	163.79

Under the Treasury Management Strategy it was resolved:

- To borrow to meet the funding requirements of the Authority, after allowing for capital grants, capital receipts and capital contributions, and to stay within the Prudential Indicators to ensure affordability, prudence and sustainability.
- To borrow when interest rates are at their most advantageous, after considering cash flow requirements.

The following loans were borrowed during 2015-16 to remove the HRA from the housing subsidy system:

Loan Reference	Amount (£m)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Period	Maturity Date
503900	2.50	3.10%	2nd April 2015	5yrs	15th April 2020
503901	1.40	3.73%	2nd April 2015	12 yrs	15th October 2026
503902	2.00	3.76%	2nd April 2015	12yrs	15th April 2027
503903	1.00	3.80%	2nd April 2015	13yrs	15th January 2028
503904	1.00	3.83%	2nd April 2015	13yrs	15th April 2028
503905	0.97	3.85%	2nd April 2015	14yrs	15th October 2028
503906	1.80	4.16%	2nd April 2015	21yrs	15th October 2035
503907	2.00	4.18%	2nd April 2015	22yrs	15th January 2037
503908	3.40	4.20%	2nd April 2015	23yrs	15th January 2038
503909	1.60	4.22%	2nd April 2015	24yrs	15th January 2039
503910	1.50	4.23%	2nd April 2015	25yrs	15th January 2040
503911	2.80	4.24%	2nd April 2015	26yrs	15th January 2041
503912	2.50	4.25%	2nd April 2015	27yrs	15th October 2041
503913	2.50	4.25%	2nd April 2015	28yrs	15th January 2043
503914	2.50	4.25%	2nd April 2015	28yrs	15th July 2043
503915	3.20	4.25%	2nd April 2015	29yrs	15th July 2044
503916	4.50	4.25%	2nd April 2015	30yrs	15th July 2045
503917	4.00	4.25%	2nd April 2015	31yrs	15th January 2046
503918	4.50	4.25%	2nd April 2015	31yrs	15th July 2046
503919	4.00	4.25%	2nd April 2015	32yrs	15th January 2047
503920	4.40	4.25%	2nd April 2015	32yrs	15th July 2047
503921	4.00	4.25%	2nd April 2015	33yrs	15th January 2048
503922	4.40	4.24%	2nd April 2015	34yrs	15th January 2049
503923	4.00	4.24%	2nd April 2015	34yrs	15th July 2049
503924	4.30	4.24%	2nd April 2015	35yrs	15th January 2050
503925	4.00	4.24%	2nd April 2015	35yrs	15th April 2050
503926	2.60	4.24%	2nd April 2015	36yrs	15th January 2051
503927	1.60	4.23%	2nd April 2015	36yrs	15th July 2051
Total	78.97				

The following loans were borrowed during 2015-16 to fund the capital programme:

Loan Reference	Amount (£m)	Interest Rate	Period	Maturity Date
504388	5.00	3.18%	45yrs	28th September 2060
504389	5.00	3.17%	46yrs	28th September 2061
504624	5.00	3.04%	48yrs	28th September 2063
504704	5.00	2.61%	47yrs	28th September 2062
Total	20.00			

The weighted average interest rate of these new loans was 3% which compares favourably with the weighted average rate of the respective loan periods throughout the year.

The total loans outstanding at 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016 were:

Loans	Balance at 01.04.15 £m	Balance at 31.03.16 £m	Net Increase/ (Net Decrease) £m
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	275.64	369.59	93.95
Market Loan	3.00	3.00	0.00
Salix, Invest to Save, HILS & TCL	1.20	3.44	2.24
Total	279.84	376.03	96.19

In 2015-2016 the Council received an additional £0.854m interest free loan from the Welsh Government in relation to the Home Improvement Loan Scheme (HILS). The purpose of the scheme is to help individual home owners, small portfolio landlords, developers and charities to improve homes and increase housing supply. The Council will repay the money to the Welsh Government by March 2030.

The Council also received £0.7m from the Welsh Government in relation to Town Centre Loans (TCL). The purpose of the scheme is to provide loans to reduce the number of vacant, underutilised and redundant sites and premises in town centres and to support the diversification of the town centres by encouraging more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises, such as residential, leisure and for key services. The term of the funding is until 31st March 2031, with advances to third parties repayable interest free.

During 2015-16 the Council also received £0.918m in relation to Invest-2-Save funding. This interest free funding is to assist in the conversion of traditional street lighting to LED, which will help deliver a legacy of reduced energy costs and associated carbon taxes.

The total external interest paid in 2015-2016 amounted to £17.64m, which compares favourably with the budget of £19.44m. The savings have arisen due to a reduction in the borrowing for the Modernisation Education Programme and Fleet replacement programme for current and previous years. Additionally it was initially anticipated that up to £98m would need to be borrowed to fund the HRAS buyout. The final figure was £79m.

6. HRA Reform in Wales

The Council initiated loans of £79m on 31st March 2015 to remove the HRA from the housing subsidy system. The funds were received from the Public Works Loans Board on 2nd April 2015, with the terms being agreed on an all Wales basis between the Welsh Government and HM Treasury. Specific rates above the prevailing market rate were applied and all other borrowing for capital purposes was suspended for the day for the HRA authorities.

7. Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

Under the requirements of the Prudential Code of Practice for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Council are required to set a number of treasury management prudential indicators for the year 2015-2016. The indicators set and the performance against those indicators is shown below:

7.1 The estimated and actual interest exposure limits as at 31st March 2016 were:

	Estimate 31.03.16 £m			Actual 31.03.16 £m		
	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Total	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Total
Borrowed	436.00	3.00	439.00	373.03	3.00	376.03
Invested	(20.00)	(30.00)	(50.00)	(17.65)	(28.00)	(45.65)
Net	416.00	(27.00)	389.00	355.38	(25.00)	330.38
Proportion of Total Net Borrowing	106.94%	(6.94)%	100.00%	107.57%	(7.57)%	100.00%
Limit	150.00%	10.00%				

7.2 Maximum principal sums invested > 364 days

	2015-2016 Limit £m	2015-2016 Actual £m
Maximum principal sums invested > 364 days	10	NIL

7.3 Interest rate exposure limits

	2015-2016 Limit £m	2015-2016 Actual £m
Limits on fixed interest rates based on net debt	480.00	434.00
Limits on variable interest rates based on net debt	48.00	(45.65)

7.4 The upper and lower limits set for the maturity structure of borrowing along with the actual maturity structure as at 31st March 2016.

	Estimated Upper Limit 2015-2016 %	Estimated Lower Limit 2015-2016 %	Actual 31.03.16 %
Under 12 months	15	0	1.52
12 months to 2 years	25	0	2.65
2 years to 5 years	50	0	6.56
5 years to 10 years	50	0	11.00
10 years to 20 years	50	0	18.09
20 years to 30 years	50	0	21.94
30 years to 40 years	50	0	23.88
40 years and above	50	0	14.36
Total			100.00

Details of the above maturity structure are shown below:

Loan Maturities	PWLB Debt £m	Average Interest Rate %	Market Loans/ Invest to Save/Salix/ HILS/TCL £m	Average Rate %	Total Debt Outstanding £m
Before 1st April 2017	5.48	10.39	0.25	0	5.73
1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018	9.71	7.06	0.26	0	9.97
1st April 2018 to 31st March 2021	23.73	6.16	0.94	0	24.67
1st April 2021 to 31st March 2026	41.34	5.36	0	0	41.34
1st April 2026 to 31st March 2036	66.03	4.54	1.99	0	68.02
1st April 2036 to 31st March 2046	82.50	4.01	0	0	82.50
1st April 2046 to 31st March 2056	86.80	4.85	3.00	4.72	89.80
After March 2056	54.00	4.52	0	0	54.00
Total as at 31.03.16	369.59		6.44		376.03

8. Prudential Indicators

8.1 Affordability

8.1.1 Actual and estimated ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Revenue Stream		
	2015-2016 Estimate %	2015-2016 Actual %
Non-HRA	5.68	4.95
HRA	35.00	33.81

The indicator shows the proportion of income taken up by capital financing costs.

8.1.2 The incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax.

This indicator identifies the revenue costs associated with changes to the three year capital programme compared to the Council's existing approved commitments and current plans.

Incremental Impact on Council Tax		
	2015-2016 Estimate £	2015-2016 Actual £
Increase in Band D Council Tax	2.44	0.39

The difference between the estimate and actual is due to less actual expenditure than forecast on new capital project costs and a significantly higher % of expenditure funded from external sources.

8.1.3 The incremental impact of capital investment decisions on housing rents.

Similar to the Council tax calculation this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the housing capital programme compared to the Council's existing commitments and current plans, expressed as a discrete impact on weekly rent levels.

The proposed changes are shown as the total revenue impact on Housing Rents. Items in the capital programme where there is already a commitment to carry out that scheme are excluded from this Indicator.

Incremental Impact on Weekly Housing Rent		
	2015-2016 Estimate £	2015-2016 Actual £
Increase in Housing Rent	NIL	NIL

The final affect on the housing rent will be mitigated by rent controls.

8.2 Prudence

8.2.1 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

	31.03.16 Estimate £m	31.03.16 Actual £m
Non-HRA	265	244
HRA	137	131
HRAS	98	79
Total	500	454

The Capital Financing Requirement reflects the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes.

8.2.2 Gross Borrowing against the Capital Finance Requirement indicator.

To ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing must only be for a capital purpose. Gross borrowing must not exceed the CFR for 2015-2016 plus the expected changes to the CFR over 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 but can in the short term due to cash flows. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

£m	2015-2016 Estimate	2015-2016 Actual
Debt at 1 st April 2015	296	280
Expected Change in Debt	143	96
Gross debt at 31st March 2016	439	376
CFR	500	454
Under / (Over) borrowing	61	78

The Section 151 Officer reports that the authority had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2015-2016.

8.2.3 The Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary.

The Authorised Limit is the "Affordable Borrowing Limit" required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2015-2016 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit.

The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.

The actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2015-2016 £m
Authorised Limit	549.00
Gross borrowing	376.03
Operational Boundary	500.00
Average gross borrowing position	364.94
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	7.30%

9. Leasing

No finance leases were negotiated during the year.

10. Rescheduling

No rescheduling was undertaken during the year.

11. European Union (EU) Referendum

The majority vote in favour of leaving the EU in the referendum held on 23rd June 2016 will signal a period of uncertainty in the UK, with implications for the country's medium-term growth outlook. Since the referendum result, rating agencies Fitch and Standard & Poor's have downgraded the UK's sovereign rating. However, none of the three major rating agencies have taken any action in relation to the UK banking credit ratings. The rating status of the UK banks will continue to be monitored and if there is a rating movement then appropriate action will be taken in accordance with 'Appendix C - Approved Counterparties for Lending' of the 'Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2016-17'.

While the uncertainty within the markets continues, the Bank of England has stated that it will take all necessary steps to ensure stability. One tool at its disposal is to adjust the base rate.

12. Conclusion

This report demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice Revised 2012.

13. Recommendations

It is recommended that this report be received by the Executive Board.

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Executive Board 26th July 2016

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. Agree that Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) purchases shares in Egni Sir Gâr to the value of the final investment (maximum £1.5m)

Reasons:

To implement the approved solar project

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted N/A

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr David Jenkins

Directorate:
Corporate Services

Name of Head of Service:
Chris Moore

Report Authors:
Anthony Parnell

Designations:
Director of Corporate Services

Treasury & Pension Investments
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Executive Board
26th July 2016
Executive Summary

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project

Introduction

The Executive Board unanimously resolved on 27th July 2015

- 1) To note the proposed structure for delivery of the project;
- 2) That a Community Benefit Society (CBS) be set up with the Council acting as Custodian Trustee;
- 3) To agree, subject to further consultation, that the CBS be initially given the name Egni Sir Gâr;
- 4) The issue as to whether the Council should invest directly in the CBS or the opportunity offered for public subscription be considered in due course.

An additional report went to County Council on 10th March 2016 and it was agreed that the scheme be funded as part of the Capital Programme and an Executive Board Member was appointed to the Board of Egni Sir Gâr.

Although it has been agreed that the Council should invest directly in Egni Si Gâr, up to a maximum of £1.5m, there is no authority for CCC to purchase shares in Egni Si Gâr.

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: **Chris Moore, Director of Corporate Services**

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

To be evaluated when preparing the further detailed project development plans

2. Legal

The Council has a permanent board position on the CBS and is required to be represented in this capacity on the Board. Council needs to consider appointing an appropriate member accordingly.

A Lease is to be agreed for the installation of the solar panels to Council properties and a property occupier agreement where assets are occupied by third parties.

A Share Purchase Agreement is to be set up between CCC and Egni Si Gâr

3. Finance

The total project cost of the scheme currently stands at £1.5m. This could reduce, however, depending on the results of the technical surveys and the agreement of the property occupiers. If excessive additional work to a property is identified by the survey, that particular property will be excluded from the scheme.

The funding is proposed to be made available by Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) as borrowing in the capital programme. An investment of £1.5m will result in the following:

- Surplus cash flow of £460,000 (after borrowing costs), equal to 28.7% of the initial outlay at the end of the 20 years, split between the CBS and CCC
- The payback period is anticipated to be in year 12
- Electricity savings are projected to be approximately £1.5m over 20 years (Net Present Value of £843,000), split as follows:
 - Free electricity for properties under 30kw (deemed export) - £873,000
 - Cheaper electricity for properties 30kw and over (governed by Power Purchase Agreements) - £641,000

At the end of the proposed 20 year lease, the ownership of the equipment will transfer to the Council for £1.

4. Risk Management Issues

To be evaluated when preparing the further detailed project development plans. Appropriate construction risk assessments and maintenance arrangements will be required to be undertaken to each property before works are commenced.

5. Physical Assets

The proposed installations would enhance the value of the property but some roofs may require additional strengthening to accommodate the panels. Suitability and selection of properties to benefit from the installations will evaluate this issue.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Chris Moore** **Director of Corporate Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee - not applicable

2. Local Member(s) - not applicable

3. Community / Town Council - not applicable

4. Relevant Partners - Tenants and Governing Bodies to be consulted prior to structural surveys

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - not applicable

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

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

THERE ARE NONE

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Solar PV Programme

Detailed Report for Executive Board

26 July 2016

Background

On 11th May 2015, Executive Board accepted the tender submitted by British Gas and Generation Community Ventures (GCV) for a solar PV community rent-a-roof programme.

GCV is a social enterprise funded by charitable foundations, which has partnered with British Gas Solar and Social Finance to deliver large scale community energy projects for local authorities and housing associations.

Under this proposed programme, solar PV systems were to be installed on the roofs of all suitable properties in the Council's housing stock and non-domestic property portfolio. The programme was initially estimated to have an approximate capacity of 10 MW.

Whilst the programme was fully financed and could be delivered at no cost to the Council, there were options for mutual ownership via a public share offer plus an opportunity for the Council to directly invest. An attraction of this innovative scheme was that some of the income arising from the receipt of Feed In Tariff (FIT) and Export Tariff payments would be made available to establish a community fund.

A new community benefit society named 'Egni Sir Gar Cyfyngedig' was established in August 2015 as the operating vehicle to own and install the systems, and be responsible for maintaining them.

Matters were progressing well until the Government announced a consultation on 27th August 2015 that proposed significant cuts to the FIT rates payable to solar PV installations. The Government proposal was to cut the domestic FIT by some 87% effective from 1st January 2016, with similar cuts also proposed for larger systems up to 5 MW.

Based on the severity of these proposed cuts, coupled to the imminent implementation date, it was agreed at the meeting of County Council on 9th September 2015 to suspend the development of an installation programme for domestic properties and to instead concentrate on maximising the programme for solar PV on the Council's non-domestic property portfolio. Accordingly, applications were submitted to Ofgem to pre-register as many properties as possible in order to secure the current FIT rates, which would be payable for installations completed within the next 12 months (this route was only available to community energy schemes / schools and excluded domestic properties). Unfortunately, the Government, at very short notice, closed this pre-registration route. It is understood that Ofgem received a more than 1,000 pre-registration applications, 95 of these being submitted by Egni Sir Gar Cyfyngedig for various Carmarthenshire County Council properties (mainly schools). Under this scheme, individual installations were

effectively capped at 50 kWp and must be completed before the end of August 2016 to receive the secured FIT rates.

Unfortunately, there are significant constraints on the local grid which require major reinforcement works. Whilst some of this work forms part of WPD's planned work programme over the next few years, the cost of some of the less major reinforcement would be payable by potential developers. In order to ensure the programme is financially viable, only properties where there are no costs for grid reinforcement works are viable. As a consequence, WPD has to-date only given consent for some 30 properties to be connected at the grid with most of these at a reduced capacity compared to that pre-registered with Ofgem. The total potential capacity of the programme is currently some 1.2MW.

In order to make the programme financially viable, it is proposed to require occupiers of properties with 30-50 kWp installations to sign Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) where they pay Egni Sir Cyfyngedig for the generated electricity they consume on-site. Unit costs will track Ofgem's export tariff rate as opposed to the market price – currently 4.85 p/kWh compared to 10.6 p/kWh.

GCV will monitor electricity consumption at all properties with solar PV installations and will provide the necessary data to enable the Council to invoice appropriate properties, on behalf of Egni Sir Gar Cyfyngedig, for payment under their PPA.

We have liaised with all the properties that are pre-registered with Ofgem and where WPD has given consent for grid connection. The occupiers of these properties (including Governing Bodies for the schools) have formally agreed to the installation of solar PV systems and where appropriate to enter into a PPA. In addition, occupiers will be required to sign a lease arrangement – this currently being finalised.

The total project cost of the scheme currently stands at a maximum of £1.5m.

The Council has a permanent board position as the Custodian Trustee and in the County Council meeting on 10th March 2016 Councillor D.M. Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources, was appointed to sit on the Board of Egni Sir Gâr.

Current Position

- Technical Surveys have been completed
- Leases are in the process of being completed
- Installation dates have been scheduled for a number of properties with an overall completion date of August 2016.
- Work is still required to finalise the remainder of the properties on the programme – whilst some are falling-out of the programme, for various reasons, British Gas Solar are actively re-evaluating others in an attempt to include them in the programme where possible.

Next Steps

Although it has been decided that CCC is to invest directly in Egni Sir Gâr, a decision needs to be made whether the investment is going to be made through a share purchase agreement or a loan agreement.

To reduce complexity and cost of instrument setup and operation, and the fact that CCC is the only investor, a share purchase is proposed. A share instrument is simpler to tailor and offers the most flexibility, this is particularly beneficial for setting the annual interest rate and when share capital is repaid over the project lifetime. Appendix A is a summary of the Share Purchase Investment Instrument

Recommendations

- 1) It is recommended that Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) purchases shares in Egni Sir Gâr to the value of the final investment (maximum £1.5m)**

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Appendix A

Egni Sir Gar – Carmarthenshire County Council

Investment instrument	Summary of instrument
Share Purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBS issues 'A' and 'B' shares • 'A' shares for full authorised amount of £100,000 and 'B' share class for balance of total investment, each share class carries equal voting and income rights • Shareholding carries one vote, as a member of the society • Shares entitle holder an interest payment made annually, set at the AGM, proposed by the CBS directors and authorised by the society members • Shareholding offers the most flexible instrument for paying interest as interest rate is set year by year dependant on project performance • Shares can be bought back by the society to repay investment principal; this is flexible though requires society to have sufficient reserves • Shares do not have capital growth; each share entitles holders to an interest (not a dividend) payment, so is paid gross to the council • Share interest is paid before corporation tax so is tax efficient method to extract maximum value from project

Summary:

To reduce complexity and cost of instrument setup and operation, a share purchase is proposed. A share instrument is more simple to tailor and offers the most flexibility, this is particularly beneficial for setting the annual interest rate and when share capital is repaid over the project lifetime.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD DATE: 26TH JULY, 2016

PARC HOWARD MASTERPLAN

Purpose:

1. To consider an updated masterplan for the park.
2. To outline resource requirements, confirming funding arrangements for the new playgrounds
3. To review existing byelaws at the park
4. To identify key actions and decisions required to deliver the masterplan

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

1. To note and comment on the masterplan.
2. To endorse the allocation of £150k from departmental reserves for the installation of two new playgrounds within the park.
3. To review and possibly revoke byelaws associated with the park to align with current and future use.
4. To review parking provision within and around the park, and to explore sensitive commercial development opportunities for the ground floor of the mansion and the rear walled garden area.

REASONS:

1. A previous masterplan for the park was the subject of an unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid some 3 years ago. The revised masterplan seeks to provide a sustainable future for the park consistent with the political aims of the authority.
2. The existing capital programme does not clearly identify any core funding to deliver aspects of the masterplan, and therefore requires use of reserves, a reconfiguration of the capital programme, or external funding to fully realise.
3. Existing byelaws are out-dated and not consistent with the requirements for operating the park effectively.
4. There is potential that the long term investment into the car park could help increase income through commercial activities such as weddings and events in the park.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee consulted **Not at this stage**

Exec Board Decision Required **YES**
Council Decision Required **NO**

Lead member:- Cllr. Emlyn Dole (Leader)

Directorate(s) (Joint report):
Environment Department &
Department for Communities

Name of Head of Service:
Jonathan Fearn

Ian Jones

Report Author:
Ian Jones

Designations:

Head of Property

Head of Leisure

Head of Leisure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH JULY, 2016

PARC HOWARD MASTERPLAN

SUMMARY

1. To consider an updated masterplan for the park

The park is managed by the Environment Department, with the mansion house (Museum) managed by the Leisure Division within Communities.

The masterplan for the site is attached as appendix A.

Whilst elements of the masterplan may be longer term aspirations, possibly delivered through, or in partnership with, the Parc Howard Association (PHA) or the Friends of Park Howard Group, 5 priority areas are identified for immediate progress:

- New play facilities to cater for toddlers, juniors and teenagers within the park – see illustrations in Appendix B
- Car parking provision that would encourage greater use of the facilities and be essential to facilitate sensitive commercial development of the park
- Sensitive commercial use of the ground floor of the mansion house and possibly the walled garden area to the rear
- Re-vamping of the Museum display on the first floor, including a community room, and the realisation of the Heritage 6 project (a collaboration between Archives, Museums and Libraries developing a website to digitise the heritage of Carmarthenshire through a community driven website based on 6 themes: People; Places; Events; Periods; Industry; and Sport)
- Refurbishment of the bandstand

2. To outline resource requirements

- £150k has been identified from departmental reserves for the playground improvements
- Car park improvement costs will need to be confirmed but are anticipated to be in the region of £100k
- After initial capital investment the commercial use of the ground floor of the mansion and the walled garden should bring an income into the park which should help reduce future running costs.
- Re-vamp of Museum offer and delivery of Heritage 6 project, circa £30k
- Repair of Bandstand : Costs to be confirmed, but circa £50k (probably via grant bid or external fundraising in conjunction with PHA)

3. To acknowledge key actions and decisions required to deliver the masterplan

- The playgrounds are being designed, procured and installed through the Property Division, with the aim of installing for late Summer usage
- Review of existing byelaws to be facilitated by the Legal team with input from the Property Division
- The Property Division will take forward the car parking options review via planning and highways. The parking options paper developed as part of previous HLF bid to be referenced
- The opportunity for sensitive commercial development of ground floor of the mansion and rear garden, to be progressed via a marketing exercise which will ensure the best terms are secured and that interest is consistent with the authority's aims for the park.
- Re-vamp of Museum and delivery of Heritage 6 project to be undertaken and delivered by Leisure Division
- Repair of Bandstand: Property Division to lead on planning discussions refurbishment costings and liaison with the PHA and community grants team.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO – Appendices attached

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

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

Finance

Revenue funding is in place for the management of the Museum (Leisure) and the wider park (Property), however, the aim is to try and operate the park and Museum at zero cost to the authority. To do this, commercial income is needed to sustain the park into the future.

Funding for the playground (£150k) has been identified from departmental reserves.

New Capital funding sources would have to be secured or the current Capital Programme reconfigured to deliver the wider aspirations outlined in the masterplan, and in particular the creation of better parking facilities (circa. £100k); the re-vamping of the Museum (circa. £30k); and the refurbishment of the bandstand (circa. £50k). It is anticipated that the costs associated with converting the ground floor of the Mansion for commercial uses would be covered by the lessee.

Note that all costs apart from the play areas are currently estimated figures and the costs will need to be reviewed by the Environment Department once specifications have been confirmed.

Physical Assets

The park had previously been considered for asset transfer, however, no expressions of interest had been received and, at Executive Board on 20th June 2016, the facility was removed from the list of parks and playgrounds to be considered for asset transfer.

Assurances have been given to the community that the park will remain in public ownership, and agreement in principle from user groups including the Friends of Park Howard and Park Howard Association has been secured for the sensitive commercialisation of the park.

Other than replacement of the existing play equipment, the other improvements proposed would require detailed design and planning permissions.

Legal

Byelaws exist from 1912 for the park and would need to be reviewed and possibly revoked in order to deliver aspirations contained within the masterplan. There is merit in revisiting these byelaws to ensure consistency with current operating procedures as well.

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. Scrutiny Committee

N/A at this point.

2. Local Member(s)

Cllrs B Thomas and J Williams have agreed with the plans in principle, but would like further consultation. They have also posed questions around the following issues :

- Health & Safety concerns with playground plans, notably, use of rocks and sand
- Tender process and planning requirements
- Ongoing site supervision, and safety
- Insurance cover and certification
- Parking
- Opportunities for grant aid funding

3. Community / Town Council

Llanelli Town Council has attended the user forum meetings, chaired by the Leader of the Authority, and is in agreement with the masterplan.

4. Relevant Partners

The Friends of Park Howard, Park Howard Association and Llanelli Community Heritage have attended the user forum meetings chaired by the Leader of the Authority and are in agreement with the masterplan.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

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

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
HLF bid		Leisure Division
1912 Park Howard Byelaws		Legal Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

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PARC HOWARD - Concept Plan



Improve links and signage to the National Cycle Network



Create woodland adventure and learning area

Relocate multi use games court



Restore the formal paths and create a wildflower meadow and study area

Implement management programme to remove/treat invasive species

Create woodland school and study area



Create woodland habitat trail

Reintroduce putting green

Replace and install new bird, bat and bug boxes

Upgrade existing park furniture to include seating, recycling bins, dog fouling bins, cycle racks and bollards.



Install new boundary fence

Relocate and upgrade tennis courts

Activities and events promoting health and well-being, community engagement, arts and craft, horticulture and education



Create a fitness trail and outdoor gym

New shrub and tree planting

Renovate existing paths

Improve drainage to the playing field

Provide safe bike storage

Create picnic area

Explore opportunities for creating a coach drop-off bay along Felinfoel Road

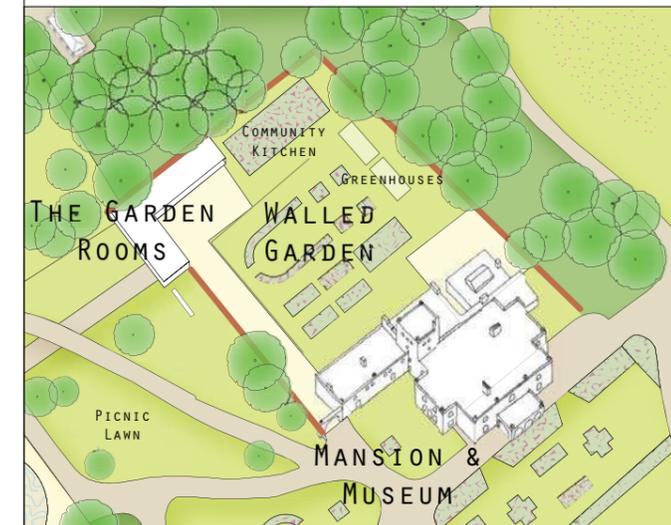
Illuminate key routes through the park

Implement an external CCTV system

Introduce new signage and interpretation including park maps, finger posts, way markers for heritage trails, interpretation boards, tagging of trees and shrubs, community notice boards

The area around the mansion building could be enhanced to provide a wider range of facilities such as:

- Community Walled Garden**
 The formal garden to the rear of the mansion could be restored and run by volunteers and horticultural trainees as a community kitchen and training garden. It could include areas for growing plants and vegetables and storing equipment, tools and materials.
- New Community Building**
 The remnants of the existing stable block structure could be reused to provide a new facility which could house a café, new toilet facilities, soft play area and new training and education centre. This building could be run by the community and be linked with Coleg Sir Gâr. The facilities could open out onto the formal play area and onto the walled garden, with an outdoor seating terrace and shelter.
- Mansion Building**
 The Museum and Art Gallery could be improved under a separate grant scheme. The interior of the building could be redecorated and upgraded to create a more exciting visitor attraction, with more interactive exhibits, display cases, boards and improved lighting. External building improvements could be made to the roof, portico and lantern. Opportunities could be explored to make the ground floor space in the mansion building more flexible. This could allow space to be used for social enterprise and to be hired for managed events such as meetings, weddings, community events, tea dances etc. The former cafe area and store rooms could be refurbished to create flexible studio space for pottery, photography, painting etc.



Relocate the car park to the west of park. Improve access and pedestrian links towards the main facilities

Repair and rebuild stone wall



Upgrade children's play area providing more facilities for children of all ages and abilities
Introduce a 'Splash Pad' to replace the paddling pool

Renovate the Bandstand and create an amphitheatre

Restore the Rose and Memorial Garden

Enhance the formal gardens, reintroduce sun dial and fountain

Introduce disabled parking bay

Refurbish and upgrade the duck pond area and landscape

Restore gates, gate piers and railings

Create a sensory garden

Renovate and extend bowls pavilion



Improve links and signage to the National Cycle Network



Create woodland adventure and learning area

Relocate multi use games court



Restore the formal paths and create a wildflower meadow and study area



PARC HOWARD - Concept Plan

Implement management programme to remove/treat invasive species

Create woodland school and study area



Create woodland habitat trail

Reintroduce putting green

Replace and install new bird, bat and bug boxes

Upgrade existing park furniture to include seating, recycling bins, dog fouling bins, cycle racks and bollards.



Activities and events promoting health and well-being, community engagement, arts and craft, horticulture and education



Create a fitness trail and outdoor gym

New shrub and tree planting

Renovate existing paths

Improve drainage to the playing field

Provide safe bike storage

Create picnic area

Explore opportunities for creating a coach drop-off bay along Felinfoel Road

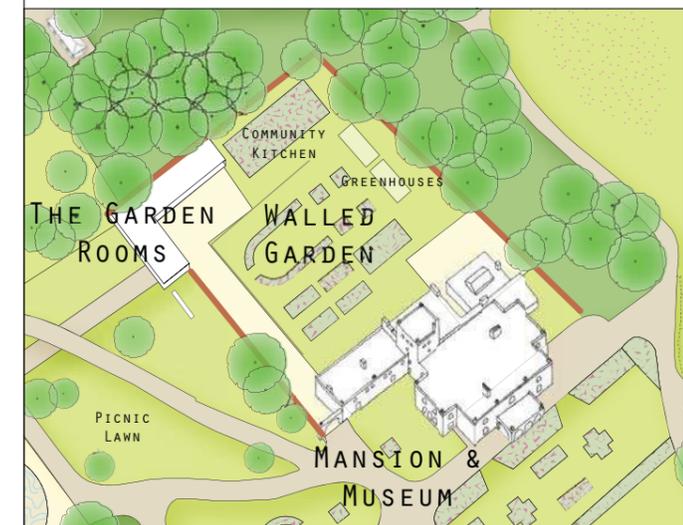
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 The formal garden to the rear of the mansion could be restored and run by volunteers and horticultural trainees as a community kitchen and training garden. It could include areas for growing plants and vegetables and storing equipment, tools and materials.
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 The remnants of the existing stable block structure could be reused to provide a new facility which could house a café, new toilet facilities, soft play area and new training and education centre. This building could be run by the community and be linked with Coleg Sir Gâr. The facilities could open out onto the formal play area and onto the walled garden, with an outdoor seating terrace and shelter.
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 The Museum and Art Gallery could be improved under a separate grant scheme. The interior of the building could be redecorated and upgraded to create a more exciting visitor attraction, with more interactive exhibits, display cases, boards and improved lighting. External building improvements could be made to the roof, portico and lantern. Opportunities could be explored to make the ground floor space in the mansion building more flexible. This could allow space to be used for social enterprise and to be hired for managed events such as meetings, weddings, community events, tea dances etc. The former cafe area and store rooms could be refurbished to create flexible studio space for pottery, photography, painting etc.



Repair and rebuild stone wall

Resurface tennis courts



Upgrade children's play area providing more facilities for children of all ages and abilities

Introduce a 'Splash Pad' to replace the paddling pool

Renovate the Bandstand and create an amphitheatre

Restore the Rose and Memorial Garden

Enhance the formal gardens, reintroduce sun dial and fountain

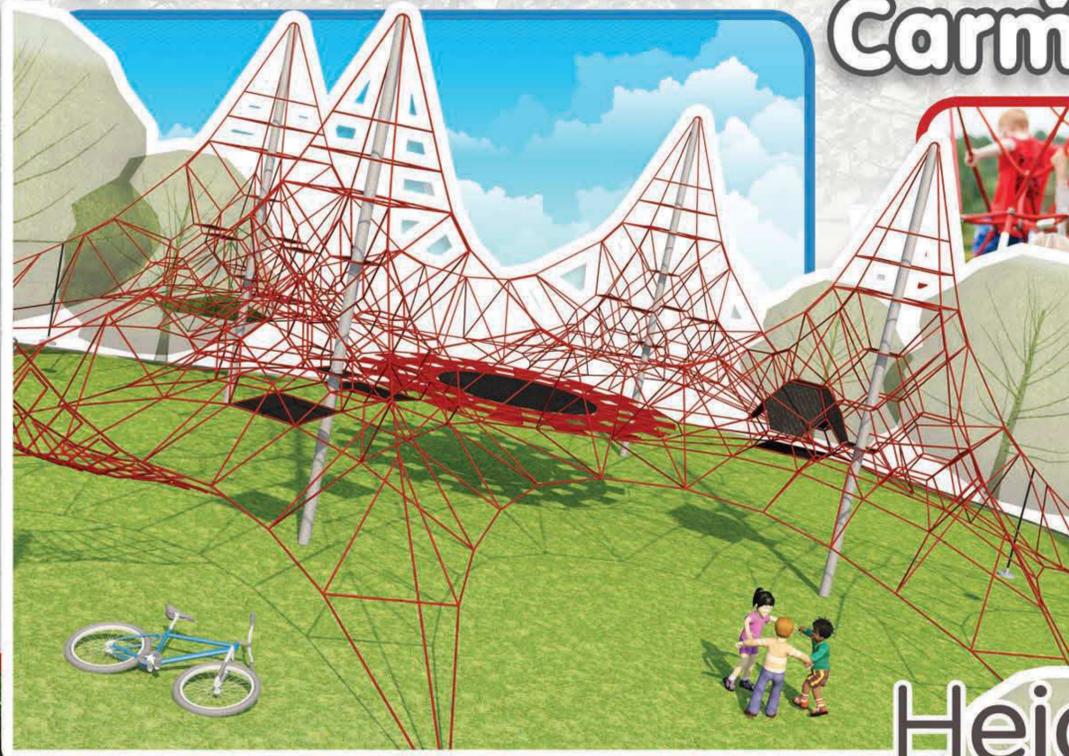
Create a sensory garden

Refurbish and upgrade the duck pond area and landscape

Restore gates, gate piers and railings



Park Howard Play Area Carmarthenshire C.C



Height

Imagination
Role Play
Climbing

Rubber
Membranes
Look-Out
Central
Capsule
Layered
Play



Challenge
Metal Slide
Durability

Trampoline
Centre
Agility

Waggle Bridge &
Slide Connection

4x Mast Spacenet
with Extensions
-COR10420

Focal Point
Rope Colour Options

2



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Park Howard Play Area - 2 Carmarthenshire C.C

(R)



1 The Wizard's Double Tower Fortress

4 Forest Shop

5 The Spider's Cottage

11 Crawling Pyramid

3 Sand Digger

6 Bee Springer

9 Ant Springer

10 Wizard's Hideaway

8 Forest Lake Boat

2 Mound & Tunnel

13 2x Stepping Blocks & Rope

7 Wobble Bridge

12 Embankment Slide



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EXECUTIVE BOARD DATE: 26TH JULY, 2016

PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK MASTERPLAN

Purpose:

1. To consider a draft masterplan for the park
2. To outline initial resource requirements (note all figures shown are subject to detailed costing)
3. To identify key actions and decisions required to deliver the masterplan and to progress with three priority projects

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

1. To note and comment on the masterplan
2. To consider the resourcing implications for the following developments;
 - Re-configured park entrance, including signage and barrier system (A): C £75k
 - Shower & toilet block(s) for caravan and camping site (F) : C £200k
 - Visitor hub and café (E): C £600k
3. To recognise the need for cross departmental input in order to realise the vision for the park.
4. To seek advice as to the best way to secure innovative design that is sympathetic to the park and cost effective for the delivery of the project – e.g. design and build.

REASONS:

1. Previous capital bids for infrastructure developments in the park have not been fully supported due to a number of other leisure and cultural schemes taking priority at the time i.e. Y Ffwrnes; Re-furbishment of Carmarthen Leisure Centre; and more recently Carmarthenshire Archives; and the proposed new Llanelli Leisure Centre. The attached draft masterplan outlines a sustainable future for the park consistent with the political aims of the authority, whilst raising the quality and perception of the park in line with its status as one of the most important visitor attractions for the County.
2. The existing capital programme identifies £250k in 2016/17, however, additional capital would be required to deliver the wider masterplan.
3. The park is managed by Leisure within the Communities Department, however, the division will be reliant on the Environment Department in particular to help design, cost and deliver some of the aspirations within the masterplan. There is potential for design and build options to be considered to facilitate quick delivery and cost-effective design opportunities.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted: Not at this stage

Council Decision Required

NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure Portfolio Holder)

Directorate:

Department for Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

Report Author:

Ian Jones

Designations:

Head of Leisure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
26TH JULY, 2016

SUBJECT:
PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK MASTERPLAN

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

1. To consider an updated masterplan for the park

The draft masterplan for the site is attached as Appendix A.

This is a first draft of an internal masterplan aimed at prompting further discussion, whilst giving an indication of how zones within the park can be developed e.g. Beach sports zone; F&B; Activity zone; Events zone; Caravan and camping zone etc. Much more detailed work will be required on the masterplan with input from planning and design. The masterplan will also need to fit into the wider regeneration masterplan for Pembrey peninsula and the Llanelli Coastal belt.

3 priority areas are identified for immediate progress:

- Improvements to the site entrance and park signage (A)
- New shower and toilet block(s) for the caravan and camping site (F)
- Visitor hub and café for the park (E)

The following areas will also be developed in terms of further design and costing

- It is anticipated that the restaurant building (D) - a large and structurally sound building - can be clad and re-furnished to incorporate some much needed indoor activities for the park e.g. soft play, indoor climbing; table top games; action walls; small arcade
- Creation of a new Beach sports zone near to the beach front kiosk and incorporating a new themed play facility, and a beach volleyball / soccer area

2. To outline resource requirements

It is very difficult to estimate the costs at present without any site investigation works or detailed specifications. Some of the aspirations outlined in the masterplan can be delivered as later phases through private sector investment or internal invest to save bids. New facilities within the park need to be sensitively designed with a consistent branding. One option would be to progress via design and build with fixed budgets for each development. Possible costs could be within the following parameters:

- Entrance (A): circa. £75k
- Shower & toilet Block (F): circa. £200k
- Visitor hub and café (E): circa. £600k
- Indoor Activity centre (D): circa. £450k
- New Beach sports Zone: circa. £250k

£250k is already identified in the 2016/17 capital programme for PCP, however, a proportion of this is already earmarked for works to the Ski Centre café (circa £30k), whilst £50k has already been spent on the replacement of play equipment in the junior play area. Further investment is planned at the Ski and Activity Centre, creating new adventurous activities such as a climbing wall, adventure play area, zip wire etc.

3. To acknowledge key actions and decisions required to deliver the masterplan

All of the above will require extensive design and planning input. Ideally, the priority developments would be in place for the 2017 Spring / Summer season, however, this is challenging. The use of framework partners or external development partners would greatly assist in terms of progressing these elements quickly.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO – Appendix A attached.

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Ian Jones

Head of Leisure

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

Finance

Revenue funding is in place for the management of the park, however, the aim is to try and operate the park at zero cost to the authority. To do this, commercial income is needed to sustain the park into the future.

£250k of capital is identified in the 2016/17 capital programme for PCP, however, additional funding is currently not identified.

Whilst all figures included within this report are broad estimates and subject to detailed costing and confirmation by the Environment department, the potential costs are currently estimated to be in the region of £1.575m, broken down as follows :

- Entrance (A): circa. £75k
- Shower & toilet Block (F): circa. £200k
- Visitor hub and café (E): circa. £600k
- Indoor Activity centre (D): circa. £450k
- New Beach sports Zone: circa. £250k

With £80k of the current funding for PCP already committed, the potential funding shortfall would be in the region of £1.4m.

To enable the ambitions of this draft Masterplan to progress the current Capital Programme would need to be re-prioritised or additional/new funding sources identified.

Figures are very much indicative at present

Physical Assets

The park is a sensitive area for development and care is needed in balancing the ethos of the park with sensitive commercialisation. NRW will be key consultees in terms of conservation and the role of the adjacent Pembrey Forest.

The costs quoted in the report will need to be fully reviewed following receipt of a detailed brief from the Leisure Division. Feasibility and design options will then inform more detailed costings

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. Scrutiny Committee

N/A at this stage

2. Local Member(s)

Councillor S. Matthews has been consulted with no comments received to date. Cllr H Shepardson is supportive of the plans (the indoor wet-weather provision in particular) and the need for some sensitive commercial investment, and feels that local residents would support the plans but on condition that the park lands are held within County Council ownership.

3. Community / Town Council

The Community Council will be consulted if the EB agrees to the first draft of the masterplan.

4. Relevant Partners

A park user forum exists and would be used to consult on future plans if the masterplan is to be taken forward.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

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

THERE ARE NONE.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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Pembrey Country Park Site Masterplan (Draft)



Conservation classroom



New Park Entrance



Improved access & signage



Outdoor education



Indoor activity centre



New visitor hub



Outdoor events arena



Ski & adventure activities



New shower & toilet block



Wedding / Corporate events / Glamping area



Beach kiosk refurb - Themed play zone



NEW beach sports zone

1 Slope, Ski Shop, Toboggan Ride, Cycle Hire & Cafe
01554 834443

2 BBQ Area

3 Pitch N Putt 01554 742424

4 Crazy Golf

5 Visitor Centre & Camping
Booking Office 01554 742424

6 Food

7 Play Area

8 Miniature Railway
(Call for operating times)

9 Conservation Area

10 Equestrian Centre
0783 7902726 or 01554 835191
(pre-booked organised groups only).

11 Family Caravan & Camping

12 Caravan Club Site
01554 834369

Dog Waste Bins



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EXECUTIVE BOARD

26TH JULY, 2016

SUBJECT:

JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND OTHER INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

- That the Authority will not be responding to or taking any formal action with regards to requests on private properties regarding Japanese Knotweed and other invasive non-native plants.
- The Authority will sign-post customers to the guidance available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Website with regards to how to remove and safely dispose of such plants.
- The Authority will continue to implement its programme of control of invasive non – native plants on its property.
- That the Authority makes representations to the WLGA regarding the need for additional funding for Local Authorities to control invasive plants.

REASONS:

- The presence of Japanese Knotweed and invasive non-native plants is not considered to be a public health issue.
- There have been no additional resources accompanying the associated legislation (The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014). In the event that the section is required to taking formal action with the current capacity, consideration will have to be taken of relinquishing other statutory functions currently being carried out which will have public health implications.
- The Home Office Guidance suggests that Community Protection Notices can be used: there is no legal requirement for their use.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NO

Exec Board Decision Required	YES – 26 th July, 2016
Council Decision Required	NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. J. Jones (Environment & Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Robin Staines Report Author: Sue Watts	Designations: Head of Housing, Public Protection and Provider Services Environmental Health and Licensing Manager	Tel Nos. E Mail Addresses: 01267 228960 RStaines@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 228929 sewatts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DATE: 26TH JULY, 2016

JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND OTHER INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Background

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 introduces major changes to the powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour problems. It was introduced by Government with no additional resources for implementation.

The powers of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 include 'Community Protection Notices', which can be issued by Councils, the Police & designated social landlords where behaviour has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the locality and is persistent and unreasonable. Such notices can require a person to stop the offending behaviour, or take positive action to avoid further anti-social behaviour.

The Police and Crime Commissioner realigned the arrangements of the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) function by withdrawing funding from each of the Councils in Dyfed Powys (who were providing specific ASB Officers) and consolidated this role in Gwalia in 2015. The role of the officers in Gwalia is to support other agencies in supporting Anti Social Behaviour Area Problem Solving Group meetings and victim support; they have no enforcement role as previous arrangements.

In light of the fact that Gwalia have no enforcement role, any enforcement falls on either the Council or the Police Authority.

Having regards to invasive non-native plants (including Japanese knotweed), guidance issued by the Home Office suggests that this power (service of Community Protection Notices) may be used to require landowners to take steps to control such plants on their land. In light of the fact that this is guidance, there is no legal obligation on agencies to implement and thereby carry out enforcement.

Considerations

There are practical difficulties in using this power:-

- (a) There are few means available to landowners to physically tackle Japanese knotweed, and these are of limited effect. It is quite possible that the requirements specified in a notice may not actually work.
- (b) The available methods are also expensive, which would provide recipients of a notice with a valid ground of appeal.
- (c) If a complaint is received that knotweed has spread from another property onto the complainants land, notices would have to be served on both landowners.

- (d) The above factors would result in the investigation and enforcement to remediate to be very time consuming and therefore very resource intensive on the officers of the section.
- (e) The Police Authority will only take action where such plants have been illegally moved.
- (f) The Authority has literature regarding invasive non- native plants on the website with signposting/links to additional information regarding control methods.
- (g) The Authority has a programme in place to control any invasive non – native plants on Council land.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Robin Staines

Head of Housing, Public Protection and Provider Services

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 introduces major changes to the powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour problems. Guidance issued by the Home Office suggests that this power (service of Community Protection Notices) may be used to require landowners to take steps to control such plants on their land. It is not a requirement to enforce.

2. Legal

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 introduces major changes to the powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour problems. Guidance issued by the Home Office suggests that this power (service of Community Protection Notices) may be used to require landowners to take steps to control such plants on their land. It is not a requirement to enforce.

Legal advice has highlighted that there are difficulties in enforcing this legislation in this particular case (as highlighted in the executive summary)

3. Finance

Additional resources would be required to implement the legislation and enforce as necessary. Additionally, should any notices be successfully appealed, there is a likelihood that the Authority may be eligible for costs.

4. Risk Management Issues

Legal advice has highlighted that there are difficulties in enforcing this legislation in this particular case including;

- There are few means available to landowners to physically tackle Japanese knotweed, and these are of limited effect. It is quite possible that the requirements specified in a notice may not actually work.
- The available methods are also expensive, which would provide recipients of a notice with a valid ground of appeal.

5. Staffing Implications

Additional resources would be required to implement the legislation and enforce as necessary.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Robin Staines Head of Housing, Public Protection & Provider Services

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

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

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

EXECUTIVE BOARD 26th JULY 2016

Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To consider the representations received, and the officer recommendations in respect of the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance as part of their preparation and Adoption.
- To proceed to formally adopt as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan - with the amendments proposed in the attached report.
- Provide officers with delegated authority to amend any typographical or grammatical errors.

Reasons:

- To reflect the requirements and commitments set out within the Adopted Local Development Plan.
- To support implementation of, and provide guidance and elaborate on the policies and provisions of the Adopted Local Development Plan.
- To ensure compliance with the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted: N/A

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. M Stephens

<p>Directorate: Environment</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch</p> <p>Report Author: Ian Llewelyn</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Planning</p> <p>Forward Planning Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 228918 lquelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 228816 IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
26th JULY 2016

Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance
Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

1.1 This Report follows the authorisation by County Council on the 11 November 2015 to publish five draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (listed within this report) for formal public consultation which took place between 24th February and 8th April 2016. The draft SPG have been prepared to support and elaborate on the policies and provisions of the Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). Their progression toward adoption seeks to reflect the commitments in relation to the preparation of SPG set out within the LDP, including Appendix 3.

In total some 59 representations were received to the Draft SPG from a range of organisations, interested parties and members of the public - details of which are set out in **Appendix 1**.

1.2 It should be noted that it is not the purpose of the SPG to devolve policy matters from the LDP or from national policy.

2. Background

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

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

2.3 Whilst not exhaustive, Appendix 3 of the LDP provides a clear statement on SPG preparation whilst recognising the need to review their preparation given the potentially changing requirements emerging from the implementation of the LDP.

3. Draft SPG

3.1 The following Draft SPG were published for public consultation and are the subject of this report:

- Placemaking and Design;
- Archaeology and Development;
- Leisure & Open Space Requirements for New Developments;
- Natural Environment and Biodiversity; and,
- Rural Development.

3.2 Copies of the Draft SPG are available to view through the following link:

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/supplementary-planning-guidance/#.V06h-JwrKUK>

4. Responses Received

4.1 The appended report sets out the representations submitted during the formal consultation along with the Officer recommendation, and where applicable, recommended changes to the SPG. In total some 59 representations were received to the Draft SPG from a range of organisations, interested parties and members of the public. In this regard the respective SPG drew the following number of representations:

- Placemaking and Design - 17
- Archaeology and Development - 13
- Leisure & Open Space Requirements for New Developments - 11
- Natural Environment and Biodiversity - 6
- Rural Development - 12

4.2 Appendix 2 also considers and recommends further non substantive amendments where they are required to address matters of accuracy and implementation, and where they offer clarity and enhance their meaning and understanding.

5 Adoption

5.1 It should be noted that the content of the draft SPG incorporating the proposed changes contained in this report will be adopted following resolution at the meeting of full Council. Copies of the final adopted SPG incorporating the agreed amendments will be prepared in the weeks following adoption, and will along with a statement of consultation be published accordingly.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **Llinos Quelch** Head of Planning

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Draft SPG is an elaboration on the policies and provisions of the Local Development Plan featured in the **Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire 2012-17**. They, as part of the LDP, are key factors in the delivery of the outcomes, particularly **Supporting Opportunities for the Building of Economically Viable and Sustainable Communities**. Through land use planning policies, the LDP seeks to promote the principles of sustainability and sustainable development by facilitating the creation of communities and local economies which are more sustainable providing access to local services and facilities and reducing the need to travel.

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

2. Legal

The Local Authority currently secures planning contributions as governed by Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The SPG document sets out the framework for how contributions will be assessed and collected.

3. Finance

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

Established provisions are in place in relation to the gathering and apportionment of financial contributions from developer contributions. The revisions to guidance in relation to developer contributions set out within these SPG ensure that where planning obligations are sought that they remain appropriate in light of regulatory changes.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Llinos Quelch Head of Planning

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A

2. Local Member(s) – Members have been consulted as part of the SPG’s preparatory process.

3. Community / Town Council – Community and Town Councils represent a statutory consultee within the LDP process and have been consulted as part of the SPG’s preparatory process.

4. Relevant Partners – Statutory consultees, the public, interested parties and key agencies and bodies have been consulted as appropriate, with identified partners including Dyfed Archaeological Trust also contributing to the preparation of specific draft SPG.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Contributions have been sought from relevant internal consultees to ensure the draft SPG reflect the specialist and detailed nature of their subject matter.

**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
Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan	http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/local-development-plan/
Adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance	http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/supplementary-planning-guidance/
Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance	http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/supplementary-planning-guidance/#.V06h-JwrKUk

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Archaeology and Development

Reference No. SP0066

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

General Comments

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

The Development Management department of DAT has to be clearly differentiated from the commercial side. DAT DM is cited in paragraph 4.5 but an explanation would help clarify our position.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0067

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

General

References to DAT in the following paragraphs should be changed to DAT DM - paras. 4.13 (DAT HM), 4.18, 4.23, 4.27, 4.28, 4.32, 4.33, 5.6, 5.15, 5.18, 5.19, A1.2, A1.4 (DM not HM), A1.9 (2nd reference), A1.12, A1.21 and A1.22. Include an explanation that further info can be sought from DAT Heritage Management (DAT HM) in para.4.10 and add HM to DAT in para. 4.12.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0068

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

General Comments

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

Para's 5.4, A1.1 and A2.21

The SPG should be amended to rectify those instances where reference to the Chartered element of IfA has been omitted.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0069

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

General Comments

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

Para 5.7

In the paragraph on Human Remains (5.7) Annexe S3 of English Heritage's Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England: 2005 needs to be changed to Clfa papers Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains (McKinley & Roberts 1993) and Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (Brickley & McKinley 2004).

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0070

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

General Comments

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

I note that the SPG uses a graphic of Pentre Ifan throughout – obviously an iconic Pembrokeshire monument – a Carmarthenshire example might be more appropriate, Carreg Cennen possibly?

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

An appropriate alternative will be considered.

Reference No. SP0071

Respondent No. 0230

Mr Mike Ings

General Comments

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Summary of Response:

Typographical error missing 'of' before 'Western Roman'.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0072

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

General

The SPG also covers Gardens & Designed Landscapes, including Registered Parks & Gardens and Registered Historic Landscapes. This is not obvious from the title, therefore would respectfully recommend a re-title of the document.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

An appropriate amendment out the title will be considered.

Reference No. SP0073

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

The Historic Environment Bill which was given Royal Assent 21 March 2016, circulars, PPW & guidance will have to be updated, which will affect this SPG.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG will be amended to reflect the existence of the Historic Environment Act. Future iterations of the SPG will be required to take account of changes in emanating from the act.

Reference No. SP0074**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 2.1.

The Tywi Valley is included in the national Register of landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest (there is only 1 Register). The SPG should refer to the fact that there are a number of landscapes on the Register within Carmarthenshire, including the Tywi Valley.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as appropriate.

Reference No. SP0075**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

The paragraph should be amended to consider the Historic Environment Bill changes.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as appropriate to reflect the provisions of the act.

Reference No. SP0076**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**Should refer to the Revised (2nd) Edition of the Guide to Good Practice and to ASIDOHLZ.**Response:**

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0108**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 5.12.

The Tywi Valley, Taf & Tywi Estuary. Preseli, Dolaucothi & Black Mountain & Mynydd Myddfai are Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest, included in Part 2.1 of the Register. Drefach & Felindre and the Lower Teifi Valley are Landscapes of Special Historic Interest, included in Part 2.2 of the Register.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as appropriate.

Reference No. SP0109**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 5.14 & 5.15

Should refer to the Revised (2nd) Edition of the Guide to Good Practice and to ASIDOHLZ.**Response:**

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Leisure & Open Space

Reference No. SP0077**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Refer to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and its set of principles.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended to appropriately reflect the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.

Reference No. SP0078**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 2.2.9.

The respondent supports the context and proposals within this draft SPG. An important element is the integrating and merging of open spaces into ecological corridors allowing greater levels of connectivity for both humans and animals.

Response:

Support welcomed.

Recommendation:

Reference No. SP0079**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 2.2.11.

Have standards for natural greenspace and woodland (e.g. as adopted by Natural England & Woodland Trust) been included?

Response:

Noted. The LDP policy framework is based upon the Carmarthenshire Standard – see paragraphs 2.2.4 and 2.2.11 of the SPG.

Recommendation:
No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0080

Respondent No. 3227
Mr Morten Hanasand

General Comments

Summary of Response:

The respondent seeks the inclusion of a technical bicycle skills park. The respondent states their involvement in mountain biking as an enthusiast, but also advocates it as an asset for the local community. Mountain biking offers a fantastic opportunity to enjoy nature, improve fitness as well as providing a challenge to bike handling skills and excitement. Trail centres like Brechfa offer progression from beginner to expert in the form of green family trails through blue, red all the way to black expert trails. Some barriers to making use of this progression exist however. Having the time and facilities to get your mountain bike out to places like Brechfa is one. As a minimum, a vehicle, method of transporting the bike and the spare time to do this preparation as well as then enjoying the trip when one arrives is necessary. Going on a longer excursion like this into the trails is intensely rewarding, but has quite high requirements from the level of equipment, preparation and personal motivation. "Pump tracks" and bike skills parks, provide a bridge and initial introduction to mountain bike skills and an extremely accelerated skills curve. They can be placed close to population centres as they require less space, meaning they are within reach by using the bicycle itself as the means of transportation to get it to it. They also place lower demands on the initial investment in the bicycle and can be enjoyed on a fairly basic BMX bike or even a toddler's balance bike, all the way to an advanced full suspension mountain bike. The mountain bike community has a track record of providing an inclusive community which welcomes and encourages beginners and skills progression as well as providing challenge for every age group from toddlers to adventurous pensioners. I believe Carmarthen and the surrounding area has an opportunity to emulate the success of places like Boulder, Colorado in becoming an international hub of mountain bike professionals and organisations. I believe in large part their success can be attributed to local government's willingness to support bold initiatives like the Valmont Bike Park. Not only are they an excellent source of health, fitness and social interaction in the community, but they provide the breeding ground for tomorrow's mountain bike coaches, tourism providers, technical professionals, sports personalities, retail providers and even manufacturers like Howies. Wales has a track record of providing some of the best mountain biking trails in the world completely out of proportion to its area and population size. It can also boast of being the home to a large proportion of world champions in the various branches of the sport, examples being Gee Atherton, Manon Carpenter and the most successful mountain bike sports person in history, Rachel Atherton, as well as many others. To build on this success, to support up and coming ambassadors of the sport, and to provide the expertise of a growing and large industry, Carmarthenshire has an opportunity to become not just a road track cycling mecca, but building on excellent riding available at Brechfa, Cwm Rhaeadr and other venues. Carmarthenshire is already known for providing hidden gems of riding, guiding and training services and mountain bike holidays from the likes of Mudtrek, West Wales Trails and many other providers. Far from being competitors to these existing venues, a skills park would provide a feeding ground for these services as mountain bikers are notorious for seeking out new challenges and exploring. It is my opinion and wish that there should eventually be at least one pump track facility at every major population centre in the county and at least one definitive and comprehensive skills park as a focus for the county's mountain bike community. I think the county council could benefit from leveraging the opportunity that mountain biking as an activity for the population and the tourism it brings by even creating a full time position for facilitating it's growth and managing it within the county. The benefits that working towards in time bringing major event along the lines of "Crankworx" to the area cannot be overstated. The town of Rotorua in New Zealand, which now plays host to one round a year of Crankworx, has had so much growth from mountain biking that it now represents a third of local economy. With forward thinking leadership from local government I think Carmarthenshire can create a similar success story.

Response:

Noted. The merits of leisure related proposals (such as a technical bicycle skills park) are considered on their merits in accordance with the Plan's policy framework.

Recommendation:
No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0081

Respondent No. 3228
Ms Caryl Alban
CCC

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Add in reference to "play opportunities" add the end sentence reading – "Open spaces can also provide arenas for social interaction and community activities".

Response:
Agreed.

Recommendation:

Add the wording “play opportunities” at the end of this sentence.

Reference No. SP0082**Respondent No. 3228**

Ms Caryl Alban

CCC

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Insert this text into the SPG – “Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) measure sets out the Statutory Duty on Local Authorities across Wales as regards to Play Opportunities. Matter C of the Statutory Duty states that the Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces are accessible and are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other playable areas or places where they go”.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

Add a new sub heading after Paragraph 2.19 to read: “Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure” followed by a new paragraph (2.1.10) to read as follows: “The above sets out the Statutory Duty on Local Authorities across Wales as regards to Play Opportunities. Matter C of the Statutory Duty states that the Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces are accessible and are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other playable areas or places where they go.”

Reference No. SP0083**Respondent No. 3228**

Ms Caryl Alban

CCC

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment

Replace the current paragraph wording with - “As a result of the Statutory Duty placed on Local Authorities as regards to Play Opportunities Carmarthenshire County Council is required to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities, as well as publish up to date information regarding these play opportunities. Matter C of the Statutory Guidance focuses on assessing the space available for children to play within the community, this matter focuses on open spaces and outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces. Section 3 of this SPG reviews matters in relation to informal children’s play space.”

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

Replace Para 2.2.14 with the wording “As a result of the Statutory Duty placed on Local Authorities as regards to Play Opportunities Carmarthenshire County Council is required to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities, as well as publish up to date information regarding these play opportunities. Matter C of the Statutory Guidance focuses on assessing the space available for children to play within the community, this matter focuses on open spaces and outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces. Section 3 of this SPG reviews matters in relation to informal children’s play space.”

Reference No. SP0084**Respondent No. 3228**

Ms Caryl Alban

CCC

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para 3.4.1

Re word the sentence – “The provision..... traffic has priority” - with the wording “Designated play spaces should provide attractive and challenging opportunities, particularly if children cannot play outside their homes due to barriers such as road traffic.”

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

Replace this sentence with the wording: “Designated play spaces should provide attractive and challenging opportunities, particularly if children cannot play outside their homes due to barriers such as road traffic.”

Reference No. SP0085

Respondent No. 3228
Ms Caryl Alban
CCC

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Re word the sentence – “The Council..... opportunities for children” – with “The Local Authority fully supports the Statutory Duty placed on them regarding Play Sufficiency and Wales – A Play Friendly County provides statutory guidance on how Local Authorities should assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children”.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

Replace this sentence with “The Local Authority fully supports the Statutory Duty placed on them regarding Play Sufficiency and Wales – A Play Friendly County provides statutory guidance on how Local Authorities should assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children”.

Reference No. SP0086

Respondent No. 3228
Ms Caryl Alban
CCC

General Comments

Summary of Response:

What is ‘passive supervision’?

Response:

Noted. It refers to active surveillance within the context of good design principles.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0087

Respondent No. 3228
Ms Caryl Alban
CCC

General Comments

Summary of Response:

4.2.3

Do we need to mention in more detail the importance of consultation? Matter H: Community Engagement of Play Sufficiency Assessment – “For play opportunities and community developments to meet the requirements of children it is essential that they are consulted with on what they want from play and recreational activities. The Local Authority should use participation and consultation methods that comply with the Welsh Government’s Children and Young People’s Participation Standards.”

Response:

Noted. It is considered that the procedural consultation undertaken as part of the planning application determination process is sufficiently robust.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

Reference No. SP0088

Respondent No. 0006
Mr David Watkins
Natural Resources Wales

General Comments

Summary of Response:

General comment

There is no pagination in this SPG.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

Amend the SPG as appropriate.

Reference No. SP0089**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Planning Policy Context - 3.1.

Should be Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 8, January 2016.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The SPG will be amended to reflect the publication of the revised PPW.

Reference No. SP0090**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Section 4 - Designated Sites and Habitats

In respect of SSSIs - they advise that the SPG is clear that where developments may affect a SSSI, full details of the likely impacts should be submitted with the planning application, together with relevant survey information and details of any mitigation measures that will be put in place as part of the development. It is only with this comprehensive information that the LPA will be able to fully consider the potential impact of proposals on SSSIs in accordance with their legislative duties in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Response:

Noted

Recommendation:**Reference No. SP0091****Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para 5.3

Advocates that applicants liaise with the Local Authority ecologist to determine the ecological survey requirements for a planning application, and that as indicated by paragraphs 7.3-7.8, planning applications are submitted with all the relevant ecological survey information, along with a comprehensive impact assessment and details of all the mitigation and/or compensation measures that will be put in place.

Response:

Noted

Recommendation:**Reference No. SP0092****Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Note the content of the Paragraph and that an ecological survey calendar is provided in the SPG; we advise that Paragraph 7.10 is amended and an advisory note is attached to the survey calendar to confirm that surveys should follow published guidance, where this exists, as well as best practice. Published guidance is more specific about the timing of surveys (E.g. for bats) and reference to them can help avoid sub-optimal surveys being submitted and perhaps having to be repeated.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly to include an appropriate advisory note.

Reference No. SP0093

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Section 11 Survey and Best Practice Guidelines

Note that the 3rd Edition of the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines are now available and should be referred to.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as necessary to reflect its availability.

Placemaking and design

Reference No. SP0051

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Needs link to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the principles and to the health benefits of Green Infrastructure and well- designed spaces. .

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as appropriate developing on, and integrating the principles of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.

Reference No. SP0052

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Para. 3.2.

Include reference to Marine Character Areas (Wales National Seascape Character Assessment).

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0053

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

Object

Summary of Response:

Para. 3.2.5. LANDMAP

Suggests the need to clarify that LANDMAP provides an assessment of the whole landscape of the County (and indeed Wales), not just the Special Landscape Areas. It would be useful to refer to the Register of Historic Landscapes somewhere in this section too.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0054**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

It would be useful to number the map to show the SLAs illustrated on p.7.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0055**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Para. 3.2.7. 8- 3.2.8. - Green Infrastructure

Suggests the use of a recognised definition e.g. in NPPF, PPW, LI (Network of multi-functional green space...).

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

SPG to be amended where appropriate.

Reference No. SP0056**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

There is a need to emphasise that analysis should identify positive aspects of form & layout design to ensure positive additions, rather than replicating poor form & layout.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0057**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

Natural Resources Wales

General Comments**Summary of Response:**

Should take account of historic development patterns of settlements & their character in relation to landform e.g. are valley side/bottom settlements characteristic of Carmarthenshire rather than ridge-top.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended accordingly.

Reference No. SP0058

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Para. 4.3. - Site Assets. (The benefits of Green Infrastructure).

We welcome and support this approach.

Response:

Support noted.

Recommendation:

Reference No. SP0059

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Recommend that all public realm and green Infrastructure should have a Landscape & Ecological Management Plan to ensure the long term benefits of the landscape design are realised.

Response:

Disagree. Whilst the merits of such an approach are acknowledged it is not considered necessary for the SPG to be explicit in such matters. This may be best considered through potential further guidance on green infrastructural considerations.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0060

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

The respondent supports this approach however within this section there appears no reference to the current Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site Memorandum of Understanding (CBEEMS MOU) to segregate foul and surface water flows and to provide compensatory surface water removal from the combined local Carmarthen Bay system. You will recall that this MOU is signed by Carmarthenshire County Council; City and County of Swansea Council; Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

The insertion of an appropriate cross reference to ensure awareness will be considered in the interests of clarity.

Reference No. SP0061

Respondent No. 0066

Mrs Liz Dutch

General Comments

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

The respondent suggests rewording to reflect the following: Achieving good design ...requires an understanding of the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment ... together with close partnership-working between all relevant sections of the County Council and local council and community.

Response:

Noted. Whilst the importance of the role of community councils is noted, such bodies are consulted at planning application stage. Furthermore, new legislation ensures that community councils are also consulted at pre-application stage. Consequently, including reference to community councils in this guidance document is not considered necessary.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0062**Respondent No. 0066**

Mrs Liz Dutch

General Comments

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

Special Landscape Areas (SLA) whilst a non-statutory designation, appear to be accorded very little weight by the Planning Committee in determining applications - such as the installation of a wind turbine in rural areas. The respondent cites an example of the Mwche Farm, Llanybri application to site a wind turbine opposite Dylan Thomas's Boathouse in the Taf Valley SLA.

Response:

Noted. Special Landscape Areas (SLA) are covered in Policy EQ6 Special Landscape Areas within the Adopted Carmarthenshire LDP. SLAs are therefore material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Recommendation:

No further changes are considered necessary to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0063**Respondent No. 0066**

Mrs Liz Dutch

General Comments

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

The respondent highlights the importance of cultural heritage appears to have been overlooked with no mention within the SLA or Character sections. To illustrate, Dylan Thomas's Boathouse represents cultural heritage of national importance – the respondent states that this was not taken into account in the determination of the Mwche wind turbine application.

Response:

Noted. Cultural Heritage is mentioned in paragraph 4.1.5 of the document.

Recommendation:

No further changes are considered necessary to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0064**Respondent No. 0066**

Mrs Liz Dutch

General Comments

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

Para 4.3.1

The respondent suggests rewording to reflect the following: New development is often located on the edge of a settlement. Indeed the LDP allocates land in such locations to enable settlements to expand. However such new development must be proportionate in scale and character to the existing settlement, and not dominate or fundamentally alter its social, physical and visual characteristics.

Response:

Noted. The existing wording is considered appropriate and sufficient to cater for proposals at edge of settlement locations. The suggested changes are therefore not considered to be necessary.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0065**Respondent No. 0066**

Mrs Liz Dutch

General Comments

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

In relation to Working Together: Early Discussion with Planners/Local Community the respondent suggests rewording to reflect the following: The Planning Officer will also be in a position to advise on how to engage with key local stakeholders, to informally consult with the local council and community at pre-application stage and produce a proposal...application process.

Response:

The need for developers to consult with Town & Community Councils at the pre-application stage will be included in this paragraph to reflect The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0106

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Needs link to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the principles and to the health benefits of Green Infrastructure and well- designed spaces.

Response:

Agreed.

Recommendation:

The SPG to be amended as appropriate developing on, and integrating the principles of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.

Reference No. SP0107

Respondent No. 0006

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Para. 3.2.7. 8- 3.2.8. - Green Infrastructure

Suggests the use of a recognised definition e.g. in NPPF, PPW, LI (Network of multi-functional green space...).

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

Rural Development

Reference No. SP0094

Respondent No. 1110

Miss Roxane Lawrence

General Comments

Summary of Response:

The LDP does not allow enough land in the development envelope to meet local housing needs. Homes for Wales organisation campaign outside the assembly building because an extra 6000 homes are desperately needed in Wales. The LDP does not offer a choice of suitable sites. It excludes land at Myddynfych Farm Ammanford on enclosures 8700, 0851 and enc 0608. The last site 0608 backs onto the new playing field at Amman Valley comprehensive school. Development here would make use of existing infrastructure and allow children to walk to school easily by providing a gate into the school. Plots along the road frontage of enclosure 8700 have been included in the UDP and were erroneously removed from the new local plan because the council used old flood maps and Enclosure 0851 has three accesses into it from Gwaun Henllan and DoIY Derwen. These accesses have been retained and have cost many thousands of pounds to secure as developers are reluctant to honour contractual obligations. We wish to secure housing quotas of 400 dwellings for this land. The land is all readily developable and has all mains services. The council has ransom accesses here so they would make a large profit from these developments compared with other sites in the area.

Response:

Noted. This representation goes outside the remit of this SPG and the consultation. The matters highlighted by the respondent were subject to consideration during the preparation of the LDP and as applicable by the Independent Planning Inspector at the Examination in public.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0095**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Refers to the retention of existing hedgerows within schemes - we support this recommendation in terms of visual amenity and to assist in the retention of local ecology. Para 3.5. (page 8)(Natural Heritage) endorses this requirement and refers to both trees and hedgerows.

Response:

Support welcome.

Recommendation:

Reference No. SP0096**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

Para 3.5. - (page 7) Waste Treatment.

The Authority will be aware that there may be a requirement for applicants to seek a permit from NRW for septic tanks and the proposed use of cesspits is not encouraged.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

Reference No. SP0097**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

The draft SPG acknowledges the adaptation and re-use of rural buildings for residential use, which has the potential to affect legally protected species including bats and birds such as barn owls. Whilst we endorse the requirement for appropriate protected species survey information to accompany applications for the conversion of rural buildings, we also advise the following: a. That surveys are undertaken by a suitably qualified, experienced and licensed ecologist; b. That surveys follow published guidance where this exists and best practice; c. Where development proposals implicate protected species, full details of all the mitigation that will be put in place must be included in the planning submission along with the survey information.

Response:

Noted. This is a matter appropriately considered through the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity SPG.

Recommendation:

Amend the SPG to include appropriate cross referencing to the provisions of the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity SPG.

Reference No. SP0098**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

General Comment

Providing that there is reference to published survey guidance, there is no need to mention specific survey times, for example for bats. The generic reference to the timing of bat surveys may cause some issues subsequently for the LPA; we suggest this is removed. In stating May-September, it is possible that an applicant may undertake all of their surveys in September, which would be too late to assess a building for its potential to support a maternity roost.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

Amend the SPG as appropriate.

Reference No. SP0099**Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

General Comment

Your Authority will be aware of our advice in the good practice guide entitled NRW Approach to Bats and Planning, October 2015.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:**Reference No. SP0100****Respondent No. 0006**

Mr David Watkins

General Comments

Natural Resources Wales

Summary of Response:

We endorse the cross-reference to the Nature and Biodiversity SPG.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:**Reference No. SP0101****Respondent No. 0066**

Mrs Liz Dutch

Object

Llansteffan Community Council

Summary of Response:

Para 1 Fig 5

The respondent objects highlighting the need for a strong emphasis to enter into pre-application discussions at an early stage with the LPA. States that the relevant town or community council must also be informally consulted at this early stage to give the necessary opportunity to voice community interest. States that this would help to address a common local perception that many applications represent "done deals" between developer and the LPA when they reach the statutory consultation stage.

Response:

Noted. However there is no duty on Local Planning Authorities to notify Town and Community Councils relating to schemes at pre-application stage. Section 17 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 relates to developers having to consult Town and Community Councils on major applications at the Pre-application stage, but this does not apply to LPAs.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG

Reference No. SP0102

Respondent No. 0066

Mrs Liz Dutch

Llansteffan Community Council

General Comments

Summary of Response:

Para 3 Fig 3

This comment about the attachment of conditions to planning consents is generic. States that Planning conditions are wholly ineffective without adequate public funding of the planning enforcement section. This fact particularly applies in isolated rural or coastal locations, common throughout Carmarthenshire. Revenue expenditure budgets need serious consideration.

Response:

Noted. This is a matter beyond the remit of the SPG.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0103

Respondent No. 0066

Mrs Liz Dutch

Llansteffan Community Council

General Comments

Summary of Response:

The respondent states that a second dwelling on an established farm should not be permitted where the landowner sells / is in the process of selling the first dwelling approved with an Agricultural Occupancy Condition.

Response:

Noted. It should not be the intention of the SPG to cover every eventuality. The policies of the LDP and National Policy covers matters relating to the requirement of the need for a second dwelling on an established farm, including viability and location.

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG.

Reference No. SP0104

Respondent No. 0066

Mrs Liz Dutch

Llansteffan Community Council

Support

Summary of Response:

The detailed guidance about a Rural Enterprise Dwelling helps to clarify the relationship between planning and tourism considerations.

Response:

Noted.

Recommendation:

Reference No. SP0105

Respondent No. 2575

Mr Sean Maslin

General Comments

Summary of Response:

The Rural Development Draft SPG Report, Rural Enterprise Dwellings section does not satisfactorily reflect the requirements set out in TAN 6. The policy requires that all applications are supported by robust supporting evidence and must be supported by a Rural Enterprise Dwelling Appraisal (TAN 6 paragraph 4.7.1) which addresses the functional test, the time test, the financial test, and the other dwellings test. The Rural Enterprise Dwellings section should contain advice on an acceptable maximum gross internal floorspace. For example, a maximum gross internal floorspace of 100 sq m. This area is considered by the Homes and Communities Agency to be the size of property needed to meet the needs of 6 persons, and is larger than the national average for new dwellings of 76 sqm. Similarly, the Rural Enterprise Dwellings SPG should advise that any proposed outbuildings will need to be justified and a planning condition will be imposed to remove permitted development rights for the dwelling to prevent any future extension of the property. The Rural Enterprise Dwellings guidance should also include the additional clarification from the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (Housing 6.2.8) which states: "...Such proposals should, where possible, be well related to an existing complex. A further dwelling should not be proposed where an existing property forming part of the unit associated with the enterprise has been recently disposed of."

Response:

Noted. It should not be the intention of the SPG to be prescriptive and repeat the criteria set out in National Policy. TAN6 offers sufficient clarity relating to the criteria for a new rural enterprise dwelling which includes location, siting, appropriateness of scale, viability and functional need etc. This would also cover the requirements of any outbuildings to support the new dwelling, whilst conditions can be placed on planning permissions to restrict domestic paraphernalia

Recommendation:

No change to the SPG

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Appendix 2

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

Leisure & Open Space Requirements for New Developments

The following amendments are recommended for inclusion within the SPG in the interests of clarity and to assist in its implementation:

Insert the following wording:

- Where the Council identifies that developers have sub-divided sites in order to avoid open space provision, the total residential unit provision will be calculated and the open space policy will be applied accordingly. This approach will also apply where planning applications are staggered over a period of time.
- Amend paragraph 4.4.3 to include reference to 10 - 20 years maintenance figure.
- Amend Appendix 2 to reflect the inclusion of a 10 year maintenance and associated figures as above.
- Amend paragraph 2.1.4 and section 4.4 to reflect the Council's ability where justified to seek s106 planning agreements to contribute to the maintenance of safe attractive facilities and open space.

Natural Environment and Biodiversity

The following amendments are recommended for inclusion within the SPG in the interests of clarity, accuracy and to assist in its implementation:

- Section 2.3 and 2.20 and 3.10 can we replace or edit these paras as the Environment Act 2016 has replaced the NERC Act in Wales, Also last box – Legislation and Policy, in table under Sections 4 and 5?
- Table under Section 11.5 - Change last para to *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition* Published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 2016) – Sections 4-9
- And following para to - Any bat survey report should follow the template as detailed in *to Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition* Published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 2016)- Chapter 11 – box 7 pg 74-76.
- Same Table – section Bats and trees – Guidance on tree assessment is specifically available in *Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition* Published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 2016) – Chapters 6 and 7.

- Same Table – section Bats and Lighting – change to - If a site is to be extensively lit then bat activity surveys must be carried out in line with advice contained within the *Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition* Published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins 2016) – Chapter 8.
- Under Water Vole in this table replace last para with - Further information can be found in Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D. And Andrews, R. (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook* (The Mammal Society, London).

Rural Development.

Amend references specific to Technical Advice Note 6 to refer to its provisions rather than policies.

Executive Board Meeting

Date: 26^{ain} July 2016

Subject and Purpose:	
Model Time Off Policy for Schools	
Recommendations / Key Decisions Required:	
To endorse the adoption of the Model Time Off Policy for Schools.	
Reasons:	
In the absence of an existing Time Off Policy for Schools, the corporate Time Off Policy has been adapted to suit schools, and will provide school management and staff with an A-Z guide to all statutory and contractual time off work.	
Executive Board Decision Required	YES
Council Decision Required	NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Mair Stephens; Cllr. Gareth Jones		
Directorate: Chief Executive's / People Management & Performance; Education & Children's Services		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel Nos.: E-Mail Addresses:
Paul R. Thomas	Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)	01267 246123 PRThomas@sirgar.gov.uk
Robert Sully	Director of Education & Children's Services	01267 224888 RASully@sirgar.gov.uk
Report Author: Julie Stuart	Principal HR Officer	01267 246375 JStuart@sirgar.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
26TH JULY 2016**

SUBJECT

Model Time Off Policy for Schools

1. Background

The Authority has a range of time off policies and procedures detailing the statutory and contractual time off that employees may request for authorisation via their line managers.

Currently, each of these policies is listed separately in the HR policies and guidance A to Z on BRIAN and managers may need to check a number of documents to find the policy which applies to their situation. Whilst schools are able to access these documents, schools' governing bodies would need to adopt each of these policies individually. The Model Time Off Policy for Schools, which is an adaptation of the Corporate Time Off Policy, has been designed as an easy reference document to navigate through the range of time off that employees may request.

Detailed report attached: No

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: 
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PEOPLE MANAGEMENT & PERFORMANCE)

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder

The recommendations support the Council's Strategic Aim 'Building a Better Council' and 'Making Better Use of Resources'

2. Legal

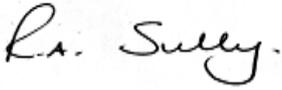
The Revised Time Off Policy is in line with the statutory rights to time off covered by employment legislation.

6. Staffing Implications

The HR Team will provide advice and guidance to schools on the application of the Model Time Off Policy.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: 

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Scrutiny Committee

None

2. Local Member(s)

None

3. Community / Town Council

None

4. Relevant Partners

None

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Education & Children's Services Employee Relations Forum - 11th February 2016

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

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Model
Time off Policy for Schools

Detailing paid and unpaid time off and eligibility requirements for staff employed in Locally Managed Schools

Revised: June 2016



MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Key Principles
3. Scope of the Policy
4. Roles and Responsibilities
5. Categories of Time Off

<u>Section</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	
5.1	Adoption / Surrogacy Leave	Paid according to relevant legislation
5.2	Adoption Appointments	Main adopter paid up to 5 appointments
5.3	Antenatal Appointments - Mothers - Fathers / Partners	Paid Unpaid
5.4	Attendance at Governing Bodies	Paid up to 6 occasions
5.5	Career Break	Unpaid
5.6	Compassionate Leave	Paid up to levels in policy otherwise Unpaid
5.7	Companions at Disciplinary or Grievance Hearings	Reasonable paid time off
5.8	Cosmetic Surgery	Unpaid
5.9	Dependants (Time off for...)	Unpaid
5.10	Disruption to Working Arrangements	Working arrangements may be changed to accommodate emergencies
5.11	Fertility Treatment	Unpaid or time worked back
5.12	Flexible Working (Right to Request)	Unpaid if requesting reduced hours
5.13	Gender Reassignment	Paid under sickness absence
5.14	Health and Safety Representatives Duties and Training	Reasonable paid time off
5.15	Job Interviews	Paid providing within the school / Authority
5.16	Jury Service	Paid - money to be reclaimed
5.17	Magistrates and Members of Unitary Authorities	Paid - money to be reclaimed
5.18	Maternity Leave	Paid according to relevant legislation
5.19	Maternity / Adoption Support Leave	Up to one week paid (see Paternity Leave Policy)

MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	
5.20	Medical Appointments	Unpaid although paid in certain cases e.g. Cancer Screening or disability related and ante natal
5.21	Members of Community Councils / Local Authority	Paid up to 18 half days per year - fees to be repaid
5.22	Parental Leave	Unpaid
5.23	Paternity Leave	Up to 2 weeks paid
5.24	Public Duties	Unpaid
5.25	Religions and Cultural Observation	Unpaid, maybe some exceptions
5.26	Reserved Forces Training	Unpaid
5.27	Reservist Mobilisation	Unpaid
5.28	Shared Parental Leave	Paid depending on when accessed* Please see Policy
5.29	Special Constable Training	Unpaid
5.30	Special leave for Employees to represent the Country at Sporting, Charitable Events	Up to 5 Days Paid providing recognised amateur sport
5.31	Study and Examinations Leave	Paid for examinations only
5.32	Time off for Trade Union Duties	Reasonable Paid Time Off
5.33	Unpaid Leave (Other Examples)	Unpaid

6. Effect of Unpaid Leave on Local Government Pension Scheme Members
7. Applications for Time off
8. Process Review
9. Ensuring Equality of Treatment

Appendix 1 - Application for Compassionate and Unpaid Leave

MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

1. INTRODUCTION

Schools are open for 195 days per annum and it is therefore expected that employees will be able to make necessary arrangements to take time off during periods of school closure. However, it is recognised that some absences from school during term-time may be unavoidable and would therefore fall within these guidelines.

2. KEY PRINCIPLES

- This policy is subject to school needs and whilst recognising that leave under this policy may be necessary in exceptional circumstances, this policy also recognises the importance of staff presence on a continuous basis in the interests of pupil learning.
- Notice must be given as far in advance as possible.
- Abuse of this policy will be dealt with under the School's Disciplinary Procedure.
- Leave of absence during term-time should only be agreed in accordance with the terms of this policy and request for any holidays or any recreational pursuits during term-time will not normally be permitted.
- Employees should not assume that all requests for leave of absence will be granted.
- Requests should be made in writing to the Chair of Governors/Headteacher in sufficient time to allow meaningful consultation with the governors to take place. Personal arrangements should not be made until a decision has been received. In certain circumstances, the Chair of Governors/ Headteacher will be able to exercise their discretion when applying the requirements of the policy for emergency leave only.
- This policy must be applied consistently to all, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, language, disability, religion and belief, age, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, and parental, marital or civil partnership status (including partners of the same sex).
- Statutory legislation and contract entitlements are complied with.
- Requests for unpaid leave should be made via the attached unpaid leave form and will be managed in accordance with the needs of the school. Employees will not be entitled to sick pay for a period of absence where unpaid leave has been agreed and accepted.
- The Headteacher and Governors recognise the importance of balancing work and home life, seeing flexibility as integral to the recruitment, motivation and retention of high quality staff at all levels.

MODEL TIME OFF POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This Policy covers all employees on the complement of locally managed schools.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Headteachers and Governing Bodies

- Headteachers and Governors are responsible for considering employee requests for time off which may impact on the performance of the individual employee and the school as a whole. All requests for time off must be considered carefully in light of the school's needs and the individual employee's circumstances; whilst ensuring that the school meets its statutory obligations.
- Headteachers are responsible for monitoring their staff attendance; this includes absences relating to this policy. Frequent, excessive and / or unexplained absences should be dealt with accordingly in the context of the employee's overall attendance record. Headteachers should encourage regular attendance among all employees.

Employees

- Employees are responsible for attending work in accordance with their contracted working hours and fulfilling their contract of employment. Employees are expected to organise their personal life, and deal with home or domestic situations, without needing extra time off and without it affecting their job. Where 'time off' is required, employees must follow the appropriate processes as set out in this, and other related policies and procedures.

Human Resources

- HR Officers will provide advice and guidance to Headteachers, Governors and employees relating to the Time off Policy and other associated policies and guidance.
- HR Officers will ensure consistency in the application of this policy and procedure.

5. CATEGORIES OF TIME OFF

The following list outlines the statutory and non-statutory time off that the school provides for its employees. Under each category the purpose of the time off is explained and whether this is paid or unpaid.

Paragraph 6 of the Policy explains the effect a period of unpaid leave has on pension contributions for school support staff. Please note that school support staff will have the opportunity to buy back their pension to the required stipulations. Teachers are

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not permitted to buy back their pension for periods of unpaid leave. For further details please contact the Attendance team on...

5.1 Adoption/Surrogacy Leave

All employees have the right to adoption and surrogacy leave, as the main adopter, when a child is newly placed for adoption or surrogacy. Please note that this does not apply when a step parent formalises adoption of step children. Please see Adoption and Surrogacy Leave Policy for Teachers and School Support Staff for further details, including details of the qualification requirements for payments.

5.2 Adoption Appointments

The main adopter will be able to take paid time off to attend up to five adoption appointments. The secondary adopter will be entitled to take unpaid time off for up to two appointments.

5.3 Antenatal Appointments

Mothers

Any pregnant employee has the right to paid time off to attend antenatal care and must produce evidence of the first appointment if requested to do so by the Headteacher. Antenatal care can include not only medical examinations but also relaxation and parent craft classes. If attendance at the appointment is a matter of personal choice for the employee and is not on the advice of a registered medical practitioner, registered midwife or registered nurse, the employee can request unpaid time off work. The school reserves the right to ask employees to re-arrange appointments where it is reasonable to do so. Employees should, wherever possible, try to arrange these appointments as near to the start or end of the working day as possible.

Fathers/Partners

Employees and agency workers who have a qualifying relationship with a pregnant woman, or an expected child, are entitled to take unpaid time off work to accompany that pregnant woman at up to two antenatal appointments.

Employees will have this right from day one of their employment. Agency workers will qualify after 12 weeks in the same assignment. The right to time off is capped at a maximum of 6½ hours on each occasion, which can include travelling time, waiting time and attendance.

An employee or agency worker has a qualifying relationship with a pregnant woman, or her expected child, if he or she:

- is the husband or civil partner of the pregnant woman;
- lives with the pregnant woman in an enduring family relationship, but is not her parent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt or uncle;
- is the father of the expectant child; or
- is an intended parent in a surrogacy situation who meets certain conditions.

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5.4 Attendance at School Governing Bodies

Employees are entitled to time off with pay to attend a maximum of six governing body meetings per annum as a Governor. Please note that this applies to those who attend a governing body other than their own school. This paid time off will not include Governor Training.

5.5 Career Break

Career breaks provide employees with the opportunity to take a longer unpaid break away from work than is provided for by parental or other leave arrangements, without losing continuity of employment. The aim is for the school to retain skilled and experienced employees who may otherwise choose to leave the workforce permanently.

A career break may be approved for a variety of reasons (including childcare, eldercare, care for another dependent, training or study leave). For employees to be eligible to make an application they must have completed 12 months continuous service with the school or Authority. It is not usual to agree to a career break for an employee to undertake paid work with another employer where an application for secondment may be more appropriate.

Every effort will be made to grant a request, however, there may be occasions where, despite satisfying the criteria, an employee cannot be granted a career break.

General principles include:

- This will be for a minimum of 12 months and up to a maximum of 3 years. In most cases the period of the career break will be granted by academic year.
- If a break is requested for less than one year, reference should be made to the relevant section of this policy;
- Schools should ensure that they agree a return to work date with the employee prior to the employee commencing their career break;
- During a career break arrangements should be put in place to ensure that the employee is kept up to date on any changes within the school. The employee should also arrange to keep in touch with the school and to return on the date that is specified; and
- During a career break employees cannot access any other leave, including sick leave, annual leave or maternity leave.

For further guidance see Carmarthenshire County Council guidance on career breaks. Please note any requests for breaks of less than 1 year will be considered as a request for unpaid leave only but will follow the above principles.

5.6 Compassionate Leave

Up to a maximum of 5 days paid time off (pro rata part-time) is available to employees in the event of the death, critical illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family. Immediate family for the purpose of this policy is

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defined as the employee's spouse, civil partner, partner, parent or guardian, child or sibling. Death of a grandparent or a parent in law will normally result in the granting of paid time off on the day of the funeral only.

The employee should inform his/her Headteacher Chair of Governors of the need to take compassionate leave as soon as reasonably practicable. Each case will be viewed sympathetically and the outcome of the employee's request will depend on the employee's circumstances.

Bereavement

In the event of the death of a member of the employee's immediate family, the employee should contact his/her Headteacher Chair of Governors to request compassionate leave. Each case will be viewed sympathetically and the amount of leave granted will depend on the individual's circumstances as discussed with the Headteacher or Chair of Governors. The Headteacher will take into account matters such as the employee's relationship with the immediate family member, domestic responsibilities and travel requirements. In the event of the death of a child, parent or partner this may be extended to 10 days (pro rata part-time), and these will be approved in exceptional circumstances.

In the case of death of another close relative, for example an aunt or uncle, the employee may request compassionate paid leave to attend the funeral only.

Critical Injury or Critical Illness

Compassionate leave is available where there is critical injury or critical illness of an immediate family member. The Headteacher will take into account factors such as the nature of the incident, the employee's relationship with the immediate family member, domestic responsibilities and travel requirements.

Emergency Domestic Situations

Time off work up to 1 day paid leave may be approved to enable employees to deal with emergency domestic situations at home, such as flood, fire or burglary. It does not apply to planned events such as domestic repairs, refurbishment, building or trades work, installation of appliances, home deliveries, etc.

5.7 Companions at Disciplinary or Grievance Hearings

Reasonable time off with pay will be granted for workplace companions to carry out duties connected with the role, i.e. preparing for, and attending a disciplinary or grievance hearing.

5.8 Cosmetic Surgery

For the purposes of this policy, cosmetic surgery is surgery that is not considered to be medically necessary. The School will consider a request for reasonable unpaid time off for an employee to undergo cosmetic surgery, although it is expected that any planned operations would be scheduled during the school holidays.

An employee who wishes to take time off work for cosmetic surgery must:

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- Inform their Headteacher and or Chair of Governors as soon as their plans to undergo cosmetic surgery have been confirmed;
- Provide a statement from a qualified medical practitioner that cosmetic surgery has been approved and giving the likely duration of recovery;
- In agreement with the Headteacher, arrange cosmetic surgery at a time that will cause the minimum amount of inconvenience to the School; and
- Give as much notice as possible of the day on which the surgery will take place.

Where the outcome of the surgery is unexpected and the employee suffers an injury or illness, sick leave and pay provisions will apply in accordance with the School's sickness absence policy. In these circumstances, the correct procedure for reporting and certifying absence must be followed and a return to work interview carried out upon the employee's return to work.

5.9 Time off for Dependants

The right to time off for dependants is the right for employees to take a reasonable amount of unpaid time off during working hours to take action that is necessary to provide assistance on an occasion when a dependant falls ill, gives birth or is injured or assaulted:

- to make arrangements for the provision of care for a dependant who is ill or injured;
- in consequence of the illness of a dependant. (please see compassionate leave)
- because of the unexpected disruption or termination of arrangements for the care of a dependant; or
- to deal with an incident involving a child of the employee that occurs unexpectedly during a period when the child is attending school.

5.10 Disruption to Working Arrangements

It is accepted that the school cannot plan for every eventuality and on occasion disruptions may arise that will affect a significant part of the workforce. The source of the disruption may be internal such as staffing levels; loss of premises, IT failure/loss of data, utility failure or an external influence such as extreme weather, flooding, fire or explosion, pandemic flu or a transport accident, this list is not exhaustive. If this results in school closure at the approval of the governing body, employees will make arrangements for alternative working days to be worked if this is practical or in exceptional circumstances the governors will authorise payment for all members of the workforce. *(NB: Different arrangements will be in place if the school closure is as a result of industrial actions. Please refer to the Managing Strike Action Guidelines for Headteachers)*

5.11 Fertility Treatment

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Reasonable leave may be requested by the employee via his/her Chair of Governors/Headteacher to undergo fertility treatment. This applies equally to an employee whose partner is undergoing fertility treatment.

An employee who wishes to take time off work for fertility treatment must:

- Inform their Headteacher as soon as their plans to undergo fertility treatment have been confirmed;
- Produce evidence (e.g. an appointment card) for each occasion on which time off is requested;
- Try to arrange appointments at times that will cause the minimum amount of inconvenience to the School; and
- Give as much notice as possible of the days on which time off is required.

5.12 Flexible Working (Right to Request)

Under the provisions set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, all employees with over twenty six weeks service have a statutory right to ask their employer for a permanent change to their contractual terms and conditions of employment to work flexibly:

- A change to the hours they work i.e. a reduction; or
- A change to the times when they are required to work.

It should be noted that an accepted application will mean a permanent change to the employee's own terms and conditions of employment. **There will be no right to revert to the previous working pattern i.e. to increase their hours of work.**

All requests need to be considered in a timely manner and arrangements should be made to meet the employee within 28 days (please note schools may ask for an extension of this period if the employee makes the request just before or during holidays). Employees will have the right to be accompanied at this meeting and, if their request is not accepted, they may appeal the decision. The formal decision will be made by the appropriate panel of the governing body.

Both the employee and the school will need to consider the needs of the school in making their request and in providing a response. Further guidance and model letters can be found in Carmarthenshire County Council Flexible Working Policy.

5.13 Gender Reassignment

An employee who requires time off for medical or other treatment relating to gender re-assignment will be treated no less favourably than for time off for illness or other medical appointments as set out in section 5.20 of this Policy and the School's Model Sickness Absence Policy.

5.14 Health and Safety Representatives Duties and Training

Reasonable time off with pay to carry out duties connected with role, e.g. to perform functions and for union-approved or employer-provided safety training. For further

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details please refer to the 'Consulting Workers on Health and Safety Guidance' from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

5.15 Job Interviews

Reasonable time off with pay will be given to attend interviews for other positions within other schools or for other jobs within the Local Authority (time off with pay should only be paid for attendance at interviews and travel within a reasonable distance). The maximum time off with pay that will be granted will be one day.

Where an individual may be 'at risk' of redundancy (and has received formal notice to this effect). In order to qualify for this time off the employee would need to have one year's service.

5.16 Jury Service

In the event of the employee being called up for jury service, they should discuss this with the Headteacher/Chair of Governors at the earliest opportunity. Jury service normally lasts for 10 working days, but may be longer. The employee should provide his / her Headteacher with a copy of the court summons and any other relevant documentation.

The employee will continue to be paid while on jury service at the normal rate of pay, subject to the deduction of any monies received from the court in respect of loss of earnings. The employee will receive, with the jury summons, a Certificate of Loss of Earnings or Benefit. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the employee submits the Certificate of Loss of Earnings or Benefit to the payroll team who will submit to the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) for reimbursement, up to a limit, for loss of earnings incurred due to the employee being absent from work due to jury service. The employee will be paid as normal until his / her reimbursement has been processed, whereupon the employee is obliged to present payroll with the receipt for the reimbursement. Payroll will then make the appropriate deduction from the employee's pay.

If the employee's services are not required for any part or whole court day they will be expected to return to work for the remainder of the working day.

If the employee's jury service ends before the expected 10-day period (or such longer period as the court may have indicated to the employee that they will be required for) the employee will be expected to return to work for the remainder of that period.

5.17 Magistrates and Members of Unitary Authorities

Employees should provide written notification to their Headteacher/ Chair of Governors of any dates on which they wish to take time off work for public duties, stating the expected length of their absence. This notification should be provided as far in advance as possible.

Up to 18 days, or 36 half days per annum will be allowable (pro rata for part-time employees).

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Employees will be paid as normal and will then be required to reimburse the School with the maximum amount of attendance, or loss of earnings allowance or any other allowance that may be receivable. The employee will need to declare this to their Headteacher so that the relevant deductions can be made.

5.18 Maternity Leave

The occupational maternity scheme applies to all pregnant employees regardless of the number of hours worked per week or their length of service. All pregnant employees are entitled to 52 weeks maternity leave. For further information and specific details of paid leave, please consult the Authority's Maternity Leave Policy or School's Model Teachers' Maternity Leave Policy. The Authority's Attendance Team will need to be notified of all applications for maternity leave as soon as is practicably possible.

NB: Please see Medical Appointments 5.20 and Antenatal Appointments 5.3 for information relating to time off to attend appointments.

5.19 Maternity/Adoption Support Leave

Maternity Support Leave of 1 week with pay shall be granted to the child's father or the partner or nominated carer of an expectant mother at or around the time of birth. To qualify for maternity support leave the employee requesting this time will be the main support for the mother/primary adopter and or carer of the child. If the School / Authority knows that the partner, father/co-adopter intends to take his / her entitlement to maternity support leave (MSL) and or statutory paternity leave (SPL) then there will be no need for a 'nominated carer'.

(Nominated Carer - there will be a requirement for a supporting letter from the expectant mother or primary adopter confirming that the employee has been elected as the nominated carer)

5.20 Medical Appointments

There is no right to paid time off to attend planned doctor, dentist or hospital appointments. Employees must try to make appointments outside or at the end of their normal working hours or during school holidays to minimise any disruption. Employees may request time off, at the discretion of their Headteacher, and may work back the time at a later date or use annual leave if applicable to cover the absence.

Appointments with Occupational Health as part of the sickness absence process will be accommodated with pay wherever possible. Follow up treatment such as Cognitive Behavioural therapy (CBT) or physiotherapy will also be accommodated but should be arranged at a time to minimise disruption and outside school working time wherever possible.

An employee with a disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) may request, via his/her Headteacher, paid time off to be considered for health / medical appointments

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associated with the management of the particular disability. For further details please refer to Carmarthenshire County Council guidance on: [Disability information and reasonable adjustment](#).

Any pregnant employee has the right to paid time off to attend antenatal care and must produce evidence of the first appointment if requested to do so by the Headteacher. Antenatal care can include not only medical examinations but also relaxation and parent craft classes. If attendance at the appointment is a matter of personal choice for the employee and is not on the advice of a registered medical practitioner, registered midwife or registered nurse, the employee can request unpaid time off / annual leave or flexi-time (if applicable). The School reserves the right to ask employees to re-arrange appointments where it is reasonable to do so. Employees should wherever possible try to arrange these appointments as near to the start or end of the working day as possible.

Time off for cancer screening e.g. cervical, mammogram and prostate will be with pay, and should not be recorded and monitored as sickness absence. Employees should however strive to accommodate such appointments outside normal school working hours.

If employees have a hospital appointment and are not covered by a provision outlined above and they can demonstrate (usually appointment letters) that the appointment cannot be held at any other time than during the school day then paid time off will be given. Employees should try to arrange these appointments as near to the start or finish of the working day as possible.

5.21 Members of Community Councils / Local Authority

Up to 18 days or 36 half days per annum (pro rata for part-time employees) with pay to enable individuals to undertake those duties arising directly from their membership or office under their council:

- Attendance at meetings of the executive or its committees; and
- Performance, by a member of the executive, of duties for the purpose of discharging the functions of the executive.

Where an employee holds a public office or public position, it is the School's policy to grant a reasonable amount of time off work so that the employee can perform the duties associated with that position. The employee will not be required to make up for any such time off by working additional hours at another time.

Where, however, the amount of time off that the employee requires for public duties becomes excessive, or begins to cause operational difficulties for the School, the School has the right to refuse the employee further time off in the immediate future. Employees should provide written notification to the Headteacher of any dates on which they wish to take time off work for public duties, stating the expected length of their absence. This notification should be provided as far in advance as possible.

An employee may continue to be paid at his / her normal rate of pay during periods of time off for public duties, subject to the deduction of any monies received from the

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relevant Authority in respect of the duties performed, which the employee must declare to their Headteacher/ Chair of Governors.

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5.22 Parental Leave

Parental Leave is the right to take 18 weeks unpaid leave for the purpose of caring for a child. This must be taken as whole weeks.

Under the legislation, this 18 week entitlement is in respect of each child up to the age of 18 i.e. a parent of twins would be entitled to 36 weeks unpaid leave. In exceptional circumstances the employee may be asked to delay their parental leave and will be advised of this within 7 calendar days of the original request.

Leave cannot be postponed / delayed by the employer if:

- it's being taken by the father or partner immediately after the birth or adoption of a child; or
- it means an employee would no longer qualify for parental leave, e.g. postponing it until after the child's 18th birthday.

Where a school delays the acceptance of the parental leave for business reasons they are expected to agree and accept another request for dates of the same length within a 3-6 month period.

Please see the CCC Parental Leave Policy for further guidance.

5.23 Paternity Leave

Eligible employees will have the right to take paid leave to care for the child and / or support the mother. Ordinary paternity provides 2 weeks paid leave to employees. Employees may be entitled to additional statutory paternity pay. Please refer to the following document for further details: Ordinary and Additional Paternity Leave Policy 2015.

5.24 Public Duties

Employees who hold certain public positions have a right to reasonable unpaid time off during working hours. The provisions cover Justices of the Peace and members of the following public bodies:

- a statutory tribunal;
- the Service Authority for the National Criminal Intelligence Service or the Service Authority for the National Crime Squad;
- a board of prison visitors or a prison visiting committee;
- a relevant health body;
- a relevant education body;
- the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales.

There is no definition in law as to how much time off is reasonable for the purpose of public duties. When considering whether to grant time off, the employer may take into consideration some or all of the following factors:

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- How much time off is generally required for the performance of the office in question, and how much time off is required for the performance of the particular duty on the particular occasion;
- How much time off has already been granted to the employee for public duties; and
- The effect of the employee's absence on the smooth running of the school.

5.25 Religions and Cultural Observation

Although there is no statutory entitlement to receive time off, paid or unpaid, for religious reasons this can be considered depending on the circumstances.

Please see Carmarthenshire County Council guidance on Religious and Cultural observation.

5.26 Reserved Forces Training

Attendance for training in the non-regular armed forces should be taken out of annual leave or an application should be made for unpaid leave. All leave requests will be considered subject to service requirements and the needs of the school.

5.27 Reservist Mobilisation

Reservists may be called up for military operations, with notice typically given 28 days before mobilisation, which are likely to last up to 12 months.

On being called up, the reservist should present his / her mobilisation papers, typically together with a letter from the Ministry of Defence to the school, outlining the date, and possible duration, of his/her mobilisation. The Ministry of Defence may also contact the Authority independently.

The School recognises that, under the Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act 1985, if it believes that the employee's absence on military service is likely to do 'serious harm' to the organisation, it may apply for an exemption, deferral or revocation of mobilisation. The School recognises that the criteria for exemption, deferral or revocation are strict and will seek an exemption, deferral or revocation only in exceptional circumstances.

Reservist employees will not be paid by the School whilst mobilised as they will be paid Military pay during this time.

Regardless of the length of the military action, the mobilised reservist has the right to be reinstated in his/her former job within six months of demobilisation.

To exercise the right to be reinstated, the reservist must write to the School via the Headteacher no later than the third Monday after demobilisation confirming his / her intention to return to work within the following 13 weeks. The initial 13 week period may be renewed by the employee for a further 13 weeks if circumstances such as illness or injury prevent the reservist's return during the initial period. In these circumstances it is the employee's responsibility to renew this request. However, the

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reservist forfeits his / her right to return to work with the School if s/he fails to do so within 26 weeks of demobilisation.

Once the reservist has been reinstated, the School will continue to employ him / her in that same occupation (and on the same terms and conditions) for:

- 52 weeks if the reservist had been employed for a consecutive period of at least 52 weeks at the time s/he was called up for military operations; or
- 26 weeks if the reservist had been employed for a consecutive period of at least 13 weeks but less than 52 weeks at the time s/he was called for military operations; or
- a minimum of 13 weeks if the employee was employed for fewer than 13 weeks immediately prior to mobilisation.

Continuity of Employment

The continuity of the reservist's period of employment is not broken by a period of mobilisation, if s/he is reinstated to his / her former employment within six months of demobilisation.

However, when calculating the employee's total period of continuous employment, the School will discount the number of days falling in the period between the date on which the reservist is called up for military operations and the day immediately preceding the day on which s/he returns to work.

5.28 Shared Parental Leave

Shared Parental Leave (SPL) enables mothers to commit to ending their maternity leave and pay at a future date, and to share the untaken balance of leave and pay with her partner, or return to work early from maternity leave and opt in to shared parental leave at a later date.

For further information in relation to Shared Parental Leave Policy please refer to the Authority's Maternity Leave Policy or Teachers Maternity Leave Policy, and the Authority's Shared Parental Leave Policy.

5.29 Special Constable Training

An employee may request reasonable time off without pay via his / her line manager to attend training courses but not for duty shifts as a special constable. Annual leave or can be requested, where applicable, subject to service requirements.

5.30 Special leave for Employees to represent the Country at Sporting, Charitable Events

An employee may request special leave via the Headteacher and governing body for representation of amateur sport, charitable or other events at national level of up to 5 days with pay. Advice must be sought from HR Team before agreeing to these requests.

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5.31 Study and Examinations Leave

Paid leave will be granted if sitting examinations in order to improve the status of qualification, providing that the subject of the examinations relate to his/her employment and future development at the School.

5.32 Time off for Trade Union Duties

Employees who are representatives of the Trades Unions recognised by the Authority are entitled to reasonable time off during working hours, with pay, to carry out Trade Union duties and training.

The Authority has a facilities agreement which is the framework within which requests for time off are managed. This is to ensure the needs of the service are protected whilst at the same time ensuring that the reasonable needs of Trade Union representatives are recognised and accommodated. Please contact HR for further details on the Trade union facilities agreement or the Facilities Agreement for Teaching Staff Representatives.

5.33 Unpaid Leave (Other Examples)

Employees can request unpaid leave for any period of time up to 12 months. Requests over this period should be considered as a career break.

The following list includes additional examples where unpaid leave may be granted by a school:

- Attendance at funerals of friends and other relatives (please see compassionate leave)
- Family leave for immediate family or dependants e.g. visiting a relative in hospital, including the absence of a parent who wishes to accompany a child under the age of sixteen for the duration of a stay in hospital when the child is undergoing non urgent surgery as well as accompanying relatives to hospital or an absence due to a relatives long term illness;
- Supporting immediate family through sickness;
- Private study for recognised qualifying examinations up to a maximum of three days;
- Moving House;
- Attendance at a wedding personal to the employee and / or their children?
- For the purpose of transacting legal transactions including divorce proceedings;
- Attending a graduation ceremony of a child or partner.

In some of these cases there may be an opportunity for time to be worked back and this will be arranged providing this satisfies the school needs.

6. EFFECT OF UNPAID LEAVE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME MEMBERS

For school support staff the period of unpaid leave will not count as membership of the LGPS unless the employee pays for it to do so. Employees can pay contributions

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for the whole period of their absence up to a maximum of 3 years and maintain their full benefits. For the period to count towards the membership, employees must elect to pay the contributions that they would have paid had they been at work.

If the employee chooses to do this they must inform the HR Attendance Team in writing within 30 days of their return to work (or within 30 days of leaving, if they do not return to work).

Please note that this provision does not apply to Teachers Pension Scheme

7. APPLICATION FOR TIME OFF

Applications for time off and leave can be made via ResourceLink self-service for employees that have access. If that is not the case then the attached form (Appendix A) needs to be completed.

Please note the separate policies on Maternity Leave, Shared Maternity Leave and Right to Request Flexible Working when HR should be given notification via the appropriate process.

For further information please contact the Attendance Team

8. PROCESS REVIEW

If an employee feels that their request for leave (made under any of the categories included in this policy) has not been dealt with fairly, they can refer the matter to the Chair of Governors having fully discussed their concerns with their Headteacher or Line Manager.

If a satisfactory solution is not achieved informally, then the employee can raise this in accordance with the School's Grievance Policy. Alternatively, where the Policy being referred to has a right to appeal and a prescribed process, this appeal route would need to be followed.

9. ENSURING EQUALITY OF TREATMENT

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

For further details please contact the Headteacher or your School Administration Team.

APPLICATION FOR TIME OFF

The School Governors or nominated person has the authority to grant up to **TEN*** days leave with pay on compassionate grounds. Additionally they have the authority to grant up to twelve months **unpaid leave** dependant on the needs of the service.

Headteachers and senior managers are asked to make the recommendation in each case.

**Ten days for bereavement leave will only be paid in exceptional circumstances*

This form must be **fully** completed for consideration to be given to the application and should be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

Name: _____ Employee No.: _____

Job Title: _____ School: _____

UNPAID LEAVE		
No. of Days	Dates	Reason(s)

PAID or COMPASSIONATE LEAVE		
No. of Days	Dates	Reason(s)

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

For completion by Line Manager / Headteacher

COMMENTS:

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED Signed: _____ Date: _____

For completion by Headteacher / Governor

COMMENTS:

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED Signed: _____ Date: _____

Agenda Item 20

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

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Agenda Item 21

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

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