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MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 AM ON MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2024 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.

**The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:-
<https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>**

Wendy Walters
Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 MEMBERS**

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 6 Members

Cllr. Karen Davies (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Arwel Davies (Committee Member)
Cllr. Colin Evans (Committee Member)
Cllr. Neil Lewis (Committee Member)
Cllr. Dorian Phillips (Committee Member)
Cllr. Gareth Thomas (Committee Member)

LABOUR GROUP - 4 Members

Cllr. Peter Cooper (Committee Member)
Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles (Committee Member)
Cllr. Tina Higgins (Committee Member)
Cllr. Kevin Madge (Chair)

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Sue Allen (Committee Member)
Vacancy

UNAFFILIATED – 1 Member

Cllr. John James (Committee Member)

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
- 4. 2023/24 QUARTER 3 - PERFORMANCE REPORT (01/04/23-31/12/23) RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY** 5 - 26
- 5. POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IN-HOUSE PEST CONTROL AGENCY** 27 - 32
- 6. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & COASTAL ADAPTION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE** 33 - 46
- 7. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 47 - 54
- 8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 30TH JANUARY 2024** 55 - 64

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2024

2023/24 QUARTER 3 - PERFORMANCE REPORT (01/04/23-31/12/23) RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY

Purpose:

To examine the report for monitoring purposes.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Members and / or Director.

Reason(s)

- Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance.
- We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability
Cllr Edward Thomas	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

Directorate	Designations:	Tel Nos./E Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service:		
Ainsley Williams	Director of Place and Infrastructure	01267 224500 aiwilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes and Safer Communities	01554 899285 jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager	01267 245515 JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	01267 246270 rdgriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Daniel John	Head of Environmental Infrastructure	01267 228131 DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager	01267 228142 jmedwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 MARCH 2024

2023/24 QUARTER 3 - PERFORMANCE REPORT (01/04/23-31/12/23) RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY

This report shows the progress as at the end of Quarter 3 - 2023/24 of our deliverables (Actions and Measures) linked to the Corporate Strategy and our Well-being Objectives.

Corporate Strategy 2022-2027		
WBO 1	Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)	
WBO1a	Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention /early intervention	
WBO1b	Service Priority: Early years	
WBO1c	Service Priority: Education	
WBO 2	Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)	
WBO2a	Thematic Priority: Tackling Poverty	
WBO2b	Service Priority: Housing	
WBO2c	Service Priority: Social Care	
WBO 3	Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)	
WBO3a	Thematic Priority: Economic Recovery and Growth	
WBO3b	Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency	
WBO3c	Thematic Priority: Welsh Language & Culture	
WBO3d	Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion	
WBO3e	Service Priority: Leisure & Tourism	
WBO3f	Service Priority: Waste	
WBO3g	Service Priority: Highways & Transport	
WBO 4	To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)	
WBO4a	Organisational Transformation - Overarching	
WBO4b	Organisational Transformation - Efficiencies and Value for Money	
WBO4c	Organisational Transformation - Income & Commercialisation	
WBO4d	Organisational Transformation - Workplace	
WBO4e	Organisational Transformation - Workforce	
WBO4f	Organisational Transformation - Service Design & Improvement	
WBO4g	Organisational Transformation - Customers & Digital Transformation	
WBO4h	Organisational Transformation - Decarbonisation and Biodiversity	
WBO4i	Organisational Transformation - Schools	
5	Core Business Enablers	
5a	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	
5b	Marketing & Media including customer services	
5c	Legal	
5d	Planning	
5e	Finance	
5f	Procurement	
5g	Internal Audit	

5h	People Management	
5i	Democratic Services	
5j	Policy & Performance	
5k	Electoral Services & Civil Registration	
5l	Estates & Asset Management	
5m	Risk Management	
5n	Business Support	
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:

Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes and Safer Communities
Ainsley Williams	Director of Place and Infrastructure
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability
Daniel John	Head of Environmental Infrastructure
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to take all reasonable steps to meet their Well-being Objectives.</p> <p>The Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 places specific duties for the Council:</p>							
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Duty	Response
Duty to keep performance under review	We will maintain quarterly performance monitoring throughout the year. This report addresses this duty
Duty to report on performance – based on self-assessment approach	We are addressing this duty in our Annual Report on our progress on our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives and as part of our monitoring arrangements. We must self-assess the extent to which we are meeting our 'performance requirements': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exercising our functions effectively. 2. using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively. 3. governance is effective for securing the above.
Duty to arrange a panel performance assessment	This duty comes into force from May 2022. We must arrange for a panel to undertake an assessment, at least once during the period between two consecutive ordinary elections of councillors to the council, of the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.
Duty to respond to a panel performance assessment report	

2. Legal

In our published Well-being Statement, we are committed to monitor our Well-being Objective action plans.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 <i>Developing Carmarthenshire Together: One Council, One Vision, One Voice</i>	<u>corporate-strategy-2022-27.pdf (gov.wales)</u>

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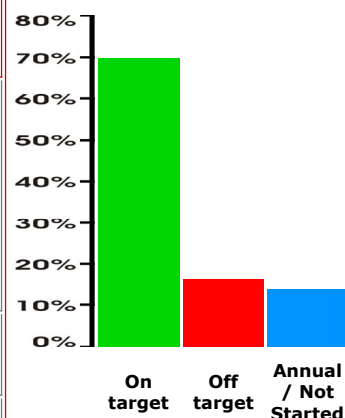
Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Place, Sustainability & Climate Change scrutiny - Quarter 3 2023/24

Filtered by:
Organisation - Carmarthenshire County Council
Source document - Corporate Strategy 2023/24


The table below provides a summary progress against target for the Actions and Measures contained within the selected document


		Total	On target	Off target	Not reported	Not available	Annual / Not started	% on target	Overall % on target
WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)	Actions	49	47	2	0	N/A	0	96%	73%
	Measures	30	11	7	0	0	12	37%	
5.Core Business Enablers	Actions	2	2	0	0	N/A	0	100%	29%
	Measures	5	0	5	0	0	0	0%	
Overall Performance	Actions and Measures	86	60	14	0	0	12	70%	


Performance against Target





OFF TARGET

Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers Sub-theme: 5d - Planning							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of planning consultations in relation to Highways Liaison responded to within 21 days THS/018	Not applicable		New measure	Target: 100.0 Result: 95.4	Target: 100.0 Result: 95.2	Target: 100.0 Result: 96.8 Calculation: (575÷594) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	Out of 219 consultations in Q3, 218 were responded to within the statutory period. The single consultation was responded to a day outside of the target due to a leave commitment.						
Remedial Action	We have recently recruited a technician who will commence this quarter, that will help with managing of workload.						
Service Head: Daniel W John			Performance status: Off target				


Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers Sub-theme: 5i - Democratic Services							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Democratic Services Unit (DSU) requests received by Environment Department, responded to within 7 days ENV/DSU	Not applicable		Q3: 86.5 End Of Year: 86.6	Target: 100.0 Result: 87.9	Target: 100.0 Result: 88.1	Target: 100.0 Result: 89.2 Calculation: (1492÷1673) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	In Q3 we have closed 359 DSU Enquiries, 335 of which were closed within 7days. This was a Q3 standalone result of 93% which is our best quarter this year to date. Cumulatively we report 89%.						
Remedial Action	We will continue to advise of outstanding FOIA's weekly to enable officers to close the enquiry before the deadline.						
Service Head: Jackie Edwards			Performance status: Off target				


Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers Sub-theme: 5j - Policy & Performance							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Environment Department stage 1 complaints responded to within 10 days of allocation to Investigating Officer. Comp/003/ENV	Not applicable		Q3: 55.8 End Of Year: 47.8	Target: 100.0 Result: 59.7	Target: 100.0 Result: 69.8	Target: 100.0 Result: 64.7 Calculation: (641÷991) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	We have received 253 Complaints in Q3, of which we have responded to 161 on time.						
Remedial Action	We are continuing to work with Corporate Complaints to improve our response rates. We have seen a slight improvement in distribution times from the complaints team. We are also working with them to deliver training to managers on S1 complaints.						
Service Head: Jackie Edwards			Performance status: Off target				



Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Environment Department stage 2 complaints responded to within 20 days of allocation to Investigating Officer. Comp/004/ENV	Not applicable		Q3: 35.0 End Of Year: 35.0	Target: 100.0 Result: 0.0	Target: 100.0 Result: 16.7	Target: 100.0 Result: 12.5 Calculation: (1÷8) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	As a department we closed 2 stage 2 complaints within Q3, unfortunately both were not closed within the timeframe required.						
Remedial Action	The nature of the investigations are complex and it isn't possible for senior officers to complete the investigations within 20 days when balancing with their current workload.						
Service Head: Jackie Edwards			Performance status: Off target				


Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Environment Department FOIA requests, closed within 20 days ENV/FoIA	Not applicable		Q3: 81.5 End Of Year: 83.7	Target: 100.0 Result: 73.3	Target: 100.0 Result: 78.0	Target: 100.0 Result: 82.2 Calculation: (74÷90) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	We have received 90 FOIA within Q3 and have responded to 74 on time.						
Remedial Action	We continue to send reminders to all managers of all outstanding FOIA's weekly with the deadline.						
Service Head: Jackie Edwards			Performance status: Off target				



Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)
Sub-theme: WBO3b - Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of streets that are clean PAM/010	Not applicable		Q3: 94.0 End Of Year: 94.0	Target: 94.5 Result: 96.1	Target: 94.5 Result: 95.4	Target: 94.5 Result: 93.4 Calculation: (380÷407) × 100	Target: 94.5
Comment	Data from the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) during Quarter 3 indicates that Smoking related continues to be the most common litter found in the streets of Carmarthenshire. Fast Food litter and confectionary litter have also increased in its presence during quarter 3 results. Carmarthenshire has experienced an unprecedented number of storms during quarter3, with evidence of the adverse weather having an impact on levels of litter found on the streets from refuse / recycling bags being blown and their contents spilling out on to the streets. This is also the case where bags that have been left behind due to contamination issues.						
Remedial Action	The current percentage of streets that are clean is off target. Further conversations are taking place to improve the communication / processes with regards to spillage of refuse that have an impact on litter levels within Carmarthenshire. This includes improvement in the stickering process of refuse bags that are non-compliant with the current refuse / recycling services. Strategic and Action group on Local Environmental Quality has been formed to develop solutions to prevent and address environmental blight and fly tipping. First meeting held in Nov 2023. The authority also continues to benefit from the good work of volunteers that undertake litter picking events in the county. Enforcement patrols will target known hotspot areas.						
Service Head: Daniel W John			Performance status: Off target				

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The Cleanliness Indicator STS/005a	Not applicable		Q3: 72.2 End Of Year: 72.7	Target: 77.0 Result: 71.8	Target: 77.0 Result: 72.5	Target: 77.0 Result: 72.4 Calculation: (884÷1221) × 100	Target: 77.0
Comment	Data from the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) during Quarter 3 indicates that Smoking related continues to be the most common litter found in the streets of Carmarthenshire. Fast Food litter and confectionary litter have also increased in its presence during quarter 3 results. Carmarthenshire has experienced an unprecedented number of storms during quarter3, with evidence of the adverse weather having an impact on levels of litter found on the streets from refuse / recycling bags being blown and their contents spilling out on to the streets. This is also the case where bags that have been left behind due to contamination issues have also resulted in spillage of waste / litter onto the streets. Enforcement action has taken place with those who continue to blight our communities with 48 fixed penalty notices being issued for a variety of offences. Which include Litter / Small Scale Fly Tipping and noncompliance of refuse recycling and dog fouling offences.						
Remedial Action	The CI currently is Off Target. Further conversations are taking place to improve the communication / processes with regards to spillage of refuse that have an impact on litter levels within Carmarthenshire. This includes improvement in the stickering process of refuse bags that are non-compliant with the current refuse / recycling services. Strategic and Action group on Local Environmental Quality has been formed to develop solutions to prevent and address environmental blight and fly tipping. First meeting held in Nov 2023. The authority continues to benefit from the good work of volunteers that undertake litter picking events in the county. Enforcement patrols will target known hotspot areas.						
Service Head: Daniel W John			Performance status: Off target				

Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)							
Sub-theme: WBO3d - Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of completed interventions at High Risk Food Business establishments that were due a programmed hygiene intervention PP/FOOD/001	Not applicable		New measure	Target: 10.00 Result: 15.38	Target: 30.00 Result: 33.46	Target: 55.00 Result: 53.85 Calculation: (140÷260) × 100	Target: 100.00
Comment	Whilst slightly below target for Qtr3 we are confident of reaching target in relation to high risk programmed inspections by March 24. Programmed interventions will remain a priority, aside from new businesses and multidisciplinary reactive work.						
Remedial Action	Continue to deliver risk based approach to deliver programmed inspection target by Mar 24.						
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: Off target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection that were inspected, for: i) Trading Standards PPN/001i	Not applicable		Q3: 58 End Of Year: 100	Target: 10 Result: 27	Target: 30 Result: 39	Target: 50 Result: 44 Calculation: (74÷169) × 100	Target: 100
Comment	In the last quarter resources have needed to be redirected to an increase in high-risk and high-profile reactive work, including criminal investigations and tackling the sale of illegal vapes.						
Remedial Action	Although we're close to target for Q3, there is a risk that we will still be off-target at the end of Q4, particularly as more work is planned to tackle the increasing threat posed by illicit vapes and underage sales of vapes in the county. In order to mitigate this risk, we have reprioritised the outstanding premises liable for inspection, to ensure the highest risk premises are targeted first, based on history of compliance and intelligence received.						
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: Off target				

Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)							
Sub-theme: WBO3f - Service Priority: Waste							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Sustainable Drainage Approval body (SAB) applications determined within the statutory 7 or 12 week deadline or to the agreed extension with the applicant WMT/006	Not applicable		Q3: 100.0 End Of Year: 99.1	Target: 100.0 Result: 100.0	Target: 100.0 Result: 100.0	Target: 100.0 Result: 98.3 Calculation: (113÷115) × 100	Target: 100.0
Comment	The Service was a day late on 2 applications in Qtr.3 out of 34.						
Remedial Action	Monitoring procedures will be evaluated to ensure compliance with our statutory targets.						
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths			Performance status: Off target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
% of Recycling contaminated (CV48) WMT/007	Not applicable		Q3: 30.7	Target: 25.0	Target: 25.0	Target: 25.0	Target: 25.0

		End Of Year: 31.5	Result: 31.6	Result: 32.0	Result: 31.9	Calculation: (4179.04 ÷ 13107.82) × 100	
Comment	Continual engagement work is undertaken with regards to community engagement and raising awareness of the correct methods of recycling. Key messages on contaminations waste streams such as food, textiles and electrical appliances in blue bags are being highlighted through face to face discussions with householders and conveyed in community group events.						
Remedial Action	Work has commenced with looking at specific areas to highlight in order to promote redirection of specific recycling stream into the correct disposal route and emphasise on the key waste stream that cause contamination primarily with the blue bags in order to raise awareness and signpost to the correct action to mitigate contamination and avoid education and enforcement action and improve recycle quality.						
Service Head: Daniel W John				Performance status: Off target			
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of local authority collected municipal waste Prepared for reuse WMT/010i	Not applicable		Q3: 0.40 End Of Year: 0.47	Target: 0.75	Target: 0.75	Target: 0.75	Target: 0.75
				Result: 0.51	Result: 0.53	Result: 0.54	Calculation: (321.84 ÷ 59331.52) × 100
Comment	Training has been undertaken for HWRC site operatives to emphasise the importance of redirecting waste items via the 'donation station' area ahead of throwing into the recycling skips on site. This will allow enhancement of engagement with the public whilst attending site and signposting them to think about donating their items for someone to benefit from their reuse rather than opting for the recycling option.						
Remedial Action	Ongoing analysis of the information provided by CWM is required to establish, trends and understand the nature of the items and their quantities which are being redirected through to repair, reuse and upcycling. This will allow better understanding of any changes that are required in the model in order to maximise the potential and increase reuse tonnage allowing scope for public to access repaired and reuse items.						
Service Head: Daniel W John				Performance status: Off target			

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)
Sub-theme: WBO3f - Service Priority: Waste

Action	16565	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Investigate alternative route cleansing strategy and develop network hierarchy to allow cleansing to align with needs and demand and not zonal cleansing		
Comment	The route rationalisation programme is being undertaken in accordance with current Code of Practice for Litter and refuse(CoPLAR) and the interpretation of this code as determined within the Cleansing review document, However further to all Wales Caru Cymru review meeting they have realised that the current Code of Practice requires review and are looking to modernise the current regulations, this will be due for scrutiny summer 2024. The current rationalisation was placed on hold pending this information		
Remedial Action	Ascertain if baseline data can collated and progressed to aid with future rationalisation, pending summer 2024 revised code of practice.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: Off target	

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)
Sub-theme: WBO3g - Service Priority: Highways & Transport

Action	16288	Target date	31/12/2023 (original target 31/03/2024)
Action promised	Develop Community Transport Strategy to enable access to essential services from rural communities. CV51		
Comment	Officers in Passenger Transport Unit have started researching background information and reviewing Community Transport Strategies published by other local authorities. This will inform our development of Carmarthenshire's Strategy which we aim to bring forward for discussion and adoption in 2024/25. Positive discussions have taken place with the Community Transport Association (CTA), Royal Voluntary Service, Community Transport Providers and local authorities regarding future transport provision.		
Remedial Action	In quarter 4, Passenger Transport Unit will continue to engage with Dolen Teifi and Community Transport Association.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: Off target	

ON TARGET ETC.

ACTIONS - Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers			
Sub-theme: 5a - Information and Communication Technology (ICT)			
Action	16559	Target date	31/10/2023
Action promised	Implement updated Highway Management System to deliver a risk-based inspection and repair policy		
Comment	The existing highway management system has been updated to implement the risk based approach for inspection and repair. Updated inspection software has been rolled out to all highway inspectors. Training on the new risk-based standards and software system for highway inspectors has been carried out and all inspectors have passed the initial external assessment. Further competency testing and assessment will be carried out later this year. New Android tablets are being used for mobile inspections. The management of the new repair regime is a critical part of the process and a new Maintenance Planner role has been created in the highways division to coordinate and improve programming of repairs in line with our new policy. As of 12th October we are working to our new risk-based policy and Risk management have been advised.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	

ACTIONS - Theme: 5.Core Business Enablers			
Sub-theme: 5n - Business Support			
Action	17087	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Improve engagement and communication with Town & Community Councils by scheduling & co-ordinating events CV113		
Comment	Following the latest Community & Town Council Liaison Forum a note briefing note has been issued and we will be scheduling future half day sessions for Spring/Summer 24.		
Service Head: Jackie Edwards		Performance status: On target	

Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)							
Sub-theme: WBO3b - Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents	Not applicable		Q3: 2.7	Target: 4.0	Target: 4.0	Target: 4.0	Target: 4.0
PAM/035			End Of Year: 2.8	Result: 2.1	Result: 2.2	Result: 2.2	Calculation: 2831 ÷ 1284
Service Head: Daniel W John			Performance status: On target				

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)			
Sub-theme: WBO3b - Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency			
Action	16263	Target date	31/03/2027
Action promised	Work with Dyfed Pension Fund to continue the journey on reducing its carbon intensity and encourage the Dyfed Pension Fund to work with and learn from other pension funds with a view to further disinvestment in fossil fuels and non-ethical investments. (CV57)		
Comment	progress in line with previous report. Active engagement during the period with key stakeholder groups. Attendance and LAPFF conference, with significant focus on ESG issues to learn from other funds. key information from conference shared with pension fund committee members		
Service Head: Randal Hemingway		Performance status: On target	
Action	16264	Target date	31/03/2027
Action promised	Consider the powers available in relation to local tourism levies and the impact of their introduction locally. (CV76)		
Comment	CCC officers participating in Levy workshops with Welsh Revenue Authority to develop operating model/ Service Level Agreement on levy collection		
Service Head: Randal Hemingway		Performance status: On target	
Action	16277	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Increase renewable energy on council owned land and work with partners to support renewable energy schemes across the county. CV60		
Comment	As outlined in Action 14814, we have identified several potential, comparatively small-scale renewable energy opportunities on our land with the assistance of Welsh Government Energy Service. All sites screened are in areas which are identified as constrained with respect to grid connection. As there are severe constraints across the whole of the Wales network due to reinforcement works required at the transmission level, sites have been prioritised by the presence of a potential power off-taker. Total costs and timescales for grid connection won't be known until a formal connection offer is issued. An initial grid connection application has been submitted for one of the sites. We are also using the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) process referred to in Action 16538 to help identify opportunities for joint renewable energy projects with partners.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	

Action	16278	Target date	30/04/2026
Action promised	Work with Welsh Government to ensure electricity infrastructure is in place to allow us to develop ambitious renewable energy projects to reach net zero. CV67		
Comment	We continue to pursue this matter with Welsh Government and National Grid Electricity Distribution (formerly known as Western Power Distribution). We have also incorporated this into the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) process referred to in Action 16538 to help ensure electricity infrastructure is in place to allow us to develop ambitious renewable energy projects.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths	Performance status: On target		
Action	16279	Target date	31/03/2026
Action promised	Increase renewable energy on council houses and other buildings to reduce domestic bills and help meet climate change targets. CV50		
Comment	Council Houses: Our commitment remains to bring all homes to an EPC band C as quickly as possible. We are continuing to improve the fabric of our homes by installing insulation to the walls and roofs of our homes. This will be an on-going effort until we reach EPC C on all our stock before we look towards introducing technologies. Other Buildings: In August 2023 we secured £3.98m Welsh Government low carbon heat grant (90% funding) for the installation of air / ground source heat pumps, plus ancillary works, at six primary schools that currently use liquid heating. In addition, solar PV to be installed at each of these sites to optimise cost savings. Contract awarded to our Re:Fit Cymru service provider (Ameresco) for delivery of five sites by 31/03/2024 and the remaining site by 30/09/2024.		
Service Head: Jonathan Fearn	Performance status: On target		
Action	16280	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Continue and accelerate the aim of being a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 and set up a cross-party working group to move the Net Zero Carbon and Nature Emergency agenda forward. CV47		
Comment	A cross-party Climate Change & Nature Emergency Advisory Panel has been established. The Advisory Panel is currently undertaking a 'deep dive' into the Council's fleet vehicles which will feed into our new Decarbonisation / NZC Plan to be published by 31/03/2024.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths	Performance status: On target		
Action	16281	Target date	31/03/2025
Action promised	In recognition of the Nature Emergency declared by CCC and WG; we will change our management practices with the aim to increase the biodiversity of all council owned land, and recognise the strong interrelationship between climate change, the loss of biodiversity and human wellbeing. Promote the use of CCC land for supporting nature recovery. CV56		
Comment	CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy will be presented to CMT in Jan 24. We continue our work with Property to identify, and deliver new woodland planting opportunities on CCC land. With CCC's Local Places for Nature Project Officer we are delivering tree planting projects on CCC land - at 3 Adult Day Care Centres, and on land managed by Housing and at Neuadd Y Gwendraeth. CCC's Local Places for Nature grant has also funded the purchase of equipment which will enable Grounds Maintenance to adopt pollinator friendly grass cutting methods for much of CCC's amenity grassland next summer		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths	Performance status: On target		
Action	16282	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/07/2023)
Action promised	Working with CCC's Strategic Land-use review group, identify and progress the planting of woodland on suitable sites, demonstrating the principles of responsible afforestation, and in consultation with local communities. Identify three further areas of woodland to be planted. Subject to grant aid being available. CV63		
Comment	With a new tenant we have identified woodland planting opportunities on CCC farmland near Laugharne, and this winter a small area of woodland at Llanddarog will be planted, tenders have been invited and accepted. We have also submitted and EOI for a Woodland Improvement Grant to WG which if acceptable could influence whether or not CCC retains this site and manages it for nature conservation. The local community are very supportive of this approach. We have completed an agro forestry feasibility study for Bremenda Uchaf a CCC farm in Llanarthne, and are developing links with potential partners for this project.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths	Performance status: On target		
Action	16284	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	To continue to bid for finances via Welsh Government to enable further roll out of public access charging points across the county in accordance with our Electric Vehicle Infrastructure strategy, with a particular focus on the strategic highway network initially, as well as looking at locations across urban and rural areas. CV55		
Comment	In 23/24 we successfully bid for £263,500 WG funding to support a number EV programmes, building on the 52 chargers we have already introduced across the County. Work being undertaken will inform bids for 24/25 due to be submitted in February. This includes a study analysing usage, grid capacity and the development of a strong future case for investment in fast charger hubs along the strategic road network, a potential Car Club study in line with Charge Up project, Feasibility of on street charging, branding signage strategy and installation. The work currently being undertaken will provide a strong evidence base. Furthermore we are currently working with WG and Transport for Wales on the introduction of 2 x 50kw chargers at both Newcastle Emlyn Mart and Carregamman Car Park.		
Service Head: Daniel W John	Performance status: On target		
Action	16285	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop facilities within Carmarthenshire County Council offices to support Active Travel for visitors, members, and officers. Looking at bike racks, changing rooms, shower facilities etc. CV65		
Comment	Audit of 11 key sites undertaken to determine current provision, opportunities for new facilities, cross referencing against staff home locations. This work is in support of the better ways of working property work stream, and as such delivery would be via the wider corporate programme. We are exploring any potential external transport funding opportunities which would support the property programme; furthermore we are currently working on proposals for a cycle storage hub at County Hall Carmarthen.		
Service Head: Daniel W John	Performance status: On target		
Action	16286	Target date	31/03/2024

Action promised	Review the current vehicle fleet strategy with a view to utilising the most suitable and low emissions vehicle technology (including electric or other power sources) over the coming years. CV49		
Comment	A fleet strategy framework has been developed. Further first principles analysis is required to ensure fleet operations facilitates effective front end service provision and contributes to the Councils Net Zero carbon targets. A study is underway to better understand service demand, depot efficiency, future ULEV capacity aligning with future vehicle procurement plans		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	16297	Target date	31/03/2025
Action promised	Utilise a phased approach for the implementation of a new kerbside waste collection system in 2024/25, that is compliant with Welsh Governments' Blueprint collection methodology. This will mean that households will receive a weekly recycling, food and glass collection services from 24/25. CV48		
Comment	<p>In order to achieve the operational, financial, and environmentally efficient model for the second phase of the Waste Service Change, a cost benefit analysis (CBA) is currently being prepared by Arcadis. This analysis compares the utilisation of our existing operational depots (Cillefwr, Glanamman, Cross Hands, and Trostre) compared to the development of a centralised location for the waste services to operate from for the second phase of the strategy. The CBA will provide direction to enable the implementation of the blueprint methodology countywide, factoring in the need for additional facilities (parking, storage, office space and welfare facilities) for the proposed increase in fleet numbers and workforce. Moreover, the analysis addresses waste transfer infrastructure and also the grid capacity at all locations to ensure the maximisation of the use of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) in our fleet.</p> <p>Following the creation of a scoping document and initial designs of a centralised depot that were prepared by Eunomia, cost estimates for developing such a centralised site have now been obtained and incorporated into the CBA assessment. The analysis also considers the ecology and traffic assessments conducted at the CWM Environmental site in Nantycaws. Finalisation of the CBA will enable us to confirm the preferred infrastructure option for implementing the blueprint approach and drive the direction of travel to achieve the aim of the strategy.</p> <p>Engagement with Trade Unions and staff has begun, focusing on potential changes and adjustments to the operational methodology. Scheduled meetings have been established for ongoing collaboration.</p> <p>The routing team is concluding route assessments, with routing on EasyRoute software scheduled to commence in January 2024, to design new routes in readiness for the blueprint rollout.</p> <p>We are collaborating with colleagues at WRAP Cymru on the routing element and they are currently reviewing the modelling work previously done, and adjusting where needed to take into consideration current composition data of the material collected at kerbside since the changes in January 2023. This, along with route assessments, guarantees the procurement of the correct number and size of vehicles for operational and financial efficiency, with procurement set to start in late January 2024.</p> <p>Discussions with the procurement team have identified the appropriate framework for vehicle procurement.</p> <p>Monthly contact with colleagues in Welsh Government and close collaboration with WRAP Cymru ensures adherence to timelines and WRAP are providing valuable advice and guidance to ensure the successful roll out of the project.</p>		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	16331	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	To support the service in the creation and delivery of a climate change and nature emergency communications plan. (CV47)		
Comment	<p>Marketing and media team will develop a communications plan in parallel with the development of the new climate change approach being developed by the service.</p> <p>In the meantime we as a team are working closely with education to assist in promoting the work being delivered within our schools as part of this agenda. Also we are participating and supporting 2 climate conversation events which will be promoted as part of the WG Climate Action Wales initiative. As part of the all Wales campaign, work has also started on seeing how we can ensure our Council website aligns with the all Wales climate action website.</p>		
Service Head: Deina Hockenhuil		Performance status: On target	
Action	16394	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will embed Net Zero Carbon into our procurement activity		
Comment	<p>We continue to work with departments to incorporate ways to reduce the carbon impact of the procured goods/services or works. We complete a Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) for all tenders over the value of £25k (in accordance with our Contract Procedure Rules) which helps identify opportunities to embed actions into the tender to improve sustainability.</p> <p>Based on advice received from Eunomia the team embed carbon specific questions into tenders as appropriate. We ask suppliers to work with the Council in achieving the Welsh Government's sustainable development strategies and our carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>7 SRA's were carried out during this quarter for VAWDAS, Community Based Services, Street Play, Gully and Sweeper Waste, External Landlord Intervention, Property Works Framework and the SWWRFC 2024 Framework.</p>		
Service Head: Helen Pugh		Performance status: On target	
Action	16537	Target date	30/04/2026
Action promised	Deliver an exemplar integrated renewable energy generation and use site for Carmarthenshire		
Comment	A potential exemplar integrated renewable energy generation site has been identified. This opportunity is being pursued in tandem with other proposals for the site.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16538	Target date	30/04/2024
Action promised	Develop a draft local area energy plan for Carmarthenshire		
Comment	<p>Revised timeline for production of the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP):</p> <p>26/01/2024 - Receipt of draft LAEP report for review</p> <p>16/02/2024 - Deadline for stakeholder comments</p>		

08/03/2024 - Receipt of final LAEP (English version) 25/03/2024 - Receipt of final LAEP (Welsh version)			
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16539	Target date	30/04/2024
Action promised	To undertake and support the work of the Nutrient Management Boards for the Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau in addressing the issues of phosphates in Rivers.		
Comment	<p>Three meetings of the three Nutrient Management Boards (NMB) have been held with the inception meeting on the 17th March 2022 (3 Boards) and a further meeting on the 13th December 2022 (3 Boards) and a joint meeting on the three boards on the 16th November 2023.</p> <p>At the meeting of the 16th November the boards approved their terms of reference which included further clarity on their responsibilities. Work has now commenced on the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plans for the three river catchments.</p> <p>Further meetings are scheduled for the 7th February 2024 and 5th June 2024. As part of the NMB structural arrangements two subgroups have been established: Technical Officer Group (TAG), and Stakeholder Group. The first meeting of the TAG was held on the 7th July 2023 whilst the Stakeholder Group met on the 31st May 2023 with further sessions scheduled including the TAG on the 17th January. The meetings of all groups will be ongoing as part of the delivery of the NMBs function. A Programme Manager and support officer are in post with both managed within CCC albeit operating on a sub-regional basis (reflecting the cross-border nature of the river catchments). In delivering the duties of the NMBs £168,389.60 grant support for 22/23 was received from the Welsh Government with a further £540,600 grant secured for 23/24. This action is ongoing reflecting the continual work associated with the NMBs.</p>		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16540	Target date	30/04/2024
Action promised	To continue to progress strategic Carmarthenshire response to phosphate and nutrient pollution issues in protected waters		
Comment	<p>As part of the response to the challenges faced by phosphate levels in protected river catchments in Carmarthenshire, we were the first authority in Wales to prepare and implement a Phosphate Calculator and to publish mitigation guidance for developers. This has now been adapted for use within the sub region to reflect the cross border nature of the river catchments. The Carmarthenshire calculator is forming the basis for an all Wales version currently undergoing preparation.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire was also the first authority to set up a Nutrient Management Board (NMB) for the Afon Tywi with its inception meeting on the 17th March 2022. We are also members of the Cleddau and Teifi Boards. It should be noted the NMBs will provide the context for solution finding and seek to deliver mitigation proposals as part of a catchment-based approach. The NMBs approved their Terms of Reference at a joint meeting of the boards on the 16th November 2023 with work now progressing on the preparation of Nutrient Management Plans for the 3 river catchments.</p> <p>As a further Carmarthenshire focused response Interim Action Plans have been prepared as evidence base to support the delivery of Growth ambitions in the protected catchments, identifying mitigation opportunities and other mechanisms to support nutrient neutrality. This is now being formulated into an Action Plan.</p> <p>A Nutrient Management Strategy for Carmarthenshire is being finalised which will include an understanding of the relationships to other corporate priorities. It will also seek to reflect the latest evidence and information including the published source apportionment data for the Afon Tywi.</p> <p>The Council is seeking to respond proactively and positively to the data emerging as a result of the Review of Permits for Waste Water Treatment Works including taking a headroom based approach where capacity exists within the works. Its will also consider how DCWW programmed improvements to treatment works may influence the potential for planning applications and developments to proceed.</p> <p>The work in relation to this indicator will remain ongoing.</p>		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16541	Target date	30/04/2025
Action promised	Co-ordinate the delivery of the Pollinator Action Plan		
Comment	Draft strategy was submitted to and supported by both Scrutiny and CMT and will go to Pre Cabinet and Cabinet early in 2024. Two further Grillo Cut and Collect machines have been purchased through WG Local Places for Nature grant funding with 2 trailers due in Q4.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16542	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/07/2023)
Action promised	Publication of the Tree & Woodland Strategy		
Comment	consideration of the the Tree and Woodland Strategy to CMT has been delayed until Jan 24. The strategy will be published on CCC`s website when approved via the democratic process		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16543	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	To ensure delivery of the Council's S.6 Biodiversity Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.		
Comment	CCC's Env Act Forward Plan Jan 23 – Dec 25 has been drafted and responsible officers consulted on the proposed actions. Actions will be reported on via PIMS. The plan will be presented to Place and Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny in Jan 24, with an update on the delivery of actions over the last 12 months		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths			

Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16548	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop a strategy to achieve Net Zero Carbon as part of property design specifications		
Comment	<p>Work is continuing at Property Design to refine our specifications to achieve Net Zero Carbon in use on non-housing projects. This building strategy is captured in our Standard Requirements for Schools document.</p> <p>This is the document used as our baseline to 'Develop a strategy to achieve Net Zero Carbon as part of property design specifications'. It is however a WIP document, and not finite. We consider development of the strategy an iterative action, and the specification itself will continue to be monitored and updated as we develop a lean approach to achieving net zero carbon in use on a local site by site basis. The strategy will hinge on adoption of Passivhaus methodologies we have built up over a significant period together with green and renewable energy solutions. This effort may become further supported by expert advice via the recently launched Professional Services Framework Low Energy Lot.</p> <p>This work will be transferable to a broader commercial specification, in terms of a fabric first approach in all corporate major projects (non-housing).</p> <p>Please be advised that this PIMS action is due to be superseded in 2024/25. This follows a Property Design review of the action as part of the Unit's transfer to the Chief Executive's Department. The new proposed action will focus on 'developing a strategy to achieve Net Zero Carbon for in building-use as part of Property Design specifications'.</p>		
Service Head: Jason Jones (Env)		Performance status: On target	
Action	16550	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	The service will adapt and develop Carmarthenshire infrastructure to support the Wales Transport strategy to decarbonise transport.		
Comment	We continue to work with Communities, regional and national partners to develop programmes that support the decarbonisation aims set out in Wales Transport Strategy. We have been successful in applying for funding to support a number of programmes this year including £932k for Public transport infrastructure, £1.472m Active travel, £263k Electric Vehicle infrastructure programmes, and £931k for Safe Routes in the Community, work is well underway in respect of moving forward with the funded programme. Bids are currently being drafted to submit to WG in February which will further enhance our progress with respect to EV provision, Active Travel, Road Safety and Public Transport		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	16562	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Improve the way we manage waste in Carmarthenshire, increasing the waste reused, recycled or composted. Delivering against national beyond recycling strategy.		
Comment	An increase in the volume and tonnage of recycled material collected via the kerbside recycling scheme introduction as a result of the 2023 waste service change is evident. Further opportunity to recycle dry mixed recycling through weekly collection, provision of boxes for kerbside glass collections and hygiene and nappy waste fortnightly collections have all contributed to a reduction in residual tonnages and less black bags waste emanating from domestic properties. The recycling tonnages submitted to Natural resource Wales (NRW) for the first half of 2023/2024 have indicated an average of 72% recycling across the board which is significantly increased from 2022/2023 results. This demonstrates a marked improvement in the waste management avenues available to residents of the County which contributes positively to Carmarthenshire's recycling performance in line with the Welsh Government strategy 'Beyond Recycling' through increasing possibilities of reducing, reusing and recycling domestic waste and follows the waste hierarchy principals for a more sustainable approach to waste management.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	16563	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop a Circular Economy Strategy and Rural Infrastructure proposal linking in with wider corporate services		
Comment	Further engagement work with Ten Town representatives providing opportunity via collaborative meetings in a theme pertinent to circular economy topics has been undertaken. A collective training opportunity with Repair café Wales was provided giving information, guidance and knowledge to those wishing to establish a facility in their own rural settings. This will allow the communities to become enablers to promote circular economy in the locality and become a template for the wider strategy, allowing a long term plan to be embedded for Carmarthenshire to benefit from a sustainable, low carbon, circular economy (CE) focused project that can be managed within existing organisations/ volunteer groups and infrastructure to thrive within communities. Allowing the authority to support and guide aligning with corporate objectives and establishing a future blueprint Circular Economy strategy. Further work is to be timetables which meets the authority and communities aspirations for CE projects in the coming months which will assist with the development of the overall strategy.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	16564	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Develop and implement the new Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP2)		
Comment	A draft strategy is will go to CMT second week in January. In Q4 we will produce an underpinning operational plan to accompany this, focusing on those communities at greatest risk.		
Service Head: Rhodri Griffiths		Performance status: On target	
Action	16898	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Deliver the recommendations of the fly tipping task and finish group (CV62)		
Comment	Cabinet have considered and approved the findings of the T&F Group. A cross-departmental group has been organised and forms part of the Local Environmental Quality Group to deliver and monitor progress of the recommendations.		
Service Head: Daniel W John		Performance status: On target	
Action	17169	Target date	31/03/2024

Action promised	We will increase supply of renewable energy within the Council housing stock (CV29)
Comment	Through our optimised retrofit programme, we are upgrading the fabric performance of our homes and installing renewable technology which can create and store energy. The programme for 2023/24 involves installing energy efficient measures on over 230 homes. This includes undertaking a deep retrofit on 18 homes, replacing 133 gas boilers with hybrid heat pumps and improving the fabric performance of a further 80 homes. Our aim is to ensure that all of our homes achieve a minimum of band C energy performance rating (EPC) as quickly as possible through a fabric first approach. The 2024/25 HRA business plan (approved by Council on the 24th January 2023) is also committed to installing rooftop solar PV panels as part of our roofing programmes and developing a business case outlining the investment required and the benefits of installing a wider programme of solar PV to our tenants homes and installing community electrical vehicle charging points.
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan	Performance status: On target

Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)							
Sub-theme: WBO3d - Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion							
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of food establishments that meet food hygiene standards PAM/023	Not applicable		Q3: 99.10 End Of Year: 99.07	Target: 95.00 Result: 99.02	Target: 95.00 Result: 99.05	Target: 95.00 Result: 99.10 Calculation: (2100÷2119) × 100	Target: 95.00
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: On target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of completed interventions at High Risk Food Business establishments that were due a programmed Standards intervention during the year PP/FOOD/002	Not applicable		New measure	Target: 3.00 Result: 18.80	Target: 30.00 Result: 47.01	Target: 60.00 Result: 62.39 Calculation: (73÷117) × 100	Target: 100.00
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: On target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection that were inspected, for: iii) Animal Health PPN/001iii	Not applicable		Q3: 56 End Of Year: 99	Target: 10 Result: 15	Target: 30 Result: 43	Target: 50 Result: 60 Calculation: (97÷161) × 100	Target: 100
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: On target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The number of fraud incidence identified by Trading Standards PPN/003	Not applicable		Q3: 170 End Of Year: 223	Target: 50 Result: 22	Target: 100 Result: Not available	Target: 150 Result: 219	Target: 200
Service Head: Jonathan Morgan			Performance status: On target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The average number of calendar days taken to repair all street lamp failures during the year THS/009	Not applicable		Q3: 5.31 End Of Year: 5.39	Target: 7.00 Result: 4.06	Target: 7.00 Result: 3.37	Target: 7.00 Result: 3.66 Calculation: 3638÷995	Target: 7.00
Service Head: Daniel W John			Performance status: On target				

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)

Sub-theme: WBO3d - Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion

Action	15495	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/03/2023)
Action promised	To ensure the Council fully considers and responds to the requirements of the Counter Terrorism Protect Duty once published (expected in 2022-23).		
Comment	The draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as Martyn's Law, continues to go through the Parliamentary legislative process. No further update is currently available. A Carmarthenshire multi-agency Protective Security Preparedness Group meeting will be arranged once there is more clarity provided.		
Service Head:	Jason Jones	Performance status:	On target
Action	16287	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Continue to review and assess the need for safer routes and traffic calming measures across Carmarthenshire's towns and villages as part of our road safety initiatives, whilst awaiting the outcome of the Welsh Government proposed 20mph speed limit pilot study, prior to a their final decision on implementing this initiative across Wales. CV64		
Comment	WG 20mph legislation has been implemented. There is a survey framework in place which has captured `before` data and this will be compared to further surveys to provide an understanding of the impacts `after` implementation. Liaison also being undertaken with DPP regarding enforcement and education initiatives.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status:	On target
Action	16416	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	We will ensure that the Council works with Dyfed Powys Police to address rural crime issues affecting the county and to monitor any trends in terms of community cohesion issues. MFR-45		
Comment	We will incorporate any rural crime issues as part of the Safer Communities Partnership`s workplan.		
Service Head:	Jason Jones	Performance status:	On target
Action	16781	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/03/2023)
Action promised	We will deliver a new risk-based Food Hygiene and Food Standards programme for 23/24		
Comment	Respective high risk food hygiene and food standards programmes continue to be delivered in line with Statutory Code of Practice requirements. We have introduced a risk based approach to programme programmed inspections and any overdue work, with the exception of new businesses and other multidisciplinary reactive work. We will continue with the risk based approach into 24/25 as outlined as part of the FSA twice yearly "temperature checks"		
Service Head:	Jonathan Morgan	Performance status:	On target
Action	16878	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Continued development of Highways Asset Management Plan Maintenance Policies. Including Grass Cutting policy, Gully Cleaning policy and Weed Spraying policy (CV62)		
Comment	A further chapter of the HAMP Maintenance Manual was presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 30th November and is progressing to Cabinet for adoption. The Maintenance Manual is a rolling programme of policies which are being brought forward on an annual basis. The HAMP Annual Report was also presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 30th November and will be considered by Pre-Cabinet for information only.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status:	On target

Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)

Sub-theme: WBO3f - Service Priority: Waste

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted (CV48) PAM/030	Not applicable		Q3: 64.47 End Of Year: 65.25	Target: 67.00	Target: 67.00 Result: 71.70	Target: 67.00 Result: 70.23 Calculation: (41665.62÷59331.52) × 100	Target: 67.00
Service Head:	Daniel W John		Performance status: On target				
Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person	Not applicable		Q3: 110	Target: 35	Target: 72	Target: 107	Target: 143

(CV48) PAM/043		End Of Year: 144	Result: 31	Result: 59	Result: 90	Calculation: 16869750 ÷ 188191
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Service Head: Daniel W John **Performance status:** On target

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of waste sent to landfill WMT/004	Not applicable		Q3: 6.30 End Of Year: 4.89	Target: 10.00 Result: 1.23	Target: 10.00 Result: 1.91	Target: 10.00 Result: 1.99 Calculation: (1182.16 ÷ 59331.52) × 100	Target: 10.00

Service Head: Daniel W John **Performance status:** On target

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of local authority collected municipal waste Recycled WMT/010ii	Not applicable		Q3: 43.83 End Of Year: 45.43	Target: 46.00 Result: 48.62	Target: 46.00 Result: 47.08	Target: 46.00 Result: 46.91 Calculation: (27834.03 ÷ 59331.52) × 100	Target: 46.00

Service Head: Daniel W John **Performance status:** On target

Measure Description	2022/23 Comparative Data			2023/24 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of municipal waste Collected as source segregated biowastes and composted or treated biologically in another way WMT/010iii	Not applicable		Q3: 20.24 End Of Year: 19.35	Target: 20.00 Result: 23.84	Target: 20.00 Result: 24.09	Target: 20.00 Result: 22.77 Calculation: (13509.75 ÷ 59331.52) × 100	Target: 20.00

Service Head: Daniel W John **Performance status:** On target

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)
Sub-theme: WBO3f - Service Priority: Waste

Action	16908	Target date	31/03/2024 (original target 31/12/2023)
Action promised	We will update our Public Convenience Strategy and procure the new public convenience operation and management contract.		
Comment	The public consultation and engagement exercised has closed attracting over 1100 responses. The engagement exercise has highlighted some themes that will be addressed as part of the associated action plan. The updated strategy is due to be presented to CMT and Scrutiny in April. A Section 151 report has been submitted for the public convenience operation and management contract which will allow the service to undertake the procurement exercise.		

Service Head: Ainsley Williams **Performance status:** On target

Action	17038	Target date	31/03/2025
Action promised	Lead on the communications and customer service of the new Waste service changes (CV48)		
Comment	Work is progressing well. A new communications officer has been appointed and will start on 29 January. Having this additional resource within the team will assist greatly with this particular campaign. Monthly meetings are already taking place with the team and we have representation on the board to ensure communication and engagement are considered at every point within the delivery of this service change.		

Service Head: Deina Hockenhull **Performance status:** On target

ACTIONS - Theme: WBO3.Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Comm)
Sub-theme: WBO3g - Service Priority: Highways & Transport

Action	16290	Target date	31/03/2026
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Action promised	Work with regional partners to look at the feasibility of setting up a publicly owned bus company and the accompanying logistical requirements to serve areas not currently served by existing companies, subject to a change in legislation to allow municipal bus companies to be set up. CV52		
Comment	Officers have met with WG and TFW regarding current status and planning of bus reform in Wales. The proposals will see the public sector planning of services, with local authorities, regional Corporate Joint Committees, TFW and the Welsh Government collaborating to design networks to meet public need within available funding. At present WG strategy is for commercial operators to bid for contracts to run services to the franchising authority's specification which would support the potential for serving areas not currently serviced. Whilst this WG legislative drafting continues, work will remain on scoping a public owned bus company.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16291	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Deliver the cycle and pedestrian path from Carmarthen to Llandeilo which will be a huge boost to local towns and villages, and tourism throughout the county. CV66		
Comment	Significant work has been undertaken in support of the Compulsory Purchase Order Public Inquiry held in November. The Inquiry has now formally closed and we are currently awaiting the Minister decision which will be critical to scheme progress. In parallel land negotiations are continuing with a number of holdings at or near completion, multi site construction packages are being prepared in readiness to proceed at numerous locations concurrently to expedite delivery.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16292	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Lobby Welsh Government to reopen the Amman Valley railway line to passengers as part of the Swansea Bay Metro. CV40		
Comment	As 1 of 4 regional Local Authorities working in partnership in south west Wales, we have been in detailed ongoing dialogue with Transport for Wales and Welsh Government in the development of a number of rail studies for the region. We have been presenting the case and lobbying for a number of rail infrastructure and service enhancements in Carmarthenshire including the Amman Valley railway line. Studies have determined a short list of approximately 19 priorities for the region and we have been successful in ensuring its inclusion. Whilst delivery will be dependent on a number of factors, not least funding which is a significant challenger nationally, we will continue to lobby for this initiative to progress as part of the emerging METRO programme		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16293	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Lobby Welsh Government for a feasibility study for a passenger railway and cycle route along the Gwendraeth Valley. CV54		
Comment	We have completed a feasibility study to investigate the route, to identify potential pinch points and to determine whether an active travel route can be accommodated alongside the railway line. We continue to work with Gwendraeth Valley Railway Society (as the lease holder of the land) along with local members and residents to investigate what can be done to reopen sections of the line. We have successfully bid for £40k this financial year from the Active Travel Fund currently undertaking site clearance, surveys and progress with detailed designs to inform public consultation in 24/25 and potential future funding bids to WG. To this end a bid is currently being drafted for submission in February to support the ongoing development of this proposal		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16294	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Lobby UK Government and the Welsh Government for a fair share of rail investment in west Wales. Calling for a direct 1-hour fast train service from Cardiff to Carmarthen. This will include the lobbying for and supporting the reopening of other lines localised service and branch lines. CV53		
Comment	The programme of rail priorities has been submitted to the region and the Wales Government. The Council has set out its priorities for improved journey times through to West Wales at a CJC Transport Workshop on 26th June 2023 at the National Botanical Gardens.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16295	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Engage with and lobby Welsh Government on their commitment to construct a bypass for Llandeilo. CV59		
Comment	The authority continues to lobby the Welsh Government for early completion of the ByPass, reinforcing that our view that it is the only viable option to address wide ranging issues in the town. The Welsh Government are yet to formally release the findings of the WELTAG 2 appraisal. A phased delivery has been suggested, however we continue to press for commitment to fund and deliver the whole bypass scheme.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16296	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Following withdrawal of Welsh Government funding, explore all possible funding options to support a programme of improving the condition of rural roads. CV85		
Comment	Following presentation of the HAMP Annual report to Scrutiny on 23rd November it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Welsh Government to highlight the deterioration of our highways and the impact on our network following the withdrawal of the Welsh Government Road refurbishment grant. The letter is due to be sent to Welsh Government in December 2023.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16556	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Contribute to the development the Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales that will inform transport policy and investment decisions that align with the Wales Transport Strategy		
Comment	The Regional Transport Plan is a statutory requirement placed on Corporate Joint Committees and consequentially Local Authorities, shaping policy and investment decisions for south west Wales for the next 5 years. WG Guidance on the development of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) has been received by the Corporate Joint Committee. The draft RTP implementation Plan has been completed for consideration by the CJC, this has subsequently been endorsed by the CJC and WG. The Case for Change stage is due to be presented to CJC in February 2024. Whilst some temporary external support has been		

	commissioned on to support the 4 Local Authorities, there are still significant resourcing challenges, and whilst a regional post was due to be advertised in October to assist, this has not yet occurred, as a consequence the scale and nature of the plan will still make a considerable draw on Local Authority Transport Planning resources		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16557	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Work with regional and national partners to develop the south west Wales METRO in order provide an integrated transport system that supports carbon reduction, economic activity and social inclusion across the whole region		
Comment	Feasibility studies have been completed on Transport Modelling, Transport Hub Business Case, Bus Business Case, Active Travel Infrastructure Development, Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy. Regional Transport Group is now reviewing outputs and recommendations, which in turn will inform the next steps in the process. Carmarthenshire are endorsing an approach whereby tangible concepts plans and future outputs are identified to inform the long terms METRO ambitions. Officers are engaging with WG and Transport for Wales who are leading on the Metro work . This is a long term project that will require investment. Cognisance will need to be made to National Bus reform and challenging funding landscape.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16558	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Deliver a prioritised 3-year capital maintenance programme of highway bridge strengthening and replacement schemes. Prioritising delivery of schemes with the resources available to ensure highway bridges and structures assessed as sub-standard		
Comment	Since 1st April 2023 Glanrhyd bailey bridge has been replaced. A further 4 schemes are in progress with work underway on site for bridge replacement at B4306 Pont y Pentre Llanon, with work being substantially complete by 22nd December. U2243 Mynydd Y Garreg Bridge replacement is on-going and will be completed in early 2024. C2146 Tan y Berllan bridge Ffairfach deck replacement is underway and due to complete by Christmas. In addition, C2214 Bridgend Inn upgrade works will be completed later this year. This year we will upgrade a total of 5 structures as planned with all works due to be completed by March 2024.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16880	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Introduce and deliver a programme of coring utility trenches to improve standard of reinstatement by utility works as the consequence on the fabric of the highway (CV62)		
Comment	Specialist sub-contractor engaged and undertaking scheduled coring programme. Coring results are being continually analysed and actioned by Street Works Team.		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	
Action	16884	Target date	31/03/2024
Action promised	Continue to develop and deliver improvements for the A484 at Sandy Rd, Llanelli in order to support economic activity, improve local air quality, road safety and sustainable travel options (CV62)		
Comment	A scheme designed to alleviate congestion, improve air quality and encourage safe sustainable travel at this location has previously been agreed and consulted upon extensively. As a consequence of the WG Roads Review progress has been delayed. WG have awarded £100k to refine the proposals to conform with 4 tests associated with the WG roads review, with work underway on this. In the meantime, funding has been secured from developer contributions to introduce phase 1 junction enhancements at Sandy Roundabout which will commence early in the new year. Furthermore a bid is being drafted to submit to WG in February to continue to progress the wider programme, the outcome of this bid will give an insight into WG appetite to fund the scheme		
Service Head:	Daniel W John	Performance status: On target	

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IN-HOUSE PEST CONTROL AGENCY

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to instigate an initial discussion on whether we should develop an in-house Pest Control Agency within the Housing and Public Protection Division.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Provide views on whether officers should prepare a detailed business case for the development of an in-house Pest Control Agency as part of the pre-decision process for policy development, prior to submission to Cabinet.

Reason

To formulate the views of Scrutiny Committee prior to potential detailed development work in this area.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Aled Vaughan-Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)

Directorate Communities	Designations:	Tel Nos. 07546 999108 Ext 5686
Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan	Head of Housing and Public Protection	E Mail Addresses: JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Robert Williams	Public Health Lead	RDWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

**POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF
IN-HOUSE PEST CONTROL AGENCY**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to instigate an initial discussion on whether we should develop a more detailed business case for an in-house Pest Control Agency within the Housing and Public Protection Division.

1. Why are we considering setting up an enhanced internal provision?

- To offer a potentially improved service provision to the public, irrespective of tenure, where there are currently gaps in provision. It will not be set up to replace existing successful private sector provision; and
- We believe that, with the development of a detailed business case, an in-house pest control service could be self-financing both in terms of advice, treatment and follow up.

Whilst pest control 'treatment' is not a statutory function, experience over the years has demonstrated that having a Council operated pest control service would be of benefit to both the Council and residents of Carmarthenshire. It is recognised, however, that it would be necessary to introduce a service where the costs of the service are fully recovered.

2. What is the current context?

The previous fully operational pest control service of the Council ceased to operate in 2010. Since then, officers have dealt with pest related problems through advice and enforcement work only. This means that residents and businesses have to choose a commercial organisation to provide the appropriate treatment or undertake works themselves. Leaving the eradication of pests to the commercial market alone, however, has created the following issues/perceptions:

- Inconsistent quality of treatment and service;
- Inappropriate and potentially ineffective treatment provided;
Experience has shown that some private companies can fail to eradicate and identify the cause of a problem e.g. not identifying / reporting structural defects or surveying drainage systems.
- Advice given by Council employees not being properly followed by the private treatment company;
Previous issues have included some companies not turning up on site, not making appointments to meet council officers dealing with a case, not enough poison being used to eradicate an issue and using inappropriate / weaker poisons.
- Vulnerable residents not having the service suited to their needs;

- Residents not taking action on the advice given due to concerns about the overall cost and efficacy of the treatment;
- Difficulty in selecting the most appropriate provider; and
- Generation of more enforcement work as pest problems were not resolved.

Due to the issues being experienced, a decision was taken to reintroduce the treatment element of the service to our Council homes in 2016 but keep providing advice only to all other tenures. Since 2016 the team has received very positive feedback from housing officers and tenants, and the service is working well.

In addition to providing treatment and advice, the team also completes works in default when officers in the team are carrying out enforcement duties. This ensures pest control is completed adequately and complies with the legal requirements. Pest control officers also work closely with Public Health officers and provide evidence for legal action / prosecution. They also take a holistic approach and survey other properties in the area as they have rights of entry into neighbouring land when required. Private companies are unable to do this.

We believe that providing the service to all tenures will be positive, subject to a detailed sustainable business case.

Nationally, figures are showing an increase in rodent related calls, fleas, wasps, and bed bugs in environments such as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and the private rented sector. This could be for various reasons such as social / economic / chemical resistance building in the rodent population or private businesses carrying out poor treatments.

In addition, other factors such as ageing drainage systems, bait resistance, and changes to legislation covering pest control poisons / treatments are also likely to cause a further increase in rodent related issues.

3. How could we make the in-house pest control service self-financing?

The intention would be to provide a better quality of treatment that would be consistent and would aim to eradicate an infestation without any repeat visits. The cost would also be set at a reasonable level but would need to cover the costs of the service.

We would potentially look to recover costs through:

- Offering the service for rats, mice and wasps to begin with, as these are the highest type of pest calls we currently receive. This would allow officers to concentrate work and income generation on the highest workstreams. The service could grow to cover other pests of a lesser public health significance, such as ants and bed bugs;
- The Council being seen as a trusted organisation that many may choose to use;
- Developing contracts with other internal departments, such as leisure centres, care home facilities, and schools. Currently some departments are using private firms for this work;
- Developing contract work with private businesses across the county, such as food establishments and farms;

- Offering a CCTV survey element to the service which would cover drainage systems that could be charged for. Many pest problems arise from defective drainage systems, so this would help resolve issues and prevent repeat calls. This would also link in with our enforcement work;
- Undertaking ‘treatment’ in default of legal notices, which can be recharged to the owner of the property;
- Undertaking minor repairs to properties where faults are allowing entry for pests, e.g. missing ventilation covers / holes around waste pipes. This could be recharged for and allow a problem to be repaired quickly.
- Re-charging Welsh Water for sewer treatments; and
- Charging for visiting to provide advice only.

4. What are the potential challenges and risks?

- Making sure that our market analysis, as part of the development of the business case, is robust and a high benchmark is set to ensure future sustainability of the service;
- An acknowledgement that the service could be offered differently in certain parts of the county based on our market analysis.
- Initial costs to setting up the service;
- Ensuring the right costs are charged to cover service costs, but do not discourage members of the public from taking up the service offered;
- Ensuring we don’t duplicate what is already being provided and significantly impacting existing private businesses;
- Recovering money (maybe charge upfront) – previous history of problems of charging after the job was completed and not being paid; and
- Considering whether we offer discounts in certain circumstances or charge everyone the same.

5. What will be the key drivers and tests considered as part of the development of the detailed business case?

The following table summarises the drivers and tests to be considered:

Drivers	Tests
Maintain and increase the breadth and quality of service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables ability to work in an integrated close partnership with other services within the Council
Reducing public health risks from pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables a preventative approach to the recurrence of pests • Allows for a holistic service that is more effective in preventing reoccurrence • More accessible to the public, and especially vulnerable people
The ability to achieve the major initial change and future evolution of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the required changes to be achieved? • Allows the service to meet environmental and commercial demands in the future?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows initiatives such as extending services, and providing them to private individuals and public and private sector organisations?
Manages operational, financial and reputational risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures management of the statutory risk • Will enhance, not harm, the reputation of the Council • Supports the market without destabilising it
Provides efficient and cost-effective service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for expansion of services • Provides the most cost-effective, self financing and sustainable delivery model

6. What are the potential next steps/recommendations?

Members are asked to provide views on an enhanced in-house pest control agency and, if considered worthwhile, officers will:

Work up a detailed business case on an in-house pest control agency for further consideration.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **Jonathan Morgan** **Head of Housing and Public Protection**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

<p>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED YES</p>	<p>Cllr Vaughan-Owen is supportive on a preliminary Scrutiny discussion on this potential pro-active initiative.</p>
<p>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</p> <p>THERE ARE NONE</p>	

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & COASTAL ADAPTION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

Purpose:

To raise awareness of the Authority's duties and obligations pertaining to coastal management and the risks posed by climate change and sea level rise

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Rhodri Griffiths

Designations:

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Report Author:

Ben Kathrens

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Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11TH MARCH 2024

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT & COASTAL ADAPTION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This paper examines how Carmarthenshire County Council is managing our coastline. It provides a summary of the national and local policy approach pertaining to shoreline management and the activities delivered by the Authority in the management of our coastline. This paper then comments on the robustness of current preparedness and future requirements.

Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) has 90km of coastline which is both an asset in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems, leisure and tourism but also a liability in terms of management, maintenance and inspections. 15km (17%) of the Carmarthenshire coastline is hard engineered to protect against flooding and coastal erosion.

Recent analysis by the Flood Defence and Coastal Defence (FDCC) business unit highlights that we have 19 communities who are at risk of **tidal flooding** and **coastal erosion** in Carmarthenshire. This further equates to

- 2300 residential home at risk;
- Over 2600 properties in total at risk and
- 70 key services.

The Carmarthenshire coast, Hendy to Pendine, has 87 actions within the shoreline management plan policy document and just under 50% of these are the responsibility of the Authority. 18% of these actions have been completed over the last 23-years, 33% are ongoing and a little under half (49%) requiring actioning.

While for information only, this report requests support in exploring funding and better ways of working to deliver a number of actions to ensure that Carmarthenshire's coastal communities and businesses are informed and prepared for the risk of tomorrow.

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 R Griffiths

Head of Place & Sustainability

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

2. Legal

CCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has no statutory duty to protect residents and businesses from flooding.

Under section 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, it has a statutory obligation to maintain a register of flood risk assets.

The Shoreline Management Plan-2, the primary policy document pertaining to shoreline management, is a non-statutory policy document.

5. Risk Management Issues

The attached report has highlighted that there are 19 communities at risk of flooding along Carmarthenshire's coast. This equates to 2300 residential homes and 70 key services. In total there are over 2600 properties (home and business) at risk from coastal flooding and or coastal erosion.

6. Physical Assets

On the current flood risk asset database there are 177 flood and coastal erosion risk management assets along Carmarthenshire's coast. These are assets with an annual management and maintenance regime.

In addition to these FCERM assets, Carmarthenshire have property and land that requires adaption to manage the risk posed by climate change and sea level rise. There is currently no single database that allows the number or value of these assets to be quantified.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
There are none**

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Shoreline management and coastal adaption in Carmarthenshire.

Abstract

This paper examines how Carmarthenshire County Council is managing our coastline. It provides a summary of the national and local policy approach pertaining to shoreline management and the activities delivered by the Authority in the management of our coastline. This paper then comments on the robustness of current preparedness and future requirements.

Introduction

Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) has 90km of coastline which is both an asset in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems, leisure and tourism but also a liability in terms of management, maintenance and inspections. 15km (17%) of the Carmarthenshire coastline is hard engineered to protect against flooding and coastal erosion.

Recent analysis by the Flood Defence and Coastal Defence (FDCP) business unit highlights that we have 19 communities¹ who are at risk of tidal flooding and coastal erosion in Carmarthenshire. This further equates to

- 2300 residential home at risk;
- Over 2600 properties in total at risk and
- 70 key services.

It is for this reason, flood risk is specifically identified within the corporate risk register. NRW flood maps highlighting the coastal flood risk areas can be viewed [here](#).

Policy and legislation

Strategic Planning: The national picture

In consideration of the risks, there has been a shift in thinking in recent years, especially within the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) sector, to risk management and adaption and away from prevention. However, there is very limited evidence of the implementation of adaptation at the scale needed to fully prepare for climate risks facing the UK across cities, communities, infrastructure, economy and ecosystems².

The National Infrastructure Commission Wales (NICW) has begun to evaluate how flood risk and adaptations are delivered across Wales and how we communicate that risk to Welsh communities. This NICW report in focusing on the future, 2050 to 2100 and will be published in the Autumn of 2024.

¹ Community at Risk Register (CaRR), NRW, 2015.

² [Progress in adapting to climate change - 2023 Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/progress-in-adapting-to-climate-change-2023-report-to-parliament-climate-change-committee/)

Strategic planning - the local picture

CCC is currently preparing a Revised Local Development Plan, 2018-2033. This revised plan will evaluate the risk to the development sites put forward from 2018. In addition, flood risk analysis and flooding mapping on some key strategic developments its being scaled up to include wider areas.

This report also notes that the following is also being delivered:

- There is flood mapping and guidance published by NRW which is updated every 6-months with input from CCC when applicable.
- Flood risk is on the corporate risk register,
- As part of the new Flood Risk Management Plan and Local Strategy (2024-2029), the risk to Carmarthenshire's coastal communities is being assessed at a strategic level.
- As a part of the flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) capital works programme, communities at greatest risk of flooding are receiving more focused analysis, education and engagement.
- The only coastal community that has been recently assessed with regards to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise is Bynea in east Llanelli. The early analysis suggests that this area will begin to see more frequent significant flooding within the next 30-years.

The shoreline management plan

The Shoreline management plan (SMP) is the key policy document for the management of the coastline.

The SMP provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding along the coast and estuaries of Carmarthenshire. It defines high level policies to help manage these risks to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

First generation SMP (SMP1) was completed along the South Wales coast in 2000 and 2001. The second generation SMP was finalised and published in October 2011 (SMP2) and refreshed in 2021.

The SMP in Carmarthenshire

The SMP2 covers the Carmarthenshire coast from Hendy in the east to Dolwen point in the west. The policy has divided the Carmarthenshire coast into 4 key areas namely:

- The Lougher Estuary - (Hendy to Pwll),
- Pembrey Burrows (Burry Port to Kidwelly),
- The Three Rivers (Kidwelly to Laugharne) and
- Ginst to Dolwen Point (Pendine beach and village).

Within each of these four areas, our coastline is further divided into policy units (smaller areas of our coastline). Each policy unit is assigned one of four strategic policy positions (highlighted in [Appendix A, table-1](#)) and will also have a short narrative pertaining to its management ([Appendix A, table-2](#)).

In addition to the higher-level policy notes, there are also specific actions for each policy unit area. These come under the headings of research, monitoring and data collection, asset management, communication, planning and land management, emergency response environmental mitigation and habitat creation.

The current position

Across the 90km of Carmarthenshire coastline, 4 SMP areas and 46 policy units, there are a total of 87 actions. These are documented in [Appendix-B](#).

- Of these 87 actions, CCC own or have joint responsibility for 43, just under 50%.
- Of CCCs 43 actions, 8 have been completed, 18%
- 33% of CCCs actions are currently ongoing, are business as usual or are being implemented.
- A little under half (49%) of CCC's actions require actioning and have not commenced, predominately due to resource implications.

Reporting

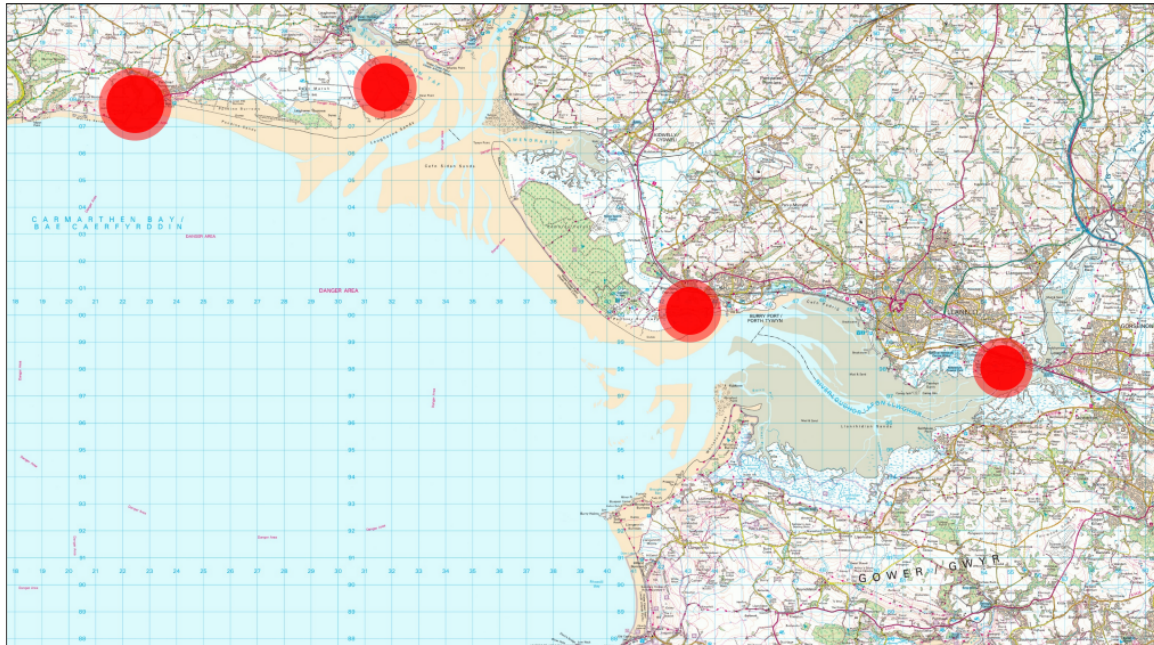
Annual returns on the SMP2 actions are submitted to the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group (SCBCEG). The SCBCEG oversee all actions in the south-west Wales region and report to NRW and WG accordingly. All Local Authorities and risk management authorities are members of the SCBCEG. They have recently employed one full time officer to drive these regional actions forward and also work closely with the Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to deliver regional actions.

Changes to policy

The original short-term (0-20 year) policies within the SMP are now transitioning to the medium term (20-50 year) policies. The implementation of the medium-term policies will see changes at the following areas as denoted in table-3 below.

Table-3 - The SMP policies and the policy areas that are changing

Area	Short Term policy	Medium or Long term policy	Narrative / details
Morfa Bacas, Bynea, Llanelli	Hold the line	Managed realignment	A change from the short-term policy of hold the line. The coastal path has been significant damage here in recent years and a diversion, as per the policy requirements, has been planned and is being implemented. There are further actions from the SMP2 Refresh to be implemented here also.
Burry Port Marine west to the Nose	Hold the line	managed realignment	The medium and long term policy is managed realignment, a change from the short term policy of hold the line. Unlike Morfa Bacas, this area is experiencing significant deposition as the sand eroded from Cefn Sidan migrates east. The primary asset here is the coastal path and the golf course. Triggers need to be agreed when further actions will be implemented at this location
South Laugharne to Ginst Point	Hold the line	managed realignment	The medium and long term policy is to construct a set back defence through managed realignment, and then hold this set back line by maintaining and upgrading this defence, as required to create a large area of compensatory intertidal habitat on this area of the land, which was reclaimed from the sea during the Medieval period, and is currently susceptible to flood and erosion risk. NRW are leading on this.
Pendine Village	Hold the line	Hold the line Long term management realignment	The short and medium term policy is to hold the line, but the current long term policy is to implement managed realignment, through provision of a setback defence. This is subject to further detailed studies to investigate potential merits/ impacts of managed realignment as part of a wider redevelopment of Pendine. This policy currently appears to conflict with the Authorities aspirations for the area and possibly needs amending.



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CCC's current operational coastal management tasks

Operationally, the coastline is managed by both Outdoor Recreation Service and the Flood Defence and Coastal Protection business units. Their duties include:

- Pre and post storm and high tide inspection of assets in areas of highest risk.
- Management and maintenance of B-Lines and coastal safety signage.
- Provision of Beach Lifeguarding Service during peak season on Cefn Sidan (through RNLI)
- Beach inspections / conservation management of the Carmarthenshire Bay SSSI.
- Monitoring the rate of sand dune erosion on Cefn Sidan.
- Formal inspect all 177 of CCC's coastal assets annually.
- Delivery of a programme of asset repairs and maintenance works.
- Delivering a programme of capital works (see [Appendix-C](#))
- Inspect and maintain Aids of Navigation and supervise Trinity House on their annual inspections.
- Procure bi-annual topographical surveys of our coast.
- Develop social science initiatives.
- General management of our coastal environments e.g. vegetation, bins and paths etc.
- Commission studies into coastal erosion
- Manage capital works including repairs to the MCP and coastal path
- Deliver the majority of Carmarthenshire's 43 actions in the Shoreline Management Plan
- Develop and submit annual reports on the delivery of the SMP2;

- Vice Chair of the Regional Coastal Engineering Group (SCBCEG)
- Discharging the duties of the competent harbour Authority and managing North Dock and Burry Port Harbour.

Financials and resources

To manage the Carmarthenshire coastline there currently three dedicated budgets.

1. £60k annual revenue budget managed by the FDCP business unit.
2. £49k on the capital ledger for 2023/24 and
3. £18k annual revenue budget for the provision of lifeguarding services managed by the Outdoor Recreation Service.

The Outdoor Recreation Service have an annual revenue budget of £226k to cover all management activities along the MCP in Llanelli.

There are no specific coastal risk management, strategy or adaption officers or engineers in the Authority.

In summary

The Shoreline management plan is the primary policy document for managing the coast and it has been in place for almost a quarter of a century with three amendments and reviews over this period.

The SMP2 set out the management policy pertaining to the coast and actions to manage the coast.

In total, there are 87 actions pertaining to the Carmarthenshire coast. 43 (49%) are for CCC to deliver.

Currently 18% of CCC's actions are complete, 32% are ongoing and 49% require action.

Climate change will result in significant pressures and increased risks to our coastal communities. Both locally and nationally, there is a move to adaption and resilience and away from defence and prevention, but there is a little evidence of adaption on the scale needed, to be prepare for these future risks.

While significant progress is being made in managing Carmarthenshire coast, the risk to our coastline is increasing as our climate changes and we will need to review the resource requirement of that work to ensure that we mitigate against the risk

There is currently little or no evidence both nationally and locally of forward planning for the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. As such, the communication of these risks and engagement with our coastal communities at greatest risk from climate change and sea level rise is almost non-existent.

Actions for consideration

The primary aim of this paper, and the immediate priority is to start raising awareness, both internally and externally, about how climate change will impact on the citizens and businesses of Carmarthenshire. Post consultation with the Outdoors Recreation Services and the Flood Defence and Coastal Protection business unit, the following actions are suggested to help us move forward in how we manage our coastline and interact with those communities at greatest risk.

These are not resourced, so we also request support in exploring funding sources to deliver these actions and support the ongoing shoreline management works.

R&D

1. Develop and implement a programme of works that will seek to understand the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on our coastal communities.
2. Develop the citizen science projects participation along the Carmarthenshire coast to monitor how our coastline is evolving.

Spread and Scale

3. Incorporate representatives from strategic planning and regeneration departments into the local and regional coastal group meetings.
4. Strategic planning to consider policies that will allow our coastal communities to adapt to our changing coastline (Pembrokeshire have done some excellent work on this already).

Communication of risk

5. Raising awareness with public and private organisations of the SMP principles, content and recommendations (this document is a start).
6. Engage with landowners/ developers of industrial (and former industrial) sites to ensure future plans for sites are incorporated into wider shoreline management planning and are informed by SMP policy. This should also consider implications related to contamination risks.
7. Engage and work with local communities to ensure that they remain fully informed of the changing risk from coastal erosion and flooding.
8. Learn lessons from Fairbourne and other coastal adaptation schemes on the role of the residents in the adaptation of their communities.

Plans and actions

- Produce a CCC coastal action plan. Share out the SMP2 actions and clarify responsibilities for operational and strategic actions; instigate internal performance management.
- Identify triggers for policy transitions, as the start of a journey toward trigger-based management and associated monitoring and regular review.
- Develop a more robust system to manage SMP2 actions and coastal plans;
- Develop a sustainable solution for the management of Burry Port Harbour and North Dock in Llanelli.

Partnership working

- Continue working with the WCMC to identify any additional data collation and analysis needs to support shoreline management decisions.
- Work with NRW to support the forecasting of habitat compensatory needs over the short to medium term. Consider and evaluate the potential benefits of in-situ restoration and habitat enhancement at a local level to support wider Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and Wellbeing priorities.
- Work with Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts to ensure that new or revised information on historical assets that may influence delivery of the SMP is identified and considered in future assessments.
- Work with NRW to identify any potential constraints associated with presence of PRow on structures. There is a need to consider who and how to take this forward.

Appendix A -

Table 1 - the coastal management policies assigned to the coastline in by the Shoreline Management Plan-2

Policy	Description
Hold the line (HTL)	Keep the shoreline in the same place
Advance the line (ATL)	Create more land by moving the defence into the sea
Managed realignment (MR)	Allow the shoreline to move back in a managed way
No active intervention (NAI)	Allow nature to take its course

Table-2 - an extract from the SMP-2 detailing the policy unit, its management policy and a narrative on its agreed management.

12.7	Morfa Bacas (Loughor Bridge to Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre)	Existing defences will be maintained through a policy of hold the line to manage risk of flooding and erosion. Future options for the Millennium Coastal Path will be considered.	The medium and long term policy is managed realignment by setting back existing defences to allow the frontage to evolve naturally with minimum intervention, whilst continuing to manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to built assets on low-lying land inshore including railway infrastructure. It is recommended that the Millennium Coastal Path is realigned inshore along this frontage.
12.8	Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre to Penrhyn Gwyn	Maintain and upgrade existing set back defences, through a policy of hold the line to continue to manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to the extensive developed low-lying hinterland of Llanelli (which includes residential properties, industrial development, potentially contaminated land and associated infrastructure), subject to the future availability of public funding for coastal erosion and flood risk management. This policy should enable the fronting saltmarsh to develop naturally to a point and will manage the risk of erosion and release of potentially contaminated material into the estuary.	
12.9	Machynys (Penrhyn Gwyn) to the northern end of Llanelli Beach	Maintain and upgrade existing defences under a policy of hold the line , subject to the future availability of public funding for coastal erosion and flood risk management. The policy will continue to manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to the extensive developed low-lying hinterland of Llanelli and Machynys, which includes residential properties, industrial development, potentially contaminated land and associated infrastructure. This policy will manage the risk of erosion and release of potentially contaminated material into the estuary.	
12.10	Pwll railway frontage (Llanelli Beach to Tywyn Bâch)	The policy is to hold the line by maintaining and upgrading existing defences in order to continue managing the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to railway infrastructure, subject to the future availability of funding. Due to the proximity of a low water channel immediately adjacent to the existing defences, the defences are likely to come under increasing pressure as sea level rises and therefore it is likely that they will need to be upgraded and improved in the short term (<20 years). It is assumed that these defences would also manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding to assets in the low-lying hinterland,	

Appendix B - SMP-2 Actions in Carmarthenshire



Appendix B.docx

Appendix C - CCC's coastal capital works programme 2010-2023

Year	Details	Funding	Team
2023	Sea outfall at Ferryside upgraded post storm damage	WG Grant	FDCP
2023	Sea outfall at Llansteffan upgraded due to the changing beach topography.	WG Grant	FDCP
2023	Coastal protection scheme being designed for Burry Port East	FDCP Revenue	Engineering Design, FDCP and Outdoor Recreation Service
2021	Study into the dune and coastal erosion at Cefn Sidan	FCP Revenue	FDCP and Outdoor Recreation Service
2021	Study into the resilience of the Banc Y Lord tidal embankment, Pembrey Airport	FDCP Revenue	FDCP and Outdoor Recreation Service
2020-2023	Options assessment, design and build of a diversion of the coastal path at Morfa Bacas, Bynea, Llanelli	Sustrans and Outdoor Recreation Service	Outdoor Recreation Service
2010-2015	Rock armour upgrades at Pendine, at Burry Port, Llanelli and Machynys.	CCC Capital	Streetscene

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

To consider and comment on the following:

To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 22nd April, 2024.

Reason:

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Programme which identifies the issues and reports which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders:

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)
Cllr. Edward Thomas (Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services)

Report Author:

Janine Owen

Designation:

Democratic Services Officer

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JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. When formulating the Forward Work Programme the Scrutiny Committee took into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 22nd April, 2024.

Scrutiny Committee members, as part of their role are required to regularly refer to the Cabinet Forward Plan in order to identify any future pre-decision reports, within the scrutiny remit for inclusion onto the Committee's FWP.

Council/Cabinet Forward Plan can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#)

REPORT
ATTACHED?

YES:

- List of Forthcoming Items – 22nd April 2024;
- Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - Forward Work Plan

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	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	
Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
<u>Cabinet Forward Plan</u>	

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Not applicable
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	
There are none	

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FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 22nd April 2024

In order to ensure effective Scrutiny, Members need to be clear as to the purpose of requesting specific information and the outcome they are hoping to achieve as a consequence of examining a report.

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
Budget Monitoring April 2023 to December 2023	This is a standard bi-monthly budget report covering the revenue and capital budgets for the Environment Department, Public Protection Services and Community Safety which fall within the remit of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Cllr. Alun Lenny - Cabinet Member for Resources
Public Rights of Way	To provide the scrutiny Committee with information and an update in respect of the public rights of way within Carmarthenshire	Committee Members requested this report as part of their Forward Work Plan development session in June 2023	Cllr Edward Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
Electric Fleet	To provide the scrutiny Committee with information and an update in respect of the Authorities Electric Fleet.	Committee Members requested this report as part of their Forward Work Plan development session in June 2023	Cllr Edward Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

Items to be circulated under a separate cover to Scrutiny Committee members (as agreed at the Committee's Forward Work Programme development session on 13th June 2023)

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
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In accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Programme, there are no reports to be circulated outside of the formal Committee process.

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Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - Forward Work Plan 2023/24

21 st July 2023	3 rd October 2023	23 rd November 2023	14 th December 2023	30 th January 2024	11 th March 2024	22 nd April 2024
Forward Work Programme 2023/24	A Strategic Plan for Managing Our Land for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire	Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update	Planning Enforcement	Budget Monitoring Report (April – October 2023)	Performance Monitoring Report Q3	Budget Monitoring Report (April – December 2023)
Task and Finish Group Report on the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.	Waste Strategy Update	Local Toilet Strategy	Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document	Budget consultation	Shoreline Management Plan-2; an update on its Delivery.	Public Rights of Way
PS&CC Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/2023	Bulky Waste Review	PSPO (alcohol and drug related ASB and crime)	Review of the Dog Breeding Licensing Function of the Business Affairs Animal Health Team	Flood Risk Management Plan-2	Equestrian Strategy <i>(deferred to 2024/25)</i>	Electric Fleet
Free Parking	Referral from Corporate Resources and Performance Scrutiny Committee			Environment Act Forward Plan – (Jan 2023 – Dec 2025)	Pest Control <i>Moved from 14-12-23</i>	
PSPO (prevention dog fouling)						
Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail – as agreed by at the FWP development session on 13th June 2023 Forthcoming Items to include scrutiny queries and feedback at the next meeting.						
Budget Monitoring Report (April 2022- Feb 2023)	Shoreline Management Plan-2; an update on its Delivery.	Performance Monitoring Report Q2				
		Budget Monitoring Report (April – August 2023)				
Pages 5 Council Annual Report 2022-23	Budget Monitoring Report (April to June 2023) & 2022/23 Outturn report	Shoreline Management Plan-2; an update on its Delivery. <i>Circulated again at the request of the Chair.</i>				

PS&CC Scrutiny Member – Focussed Development Sessions/Site Visits:-

The Committee has requested for the following focused development sessions to take place following each of the scheduled formal Committee meetings (unless otherwise notified).

Cwm Environmental Ltd (Site Visit) – TBC
PSPO Toolkit – TBC

TASK & FINISH REVIEW:

The Committee at its meeting on 2nd July 2021 unanimously resolved that its Task and Finish arrangements for 2021-22-23 would be as follows:

- 1) Review on the Fly tipping within Carmarthenshire
- 2) Review on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire (Animal Licensing)

The Task and Finish review on flytipping has been endorsed by the Committee at its meeting on 21st July 2023 and was endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th October 2023.

The Committee has approved the Planning and Scoping Document on the Animal Licensing and a Task and Finish Group was formulated in December 2023.

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor K. Madge (Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (In Person):

K. Davies	S.M. Allen	P. Cooper	T.A.J. Davies
T.M. Higgins	J.D. James	N. Lewis	B.D.J. Phillips
G.B. Thomas			

Councillors (Virtually):

D.C. Evans S. Godfrey-Coles

Also in attendance:

- Councillor A. Davies, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy **(In Person)**;
- Councillor A. Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability **(In Person)**;
- Councillor E. Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services **(In Person)**.

Also Present (In Person):

A. Williams, Director of Place and Infrastructure;
R. Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability;
R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services;
D.W. John, Head of Environmental Infrastructure;
B. Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager;
R. James, Group Accountant;
R. Carmichael, Rural Conservation Manager;
D. Hall-Jones, Member Support Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present (Virtually):

J. Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP and remotely: 10:00am - 12:38pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
S. Godfrey-Coles	6. Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2024/25 to 2026/27	Partner works within the Education section of the Council.

There were no declarations of any prohibited party whips.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. EXPLANATION FOR NON SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Committee received an explanation for the non-submission of the Pest Control report.

In response to a query raised in regard to future funding to manage the issue of sewer rats, the Head of Housing and Public Protection confirmed that this matter would be included as part of the development of the business case following discussions with Welsh Water would take place.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

4.1 the revised date for the Pest Control report be accepted;

4.2 the explanation for the non-submission be noted.

5. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

The Committee considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st October 2023 in respect of services under the remit of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, in presenting the report highlighted that the estimated net overspend was £1.957m, which included £700k due to the actual pay award being more than budgeted.

The Highways and Transportation division forecasted an overspend of more than a million pounds for the year. The main variances were £300k due to storm damage to highways, loss of income on Parking Services of £277k and a £908k overspend on School Transport.

The Waste and Environmental Services division forecasted an overspend of £664k which was due to a £775k pressure from the delivery of the interim phase of the waste strategy having increased costs as a result of contingency measures having to be put in place.

It was reported that in delivering the proposed efficiencies for 2023/24 as provided in Appendix G to the report, it was envisaged to achieve efficiencies of £1.3m in 2023/24, which would be £318k below target.

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

- Reference was made to the Waste Services within the Main Variances - Appendix B of the report. Clarification was sought on the comment 'Outturn includes draw-down from reserves' in regard to the variation of £571k. The Head of Financial Services explained that this was as a result of the transition of the waste collection method towards the kerbside collection. Currently, additional vehicles were providing the kerbside glass collection resulting in temporary additional costs. In order to manage costs, part of the costs were being met by a draw-down on departmental reserves.
- A concern was raised regarding the impact of services should the vacant posts not be filled. It was highlighted that whilst there were proposals to save money by way of not filling vacant posts coupled with the current recruitment freeze the report cites an underspend in connection with various staff vacancies including Noise Control as an example which is a Statutory Duty. The Head of Financial Services explained that full funding for all posts were provided that was part of the Councils staffing structure however, in terms of leavers and maternity cover, the nature of the recruitment process, which varies in duration, creates a salary underspend which is then reflected in the budget monitoring report. The Cabinet Member for Resources emphasised that the introduction of the recruitment freeze reflected the severity of the budget situation and that this was a measure taken to avoid actions such as redundancies.
- Reference was made to Appendix D appended to the report – Department/Schemes main variances. In response to a query raised regarding the comments attributed to variances 'Slipped to future years', the Head of Financial Services provided the Committee with assurances that the funding for capital budgets did not always align with the budget setting which took place on an annual basis and due to this it would often slip to the following year.
- Clarification was sought regarding the comment 'revenue and CCC contribution needed' for the 11k variance attributed to Coastal Protection cited on Appendix D. The Head of Place and Sustainability explained that 11k variance was to fund training within the area of coastal protection, however it was reported that this financial year additional £268k had been successfully secured from the Welsh Government which would offset the funding projection.

- Reference was made to the Countryside Access under Highways and Transport section of Appendix G(ii) Savings on Target. In regard to, the comment 'discretionary clearance by Contractors were being ceased', it was asked if suitable enforcement mechanisms were being put in place to ensure that landowners clear encroaching vegetation? The Head of Environmental Infrastructure stated that enforcement notices would continue to be issued against landowners were necessary and any works that the Council carried out would be recovered from the landowner.
- In respect of the Council's Climate change objectives, it was asked if extra revenue was being received from Welsh Government in order to help achieve the Council's targets? The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability funding was being received to assist with the introduction of electric vehicles and the upgrading of building insulation/heating. Confirmation was provided that further funding would be sought from a variety of sources which included UK and Welsh Government to achieve the net zero commitment that the Council had made.
- In response to a query regarding the funds attributed to the Towy Cycle Path and the timeliness of the spend, the Director of Place and Infrastructure confirmed that funding profile had been extended and approved to March 2025.
- Reference was made to Appendix G(iv) to the report – Parking Services. The comment stated that 'the services was showing a £375k overspend on the August budget monitoring report due to reduced footfall in town centres'. The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that the retail sector and income from carparks continued to be severely impacted upon following the Covid pandemic where many people had turned to online shopping which had resulted in a dramatic reduction in the footfall within town centres. It was reported that the 5% increase was less than the current inflation period of 6.7% and that it was cheaper to park in the Council owned carparks than privately owned. In addition, it was reported that the Council's carparks cost £600k p/a in tax and non-domestic rates which is paid to the Welsh Government. Assurances were given that other measures were being explored to increase the footfall within town centres within Carmarthenshire.

RESOLVED that the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 be received.

6. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 to 2026/27

[Note: Councillor S. Godfrey-Coles declared a personal interest in this item. She remained in the meeting, took part in the deliberations and voting thereof.]

The Committee considered a report on the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27, as endorsed by the Cabinet for consultation purposes at its meeting held on the 15th January 2024. The report provided Members with an outlook of the Revenue Budget for 2024/2025 together with indicative figures for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on the 20th December 2023.

The Cabinet Member for Resources, in presenting the report informed the Committee that the announced provisional settlement represented an average increase of 3.1% across Wales on the 2023/24 settlement, with Carmarthenshire's increase being 3.3% (£11.0m) thereby taking the Aggregate External Finance to £349.441m for 2024/25. While the settlement was significantly above the initial indicative figure of a 3.4% increase and provided some £15.5m more than the Council's original assumption, the Welsh Government had recognised the increased figure would still not be sufficient to meet inflationary pressures facing councils, pay awards and fuel price increases and difficult decisions would need to be made.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy relevant to its remit:

- **Appendix A(i)** – Efficiency summary for the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Services;
- **Appendix A(ii)** – Growth Pressures summary for the for the Place and Infrastructure Service;
- **Appendix B** – Budget monitoring report for the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Services;
- **Appendix C** – Charging Digest for the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Services.

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

- It was commented that this report demonstrated an unprecedented situation and highlights the seriousness of the situation where it was getting increasingly difficult to find areas of saving without impacting on services. The Head of Financial Services stated that this was the first time in his career that he had reported an unbalanced draft budget.
- Several strong concerns were raised in regard to the Highway maintenance Services which identified a £100,000 efficiency saving by reducing surface dressing. The Committee had recently written to the Welsh Government to express its concerns in the lack of funding to maintain the roads within Carmarthenshire and the proposal was an additional sacrifice in maintaining the road network.

- In response to a concern raised in relation to the proposal to cease routine mechanical sweeping of rural roads and will only be provided on a reactive basis, the Director of Place and Infrastructure stated that drainage was key in resolving a lot of issues
- A number of concerns relating to the efficiency saving proposals in regard to the following areas were raised:-
 - Surface dressing
 - Change in mechanical sweeping of rural roads from routine to a reactive basis
 - Deterioration of the road conditions

The Director of Place and Infrastructure explained that the purpose of surface dressing was to intervene in a timely manner to extend the lifespan of the road structure. It was acknowledged that unfortunately, the current budget constraints did not conform to long term asset management. Currently, within the restricted budget a programme of surface dressing was in place which was prioritised according to the condition reported and what the budget allowed. In terms of the inspection regime regarding potholes, in principle the line of defence would be to inspect, log and repair potholes accordingly. In addition, it was emphasised that whilst drainage was key in resolving many issues, it was reported that damage occurred would be managed through routine inspection regimes and reporting methods and the method of repair would be based on the severity of the damage and prioritised accordingly.

In response to a concern raised in that should the Committee support the efficiency savings which would be at a detriment to road users potentially exposing Members to be liable, the Cabinet Member for Resources stated that ultimately it would be the responsibility of the UK and Welsh Governments. Due to the seriousness of the situation, Committee Members were informed that the Cabinet Member for Resources would be proposing to raise the current £600k capital assigned to highway maintenance to £2m towards addressing the more serious road conditions.

- Reference was made to the introduction of carparking charges to carparks within the County which currently were free of charge. Concerns were raised that introducing car parking charges on free carparks could have a detrimental impact on local businesses. The Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services stated that a review was currently underway which would consider free car parks and the impact of introducing car parking charges on the locality. A final report would be presented to Scrutiny in due course. It was commented that the carpark charges within Carmarthenshire Council owned carpark was cheaper than neighbouring Authorities.

It was proposed that as part of the consultation, Cabinet consider the proposal on car parking charges be reviewed based upon the rationale for individual locality free car parking provision. This was duly seconded.

- Reference was made to the proposal that learners aged 16 to 18 attending school or college would no longer be provided with free transport, which would mean that they would have to make their own arrangements. Strong concern was expressed that this proposal would have a detrimental impact on the age group being able to attend college potentially affecting their life chances. The Head of Environmental Infrastructure explained that the proposal was set to be introduced in 2025/26, in the meantime a full scoping exercise would take place and that a report could be presented upon completion.

Therefore, it was proposed that Cabinet reconsider the proposed efficiency saving to remove the provision free transport for learners aged 16 to 18 attending school or college. This was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

6.1 the 2024/25 to 2026/27 Revenue Budget Strategy be received;

6.2 the proposals for delivery of efficiency savings as identified in Appendix A(i) be received subject to the comments raised by the Committee being considered as part of the consultation with a focus on the following:-

- **Increase the funds made available to highway maintenance;**
- **To reconsider and review the introduction of carpark charges based upon the rationale for individual locality free car parking provision;**
- **to reconsider the proposal to cease free school/college transport for 16 to 18 year olds;**

6.3 the Charging Digest for the Place and Infrastructure Services, as detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed.

7. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN JAN 2023 - DEC 2025

The Committee received the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan January 2023 – December 2025 for consideration. The report, presented by Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, provided Members progress made on the delivery of the plan.

The plan included actions which would be delivered and reported on by several service areas, these actions were summarised in appendix A appended to the report.

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

- Reference was made to the submission ‘to introduce more sustainable practices on this Carmarthenshire County Council farms’, cited in Appendix A to the report. Clarification was sought on this. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability explained in response to the Council’s decision in 2019 to declare a climate emergency together with the Council’s decision in 2022 to ask that Cabinet declare a nature emergency, the Cabinet responded and formulated a Cross-Party Climate and Nature Emergency Panel. Alignment with the United Nations biodiversity aspirations known as the Edinburgh Declaration.
- It was raised that Collins Concise Dictionary states the definition of ‘Sustainable’ – able to continue over a period of time. With this in mind, it was commented that by being too constrictive the farms would not be viable for the future and therefore advised that the Cabinet consider the term sustainability, not only for nature but also to enable farms to produce food products in a sustainable manner. In response, the Cabinet member for Decarbonisation, Sustainability and Climate Change clarified the meaning of “sustainability” in this context as relating to the Sustainability Principle, enshrined within the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.
- Reference was made to the progress on Property which stated ‘working in partnership with West Wales Rivers Trust’. In response to queries raised regarding the use of consultants, the Rural Conservation Manager provided a background to how the council had worked with the West Wales Rivers Trust and many other environmental organisations. Currently the Council was in receipt of a small amount of funding which could be used for work that partners were delivering in Carmarthenshire. The West Wales Rivers Trust was successful in the bid and works with a number of farms to assist in the pollution run off from farmyards. Case studies were developed by working with the Rivers Trust and utilising their expertise.

RESOLVED that Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan Jan 2023 – Dec 2025 be received.

8. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Local Strategy report. The report, presented by Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, provided detailed information in regard to the Council’s approach to managing flood risk in Carmarthenshire.

The report explained how flooding would be managed across Carmarthenshire, consistent with local objectives, measures policies and our cooperate and national strategies. The strategy also provided some background information on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management at both a local and national level.

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

- In commending the detail provided within the report, it was commented that unfortunately, flooding issues would remain an issue should the historic intervention methods remain in place. New innovative methods need to be explored and introduced to reduce the flooding issues that were faced with the changing climate and as more developments arise. It was felt that it additional pressure on the Welsh Government to consider change of land use where rainfall was at its heaviest. It was therefore proposed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee explaining that the concerns about flooding and that land use needs to be changed to manage the current flooding issues.
- It was commented that the Cabinet should consider making further funds available for this area.
- The Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager, in response to a query clarified that the as part of a team the Flood Incident Duty Officer (FIDO) on a weekly rota basis carries out daily monitoring of the weather, particularly rainfall and the tides. Concerns are reported to management who act accordingly.
- In response to a query regarding culvert cleaners, the Head of Environmental Infrastructure explained that currently culvert cleaners and jet systems were shared between depots within Carmarthenshire and are deployed on a prioritisation basis subject to resources.
- It was asked how proactive was the team in offering floodgates to those who may need them in areas of prone to flooding? The Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager explained that 'flood fairs' were being held in areas of need. It was suggested that letters and leaflets be produced and delivered to households explaining what they could do to protect their properties from flooding.
- It was raised that currently any debris cleaned from drains was cleared and left on the pavement/roadside instead of being taken away. This was then subject to being washed back into the drainage system during the next heavy rainfall. It was observed that this practice was a waste of time and resources. It was therefore suggested that following a drain clearance debris be removed. Officers took accepted the point raised and would consider.

RESOLVED that:

- 8.1 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Local Strategy be received.**
- 8.2 a letter be sent to Welsh Government outlining the Committee's concerns regarding future funding for flooding to allow innovative approaches for areas with a high risk of flooding.**

9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee considered the list of forthcoming items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled to take place on 11th March, 2024 and was afforded the opportunity to request for any specific information that Members may wish to include within the reports.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items for the Committee meeting to be held on the 11th March 2024 be agreed.

10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 14th December, 2024 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE