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

WEDNESDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2017

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN AT 10.00 AM. ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL, 2017** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Mark James C.B.E.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Janine Owen
Telephone (direct line):	(01267) 224030
Fax:	(01267) 224911
E-Mail:	JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ref:	AD016-001

A G E N D A

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2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.
3. CHAIR'S / LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.
4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:-
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 - 4 .2 8TH MARCH, 2017. 21 - 26
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7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-
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- 10 .4 APPEALS COMMITTEE 24TH FEBRUARY 2017 & 27TH FEBRUARY 2017**
- 10 .5 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3RD MARCH 2017**
- 10 .6 SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6TH MARCH 2017**
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- 10 .12 POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22ND MARCH 2017**
- 10 .13 AUDIT COMMITTEE - 24TH MARCH 2017**

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WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor E. Morgan [Chair]

Councillors:

S.M. Allen	D.J.R. Bartlett	S.M. Caiach	C.A. Campbell
J.M. Charles	A.P. Cooper	D.M. Cundy	A. Davies
D.B. Davies	G. Davies	I.W. Davies	S.L. Davies
W.R.A. Davies	T.T. Defis	T. Devichand	E. Dole
J.S. Edmunds	P.M. Edwards	D.C. Evans	L.D. Evans
W.J.W. Evans	W.T. Evans	M. Gravell	A.D. Harries
C.P. Higgins	W.G. Hopkins	J.K. Howell	P. Hughes-Griffiths
P.M. Hughes	I.J. Jackson	A. James	J.D. James
D.M. Jenkins	J.P. Jenkins	A.W. Jones	G.O. Jones
H.I. Jones	A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis	D.J.R. Llewellyn
K. Madge	J. Owen	P.A. Palmer	D.W.H. Richards
B.A.L. Roberts	H.B. Shephardson	A.D.T. Speake	L.M. Stephens
E.G. Thomas	G.B. Thomas	J. Thomas	M.K. Thomas
R. Thomas	S.E. Thomas	W.G. Thomas	D. Tomos
J. Tremlett	D.E. Williams	J. Williams	J.E. Williams
J.S. Williams			

Also Present:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr G. Morgans	-	Interim Director of Education & Children's Services
Mr O. Bowen	-	Head of Financial Services
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Property
Ms L. Quelch	-	Head of Planning
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr R. Staines	-	Head of Housing & Public Protection
Mr P. Thomas	-	Assistant Chief Executive (People Mgmt & Performance)
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 am - 1.00 pm. and 2.00 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.A. Davies, T. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, P.E.M. Jones, T.J. Jones, W.J. Lemon, S. Matthews, A.G. Morgan, D. Price and G. Thomas.

Council was informed that Councillor Gwyneth Thomas was recovering well following her operation and the Chair agreed to send her a get well message on behalf of the Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute number	Nature of Interest
J.S. Edmunds	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His daughter works in a school.
D.C. Evans	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His wife works in the Call Centre.
L.D. Evans	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	Her daughter teaches in one of the Authority's schools.
P. Hughes Griffiths	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His daughter teaches in the county.
G.O. Jones	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His wife is a headteacher in the county.
K. Madge	10 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20	His daughter works in social care.
H.B.Shepardson	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His daughter is a teacher in one of the Authority's schools.
J. Thomas	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His daughter teaches in the county.
D.O. Tomos	18 - Executive Board Minutes 23 rd January, 2017 (minute 9)	His daughter teaches in the county.
J. Williams	10 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20	She is an unpaid carer for her husband.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair extended congratulations to Councillor Kevin Madge and his family on the birth of his grandson, Jac;
- Condolences were extended to the family of former County Councillor Jimmy Morgan, Whitland, who passed away recently;
- Condolences were extended to former County Councillor Gerald Meyler and his family on the death of his wife, Elaine;
- Congratulations were extended to the officers involved with the Dyfed Pension Fund on their success in achieving independent status for Wales under the new pension regulations introduced by central government recently;
- Reference was made to the recent retirement of the Whitland Postmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Parri-Roberts, after 53 years of service. They were thanked for their dedication and wished well for the future.

3.2. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised Council that the Welsh Government has recognised that providing care for longer and stability can impact positively on care leavers' outcomes. The "*When I am Ready*" scheme, which allows young people to remain with foster carers until they are 21, was pioneered during 2013-14 and implemented across Wales in 2015. From 2016, young people in Wales have had a right to remain in foster care up to 21. "*Action for Children – Gweithredu dros Blant*" advocated this change through the Authority's "*Chance to Stay – Cyfle i Aros*" campaign, which has already made an enormous difference to young people who wish to remain in stable, familial foster homes.

Not all young people leaving care will benefit from these reforms, however, and there was a risk that some of the most vulnerable young people who have not had stable care journeys will be excluded. More needs to be done to identify the best ways to make it possible for all care leavers to remain in settled accommodation, including residential care, or to move on to housing in a supported and flexible way. To effectively support adolescents in and on the edge of care, resources need to be invested effectively and early intervention approaches are needed to prevent future crises.

In Carmarthenshire we recognise that young people leaving care need somewhere safe and suitable to live, to help them make a positive transition into adulthood. After all, good housing underpins success in other areas of life.

Certain weaknesses have been identified in terms of the quality and location of supportive housing options available to care leavers within Carmarthenshire and the corporate parenting panel have expressed their concerns on more than one occasion.

The Leader advised Council that work is ongoing within the Authority on this issue and officers from the supporting people division are currently awaiting a detailed specification from children's services with regard to the re-commissioning of some projects. A significant amount of money has been allocated to the children's services department in this respect.

Whilst there was no barrier in terms of need for any care leaver to get a flat or a house, the challenge was to ensure that they are ready for independent living and that they are placed in the right location.

The Leader wished to make it clear that a policy statement will be issued by the Executive Board reaffirming the Authority's commitment to the provision of suitable housing for this group of young people as a matter of priority.

4. MINUTES

4.1. 18TH JANUARY 2017

Reference was made to the fact that Councillor Eryl Morgan's name was missing from the list of members who voted for the amendment and the list of members who voted against the motion (minute 11.1 refers).

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 18th January, 2017 be signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the above-mentioned amendment.

4.2. 25TH JANUARY 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 25th January, 2017 be signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the above-mentioned amendment.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIAN CAIACH

Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sian Caiach:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council confirms its commitment to public health and the safety of bathers and beach users in areas where there may be risks of contaminated water. In order to improve the current service we aim in future to not only test designated bathing beaches, but also other beaches used by the public where there is any suspicion of poor water quality. In future there should be monitoring of selected non designated beaches in the swimming season. Specifically we will monitor those next to bathing beaches which produce high readings of bacteria and also non designated bathing beaches which have had high readings of bacteria previously. In essence, beaches in public use with any health risk should be treated the same as bathing beaches for monitoring purposes where suspicion of contamination arises.”

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer and seconder of the Motion were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

Following a requisition by more than 10 members, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote was taken with the votes cast as follows:-

For the Motion (31)

Councillors D.J.R. Bartlett, S.M. Caiach, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, A. P. Cooper, D.M. Cundy, A. Davies, G. Davies, S.L. Davies, T. Devichand, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, D.C. Evans, A.D. Harries, C.P. Higgins, J.K. Howell, J.D. James, J.P. Jenkins, A.W. Jones, M.J.A. Lewis, K. Madge, E. Morgan, J. Owen, B.A.L. Roberts, H.B. Shepardson, A.D.T. Speake, M.K. Thomas, R. Thomas, W.G. Thomas, J. Williams and J.S. Williams.

Against the Motion (25)

Councillors D.B. Davies, I.W. Davies, T.T. Defis, E. Dole, L.D. Evans, W.J.W. Evans, W.T. Evans, M. Gravell, P. Hughes Griffiths, P.M. Hughes, I.J. Jackson, A. James, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, H.I. Jones, A. Lenny, D.J.R. Llewellyn, P.A. Palmer, D.W.H. Richards, L.M. Stephens, J. Thomas, S.E. Thomas, J. Tremlett, D.E. Williams and J.E. Williams.

Abstentions (6)

Councillors S.M. Allen, W.R.A. Davies, W.G. Hopkins, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas and D. Tomos.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue referred to in the Notice of Motion was an executive function and consequently Council was only able to refer the matter to the Executive Board for consideration.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PETER HUGHES GRIFFITHS

Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths:-

“The rural areas within Carmarthenshire need special and direct attention and that this Council establishes a RURAL WORKING GROUP consisting of members from the three Groups on the Council. The Working Group (following the pattern set by the Language Working Group) would collect information, research and invite and receive evidence in relation to rural areas in Carmarthenshire, before presenting, in due course, strategies, policies and an action plan before full Council.”

The motion was duly seconded

The proposer and seconder of the Motion were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

The following Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor Jeff Edmunds and duly seconded:-

“The rural areas of Carmarthenshire need special and direct attention, but also there are common issues throughout our county such as poverty and the lack of adequate public transport that also needs our attention. We ask that this Council establish a working group consisting of members from all the county parties to look at issues that face everyone both in the rural and urban areas. The working group (following the pattern set by the Language Working Group) would collect information, research and invite and receive evidence in relation to rural and urban areas in Carmarthenshire, before presenting, in due course strategies, policies and an action plan before full council.”

The proposer and seconder of the Amendment were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission.

A number of statements were made both in support of and against the Amendment and the Motion.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue referred to in the Notice of Motion was an executive function and consequently Council was only able to refer the matter to the Executive Board for consideration.

Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported.

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the substantive Motion and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY

Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Alun Lenny:-

“This Council acknowledges the hymn writer William Williams, Pantycelyn, Carmarthenshire, as one of the greatest Welshmen who ever lived and commit to holding a special event to celebrate his tricentenary, in recognition of his huge contribution to hymnology on an international scale and its impact on the life of our nation, as well as promoting knowledge about his life and work in all suitable and possible publicity by the council during the rest of this year.”

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer and seconder of the Motion were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

A number of statements were made in support of the Motion.

The Chief Executive advised that the issue referred to in the Notice of Motion was an executive function and consequently Council was only able to refer the matter to the Executive Board for consideration.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions by members had been received.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 TO 2019/20

[NOTE: Councillors K. Madge and J. Williams had previously declared an interest in this item.]

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 6th February, 2017 (minute 5 refers) considered the Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/18

to 2019/20 and made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the report of the Director of Corporate Services, for consideration by Council.

Council received a presentation by the Executive Board Member for Resources, on behalf of the Executive Board, in which he set out the background to the budget proposals being presented for Council's consideration, incorporating the latest position on the Welsh Government Settlement, feedback on the budget consultation process together with updates on growth and validation data.

He advised that, for a number of years the Authority has acknowledged the difficult funding scenario it has faced, and has recognised the need to do things differently and prioritise how it wishes to spend its increasingly scarce resources.

The medium term financial plan for the past 3 years has been based on negative financial settlements that ranged from -1% to -3.8% which has been made worse each year by the ever increasing commitments on various service areas of the Authority, such as social care. However, the Authority has always been able to set a balanced budget despite decreasing resources, whilst at the same time, to a large degree, maintaining service standards.

The Executive Board Member reported that once again this year we have only received a settlement for 1 year and although for this year we have been fortunate to have a cash standstill settlement, it was forecast that negative settlements will return to local government in future years. He therefore reiterated that the focus on efficiency or cost reductions needed to continue to ensure that the Authority's financial sustainability can be achieved and a balanced budget set into the future.

He advised that the final settlement was received on 21st December and he was pleased to confirm that the settlement this year was more favourable and supportive of local government than it had originally been anticipated, both within Welsh Government and local government circles. This therefore meant that the Executive Board had been able to revisit some of the proposals within the original budget outline and consider further options. However, as the Welsh Government had only provided figures for one year, the scope in terms of medium term forecasting within the medium term financial plan was restricted.

The Executive Board Member advised that, in addressing the continued pressures and real term reduction in funding, at the same time ensuring that Council Tax increases were, as far as possible, minimised, the Authority has had to continue to seek efficiencies in the way it delivers services and unfortunately, in some instances, had to look at the level of service provision itself. In the last 3 years approximately £37m of recurring expenditure has been stripped away from the Council's annual spending and this was set to continue over the next three years, with a further reduction of £25m assuming a 1% reduction in local government funding in years 2 and 3.

The Executive Board Member also referred to the widespread consultation undertaken on the budget which provided significant feedback on the original proposals put forward. It was clear that local people taking part in the consultation process appreciated that difficult choices need to be made.

As a result of the consultation and the fact that the Authority has benefited from a positive settlement, changes in validation and an opportunity to review the Minimum

Revenue Provision, all of which had collectively provided the Authority with a positive budget position, the Executive Board had recommended some changes to the initial proposals considered as part of the consultation, and these were detailed in the report of the Director of Corporate Services. He advised that adopting the proposals would inject a further £1.92m into the budget and would recognise and respond to the major concerns fed back from the consultation process. With these adjustments, he recommended that the Council Tax increase remained at the proposed level of 2.5%, which was supported by the majority of the respondents to the consultation.

The Executive Board Member stated that throughout the budgetary process the Executive Board had three clear objectives in mind:-

1. to prepare the Authority for any reductions in funding that may lie ahead;
2. to ensure as far as possible that service levels and standards are maintained;
3. recognising that our citizens were also finding it hard in the current climate and minimising as far as possible any increase in the council tax.

He added that unfortunately these objectives were not mutually exclusive. A low council tax increase next year would compound budgetary problems in the future and conversely a high council tax increase, whilst assisting with future budget planning and maintaining services, would unduly penalise current council tax payers.

He believed that the spending plans presented to Council with a Council Tax increase of 2.50%, which was likely to be lower than many across Wales, achieved a fair balance between all these objectives. However, he stressed that, in achieving this, balances had again been left at the lowest prudent level the Director could support and assumptions had been made that substantial cost reductions will be delivered. These were just two of the risk contained in the strategy and any potential overspends or service pressure points during would have to be carefully monitored during the year.

The Executive Board Member referred to the earmarked reserves balances held by the Authority and stressed that great care must be taken when considering utilising such funds for purposes other than those for which they were created as this could lead to the Authority facing substantial unfunded liabilities in the future.

In conclusion, the Executive Board Member thanked the public for responding so positively to the consultation and commended the hard work of the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and all officers involved in the budget process for their efforts in helping to sustain the Council's performance and delivery of services at reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

He thereupon moved the recommendations of the Executive Board in respect of the Budget Strategy 2017/18, the Council Tax increase of 2.50% and approval of the medium term financial plan as a basis for the future years financial planning. The proposal was duly seconded.

The following amendment was thereupon proposed and seconded:-

To raise the Council Tax to 4.5% in order to implement the following proposals:-

- contribute £400,000 to the education budget with the proviso that this money is used to protect the neediest schools' staff allocation;
- remove the cut of £70,000 in Special Education Needs
- an investment of £150,000 to jump start new business initiatives, replenished annually through the Council Tax;
- take £100,000 per annum from the Council Tax to expand and improve the park and ride scheme at Glangwili Hospital;
- invest £250,000 from the Council Tax to expand staffing in the Grounds and Cleansing Departments;
- remove the £10,000 reduction in the budget for free school breakfasts;
- withdraw the increase in the price of school meals at a cost of £100,000 to the revenue budget;
- £25,000 is put into the budget from the Council Tax to fund pilots to look at way to feed children and take the pressures off parents;
- withdraw the £30,000 reduction in core funding for the music service in schools;
- withdraw the reduction in funding for school crossing operatives at a cost of £55,000;
- withdraw the proposed reduction in libraries at a cost of £30,000;
- allocate £60,000 from the Council Tax to make up the shortfall needed to increase the provision of on-site wards at Sheltered Housing Schemes;
- remove the proposed cuts around double handed domiciliary care at a cost of £100,000;
- remove the cuts from both re-ablement programs at a cost of £30,000 and £50,000 respectively;
- that the proposed cut of £20,000 on Meals on Wheels be removed from the budget;
- that an investment of £60,000 be made for extra staff linked to the Housing and Accounts Departments to provide advice on benefit claims etc.
- that a sum of £30,000 be set aside for a person to co-ordinate data analysis;
- that an investment of £30,000 be allocated annually to the TIC team to enable them to work collaboratively with the Unions.

The proposer and seconder outlined the rationale for these amendments.

Following a requisition by more than 10 members, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote was taken on the amendments with the votes casts being as follows:-

For the Amendment (19)

Councillors D.J.R. Bartlett, S.M. Caiach, A.P. Cooper, D.M. Cundy, S.L. Davies, T Devichand, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, D.C. Evans, C.P. Higgins, J.D. James, A.W. Jones, K. Madge, E. Morgan, B.A.L. Roberts, M.K. Thomas, R. Thomas, W.G. Thomas and J. Williams

Against the Amendment (41)

Councillors S.M. Allen, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, A. Davies, D.B. Davies, G. Davies, I.W. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, T.T. Defis, E. Dole, L.D. Evans, W.J.W. Evans, W.T. Evans, M. Gravell, A.D. Harries, W.G. Hopkins, J.K. Howell, P. Hughes-

Griffiths, P.M. Hughes, I.J. Jackson, A. James, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, H.I. Jones, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, D.J.R. Llewellyn, J. Owen, P.A. Palmer, D.W.H. Richards, A.D.T. Speake, L.M. Stephens, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, J. Thomas, S.E. Thomas, D. Tomos, J. Tremlett, D.E. Williams, J.E. Williams and J.S. Williams

Abstentions (1)

Councillor J.P. Jenkins

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported.

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the substantive Motion and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Motion be adopted and that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“10.1 the Budget Strategy for 2017/18 be approved, subject to the following amendments:-

10.1.1 the proposal in respect of grants to the voluntary sector be phased over a longer period of time and that £135k of the proposed reduction be reversed and a reduction of £35k per annum be phased over the future years commencing in 2017/18;

10.1.2 the proposal to transfer or close St. Clears Leisure Centre be reconsidered resulting in the withdrawal of the 3 year savings of £96k, of which £16k was in respect of the 2017/18 financial year;

10.1.3 the proposed savings for the Youth Service in respect of The Quay Centre, Carmarthen, be halved thereby allowing a further £10k to support the Youth Service;

10.1.4 an additional £1.76m be added to the Delegated Schools Budget, thereby bringing it back to a cash neutral position;

10.2 That the Band D Council Tax for 2017/18 be set at £1,145.61 (an increase of 2.50% for 2017/18);

10.3 That the provisional medium term financial plan (inclusive of the amendments noted above) be approved as a basis for future years planning.”

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 1.00 p.m. Council’s attention was drawn to Council Procedure Rule 9.1 “Duration of Meeting” And as the meeting had been underway for three hours, it was

RESOLVED that the remainder of the business on the agenda should stand adjournment until 2.00 p.m. that day.

12. RECONVENED MEETING

Council reconvened in the Chamber at County Hall, Carmarthen at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor E. Morgan [Chair]

Councillors:

S.M. Allen	E. Dole	J.D. James	G.B. Thomas
D.J.R. Bartlett	J.S. Edmunds	D.M. Jenkins	J. Thomas
S.M. Caiach	P.M. Edwards	A.W. Jones	M.K. Thomas
C.A. Campbell	D.C. Evans	G.O. Jones	R. Thomas
J.M. Charles	L.D. Evans	H.I. Jones	W.G. Thomas
A.P. Cooper	W.T. Evans	M.J.A. Lewis	J. Tremlett
D.M. Cundy	M. Gravell	K. Madge	D.E. Williams
A. Davies	A.D. Harries	P.A. Palmer	J.E. Williams
D.B. Davies	C.P. Higgins	D.W.H. Richards	J.S. Williams
G. Davies	J.K. Howell	B.A.L. Roberts	
S.L. Davies	P. Hughes Griffiths	A.D.T. Speake	
T. Devichand	I.J. Jackson	L.M. Stephens	

The following officers were in attendance:-

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr G. Morgans	-	Interim Director of Education & Children's Services
Mr O. Bowen	-	Head of Financial Services
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Property
Ms L. Quelch	-	Head of Planning
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr R. Staines	-	Head of Housing & Public Protection
Mr P. Thomas	-	Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)
Mrs W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

13. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) 2017/18 TO 2021/22

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 6th February, 2017 (minute 6 refers) considered the Five Year Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2020/21 and made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the report of the Director of Corporate Services, for consideration by Council.

Council received a presentation by the Executive Board Member for Resources, on behalf of the Executive Board, on the Five Year Capital Programme which was aligned to the current Corporate Strategy and supported the Authority's strategic priorities and aspirations.

The Executive Board Member advised Council that the capital programme anticipated an estimated spend in excess of £210m over the 5 years and was aimed at delivering a number of key projects that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire.

The Executive Board Member informed Council that funding for this programme was currently estimated at £124m with a further £85m coming from external grant funding bodies. As with the revenue budget, Welsh Government has only provided settlement figures for 1 year and therefore the programme was based on future years supported borrowing and general grant being of the same level as 2017/18.

Whilst the basis of the capital programme was a rolling programme, year on year, which included significant investment in areas like the 21st Century Schools Programme, Highways, Regeneration and Housing, the Authority has yet again been able to include some new projects and priorities in the programme which it was felt are important for the county. Identifying funding for these additional projects within the capital programme had been a challenge this year and in particular the urgent works required in Burry Port Harbour, however, the review of the MRP policy had helped to facilitate these additional funds.

The Executive Board Member advised that monitoring both the schemes and the funding would be critical going forward and would need to be closely managed. He was pleased to report that the programme as presented was fully funded until 2020/21 with only a small shortfall in the final year of the programme 2021/22.

He thereupon moved the recommendations of the Executive Board in respect of the Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) and its proposed funding, as detailed in the report. The proposal was duly seconded.

The following observations were made:-

- Concern was expressed over the lack of allocated money in the budget statements to accommodate and support over 30,000 people destined to move into the county over the next 4 years, as agreed in the Local Development Plan;
- Concern was expressed that the new primary school build in the Amman Valley has been downgraded when it is so desperately needed;
- Reference was made to highways infrastructure and concern was expressed that more investment has not been allocated for this purpose.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

- “13.1 That the Five Year Capital Programme and funding as detailed in Appendix B with 2017/18 being a hard budget and 2018/19 and 2021/22 being soft/indicative budgets;**
- 13.2 That the 2021/22 budget be reviewed over the coming year in order to address the funding shortfall;**
- 13.3 That the programme be reviewed, as is usual, if anticipated external or County Council funding does not materialise.”**

14. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2017/18 TO 2019/20 AND HOUSING RENT SETTING FOR 2017/18

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 6th February, 2017 (minute 7 refers) considered the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Housing Rent Setting for 2017/18 and made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the report of the Director of Corporate Services, for consideration by Council.

Council received a presentation by the Executive Board Member for Resources, on behalf of the Executive Board, on the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account for 2017 to 2020 reflecting the Authority's aims within

the 30 year Business Plan/18 to 2019/20, which was the primary financial planning tool for delivery of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) and the Affordable Housing Strategy.

The Executive Board Member advised that the capital investment of £231m within the current business plan had delivered the CHS+ for our tenants and the further budget going forward had been developed to ensure appropriate funding is allocated to maintain the CHS+ standard for all the Council's properties into the future. Over the next 5 years it was anticipated that in the region of £50m would be spent maintaining and upgrading our stock. The budget also provided funding of some £36m over the next 5 years to support the Affordable Housing Strategy which will see an increase in the supply of affordable housing throughout the county through various solutions including the new build programme and the buyback scheme.

The Executive Board Member explained that since 2015 the Authority has been required to adopt the Welsh Government Social Housing Rent Harmonisation Policy, which effectively meant the proposed rent increase before members was prescribed by Welsh Government guidance. Implementation of the proposed increases would provide an average rent increase for the county of £2.84 per week and the Authority would need to continue with this Welsh Government policy until properties hit the target rent set by Welsh Government.

He added that, for Carmarthenshire, our average mid-point target rent for next year was £84.67 and if the recommendations within the report were approved our average rent would be set at £81.77, which was slightly below the mid-point target rent.

The Executive Board Member stated that it was difficult to balance the impact of the rent increase on tenants against the need to set the rent in line with Welsh Government policy, whilst ensuring that the Authority can continue to produce a sustainable business plan to take the CHS+ and Affordable Housing Strategy forward.

In moving the recommendations within the report, he advised that the proposals had been unanimously supported by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 20th January, 2017.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“14.1 Increase the rent in line with Welsh Government guidelines i.e.:-

- **Properties at target rents to increase by 2.5% (CPI + 1.5%)**
- **Properties where rent is below target rent to increase by 2.5% (CPI + 1.5%) plus a maximum progression of £2**
- **Properties above target rent be frozen until such time that they meet the target**

Thereby producing an average housing rent increase of £2.84, a sustainable business plan, maintain CHS+ and resource the Affordable Homes programme;

14.2 Continue with the maximum progression of £2 for rents below target until target rents are achieved;

- 14.3 Increase garage rents to £9.00 per week (from £8.75 in 2016/17) and garage bases to £2.25 per week (from £2.20 in 2016/17);
- 14.4 Apply the service charge policy to ensure tenants who receive the benefit from specific services pay for those services;
- 14.5 Increase charges for using our sewerage treatment works in line with rent increase;
- 14.6 Approve the proposed Capital Programme and applicable funding For 2017/18 and the indicative spends for the future years 2018/19 to 2012/22 as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- 14.7 Approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2017/20 (with 2018/19 and 2019/20 being soft budgets) as set out in Appendix B.”

15. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD PLUS (CHS+) "DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS" BUSINESS PLAN 2017-20

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 6th February, 2017 (minute 8 refers) considered the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) “Delivering What Matters” Business Plan 2017-20, the purpose of which was to:-

- explain the vision and detail of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus over the next three years and what it meant for tenants;
- confirm the financial profile, based on current assumptions, for the delivery of CHS+ over the next three years; and
- produce a business plan for the annual application to Welsh Government for Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) for 2017/18 equating to £6.1m.

The Executive Board Member for Housing advised that if the report and its recommendations were to be adopted, it would result in some £55m being spent over the next three years in maintaining and further improving the CHS+ (£25M) and delivering the Affordable Homes Plan (£30m) through a range of solutions including, new build.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

- “15.1 That the vision of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) and the financial and delivery programme over the next three years be confirmed;
- 15.2 That the submission of the Plan to the Welsh Government be confirmed.”

16. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2017-18

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on 6th February, 2017 (minute 9 refers) considered the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2017/18.

The Executive Board Member advised Council that in line with the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council must

maintain a Treasury Management Policy detailing the policies and objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities and also approve a Treasury Management Strategy annually before the start of the financial year to which it relates. In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003, the Council was required to approve the Treasury Management Indicators for the coming year.

In accordance with the above requirements, Council considered the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for the 2017/18 financial year and it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

- “16.1 That the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2017-18 and the recommendations contained therein be approved;**
- 16.2 That the Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and recommendations therein be approved.”**

17. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER - LLANELLI TOWN CENTRE

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on 6th February, 2017 (Minute 13 refers), considered a report detailing draft proposals for the introduction of a Local Development Order for Llanelli Town Centre with a view to reflecting the corporate regeneration objectives for the town centre whilst ensuring the issues of its ongoing vitality and viability were appropriately considered, utilising the provisions of national planning policy.

The Order, if introduced, would allow a range of uses within a defined spatial area to proceed without the need for the submission of a planning application to the Local Planning Authority, subject to the Authority issuing a 'certificate of conformity'.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

- “17.1 That the report and scope of the proposed Local Development Order be approved for consideration through the democratic reporting process;**
- 17.2 That the publication of the final Local Development Order for public consultation for a minimum period of 6 weeks be approved;**
- 17.3 That delegated authority be granted to officers to prepare evidence in support of the Local Development Order;**
- 17.4 That delegated authority be granted to officers to make minor editorial and factual amendments to the Local Development Order.”**

18. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 23RD JANUARY, 2017

[NOTE: Councillors J.S. Edmunds, D.C. Evans, L.D. Evans, P. Hughes Griffiths, G.O. Jones, H.B. Shepardson, J. Thomas and D.O. Tomos had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

19. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 6TH FEBRUARY, 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

CHAIR

DATE

WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2017**PRESENT:** Councillor E. Morgan (Chair)**Councillors:**

S.M. Allen	D.J.R. Bartlett	T. Bowen	C.A. Campbell
J.M. Charles	A.P. Cooper	D.M. Cundy	A. Davies
D.B. Davies	G. Davies	I.W. Davies	J.A. Davies
S.L. Davies	T. Davies	W.R.A. Davies	T. Devichand
E. Dole	J.S. Edmunds	P.M. Edwards	D.C. Evans
H.A.L. Evans	L.D. Evans	W.J.W. Evans	W.T. Evans
M. Gravell	C.P. Higgins	W.G. Hopkins	J.K. Howell
P. Hughes-Griffiths	I.J. Jackson	J.D. James	D.M. Jenkins
J.P. Jenkins	G.O. Jones	H.I. Jones	P.E.M. Jones
T.J. Jones	W.J. Lemon	A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis
K. Madge	S. Matthews	A.G. Morgan	J. Owen
P.A. Palmer	D. Price	D.W.H. Richards	B.A.L. Roberts
H.B. Shepardson	A.D.T. Speake	L.M. Stephens	E.G. Thomas
G.B. Thomas	J. Thomas	M.K. Thomas	R. Thomas
S.E. Thomas	J. Tremlett	J.E. Williams	J.S. Williams

Also Present:

Mr M. James – Chief Executive
 Mr C. Moore – Director of Corporate Services
 Mr G. Morgans – Interim Director of Education & Children's Services
 Mr J. Morgan – Director of Community Services
 Mrs R. Mullen – Director of Environment
 Ms L. Rees-Jones – Head of Administration and Law
 Mr P. Thomas – Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)
 Mr M. Palfreman – Head of Regional Collaboration
 Mr K. Thomas – Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall - 10.00 - 10.45 am**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.M. Caiach, A.D. Harries, A. James, A.W. Jones, D.J.R. Llewellyn, G. Thomas, W.G. Thomas and J. Williams

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
T. Davies	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Trustee of the Dyfed Pension Fund
S.E. Thomas	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Trustee of the Dyfed Pension Fund
W.J.W.	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter	Trustee of the Dyfed

Evans	Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Pension Fund
P.M. Hughes	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Trustee of the Dyfed Pension Fund
K. Madge	7 – Pay Policy Statement 2017-2018	Daughter works in Social Services
K. Madge	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Daughter works in Social Services & wife works in the NHS
K. Madge	9.2 – Partnership Arrangements established in West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the West Wales Population Assessment	Daughter works in Social Services & wife works in the NHS
D.C. Evans	7 – Pay Policy Statement 2017-2018	Wife works for the Council
D.C. Evans	8 – Wales Investment Pool – Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Governance Committee	Wife works for the Council

Declarations by Officers – All officers in attendance at the meeting declared an interest in Minute 7 – Pay Policy Statement 2017/2018.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair extended his condolences to Councillor H.A.L. Evans and her family on the death of her mother, Gene Evans;
- The Chair expressed best wishes to Mr Simon Allen, Councillor Sue Allen's Husband following recent surgery;
- The Chair extended a welcome to members of Council staff within the Education and Children Department's Youth Service's Division who had organised the recent Christmas Toy Box Appeal. The Executive Board Member for Communities, and the Chief Executive, referred to the work undertaken by the staff and congratulated them on their effort resulting in 662 children having benefitted from the appeal;
- The Council's attention was drawn to the work of the Raise a Smile Charity, in partnership with Sue Ryder, in providing new community healthcare services, ensuring people could receive the required care at the end of their lives in a place of their choice, surrounded by their families. Members of Council were requested to make a donation towards the charity's work;
- Congratulations were extended to Mr Steffan Davies from Llandybie who recently became the Welsh Junior Chef of Wales and who would now represent Wales in the Young National Chef of the Year later in the year organised by the Master Chef's of Great Britain. Mr Davies was also a member of the Welsh Junior Culinary Team which had won two silver medals at the Culinary Olympics in Germany in October 2016;
- Congratulations were extended to LBS (formerly Llandeilo Builders Supplies) in being awarded 'Business of the Year' at the recent Swansea Bay Business Awards;
- Congratulations were extended to Corey Baldwin from Llandeilo on being awarded his first cap for the Wales Under 20's team;

- Congratulations were awarded to Tobey Baldwin from Llandeilo on winning a Gold Medal at the Welsh Sports Hall Indoor Athletic Finals;
- Congratulations were extended to Côr Merched Sir Gar on winning the Wales Youth Choir Competition and who would now proceed to attend the finals of the Wales Choir Competition. Appreciation was also extended to the Choir's conductor, Mr Islwyn Evans, for his work and to the Council's music service for its support;
- The Chair referred to his recent attendance at a choir evening and extended his appreciation to Councillor Edward Thomas for the warm reception he'd received. He also congratulated Councillor Cefin Campbell on both his participation in the choir and compering the event.

4. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no questions by members had been received.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18.

Consideration was given to the Director of Corporate Services' report setting out the financial details relevant to the setting of the Council Tax for 2017-2018, together with the Council Tax amounts in respect of the different Council Tax Valuation Bands, as applicable to each of the individual Community and Town Council areas.

It was noted that the recommendations contained within the report were based on the final settlement details received from the Welsh Government and the precepts notified to the County Council by the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner and the Town and Community Councils.

RESOLVED that in order for the Council to comply with legislative requirements, the report and recommendations of the Director of Corporate Services on the setting of the Council Tax for the financial year 2017/18 be adopted.

7. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017-2018.

[NOTE:

1. Councillors D.C. Evans and K. Madge had earlier declared an interest in this item

2. All officers in attendance at the meeting, declared personal interests in this item, and left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof, with the exception of the Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance) who remained in the meeting to respond to any questions arising on the report, but left prior to the vote being taken, the Democratic Services Officer, who remained in

the meeting to take notes, and the Webcasting Officer]

Council was reminded that under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 all Local Authorities were required to prepare a pay policy statement for the financial year 2017-2018 and each subsequent financial year.

The pay policy statement for a financial year required the approval of full Council and must set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its Chief Officers, its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and its employees who were not Chief Officers.

The Pay Policy Statement had been considered by the politically balanced Pay Policy Advisory Panel whose recommendations had been incorporated into the final document for approval by County Council.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2017-2018 be approved in compliance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

8. WALES INVESTMENT POOL - INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT AND JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

(NOTE: Councillors T. Davies, S.E. Thomas, W.J.W. Evans, P.M. Hughes, D.C. Evans and K. Madge had earlier declared an interest in this matter)

The Council received for consideration a report on the establishment of an all Wales Pension Investment Pool, the Inter-Authority Agreement required in relation thereto together with the establishment of Joint Governance Committee. It was reported that the establishment of the Pension Pool had been endorsed by the Government in November 2016 and would require the consent of all 8 of the Local Pension Fund Authorities in Wales to progress to a formal agreement. If endorsed, by all 8 authorities, it was anticipated significant savings in investment management fees would be achieved, whilst still allowing the individual administering authorities to retain control over the setting of their investment Strategy and detailed asset allocation. Subject to that endorsement, the Pool's Operator Function would be tendered over the next few months with the successful operator being appointed by the Joint Governance Committee mid-summer 2017 and the initial investment being placed in April 2018

The Council was advised that as part of the Agreement, one of the 8 Authorities would act as the Host Authority and the Accountable Body and Carmarthenshire County Council had been nominated for that role.

The Council was advised that its representatives on the Dyfed Pension Panel had monitored and supported the proposals since their inception and fully supported their presentation to Council for determination.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- 8.1 the Council note the content of the draft Inter Authority Agreement (IAA), attached as Appendix B to the report, and delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Pension Panel and the Head of**

- Administration and Law to approve and sign the final version of the Agreement;
- 8.2 the establishment of the Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Governance Committee) on conclusion of the IAA referred to in recommendation 1 above, and on the basis of the terms of reference attached to the report be approved;
- 8.3 the delegation of exercise of certain functions to the Joint Governance Committee, as set out in the terms of reference be approved and that it be noted those functions were reserved to the Council;
- 8.4 the appointment of the Chair of the Pension Fund Panel or his/her nominated Deputy to the Joint Governance Committee as the Carmarthenshire County Council representative be approved;
- 8.5 delegated authority be granted to the nominated representative of Carmarthenshire County Council to act within the terms of reference of the Joint Governance Committee to enable the exercise of any delegated function;
- 8.6 Carmarthenshire County Council (Dyfed Pension Fund) acts as Host Council with the responsibilities set out in the Inter Authority Agreement.

9. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

9.1. DRAFT CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2017/18

The Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 27th February, 2017 had considered the Draft Carmarthenshire County Council – Well Being Objectives for 2017/18 produced in accordance with the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, incorporating the Council's 2017/18 Key Improvement Objectives published in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-
“that the Draft report be approved”

9.2. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN WEST WALES UNDER PART 9 OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING (WALES) ACT 2014 AND THE WEST WALES POPULATION ASSESSMENT

(NOTE: Councillor K. Madge had earlier declared an interest in this item)

The Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 27th February, 2017 had considered a report on the Partnership arrangements established in West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the West Wales Population Assessment.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:

**“To note the statutory requirements in place within West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the partnership arrangements to meet those requirements;
That the contents of the West Wales Population Assessment be endorsed”.**

CHAIR

DATE

COUNTY COUNCIL 26TH APRIL 2017

INCOME AND CHARGING POLICY

Purpose: To consider a draft Income and Charging Policy for the Council which will be used to underpin the development of a more strategic and commercial approach to the Councils income generation and debt recovery processes.

Executive Board Recommendation:

That the Corporate Income and Charging Policy for the Authority be approved.

Reasons:

To support the development of a more strategic and commercial approach to the Councils income generation and debt recovery processes and to support the Council in meeting its financial challenges in the short, medium and long term.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES (27th March 2017)

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Councillor David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate	Designations:	Tel Nos/E-Mail Addresses:
Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	01267 224522
Report Author:		CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Tracey Thomas	Principal Business Development Officer	01267 246202
		TrThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY COUNTY COUNCIL

26TH APRIL 2017

INCOME AND CHARGING POLICY

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Background:

- It has been previously raised to undertake a review of the authority's approach to income and charging and that this should be carried out as part of the TIC Programme.
- An Income and Charging Steering Group was established to oversee the review with the *'aim of examining the potential for increasing income from fees and charges and reviewing the robustness of current income collection and debt recovery processes'*.
- One of the initial findings from the group was that there was a need to adopt a more strategic approach to its income and charging activities and that this should be supported through the development of a Corporate Income and Charging Policy.
- One of the aims of the policy is to provide a set of key principles which will be used to underpin the authority's approach to income and charging and to further develop a more commercial approach to these activities.
- The policy will act as source of reference for services when looking to introduce new, or review their existing charges, and also set out expectations in respect of the robustness of its income collection and debt recovery processes.
- The policy/principles has been subject to extensive consultation including DMT's, Heads of Service forum and TIC Programme Board.
- The WAO Local Government Study: Charging for services and generating income by Local Authorities has been presented to Audit Committee 6th January 2017 and the principles of this policy links into the WAO study.

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	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- One of the initial findings from the TIC Income and Charging Group was that there was a need to adopt a more strategic approach to its income and charging activities and that this should be supported through the development of a Corporate Income and Charging Policy. One of the aims of the policy is to provide a set of key principles which will be used to underpin the authority's approach to income and charging and to further develop a more commercial approach to these activities. The policy will act as source of reference for services when looking to introduce new, or review their existing charges, and also set out expectations in respect of the robustness of its income collection and debt recovery processes. The policy/principles has been subject to extensive consultation including DMT's, Heads of Service forum and TIC Programme Board.

2. Legal

- The policy aims to comply with and adhere to Welsh Government legislation in respect of income generation and charging for services.

3. Finance

The attached policy and action plan aims to further develop the Council's income generation and recovery processes with the overall aim of helping the Council respond to the on-going financial challenges facing the organisation.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Chris Moore

Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

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

Corporate Income and Charging Policy

March 2017



Carmarthenshire County Council
Corporate Income and Charging Policy

Policy Framework:

This policy establishes guiding principles for income generation and charging for services provided by Carmarthenshire County Council.

It aims to embed the principle that *income from charges should be maximised, whilst avoiding adverse consequences on other services, or corporate objectives.*

This policy supports our Corporate Strategy; which sets out the Council's strategic priorities and aspirations and outlines what we plan to do to achieve our vision for Carmarthenshire, and our Community Plan to promote economic, social and environmental well-being.

This policy also fits with our Priority Based Budgeting to ensure that finances are closely aligned to service priorities and supports our Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) Programme to '*achieve a sustainable financial future through transformation, innovation and change.*'

Purpose of the policy:

The Policy has been developed to ensure that all fees, charges and concessions for services are understood and are transparent.

It aims to apply all charges consistently across the County unless the Council has made a decision to the contrary based on a business case to do so. The Council is reliant upon income to undertake any of its services and it is therefore crucial that fees, charges and concessions are set and applied correctly. All services must comply with this Policy when setting and reviewing fees, charges and concessions.

Background:

There has been a great deal of uncertainty as to the legality of establishing charges, where legislation does not expressly permit this. The key development in this area was the Local Government Act 2003, which enabled Local Authorities to charge for 'discretionary services' (Services which the Council is allowed, but not compelled to provide), unless there were pre-existing statutory directions that limited charge levels, or prevented charging.

Although not quite giving a 'power of general competence' to Councils, the Local Government Act 2000 is supportive of the development of new services (for which a charge can be attached), provided regard is given to the Councils Community Strategy and local well-being plan, since it allows authorities to do anything they consider likely to improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of their area.

‘Charging’ has also risen in prominence due to the efficiency savings agenda of the Welsh Government ‘Making the Connections’ Strategy. The Authority has adopted a positive stance in relation to this Strategy with a mechanism known as ‘Priority Based Budgeting’ to ensure that finances are closely aligned to service priorities. An increase in income from charges has an important role to play in ensuring sound and sustainable finances; Priority Based Budgeting can ensure this is directed to where the service need is greatest.

For some services charges are mandatory and the fee is set nationally, while for other services the Council is expressly prohibited from charging. However, the Local Government Act 2003 gave Local Authorities the general power under section 93 to charge for discretionary services which are not covered by any other legislation with the following restrictions:

- The income from charges for a service should not exceed the cost of providing that service (over a ‘reasonable’ but unspecified period)
- The recipient of the service must have agreed to its provision and agrees to pay for it.
- Charges may be set differentially, so that different people are charged different amounts.

The Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 allows Local Authorities to provide services for other Local Authorities and to make a profit. This should be used wherever possible.

Key Charging Principles:

1. All income and charges should be linked to the strategic objectives of the Council.
2. Aim to provide a charge for all services where it is legal and appropriate to do so unless the Council has made a decision to the contrary.
3. Aim to apply all charges consistently across the County unless the Council has made a decision to the contrary based on a business case to do so.
4. Services should only be subsidised when there is a clear case to do so based on equity and access to services or targeted at specific individuals, groups and/or households. The case will need to be made for all such circumstances in line with the Council’s strategic objectives and regularly reviewed.
5. If introducing a new charge or making changes to existing charges the Council will engage and consult with relevant stakeholders in order to inform an impact assessment. All charges to increase annually by rate of inflation unless business case dictates otherwise.
6. When providing services on a commercial basis ensure Council competes with market rate.
7. Charges and methods of payment should be clearly communicated to all stakeholders.

8. Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place within services to collect all income and manage debt in a timely manner, unless there is a decision by the Council to the contrary.
9. Ensure the charging scheme is cost effective to operate.
10. All service cost recovery should include central overheads (including interest and administrative costs where applicable).
11. Ensure all appropriate methods for making payments and generating income are developed recognising the advancement of Technology.
12. Ensure all venues open to the public where appropriate can accept payments (and bookings) for all Council services.
13. Develop online payment methods and accessibility of services to complement existing arrangements.

Detailed Principles:

Charging:

We will provide a charge for all services where it is legal and appropriate to do so unless:

- There is a statutory reason preventing the setting of charges
- The costs of collecting a charge outweighs the costs providing the service
- There is an impact or a cost introduced elsewhere due to the charging. For example, flying tipping as a result of excessive levels of charging for Bulky Waste Collections.
- It is not linked to the strategic objectives of the Council.
- A specific exemption has been agreed by the Executive Board not to charge or to recover the full cost.

How much?

Where a decision has been made to charge we will set the charge:

- To achieve full cost recovery unless there are legal, strategic or contractual reasons for not doing so.
- The level of charges should be compared with those of other public, private and third sector services to ensure they reflect current market value. If pricing decisions are made independently of current and future market conditions there is a risk of under or over supplying a service to the public.
- Full use of differential charging, discounting and other alternative pricing structures should be made to maximise commercial benefit and target service take-up amongst particular groups.
- The impact of charges on specific groups of users and the wider population needs to be fully understood to ensure continued access to services, management of

unintended consequences (for example on the local economy, on anti social behaviour)

- Generate enough income so that the service meets its costs. If a service does not meet its costs this should be as a result of conscious decision, consistent with the Councils Strategic objectives. Otherwise the service is effectively being subsidised by Council Tax payers.
- When providing services on a commercial basis we must ensure that the Council responds in a timely manner to market changes.

Income Collection:

We will:

- Use cost effective methods of payment and collecting charges.
- Communicate our charges and methods of payments clearly to all stakeholders.
- Ensure all avenues for making payments and generating income are developed.
- Ensure all Council venues open to the public can accept payments (and bookings) for all Council Services.
- Develop online payment methods and accessibility of services to complement existing payment arrangements.
- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place within services to collect all income and manage debt, unless there is a decision by the Council to the contrary.
- Ensure customers who fail to pay fees and charges, or fail to carry out a statutory requirement, shall be liable for the full cost of enforcement by the Council.
- Actively pursue non payment of any charges and fees.

Deciding whether to subsidise:

A decision to subsidise a Service needs a clear rationale which is likely to be:

1. Providing a public good
2. Encouraging Service Take-up

The financial impact of subsidy decisions on the Authority needs to be identified, both individually and collectively and actively managed and reviewed.

In deciding whether to subsidise services which are also provided by other suppliers on a fully commercial basis, the potential distortion to competition (as set out in EU State Aid regulations) must be fully considered, and expert legal advice sought where appropriate.

The overall level and profile of service subsidy agreed by the Council must be made publicly available.

Concessions:

There are two types of concessions:

- Mandatory and determined by Statute
- Discretionary which are wholly within the power of the Council.

Discretionary concessions should only be granted if they:

- Promote equity and increase access to services
- Are based on ability to pay
- Are targeted at specific individuals and/or households.

A business case is required if any new concession scheme is needed and will be approved by the Director of Corporate Services or delegated officer. This will assure that concession schemes are applied in a consistent and transparent approach across all Council Services.

The impact of concession schemes should be monitored, reviewed and evaluated.

A register of concessions should be established, covering eligibility, the nature of the concession, rationale, services affected, responsibility for managing, and business rules.

Trading:

Services with the ability to achieve full cost recovery on a consistent basis should be encouraged to operate more commercially in order to reduce dependence on revenue support.

This will be done by the preparation of a robust business case following Welsh Government statutory guidance, and approval in the first instance by the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with Head of Administration and Law, prior to being put forward for approval by the Council Members.

Income collection of wider Council Strategies:

The impact on current and future income should be fully considered when decisions to commission service provision outside the Council are being taken.

Procedure for introducing or changing fees, charges and concessions:

All new and existing income proposals need to be taken forward through a business case approach to include a clear rationale for charging, the development of charging options, modelling of net benefits, impact and risks.

Heads of Service will be responsible for setting and reviewing charges in their respective Service Area and ensuring that the rates at which charges are set work towards achieving full cost recovery.

Charges and concessions set will be challenged by CMT and approved by the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board.

Monitoring and reviewing:

To enhance the Income Governance arrangements the following steps will be taken (these will enable the Authority to manage income transparently and make effective decisions):

- All fees and charges will be set to increase annually by the rate of inflation (CPI Rate) utilised in the budget preparation unless a business case dictates otherwise.
- Reviews of all fees and charges will be undertaken as an integral part of the budget process each year and evidenced.
- Maintaining a corporate fees and charges register as a central point of reference.
- In year monitoring of Income Generation to go forward to CMT on a regular basis.
- Any deviation from applying the set fees and charges can only be done with explicit approval or delegation of discretion.

Impact on Equality

The Council is committed to ensuring equality of access to all of its services. The Authority's Impact Assessment process (including any appropriate consultation) must be applied for any income generation opportunities under the Policy so that equality impact is clearly understood before a decision is made. <\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Management\Working Groups\Corporate\Equalities Working Group\Equality Impact Assessments\Priority Based Budgeting\2016-17\Final EIA Form October 2013.doc>

Other Service Policies

The Corporate income and Charging Policy is further supported by the Wales Audit Office Report dated 10th November 2016 'Charging for services and generating income by local authorities':

<https://audit.wales/system/files/publications/income-generation-2016-eng.pdf>

Approval and review of this policy

This policy is subject to approval by Executive Board. The Policy will be reviewed periodically by the Director of Corporate Services with the Head of Administration and Law.

If you require this publication in an alternative format please contact Tracey Thomas, Principle Business Development Officer, Corporate Services 01267 246202 or email TrThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

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COUNTY COUNCIL 26TH APRIL 2017

AMENDMENT TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

Executive Board Recommendation:

That the amendments to the Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as detailed above, be approved as follows:-

1. Supported borrowing and expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, as at 31st March 2016 – charged to revenue over 40 years on a straight line basis, and this policy be implemented for the 2016-2017 accounts and for the Revenue Budget Strategy 2017-2018 to 2019-2020.
2. Unsupported Borrowing - the future borrowing value is charged to revenue over 40 years or by the estimated economic life of the asset if shorter.
3. The MRP policy for the local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways and for the fleet programme to remain as currently approved

Reasons:

An amendment to the current Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy to one supporting a more prudent annual provision.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: N/A

Exec Board Decision Required YES (10th April 2017)

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. David Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services

Director: Chris Moore

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services
Head of Financial Services

Tel No. 01267 224886

E Mail Addresses:
Cmoore@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY COUNTY COUNCIL

26TH APRIL 2017

AMENDMENT TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

Under legislation Authorities are required to charge to their revenue account for each financial year a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to account for the cost of their debt in that financial year. For the 2016/17 and the 2017/18 financial years Council approved a MRP policy on the following basis:

- **Supported Borrowing and Capital Expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008**

The calculation is based on 4% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year.

- **Unsupported Borrowing**

Asset Life Method: under this method the borrowing value is divided by the estimated life of the asset.

Capital Expenditure on the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) 21st Century Schools is classed as Unsupported Borrowing. It is estimated that asset lives within these programmes are 30 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

Asset lives within the Fleet Programme range from 1 to 10 years, these are the periods that will be used to determine the MRP.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways. It is estimated that asset lives within this programme are 20 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

- **Housing Revenue Account**

The calculation is based on 2% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year

The Director of Corporate Services notified Council on 23rd February 2017 that this policy was being reviewed and that communication received by the Wales Audit Office's Assistant Auditor General for Wales advised those Local Authorities considering amending their current MRP Policy to take account of the requirements of the 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015'.

The Director of Corporate Services considers the proposed amendment to be sensitive to both current and future citizens' needs.

The proposed amendment to the MRP Policy will realise projected annual revenue savings for 100 years plus, with the exception of the 27 year period 2028/29 to 2055/56 where increased annual revenue charges are projected. For the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 (final year of the current Medium Term Financial Plan) annual savings of circa £2.5 million are projected

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	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

The proposal has been prepared having regard for the Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-2020, and the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it has concluded that the proposals have a positive impact on citizens and a non-discriminatory impact for all protected characteristics.

2. Finance

For the 2016/17 financial year and for the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20, revenue savings of circa £2.5 million per annum are projected.

Annual revenue savings will continue to be realised until the 2027/28 financial year following which an increased charge to revenue is evident in respect of the existing debt until the 2055/56 financial year before annual savings are again realised from the 2056/57 financial year.

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 – 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
2017/18 3 year Revenue Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.
The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.
Minimum Revenue Provision for the Redemption of Debt – letter received from the Assistant Auditor General for Wales		

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

County Council

26th April 2017

AMENDMENT TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

DESIGNATION:	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
C Moore, Director of Corporate Services	Resources	01267 224120
AUTHOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO
C Moore, Director of Corporate Services	Resources	01267 224120

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, Local Authorities are required to charge to their revenue account, for each financial year, a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to account for the cost of their debt in that financial year. Regulation 21 set out the method Authorities were required to follow in calculating MRP.
- 1.2 Under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008, the detailed calculation has been replaced with a requirement that local authorities 'have regard' to the guidance and the recommendations within. In principle, an authority is now only required to make a 'prudent provision' in respect of its ongoing MRP charge. The broad aim of prudent provision is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.
- 1.3 The options for prudent provision are as follows:
- Regulatory Method – MRP is equal to the amount determined in accordance with the former 2003 Regulations as if it had not been revoked by the 2008 Regulations.(4% reducing balance)
 - Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) Method – MRP is equal to 4% of the non-housing CFR at the end of the preceding financial year. That is, it is calculated on a 4% reducing balance method (Method currently used by Carmarthenshire CC)
 - Asset Life Method – where capital expenditure on an asset is financed wholly or partly by borrowing, MRP is to be made in equal annual instalments over the estimated economic life of the asset. Where capital expenditure is not incurred in the creation of an asset, MRP is to be made in equal annual instalments over a period reasonably reflecting the benefit arising from the expenditure.

- Depreciation Method – MRP is to be equal to the depreciation of that proportion of the asset on which expenditure has been financed by borrowing.

1.4 The 2008 Regulations recommend that prior to the commencement of each financial year a local authority prepares a statement of its policy on making MRP (Annual MRP Statement) and submits it to full Council. The following MRP Policy Statements were approved by Council of 23rd February 2016 for the 2016/17 financial year and by Council of 22nd February 2017 for the 2017/18 financial year:

- **Supported Borrowing and Capital Expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008**

The calculation is based on 4% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year.

- **Unsupported Borrowing**

Asset Life Method: under this method the borrowing value is divided by the estimated life of the asset.

Capital Expenditure on the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) 21st Century Schools is classed as Unsupported Borrowing. It is estimated that asset lives within these programmes are 30 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

Asset lives within the Fleet Programme range from 1 to 10 years, these are the periods that will be used to determine the MRP.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways. It is estimated that asset lives within this programme are 20 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

- **Housing Revenue Account**

The calculation is based on 2% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year

2. WALES AUDIT OFFICE GUIDANCE

- 2.1. The Assistant Auditor General (AAG) for Wales in his letter to all Local Authorities in Wales, dated 7th January 2016, advised that where an amendment to current MRP policy is being considered, a Local Authority should take account of 'The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' (the Act). This is because an amendment from the 4% reducing balance methodology to one based on asset lives will invariably result in a reduced MRP charge in the short-term but an increased MRP charge in the longer term.

- 2.2.** In complying with the Act a Local Authority must ensure that its decisions are sustainable, whereby “the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, and recognise “the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs”.
- 2.3.** In addition the AAG advised that those Local Authorities wishing to amend their current MRP Policy should demonstrate that:
- The lower charge more accurately reflects the lives of assets employed by the authority; or
 - The lower charge is reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of Revenue Support Grant (i.e. a 4% reducing balance basis).

3. PRUDENT PROVISION

- 3.1.** The Director Of Corporate Services informed Council on 22nd February 2017 of the ongoing review into the basis of the MRP, and that discussions were being held with the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in reviewing the procedural aspects, and in determining whether the proposals are considered prudent.

The basis of the proposal is for the ‘Asset Life’ method to be applied to all supported borrowing including capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008.

- 3.2.** The proposed amendment to the MRP Policy is based on the following methodology, discussed with the WAO:
- For the supported borrowing, including capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, the charge to revenue will be over 40 years by the straight line method, which is commensurate with the average of existing asset useful economic lives. In essence this replaces the 4% reducing balance method by a 2.5% straight line method. This can be considered a more prudent approach than the current provision because it introduces a more certain period for eliminating the debt liability.
 - The Authority’s property valuer has reviewed the asset portfolio supported by the current debt and calculated the expected current average lives at some 39.2 years.
 - For unsupported borrowing, the charge to revenue will be over 40 years by the straight line method, or over the estimated economic life of the asset if that is less than 40 years.
 - Asset lives within the Fleet Programme range from 1 to 10 years, and these periods will continue to be used to determine the MRP

- Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways. It is estimated that asset lives within this programme are 20 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.
- For the Housing Revenue Account, the calculation will remain at 2% of the opening capital Financing requirement (CFR) each year up until April 2021 following which the MRP on new expenditure will need to be on the Asset life or the Depreciation method in line with the new Item 8 determination issued by Welsh government following the exit of the subsidy system.

3.3 The implications of the proposed amended MRP Policy for the 50 year period which applies to the Council Fund supported and unsupported borrowing 2016/17 to 2065/66 is outlined in Appendix 1 and summarised in Table 1 for 2016/17 to 2020/21, with 2019/20 being the final year of the current 3 year Medium Term Financial Plan.

Table 1 – Implications of Proposed Amended MRP

Financial Year	Estimated Current MRP £'000	Proposed Amended MRP £'000	Difference £'000
2016/17	7,733	4,833	-2,900
2017/18	7,423	4,833	-2,590
2018/19	7,126	4,833	-2,293
2019/20	6,841	4,833	-2,008

The table reflects the MRP on the existing borrowing only. There will be additional savings on the MRP charges in the initial years of new future borrowings.

- 3.4 It is evident from Table 1 that significant financial savings averaging £2.5 million per annum are anticipated over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 arising from the proposed amendment to the MRP Policy.
- 3.5 In addressing the AAG's requirements in respect of the Act, the following should be noted from Appendix 1 in respect of the proposed amendment to the MRP Policy:
- A reduced charge to revenue is projected for the period 2016/17 to 2027/28
 - An increased charge to revenue is projected for the period 2028/29 to 2055/56
 - A reduced charge to revenue per annum is projected from 2056/57

- In respect of opening CFR debts as at 31/3/16, by the 4% reducing balance method, even after 100 years a liability of £3.261m still remains whereas with the 2.5% straight line method the debt is totally extinguished by 2055/56 (i.e. in 40 years)

In conclusion, the proposed amendment to the MRP Policy determines a more prudent annual charge to revenue whilst acknowledging the Council's responsibility to its current and future citizens in responding to the requirements of the Act. Appendix 1 clearly demonstrates that by applying the proposed average asset useful economic life of 40 years on a straight line basis to supported borrowing including capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, this historic liability is actually extinguished after 40 years instead of leaving a residual debt balance for citizens 100 years plus into the future. This residual liability will mean that future citizens will be required to finance this historic debt, at the expense of real services making a real difference to citizens' lives.

- 3.6 In responding to the AAG's requirement in paragraph 2.3, the periodic valuation of the Council's fixed assets demonstrates that an average useful life of 40 years is prudent since it reflects current and future useful economic lives. In addition, a maximum useful life of 40 years for infrastructure assets is consistent with other Local Authorities.
- 3.7 Although discussions with the WAO remain ongoing it is recognised that the Council's amendment proposal is both prudent and sensitive to the well-being of future generations. The WAO however, has indicated that although it is not minded to challenge the proposed amendment to the MRP Policy, any new information prior to the certification of the annual accounts for the 2016/17 financial year may result in the proposed amendment not being supported.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. For the 2016/17 financial year and for the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20, revenue savings of circa £2.5 million per annum are projected.
- 4.2. Annual revenue savings will continue to be realised until the 2027/28 financial year following which an increased charge to revenue is evident until the 2055/56 financial year before annual savings are again realised from the 2056/57 financial year.

5. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 5.1. An amendment to the current MRP Policy, to one supporting a more prudent annual provision, be approved on the following basis:

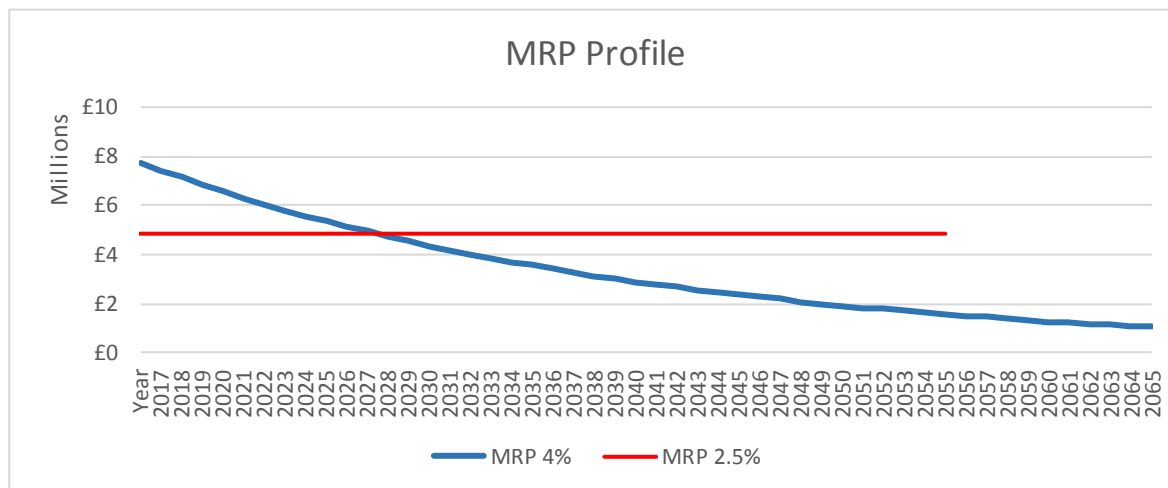
- 5.1.1. Supported borrowing and expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, as at 31st March 2016 – charged to revenue over 40 years on a straight line basis, and this policy be implemented for the 2016-2017 accounts and for the Revenue Budget Strategy 2017-2018 to 2019-2020.
- 5.1.2. Unsupported Borrowing - the future borrowing value is charged to revenue over 40 years or by the estimated economic life of the asset if shorter.
- 5.1.3. The MRP policy for the local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways and for the fleet programme to remain as currently approved

Appendix A

Existing CFR ONLY (excludes LGBI, MEP and HRA)

Year Ended	CFR	MRP 4% on Reducing Balance	CFR	MRP 2.5% Straight Line	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
31/03/2016	193,316	7,733	193,316	4,833	-2,900
31/03/2017	185,583	7,423	188,483	4,833	-2,590
31/03/2018	178,160	7,126	183,650	4,833	-2,294
31/03/2019	171,034	6,841	178,817	4,833	-2,008
31/03/2020	164,192	6,568	173,984	4,833	-1,735
31/03/2021	157,625	6,305	169,152	4,833	-1,472
31/03/2022	151,320	6,053	164,319	4,833	-1,220
31/03/2023	145,267	5,811	159,486	4,833	-978
31/03/2024	139,456	5,578	154,653	4,833	-745
31/03/2025	133,878	5,355	149,820	4,833	-522
31/03/2026	128,523	5,141	144,987	4,833	-308
31/03/2027	123,382	4,935	140,154	4,833	-102
31/03/2028	118,447	4,738	135,321	4,833	95
31/03/2029	113,709	4,548	130,488	4,833	285
31/03/2030	109,160	4,366	125,655	4,833	466
31/03/2031	104,794	4,192	120,823	4,833	641
31/03/2032	100,602	4,024	115,990	4,833	809
31/03/2033	96,578	3,863	111,157	4,833	970
31/03/2034	92,715	3,709	106,324	4,833	1,124
31/03/2035	89,006	3,560	101,491	4,833	1,273
31/03/2036	85,446	3,418	96,658	4,833	1,415
31/03/2037	82,028	3,281	91,825	4,833	1,552
31/03/2038	78,747	3,150	86,992	4,833	1,683
31/03/2039	75,597	3,024	82,159	4,833	1,809
31/03/2040	72,573	2,903	77,326	4,833	1,930
31/03/2041	69,670	2,787	72,494	4,833	2,046
31/03/2042	66,884	2,675	67,661	4,833	2,158
31/03/2043	64,208	2,568	62,828	4,833	2,265
31/03/2044	61,640	2,466	57,995	4,833	2,367
31/03/2045	59,174	2,367	53,162	4,833	2,466
31/03/2046	56,807	2,272	48,329	4,833	2,561
31/03/2047	54,535	2,181	43,496	4,833	2,651
31/03/2048	52,354	2,094	38,663	4,833	2,739
31/03/2049	50,260	2,010	33,830	4,833	2,823
31/03/2050	48,249	1,930	28,997	4,833	2,903
31/03/2051	46,319	1,853	24,165	4,833	2,980
31/03/2052	44,466	1,779	19,332	4,833	3,054

31/03/2053	42,688	1,708	14,499	4,833	3,125
31/03/2054	40,980	1,639	9,666	4,833	3,194
31/03/2055	39,341	1,574	4,833	4,833	3,259
31/03/2056	37,767	1,511	0	0	-1,511
31/03/2057	36,257	1,450	0	0	-1,450
31/03/2058	34,806	1,392	0	0	-1,392
31/03/2059	33,414	1,337	0	0	-1,337
31/03/2060	32,078	1,283	0	0	-1,283
31/03/2061	30,795	1,232	0	0	-1,232
31/03/2062	29,563	1,183	0	0	-1,183
31/03/2063	28,380	1,135	0	0	-1,135
31/03/2064	27,245	1,090	0	0	-1,090
31/03/2065	26,155	1,046	0	0	-1,046



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 27 February 2017

PRESENT: Councillor D.M. Jenkins (Chair)

Councillors:

M. Gravell, G.O. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and T.J. Jones

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James - Chief Executive

C. Moore - Director of Corporate Services

G. Morgans - Interim Director of Education & Children's Services

J. Morgan - Director of Community Services

R. Mullen - Director of Environment

W. Walters - Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

L.R. Jones - Head of Administration and Law

D. Hockenhull - Marketing and Media Manager

C. Gadd - Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall - 10.00 - 10.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Dole, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans and J. Tremlett.

The Executive Board expressed their condolences to Councillor H.A.L. Evans and her family on the passing of her mother.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were made at the meeting.

3. MINUTES - 6TH FEBRUARY 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 6th February, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

No questions on notice had been submitted by Members. However, Councillor D.M. Cundy had sought permission to ask a question in relation to agenda item 8, in accordance with CPR 11.1.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

6. DRAFT CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2017/18

The Executive Board considered a report detailing Carmarthenshire County Council's Well-being Objectives for 2017/18.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires all public bodies to:-

- Set and publish Well-being Objectives
- Take all reasonable steps to meet those Objectives
- Publish a statement about Well-being Objectives
- Publish an annual report on progress
- Publish our response to a recommendation made by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

In addition, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Council to set Key Improvement Objectives Priorities (KIOPs) each year and for 2017/18 it was proposed to integrate the Authority's KIOPs and Well-being Objectives.

The Executive Board Member for Communities highlighted that the objectives had been developed following consultation with residents. The draft objectives had also been considered during a joint scrutiny meeting and Members comments had been incorporated into the report.

Concern was raised by the Board that there was duplication in developing well-being targets through different legislation and projects. It was noted that consideration had to be given to the time and effort required in producing the required information.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the draft report be approved.

7. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S AGEING WELL PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Board considered Carmarthenshire's Annual Report for the Ageing Well Plan 2015/2016. The Report (required by the Older People's Commission) detailed the Authority's performance against the following priorities:

- Age Friendly Communities;
- Dementia Supportive Communities;
- Falls Prevention;
- Opportunities for Employment and New Skills;
- Loneliness and Isolation.

The Board raised concerns that some elderly people were remaining in hospital longer than needed and consideration had to be given to pooling budgets with health, where appropriate, to address such issues. Members noted that more emphasis was required on how to deliver such plans and priorities and to learn from good practice in other areas. It was suggested that further research into good practice could be undertaken by the Public Service Board.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for the Ageing Well Plan 2015/2016.

8. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Executive Board considered the Annual Report 2015/16 on the Welsh Language necessary in order to comply with the Welsh Language Commissioner's monitoring arrangements. The report included the statutory and local indicators which measure compliance with the Scheme. It was advised that Standards would replace the current system of Welsh language schemes. The Welsh Language Commissioner had given Carmarthenshire County Council a compliance notice regarding the Welsh Language Standards Regulations on 30th September 2015 which required the Council to comply with most of the standards by 30th March 2016.

The Executive Board Member for Human Resources highlighted the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office had been indicated that the Council was performing well.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor D.M. Cundy asked how many Welsh Medium places are available but not taken up in the Llanelli Town and Llanelli Rural educational catchments at the present time in both the Primary Schools and the Secondary Schools and how soon will we need to expand the provision to reach our targets set by the Welsh Government? The Executive Board Member for Education and Children provided information on the current number of Welsh Medium places available and the number of surplus places in the Llanelli area. It was noted that currently changes were being made to Welsh medium education provision in Llanelli with the amalgamation of Copperworks and Lakefield schools. In relation to meeting targets set by Welsh Government, it was explained that the Council was awaiting the report from Welsh Government following consultation on their target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

9. PRIORITISATION MODEL FOR HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The Executive Board considered a report which outlined a revised criteria for the assessment and prioritisation of requests for highway infrastructure and road safety improvements. The Board, at its meeting on the 14th November, 2011, had approved the current criteria for assessment, selection and prioritisation of Road Safety Improvement and Footway Improvements funded from the Council's capital budget. The report highlighted that the demand for improvements was high and that currently there were 355 separate requests for highway infrastructure and road safety improvements. The revised criteria were proposed to take account of current resource availability and to ensure prioritisation of projects and schemes which improved road safety in communities. In addition, in order to facilitate the delivery of minor improvements the report proposes a 10% top slicing of the available budget for minor works.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the criteria for assessment and prioritisation of requests for highway infrastructure and road safety improvements.

10. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN WEST WALES UNDER PART 9 OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING (WALES) ACT 2014 AND THE WEST WALES POPULATION ASSESSMENT

The Executive Board considered a report which provided information regarding the statutory requirements for partnership arrangements under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWBWA). These included the formation of Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) on Local Health Board footprints. RPBs had to prioritise the integration of health and social care services and promote the establishment of pooled funds where appropriate to support integration. Under Part 2 of the SSWBWA statutory partners were required to publish a Population Assessment identifying the needs for care and support in the region, the levels of care and support currently provided and areas for improvement and development. A Population Assessment must be undertaken for each electoral cycle and the first one had to be published by 31 March 2017. In this respect the statutory and other partners in the West Wales region had collaborated to produce the first Population Assessment for the region, which had been agreed by the Regional Partnership Board on 15 December 2016. The statutory Code of Practice required that each of the statutory partners endorsed the Assessment prior to publication.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 10.1 to note the statutory requirements in place within West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the partnership arrangements to meet these requirements;**
- 10.2 that the contents of the West Wales population assessment be endorsed.**

12. 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.

13. CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING COMPANY – THE BUSINESS CASE

Following the application of the public interest test it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 12 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 which detailed the findings of the Local Housing Company (LHC) business case and outlined the next steps for the establishment of the company which was deemed to be the best option to significantly add to the delivery of affordable homes for sale and rent. The Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2016-21, agreed by Council in March 2016, committed to increasing the number of affordable homes by 1,000 over the next five years.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

13.1 to confirm that the business case for establishing the LHC is a viable option and would significantly add to the delivery of the Council's Affordable Homes Commitment in providing more homes for sale and rent;

13.2 that officers be given delegated authority to establish the LHC, its governance structures and detailed five year business plan;

13.3 that officers be authorised to commission expert external assistance in establishing the LHC, developing the governance structures and detailed business plan in terms of the legal, financial and technical issues.

14. DEVELOPMENT OF ORIEL MYRDDIN - KING STREET, CARMARTHEN

Following the application of the public interest test it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 12 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 proposals for the development of the Oriel Myrddin Gallery.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report in order to support the development of the Oriel Myrddin Gallery.

CHAIR

DATE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 13 March 2017

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Present as Observers:-

Councillors D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand and J.S. Edmunds

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James - Chief Executive
J. Morgan - Director of Community Services
C. Moore - Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgans - Interim Director of Education & Children's Services
R. Mullen - Director of Environment
W. Walters - Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
R. Edgecombe - Legal Services Manager
D. Hockenhull - Marketing and Media Manager
S. Murphy - Senior Solicitor
S. Walters - Economic Development Manager
C. Gadd - Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen - 10.00 - 10.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
G.O. Jones	6 – 3G Pitch at Richmond Park, Carmarthen	He is a director and former secretary of Carmarthen Town AFC.

3. MINUTES - 27TH FEBRUARY 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive Board held on 27th February, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

6. 3G PITCH AT RICHMOND PARK, CARMARTHEN

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

The Executive Board considered a report to support the implementation of a 3G pitch at Richmond Park, part of a community project, by approving a grant of £150k. It was highlighted that Richmond Park was situated in one of the more socially and economically challenged areas of Carmarthen and the new 3G pitch would see a great number of local groups and organisations benefiting.

The Executive Board Member for Resources informed the Board that the majority of the funding had already been secured. The total cost of this development was estimated to be in the region of £560k and the Carmarthen Town AFC had secured £410k of funding from the following sources:

- Football Association of Wales (FAW) - £350k
- Grantscape - £30k
- University of Wales Trinity St David's (UWTSD) - £30k

It had been requested that the Council supported the shortfall of £150k. It was explained that the installation needed to take place during the summer months of 2017 with the order being issued early April, otherwise the funding from FAW would be withdrawn. It was noted that it was the intention of the club to help create wider community benefits through increased use of their facilities and working in partnership with local groups and organisations including primary schools, family centres, youth clubs and UWTSD, most of which either had inadequate or no outside facilities.

Members commented that the club had worked hard to secure funding for the project and it was noted that maintenance costs for the pitch had been factored into the funding. Members highlighted that the project contributed to the Council's wellbeing objectives and provided facilities to enable people to be more active. It was requested that there was partnership working with Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddrin in developing their 3G pitch.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve a grant of £150k to support the implementation of a 3G pitch at Richmond Park.

8. 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.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHRT/LLANELLY HOUSE

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 8 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 on financial support for Llanelly House. It was one of the key five regeneration projects within Llanelli Town Centre and assistance was required to ensure the project could be concluded and that the House had a long term sustainable future. The importance of Llanelly House to the regeneration of Llanelli Town Centre was recognised.

An additional recommendation was proposed and agreed, for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Board Member for Resources to agree the grant conditions.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 9.1 to approve a grant to support the CHRT/Llanelly House project;**
- 9.2 that a charge for the value of the grant be placed on Llanelly House for a fixed period of up to 5 years;**
- 9.3 that Carmarthenshire County Council requests an observer role on the Board of Trustees;**
- 9.4 that delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Board Member for Resources to agree the grant conditions.**

10. WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL CONTRACT - ALTERNATIVE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 8 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 received a report to consider alternative delivery models to be explored for the procurement of the Council's future waste treatment arrangements as a result of wider liability/risk considerations.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve consideration of alternative procurement arrangements for the Council's future waste treatment arrangements.

11. PENDINE ATTRACTOR PROJECT

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 8 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 Board considered a report on the Pendine Attractor Project, which was a regeneration initiative in accord with the strategic regeneration master-plan for Pendine. The Executive Board Member for Regeneration and Leisure highlighted that the regeneration master plan addressed the physical and commercial decline of the coastal resort of Pendine. The plan was being progressed on a phased basis and designed to establish Pendine as a 12 month visitor 'day and stay' event destination.

Members noted the potential of the area and the positive steps that were being taken to regenerate it.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 11.1 to endorse the development and delivery of the Pendine Attractor Project in accord with the strategic regeneration master-plan for Pendine;**
- 11.2 to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report in order to support the Pendine Attractor Project.**

CHAIR

DATE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

27TH MARCH 2017

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

L.D. Evans, H.A.L. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present as Observers:-

Councillor T. Evans

The following Officers were in attendance:

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgans, Interim Director of Education & Children's Services
R. Mullen, Director of Environment
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
W. Walters, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager
J. Jones, Property and Major Projects Manager
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall - 10.00am - 10.50 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Gravell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
H.A.L. Evans	9 – Affordable Housing Delivery Plan – Our Performance	Sister is the Chief Executive of Bro Myrddin Housing Association
G.O. Jones	15 – Appointment of LA Governor	Chair of School Governors for Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

3.1. 23RD JANUARY, 2017

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 23rd January, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

3.2. 13TH FEBRUARY, 2017

The Chair highlighted that the title of agenda item 3.2, should read 13th March 2017 and not the 13th February 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 13th March, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

6. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report for the period 1st April, 2016 to 31st December, 2016 which provided an update on the revenue budgetary position as at 31st December, 2016 in respect of 2016/17.

The overall forecasted position at the year-end indicated a potential overspend of £833k with the departmental budgeted variance being in the region of £2.3m.

It was noted that the most significant pressure points were within Education and Children Services department, and whilst there were some budget pressure issues in other departments those were generally offset by underspend on other budget heads.

A query was raised in relation to debt write-offs. It was asked if any interventions took place at the early stage of the debt in order to avoid the debt worsening. The Executive Board Member for Housing stated that the Enforcement Team worked closely with tenants in order to reduce debt. Furthermore, the outstanding amount of debt had reached its lowest point. Ongoing campaigns and slogans such as "Rent Matters" had also helped to reduce the amount of debt.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

6.1 that the Budget Monitoring report be received;

6.2 that Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate action to keep within allocated budget.

7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update on the capital programme spend against budget for 2016/17 as at the 31st December, 2016. The report included details of the main variances and virements for approval.

The report indicated that based on a net projected spend of £68m on capital projects, there was a variance of £21m. Members noted the difficulties to profile capital projects into financial years, often due to external factors that can influence when a project can commence and the timeline of the construction. Therefore, the variance was mainly due to the slippage of projects between financial years as opposed to any changes in cost.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the capital programme update report be received and the virement detailed therein be approved.

8. INCOME AND CHARGING POLICY

The Executive Board considered the Corporate Draft Income and Charging Policy for the Council which would be used to underpin the development of a more strategic and commercial approach to the Council's income generation and debt recovery processes.

Members noted that, as part of the TIC work programme an Income and Charging Steering Group had been established, with the aim of examining the potential for increasing income from fees and charges and reviewing the robustness of current income collection and debt recovery processes. One of the initial findings of the group was that there was a need to adopt a more strategic approach to its income and charging activities, which would be supported by having a Corporate Income and Charging Policy.

The Policy provided a set of key principles which would be used to underpin the Authority's approach to income and charging and to further develop a more commercial approach to these activities. The new policy sets out the expectations in respect of the robustness of its income collection and debt recovery processes.

An extensive consultation with internal departments had assisted in the development of the policy and principles. In addition, the new Policy was drafted in response to the recent Wales Audit Office (WAO) Local Government Study: 'Charging for services and generating income by Local Authorities', which had identified the need for all Local Authorities to have an Income and Charging policy in place.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL that the Corporate Income and Charging Policy be approved.

9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY PLAN - OUR PERFORMANCE

[NOTE: Councillor H.A.L. Evans, having earlier declared an interest in this item, took no part in its determination].

The Board considered a report on the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan which included performance information for 2016/17. The Affordable Homes Delivery Plan had set a clear target of delivering over 1,000 additional homes over the next five years.

The Board noted that the target set to deliver 129 additional affordable homes by the end of quarter 3 had been exceeded by nearly 30 homes. It was also noted that the performance achieved so far this year demonstrated that the Authority were on track to exceed the target to deliver 160 homes by the end of 2016/17.

The excellent performance already achieved during the first year of delivery 2016/17 was noted.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan be received

10. ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Board considered a report on the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment Act Forward Plan. The report highlighted that under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, all public bodies had to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems'. The new duty had been named the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty, which strengthened and superseded the Biodiversity Duty placed on public bodies under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2016.

It was noted that the Act, required all public authorities to provide an Environment Act Forward Plan, which would contain details on how they intended to comply with the new duty to the Welsh Government by the 31st March 2017, as set out in legislation. In addition, in 2019, Authorities would be required to report on how they had met the Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystem Duty which would make public authorities more responsible for showing how their actions had contributed towards enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems.

Appreciation was extended to those officers who were involved in the development of the plan.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

10.1 that the Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan be approved,

10.2 to report on the delivery of the plan to the Welsh Government in 2019.

11. CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY'S EDUCATION ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT 2015-2016

The Executive Board considered a report on Carmarthenshire Local Authority's Education attainment and achievement 2015-16. The comprehensive report provided members with key issues arising from an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the performance of schools during the academic year 2015/16.

Members noted the School Performance and Achievement Report 2015-16 Academic year which was divided into 3 sections and included:-

- Standards 2015/16, this section contained a summary of teacher assessments, test and examination results for pupils in the Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- School Inspection Outcomes, this section contained a summary of performance of the schools inspected by Estyn during the 2015-16 academic year.
- Developing Values and Skills for Life Long Learning, this section contained information on a wide and exciting range of pupils' achievements.

Furthermore, members considered an attached report which focused on Carmarthenshire's GCSE and the other provided A Level Outcomes performance as compared to other Welsh Local Authorities. It was noted that it had been a successful year for Carmarthenshire schools with consistently high performance in all key indicators. The 2016 school categorisation process was also noted.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to receive the performance report on Carmarthenshire Local Authority's Education Attainment and Achievement 2015-16.

12. SPONSORSHIP OF CELTIC MEDIA FESTIVAL 2018

The Executive Board considered a report to support the Sponsorship of Celtic Media Festival 2018. The report provided information in relation to the festival and proposed that the County Council support the festival by providing a financial commitment of up to £15,000.

The report outlined that initial discussions sought the Council to fully fund £30,000. However, following a discussion with University of Wales Trinity St David that view to a 50/50 partnership would be considered. In order to facilitate the overnight requirements, the event would be held in a holiday period in order to use the student accommodation at the Trinity St David Campus.

Members recognised that the event would benefit the area financially, whilst further consolidating the positioning of Carmarthenshire as a creative industry hub. It was noted that should the Council decide not to submit their interest the event would likely to be hosted by another county in Wales.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the funding of up to a maximum of £15,000 to support the Celtic Media Festival 2018.

13. REVISED CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

It was noted that the above-mentioned report had been withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting and would be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that consideration of the Revised Corporate Health and Safety Policy be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Board.

14. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOLLOWING GRANT FUND: TARGETED FINANCE FUND

The Executive Board considered an application received from the Trimsaran Village Forum, for assistance from the Targeted Finance Fund towards the initial costs of the Wellbeing project and to cover the costs to retain the Centre Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator would have responsibility to improve, expand and market Trimsaran Leisure Centre, as well as securing funding to run additional projects and initiatives creating greater sustainability for the centre.

RESOLVED that the following applications for assistance from the Targeted Finance Fund be approved subject to the usual terms and conditions and those specified in the report:-

Applicant

Trimsaran Village Forum

Award

£19,814.00

15. APPOINTMENT OF LA GOVERNOR

[NOTE Councillor G.O. Jones, having earlier declared an interest in this item left the Council Chamber during its consideration and took no part in its determination]

The Executive Board considered an application which had been received for L.A. Governor vacancy within the county.

RESOLVED that, in order to meet statutory obligations of filling vacancies on Governing Bodies and having considered the applications received, the following appointments be made to vacancies for LA Governors:-

School	Appointments
Bro Myrddin (1 vacancy – 1 nomination)	Mr D Arwel Lloyd

[Councillor G.O. Jones re-joined the meeting.]

17. 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.

18. DISPOSAL OF LAND WITH ASSOCIATED RISK

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 17 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 detailed report on Disposal of Land with Associated Risks which provided Members with the findings of a recent review of high risk, surplus land and property across Carmarthenshire.

Members noted that further to the risk assessments that had been carried out, a number of sites had been identified and prioritised for consideration, with a view to progress the sites to disposal. Members also noted that consultations had taken place with Local Members who had sites within their wards.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report.

19. SOUTH LLANELLI LAND DISPOSAL

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute 17 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 on Land Disposal at South East Llanelli which aimed to generate capital receipt(s) for the Authority and possible job opportunities. The report provided members with an update on the current situation.

Members considered the way forward for the plots, taking into account any potential impact of the proposals on the town centre economy.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report subject to further negotiations in relation to the sale of the largest plot.

CHAIR

DATE

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MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2017**PRESENT:** Councillor E. Dole [Chair]**Councillors:**

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

Present in respect of minute number 5:

Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the Education & Children Task & Finish Group

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr G. Morgans	-	Interim Director of Education & Children
Mr I. Jones	-	Head of Leisure
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mrs D. Hockenhull	-	Media & Marketing Manager
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer
Miss F. Rees	-	Senior Marketing & Media Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 10.55 a.m.**1. APOLOGIES AND OTHER MATTERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.D. Evans and G.O. Jones.

The Chair extended congratulations to Côr Merched Sir Gâr on winning the Côr Cymru competition over the weekend. The choir will go on to represent Wales at the Eurovision Choir of the Year 2017 competition in Riga, Latvia in July. Congratulations were also extended to Ysgol Iau Llangennech and Ysgol Teilo Sant on reaching the finals of the competition.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

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. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP
FINAL REPORT 2015/16: NARROWING THE ATTAINMENT GAP - LEARNERS
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The Executive Board was informed that the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 24th September, 2015 (minute 8 refers), established a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review into the attainment gap for eligible for free school meals learners. The review culminated in the formulation of 8 recommendations following consideration of a range of evidence over a series of meetings held between December 2015 and November 2016.

The Executive Board was advised that, following recent changes in legislation, the Task & Finish Group had requested that recommendation 6 be amended as follows:-

“That the County Council lobbies the Welsh Government on the importance of securing and safeguarding funding for the longer term to support out most disadvantaged pupils.”

The Executive Board expressed its appreciation to the members of the Task and Finish Group and the officers involved on the production of an excellent report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on the Review into the Attainment Gap for Eligible for Free School Meals Learners, as detailed within the report, to include the amended recommendation 6 as detailed above, be endorsed.

6. EDUCATION THROUGH REGIONAL WORKING (ERW) BUSINESS PLAN 2017-2020

The Board considered the Education through Regional Working (ERW) Business Plan 2017/20, which outlined all the arrangements for delivering ERW's strategic vision and co-ordinated the contributions of Local Authorities, schools and strategic partners.

The plan had been approved by the ERW Joint Committee and captured the following:-

- ERW's Vision & Mission Statement
- Regional and National Priorities
- Governance & Business Planning Framework, including Accountability
- Priorities and Plans
- Outcomes

Progress on the Business Plan would be monitored annually, with regular monitoring of agreed actions and quarterly financial monitoring.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the ERW Business Plan 2017-20 be noted.

7. AMENDMENT TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

The Board was reminded that the Director of Corporate Services, at the Council meeting held on 22nd February, 2017, as part of the budget strategy report,

advised Council of the ongoing review into the basis of the principal repayment of the Authority's debt which is the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy.

The Board considered a report providing a summary of the outcome of the review and advising that the Council should consider changing the basis of the repayment of the Council's borrowing from a 4% reducing balance basis to a straight line basis which will be calculated based on the estimated "Asset Life" of the Authority's fixed assets.

It was therefore proposed that the current MRP Policy be amended to one which supported a more prudent annual provision, on the following basis:-

- (1) Supported borrowing and expenditure incurred before 1st April, 2008, as at 31st March, 2016 – charged to revenue over 40 years on a straight line basis, and this policy be implemented for the 2016-2017 accounts and for the Revenue Budget Strategy 2017-2018 to 2019-2020;
- (2) Unsupported borrowing – the future borrowing value is charged to revenue over 40 years or by the estimated economic life of the asset if shorter;
- (3) The MRP Policy for the Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways and for the fleet programme to remain as currently approved.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the amendments to the Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as detailed above, be approved.

8. BUSINESS RATES - HIGH STREET RATE RELIEF SCHEME 2017/18

The Board considered a report providing details of the High Street Rate Relief Scheme introduced by the Welsh Government for 2017/18. The scheme provides additional relief aimed specifically at high street retailers such as shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes that have seen their rates increase as a result of the 2017 revaluation undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency.

As this was a temporary measure the Welsh Government was not making any legislative changes but instead would allow billing authorities to grant relief under the general discretionary relief powers available under Section 47 of the Local Government (Finance) Act 1988.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 8.1 that the High Street Rate Relief Scheme be adopted for 2017/18;**
- 8.2 that relief be granted in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines;**
- 8.3 that applications which are not specifically covered by the guidelines or otherwise require specific consideration, be determined by the Executive Board Member for Resources.**

CHAIR

DATE

COUNTY COUNCIL

26TH APRIL 2017

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2017)

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To note that the IRPW has determined that the basic salary for elected member of principal local authorities shall increase to £13,400 for 2017/18;
- that the status quo remain with regard to the level of senior salary paid to Executive Members for 2017/18 [Level 1];
- that the status quo remain with regard to the level of senior salary paid to Committee Chairs for 2017/18 [Level 1];
- that the status quo remain with regard to the salary paid to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council for 2017/18 [Level 2];
- that the rates of reimbursement for subsistence costs for 2017/18 be agreed as follows:-

£200.00 per night for London;

£95 per night elsewhere;

£25 per night for staying with friends and family;

That the status quo remain for day allowance, and the current practice of all overnight accommodation for members being arranged through the Democratic Services Unit;

- to continue with the current practice of noting arrangements for Joint Overview Scrutiny Committees with other Authorities and including these Committees within the Council's scheme in the event the Council decides to establish Joint Committees during the 2017/18 municipal year and to pay a salary;
- that payment of Co-opted Members' Fees remain capped for 2017/18 at the current level of 10 full day (of 20 half day) meetings;
- to publish details of the amounts reimbursed to named members for reimbursement of care costs [option 1];
- to accept the remaining IRPW recommendations and determinations for 2017 and incorporate them within the Council's existing Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18.

REASONS:

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 provided for the establishment of the Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales (IRPW) to review councillors' allowances in Wales. The IRPW was established in January 2008 to prescribe the maximum levels of allowances payable by County and County Borough Councils in Wales. Following the approval of The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the IRPW's remit has been extended to National Parks and Fire and Rescue Authorities and Town and Community Councils in Wales and the IRPW can also now prescribe the levels of allowances / salaries to be paid rather than recommend the maximum levels of allowances that could be paid.

Scrutiny Committee consulted	Not applicable
Exec Board Decision Required	NO
Council Decision Required	YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder(s): Councillors Emlyn Dole (Leader) & David Jenkins (Resources)
Councillor Terry Davies Chair of Democratic Services Committee.

Directorate	Chief Executive's	Tel Nos.
Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones	Designations: Head of Administration & Law	01267 224012 LRJ 01267 224026 GM
Report Author: Gaynor Morgan	Head of Democratic Services	E Mail Addresses: gmorgan@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

26TH APRIL 2017

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION IRPW FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2017)

The IRPW published its Annual Report in February, 2017 and the Democratic Services Committee was asked to consider its determinations and recommendations and make recommendations to Council for inclusion within the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2017/18. The report contains 51 determinations with the majority of determinations being unchanged from the 2016 report.

In setting the level of salaries and allowances for 2017/18 the IRPW has decided that there will be a modest increase of approximately 0.75% in the basic annual salary for elected members. No increase is proposed for senior salaries but these post holders will receive the uplift in the basic salary element.

The Panel has also introduced arrangements to recognise the implications of long term sickness of senior salary holders.

The Panel is mindful that there has been limited take up across all of the organisations of the Care Allowances, and has decided to allow optional approaches to publication of costs of care. The Panel also decided to use the term 'reimbursement of costs of care' to replace care allowance.

The attached report sought the Democratic Services Committee's views on payments to Executive Members, Chairs of Committees, Civic Heads and Deputies, Subsistence and Accommodation Allowances, Remuneration of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, and payment of Co-opted Members' Fees for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, together with its view on publication of reimbursement of costs of care.

A full copy of the IRPW's Annual Report (February, 2017) can be viewed on the IRPW's website :

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/170223-annual-report-en.pdf>

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES
IRPW Report February 2017
Appendix 1 – IRWP Determinations list.

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration & Law

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

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The existing Members' Allowances Scheme which is contained within the Council's Constitution will need to be amended to reflect any changes agreed by the Council to the current level of allowances.

Finance

The increase is within the budget set for 2017-18.

Legal

The Council's Constitution requires the Council to adopt a Scheme for Members Allowances, the Scheme must meet the requirements imposed by the Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales.

Part 8 (sections 141 to 160) and schedules 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 set out the arrangements for the payments and pensions for members of relevant authorities and the functions and responsibilities of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

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** Not applicable
- 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
Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales - Annual Report (February 2017)	AD030-001	Democratic Services Unit, Chief Executives Department, County Hall, Carmarthen The Independent Remuneration IRPW for Wales website: http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/170223-annual-report-en.pdf

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION AND LAW

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

14th MARCH 2017

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT (FEBRUARY, 2017)

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales published its 2017-18 Annual Report in February 2017.

The report contains 51 determinations with the majority of determinations being unchanged from the 2016 report. This report therefore focuses on determinations which require annual decision by the Democratic Services Committee and thereafter full Council.

1. Payments to Elected Members of Principal Councils

The Committee will recall that in 2016 the IRPW introduced two levels of salary for Executive Members (except Leaders and Deputy Leaders) and for Chairs of committees so that each local authority could take account of the differences in responsibilities that may be attached to specific posts. The Panel, having examined the schedules for 2016/17, established that no principal council had introduced differential payments within Cabinets or to Chairs of Committees. The Panel has however retained the facility to allow flexibility to reflect variation in the levels of responsibility in the remuneration applied to specific senior posts, and is suggesting that newly elected Councils should consider using this flexibility when determining their Executive/Committee structures.

The **Democratic Services Committee is therefore asked to consider which level of payment should be paid to the Executive, Committee Chairs and Chair & Vice Chair of Council, for 2017-18**, existing payments levels are in bold:-

Basic Salary (payable to all elected members) - £13,400 (an increase of £100 per annum)

Senior Salaries (inclusive of basic salary) Carmarthenshire falls within Group B of the IRPW report:-

Band 1

Leader	£48,100	
Deputy leader	£33,600	(£31,350 each, where 2 x Deputy leaders)

Band 2

Executive members Level 1	£29,100
Executive members Level 2	£26,200

Band 3

Committee chairs (if remunerated):	Level 1	£22,100
	Level 2	£20,100

Band 4

Leader of the largest opposition group £22,100

Band 5

Leader of other political groups None - (Appropriate level £17,100 p.a)

Remuneration of civic heads and deputy civic heads (*inclusive of basic salaries*)

Responsibility Level	Civic heads	Deputy civic heads
Level 1	£24,100	£18,100
Level 2	£21,600	£16,100
Level 3	£19,100	£14,100

2. Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence Costs when on official business

There are no changes to the reimbursement of mileage or subsistence costs (pages 38 -39 of the report,) however **the Committee is asked to confirm the rates of reimbursement for subsistence costs for 2017/18 and whether to continue with the current practice of all overnight accommodation for members being arranged through the Democratic Services Unit.** The Authority currently pays overnight costs of up to £150 for London, £95 elsewhere and £25 for staying with friends and/or Family. The IRPW rates allow payment of up to £200 for London, £95 for elsewhere and £30 for staying with friends and/or family.

3. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees

At present the authority has not established any Joint Overview Scrutiny Committees with other authorities. However remuneration arrangements for chairs of JOSC is contained within pages 21-22 of the report and the **Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider whether to continue with the current practice** of noting arrangements for Joint Overview Scrutiny Committees with other Authorities and including these Committees within the Council's scheme in the event the Council decides to establish Joint Committees during the 2016/17 municipal year and to pay a salary;

4. Payment to Co-opted Members of Principal Councils.

There is no change to the level of fees and allowances payable to Co-opted Voting Members of the Council's Committees (pages 33 – 34 of the report).

Principal Councils can decide on the maximum number of days in any one year for which co-opted members can be paid, Council currently caps payment of Co-opted Members' Fees at 10 full day (or 20 half-day) meetings per annum and the **Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to retain this level or suggest an alternative maximum limit.**

5. Reimbursement of Care Costs

The IRPW has decided to use the term 'reimbursement of costs of care' to replace care allowance. The IRPW has also decided to allow optional approaches to the publication of costs of care.

Pages 79 – 80 of the report provides two options for publication namely

- 1) The details of the amounts reimbursed to named members; or
- 2) The total amount reimbursed by the authority during the year but not attributable to any member.

The Democratic Services Committee is asked to consider which of the above options it would consider most appropriate for publication.

Appendix 1 of the report details the IRPW's 51 determinations for the Committee's information together with any changes, if any.

IRPW Determinations for 2017/18

Section 3 - Principal Councils		
	Determination	Change (if any)
1.	Basic salary in 2017/18 for elected members of principal councils shall be £13,400.	An increase of 0.75% (£100)
2.	The Panel has determined that senior salary levels in 2017/18 for members of principal councils shall be as set out in table 2 (page 15 of the IRPW report).	(Includes £100 increase in basic salary)
3.	The Panel has determined that (where paid) civic salaries at the following levels are payable (Table 3, page 17 of the IRPW report) and will be applied by principal councils as each considers appropriate, taking account of the anticipated workloads and responsibilities.	No Change
4.	The Panel has determined that, where appointed and if remunerated, a presiding member must be paid a Band 3 Level 1 senior salary. This post will count towards the cap.	No Change
5.	The Panel has determined that the post of deputy presiding member will not be remunerated.	No Change
6.	The Panel has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information.	No Change
7.	The Panel has determined that such support should be without cost to the individual member. Deductions must not be made from members' salaries by the respective authority as a contribution towards the cost of support which the authority has decided necessary for the effectiveness and/or efficiency of members.	No Change
Specific or Additional Senior Salaries		
8.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.	No Change
Section 4 - Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees		

9.	The chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is eligible for a salary equivalent to that part of a Band 3 Level 2 senior salary that remunerates a committee chair of a principal authority (£6,700).	No Change
10.	In cases where the chair is already in receipt of a senior salary for a Band 3, 4 or 5 role the payment will be £3,350.	No Change
11.	The chair of a sub committee of a JOSC is eligible for a salary of £1,675.	No Change
12.	In cases where the chair of the sub committee is already in receipt of a senior salary for a Band 3, 4 or 5 role the payment will be £837.	No Change
13.	Payments to chairs of task and finish sub committees are to be pro-rated to the duration of the task.	No Change
14.	Payments made to a chair of a JOSC, or a chair of a sub committee of a JOSC, are additional to the maximum proportion of the authority's membership eligible for a senior salary. It should be noted that the statutory limit of no more than 50% of a council's membership receiving a senior salary applies (Section 142 (5) of the Measure).	No Change
15.	A deputy chair of a JOSC or sub committee is not eligible for payment.	No Change
16.	Co-optees to a JOSC or to a sub committee are not eligible for a co-opted member fee unless they are appointed by an authority under Section 144(5) of the Measure.	No Change
Section 5 - Local Government Pension Scheme		
17.	The entitlement to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall apply to all eligible elected members of principal councils.	No Change
Section 6 - Family Absence		
18.	An elected member is entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under the regulations irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence.	No Change
19.	When a senior salary holder is eligible for family absence, he/she will continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence.	No Change
20.	It is a matter for the authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The elected member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence will be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the authority so decides.	No Change

21.	If the paid substitution results in the authority exceeding the maximum number of senior salaries which relates to it, as set out in the Panel's Annual Report, an addition to the maximum will be allowed for the duration of the substitution. However, this will not apply to the Isle of Anglesey or Merthyr Tydfil Councils if it would result in the number of senior salaries exceeding fifty percent of the Council membership. Specific approval of Welsh Ministers is required in such circumstances.	No Change
22.	When a Council agrees a paid substitution for family absence, the Panel must be informed, within 14 days of the date of the decision, of the details including the particular post and the duration of the substitution.	No Change
23.	The Council's schedule of remuneration must be amended to reflect the implication of the family absence.	No Change
Section 7 - National Park Authorities		
24.	The basic salary for NPA ordinary members should be £3,625	N/A
25.	The senior salary of the chair of an NPA should be £12,325	N/A
26.	An NPA senior salary can be paid to a Deputy Chair, and up to two committee chairs where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This can be paid at either of the following levels to be decided by the authority to reflect the appropriate responsibility: £6,025 or £7,325	N/A
27.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for NPAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.	N/A
28.	Members must not receive more than one NPA senior salary.	N/A
29.	An NPA senior salary is paid inclusive of the NPA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility	N/A
30.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any NPA to which they have been appointed.	No Change
Section 8 - Fire and Rescue Authorities		
31.	The basic salary for FRA ordinary members should be £1,715	N/A
32.	The senior salary of the chair of an FRA should be £10,415.	N/A
33.	An FRA senior salary can be paid to the deputy chair and up to two chairs of committees where there is significant and sustained responsibility. This should be paid at £5,415.	N/A
34.	The Panel has determined to include a provision for FRAs to apply for specific or additional senior salaries that do not fall within the current Remuneration Framework.	N/A

35.	Members must not receive more than one FRA senior salary.	N/A
36.	An FRA senior salary is paid inclusive of the FRA basic salary and must reflect significant and sustained responsibility.	N/A
37.	Members of a principal council in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary cannot receive a salary from any FRA to which they have been nominated.	No Change
Section 9 - Co-Opted Members		
38.	Principal councils, NPAs and FRAs must pay the following fees to co-opted members (Table 6, page 33 of the IRPW report) (who have voting rights).	No Change
39.	Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is eligible to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.	No Change
40.	Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).	No Change
41.	The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.	No Change
42.	Meetings eligible for the payment of fees include other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups), pre-meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend.	No Change
Section 10-- Reimbursement of Costs of Care		
43.	All authorities must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.	Term reimbursement of costs of care' to replace 'care allowance' Optional approaches to publication introduced – see Annex 4 of report
Section 13 - Community and Town Councils		
44.	Community and town councils are authorised to make a payment to each of their members of a maximum amount of £150 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.	N/A

45.	Community and town councils are authorised to make an annual payment not exceeding £500 each to up to 3 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made.	N/A
46.	Community and town councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the mayor/chair of the council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made.	N/A
47.	Community and town councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council at an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made.	N/A
48.	Community and town councils are authorised to make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year. - 25p per mile over 10,000 miles. - 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business. - 24p per mile for private motor cycles. - 20p per mile for bicycles. 	N/A
49.	<p>If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it may authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided. - £200 – London overnight - £95 – elsewhere overnight. - £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight. 	N/A
50.	<p>Community and town councils are authorised to pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to £33.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours: - Up to £66.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours. 	N/A

51.	Community and town councils are authorised to provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.	N/A
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OTHER ISSUES:-		
Section 11 – Sickness Absence for Senior Salary Holders		
IRPW is amending the Family Absence Regulations Framework to provide specific arrangements for long term sickness cover for Senior Salary Holders. These amendments are set out within the IRPW report.		
Section 12 – Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence costs when on Official Business		
No Change		

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