

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 21 March 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Present as Observers:

Councillors D. Cundy, A. Davies, J. Edmunds, P. Hughes-Griffiths and W.G. Thomas

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James	-	Chief Executive
C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
R. Mullen	-	Director of Environment
R. Sully	-	Director of Education and Children
L.R. Jones	-	Head of Administration and Law
W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)
J. Fearn	-	Head of Corporate Property
L. Walters	-	Senior Business Support Manager
T. Lewis	-	Exchequer Manager
L. Morris	-	Senior Press Officer
K. Thomas	-	Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall - 10.00 - 11.30 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr C. Bryant and Ms L. Tilley who had been shadowing Executive Board Members as part of the Council's Apprentices week.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

Councillor	Minute No -	Nature of Interest
G. O. Jones	10 – Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen School	Wife works at Llanddarog School
L.M. Stephens	10 – Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen School	Governor at Ysgol y Fro

P.A. Palmer	15 – Council Tax Premiums	Owns property which may be affected by the legislation
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3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

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

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

The Executive Board was advised that as the proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, both the Board and the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee were to be provided with the opportunity of commenting and making a recommendation to the Council on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal, as required under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code. The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March, 2016 had recommended that Council proceed with the publication of the Statutory Notice.

If the Council were to approve the Publication of the Statutory Notice, it was intended to do so the week beginning the 9th May 2016. Thereafter, an objection report summarising any objections received by stakeholders would be presented to the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Board and, ultimately, Council for final determination.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

5.1 The observations received following the statutory consultation period be received;

5.2 That a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal be published.

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

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

The Executive Board was advised that as the proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, both the Board and the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee were to be provided with the opportunity of commenting and making a recommendation to the Council on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal, as required under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code. The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March, 2016 had recommended that Council proceed with the publication of the Statutory Notice.

If the Council were to approve the Publication of the Statutory Notice, it was intended to do so the week beginning the 9th May 2016. Thereafter, an objection report summarising any objections received by stakeholders would be presented to the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Board and, ultimately, Council for final determination.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 6.1 The observations received following the statutory consultation period be received;**
- 6.2 That a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal be published.**

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

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

The Executive Board was advised that as the proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, both the Board and the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee were to be provided with the opportunity of commenting and making a recommendation to the Council on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal, as required under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code. The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March, 2016 had recommended that Council proceed with the publication of the Statutory Notice.

If the Council were to approve the Publication of the Statutory Notice, it was intended to do so the week beginning the 9th May 2016. Thereafter, an objection report summarising any objections received by stakeholders would be presented to the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Board and, ultimately, Council for final determination.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 7.1 The observations received following the statutory consultation period be received;**
- 7.2 That a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal be published.**

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

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

The Executive Board was advised that as the proposal had commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisations, both the Board, and the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, were to be provided with the opportunity of commenting and making a recommendation to the Council on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal, as required under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code. The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March, 2016 had recommended that Council proceed with the publication of the Statutory Notice.

If the Council were to approve the Publication of the Statutory Notice, it was intended to do so the week beginning the 9th May 2016. Thereafter, an objection report summarising any objections received by stakeholders would be presented to the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Board and, ultimately, Council for final determination.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 8.1 The observations received following the statutory consultation period be received;**
- 8.2 That a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal be published.**

9. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANEDI PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals to discontinue Llanedi Primary School which, over recent years, had seen a decline in pupil numbers from 33 on the roll in January 2010 to 18 in January 2015 resulting in a 51% surplus of places at the school.

The Board was advised that following the departure of the Head Teacher in December 2013, the school had faced challenges and uncertainty with regard to fulfilling that senior leadership position, with an acting deputy head from an existing member of staff having been in place since September 2015. Having regard to the above, it was considered the current arrangements could not be sustained on the basis the school did not represent a sound, stable educational model or the best use of resources, there was no prospect of a significant increase in pupils for the foreseeable future together with the ongoing challenges the school faced to secure a permanent senior leadership.

The Board was advised that from an educational perspective, having such a small

number of pupils made it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of that age required to fully develop. It was therefore proposed that the school should close on the 31st August 2017 and that from the 1st September, 2017 the catchment area of Llanedi School be re-designated and included within the existing catchment of Hendy Primary School.

The Board was informed that the Education Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March had considered the proposal and received a number of public questions thereon. Having regard to the representations received, that Committee had recommended (1) that prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, that it receives a further report clarifying the data presented by officers and the claims made by Friends of Llanedi School during their public questions and (2) that prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to both Llanedi and Hendy CP Schools.

In view of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations, it was suggested that the Executive Board defer consideration on initiating the formal consultation on the closure procedure to enable a further report to be prepared and for officers to make further enquiries. If the Board were to endorse the proposal, it was suggested that the deferment be for a period of three months to the end of June 2016 thereby affording sufficient time for the submission of further information and for officers to make appropriate enquiries.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

9.1 that consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School be deferred to allow further time for officers to clarify information given to the Education and Children's Services Committee by means of public questions and for officers to review and evaluate such information,

9.2 that a period of three months, until the end of June 2016, be allowed for this process to take place and that officers subsequently report further to the Education and Children's Services Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.

10. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE BANCFFOSFELEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

(NOTE Councillors G.O. Jones and L.M. Stephens, having earlier declared an interest in this item left the Council Chamber during its consideration and took no part in its determination)

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals to discontinue Bancffosfelen Primary School which, over recent years, had seen a decline in pupil numbers from 48 on the roll in January 2011 to 35 in January 2016 resulting in a 64% surplus of places at the school.

The Board was advised that following the departure of the Head Teacher in Easter

2014 the school had not had a permanent head, however, there was an informal arrangement in place between the governing body of Pontyberem and Bancffosfelen for part time cover to be provided by the Head Teacher of Pontyberem. Having regard to the above, it was considered the current arrangements could not be sustained as the school did not represent a sound, stable educational model or the best use of resources, there was no prospect of a significant increase in pupils for the foreseeable future together with the ongoing challenges the school faced to secure a permanent senior leadership.

The Board was advised that from an educational perspective, having such a small number of pupils made it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of that age required to fully develop. It was therefore proposed that the school should close on the 31st August 2017 and that from the 1st September, 2017 the catchment area of Bancffosfelen be re-designated and included within the existing catchment of Pontyberem Primary School.

It was also reported that following the sharing of the draft consultation with the local member, Chair of the Governing Body of Both Bancffosfelen/Pontyberem Primary schools and the Head Teacher of Pontyberem, the Governing body of Bancffosfelen had produced a detailed bilingual report with an additional option for consideration,(as detailed within the report). Additionally, observations had been received from the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher of Pontyberem School together with 23 letters opposing the proposal.

The Board was informed that the Education Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March had considered the proposal and had recommended (1) that prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee receives a presentation from Bancffosfelen School's Governing Body on its proposal to establish a community charitable trust and re-categorise Bancffosfelen as a voluntary aided school and (2) that prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to Bancffosfelen, Pontyberem, Y Fro and Llanddarog schools.

Having regard to the Scrutiny Committees recommendations and its earlier decision to defer consideration on initiating the formal consultation on the closure procedure for Llanedi School, it was suggested that the consultation for Bancffosfelen be also deferred for a period of three months to the end of June 2016, thereby affording sufficient time for the submission of further information and for officers to make appropriate enquiries.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 10.1 that consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Ysgol Bancffosfelen be deferred to allow further time for the Governing Body of the school to present a full business case to the County Council for the continuation of the school, as proposed in its submission,**

10.2 that a period of three months, until the end of June 2016, be allowed for the business case to be submitted to the Council, following which officers would be required to evaluate the feasibility of the business case and subsequently report further to the Education and Children's Services Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.

11. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANMILOE PRIMARY, TREMOILET VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED AND LAUGHARNE VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND CREATE A NEW AREA SCHOOL

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals to discontinue Llanmiloe CP, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools and to create a new area school.

The Board was advised that in recent years many of the Council's primary schools had witnessed a decrease in pupil numbers, with the above schools all bearing witness to that trend and, based on current available data no significant change was anticipated, and that declining pupil numbers across the three schools would cause further educational and financial challenges. In particular, maintaining appropriate pupil teacher staffing ratios to provide an effective curriculum for all learners,

It was reported that whilst a range of 'soft federation' arrangements had existed between the schools over a period of time, it had become evident that the current model of provision in the area did not represent a platform for educational stability and enhancement of best use of resources. With there being no prospect of a significant increase in pupil numbers in the area for the foreseeable future, coupled with ongoing challenges two of the schools faced to secure permanent senior leadership, it was not considered viable to sustain the current arrangements. It was therefore being proposed that the three schools be discontinued on the 31st August 2017 and to open a new 3-11 Voluntary Controlled Area School on the 1st September 2017 using the site and buildings of the current Laugharne VC school to accommodate the three schools and to combine their catchment areas to create a new catchment area for the new school.

The Executive Board was advised that the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 9th March had endorsed the proposal.

The Executive Board in considering the proposal, had regard to its earlier decisions to defer consideration of the implementation of the formal consultations to discontinue Llanedi and Bancffosfelen schools and considered that, for continuity, the deferment should also apply to the proposal to discontinue the schools at Llanmiloe, Tremoilet and Laugharne schools.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe CP, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools and to create a new area school be deferred for a period of three months,

until the end of June 2016, to allow further information to be gathered and evaluated, and for officers to bring a subsequent report to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.

12. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT 2014/15

The Executive Board considered a report detailing the performance and achievements of Carmarthenshire's schools for 2014/15 in relation to the four following distinct sections:-

- Section 1 – Standards – Our achievement for 2014/15
- Section 2 – School Inspections Outcomes
- Section 3 – Developing Values and skills for lifelong learning
- Section 4 – Jargon Buster.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

12.1 that the report and key issues arising from the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the performance of schools during the 2014/15 academic year be noted.

12.2 That the priority areas for improvement for 2015/16 as detailed in the report be approved.

13. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report for the period 1st April, 2015 to 31st December, 2015 which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st December, 2015 in respect of 2015/16.

Overall the report forecasted an end of year underspend of £1,384k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £1,126k. The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting an under spend of £2.09m

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

7.1 that the Budget Monitoring report be received;

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

14. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-16 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update on the capital programme spend against budget for 2015/16 as at the 31st December, 2015. The report included details of the main variances and virements for approval.

In response to a question from Councillor D. Cundy regarding the current position on the scheme for Opportunity Street, Llanelli the Executive Board Member for

Resources advised that the Council was aiming to deliver the project as quickly as possible and would be optimising the use of external funding in the first instance. The £400k grant funding for the project from Welsh Government was being utilised to purchase properties in Stepney Street which would be completed by the end of the year. Thereafter, Council funding would be used to facilitate the refurbishment of those properties. He further advised that subsequent to the preparation of the budget monitoring reports, the Council had been awarded additional Welsh Government Grant funding to be used for properties on Market Street.

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

15. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS

(NOTE: Councillor P.A. Palmer having earlier declared an interest in this item left the meeting during its consideration and took no part in its determination)

The Executive Board considered a report on the provisions of the Housing Act 2014 that introduced, with effect from the 1st April 2017, powers to local authorities to apply a Council Tax Premium (or surcharge) of up to 100% in respect of:

- long term vacant dwellings (voids) in respect of properties which had been vacant for at least 12 months where the owners were currently charged 50% of the normal occupied charge after an initial 6 months charge free period and,
- dwellings classed as 'second homes' that were furnished but no one's normal home such as second or holiday homes. Council current policy in that regard was to charge owners of such properties 100% of the normal occupied charge i.e. no discount.

It was reported that under the new powers for Long Term Voids, the 12 months minimum vacancy period could only be counted from April 2016 with any premium being applied after 1st April 2017. With regard to second homes, the new provisions allowed for authorities to adopt a policy whereby the council tax payable could be increased by up to 100%, resulting in the possibility of the liable person being subject to as much as double the full occupied charge. However, unlike long term voids, a policy decision made in 2016/17 would not become effective until 2018/19.

The Board was informed that in the case of both long term voids and second homes the Council would not be able to make any policy decision on applying the Council Tax Premium without first having undertaken both an equalities impact assessment and appropriate consultation.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Council undertakes a public consultation exercise and equality impact assessment prior to determining its policy with regard to Council Tax Premiums.

16. SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT 2014 -POLICY AND PROCEDURE REVISIONS FOR CHARGING ADULTS FOR SERVICES

The Executive Board considered a report on the provisions of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act coming into force from the 6th April 2016 that provided a statutory framework to deliver the Welsh Government's commitment to focus on

well-being, rights and responsibilities.

The Board was advised that in November 2015 the Welsh Government passed both the regulations and Code of Practice in respect of Part 5 of the Act which specifically related to charging service users for the services they received. Whilst, the late publication of the regulations and the Code of Practice had provided only limited time to implement the changes necessary as part of the Act, the report detailed its main areas that specifically related to financial assessments and charging, which were required to be considered at the outset. It was therefore proposed that during the next financial year a new revised policy, bringing together elements of existing policies, together with any changes from the report would be submitted to a future meeting for approval.

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor Cundy, that the wording of recommendation 8 could result in some service users being offered only two care homes any where within the County being geographically disadvantaged, it was confirmed that the wording could be re-examined. It was also clarified that prior to any placement being offered to an individual, a full needs assessment would have to be undertaken based on that individual's personal circumstances.

The Director of Communities also advised that whilst each individual's circumstances were unique, it was important the policy reflected the assessment process which would be incorporated within the review to be submitted to a future meeting.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- 16.1 Carmarthenshire continued to charge for placements into a care home other than for those which were excluded by the Act and would charge for all placements into a care home from the first day of placement.**
- 16.2 The charge would be based on recovering the cost of the placement in full subject to the resident being financially assessed in accordance with the legislation, regulations, code and local policy to pay less than the full cost, in which case the resident would be charged their assessed charge according to their means.**
- 16.3 The charge per night for all short term placements (including respite care and flexi beds) would be based on recovering the cost of the placement in full. For placements into a Local Authority care home the charge would be the standard charge and for placements into an Independent Sector care home it would be the contracted amount. (Service users would pay a maximum charge of £60 per week with many paying far less or having the service free).**
- 16.4 The non-residential assessment rules be applied to stays which were assessed at the outset as not exceeding 8 weeks on any one occasion and did not apply to temporary placements and permanent placements.**

- 16.5 Short term stays that extended beyond 8 weeks on any one occasion would be charged as though the resident was temporary or permanent (see Appendix 1) as appropriate from the first day of the 9th week and in line with definitions within the Act, Regulations and Code.
- 16.6 A period of transitional protection was implemented so that where a service user had respite care, he/she would not be asked to pay any more for an episode of respite care only, than they would otherwise have paid before 6th April 2016. This protection would last up until the service user had a review of their care package or until 31st March 2017 whichever was the sooner.
- 16.7 Carmarthenshire would apply its charges from the first day of service for all services with a charge. This would apply to non-residential services and placements into a care home.
- 16.8 Choice of Accommodation offered to a service user was based on two care homes of the same type anywhere in the County and not restricted geographically unless there were specific geographical needs included in the Care and Support plan.
- 16.9 Where a service user, who was not assessed to pay the full cost of the placement, chose accommodation which was more expensive than the options offered at the time of placement then the additional cost would be calculated from the mid-point of the rates charged by those two care homes offered.
- 16.10 Where a service user was able to pay for the full cost of their placement then in accordance with the legislation they can choose any care home and would be required to pay the full cost of their placement.
- 16.11 Carmarthenshire does not charge for assessed care and support to a service user where it was provided to the service user in an educational setting and whilst attending a recognised educational course.
- 16.12 The new Act, Regulations and Code would be applied to existing service users from the 6th April 2016.
- 16.13 The existing policies be retained except for those elements of the policies and practices which were changed as the result of decisions stemming from this report and those elements which were now not compliant with the new legislation.

17. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG CONTROLS)

The Executive Board considered a report on the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order (Carmarthenshire Dog Controls) and was reminded that at its meeting held on the 13th July 2015 it had to resolved to commence the statutory order making process subject to formal consultation which took place from the 19th October to 14th December 2015, with overwhelming support for the proposals having been received.

The Board was advised that if it was to endorse the making of the Order, under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, it would supersede the existing dog fouling controls imposed under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 with the three main elements thereof comprising:-

1. A requirement that people cleaned up after their dog if it defecated on public land which would apply to all publicly accessible land in the county,
2. Requiring people to place their dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length, when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Council, and would apply to all publicly accessible land in the county,
3. Prohibiting dogs from all outdoor enclosed children's play areas in the county.

The Board's attention was also drawn to the report's recommendations relating to the payment of a fixed penalty notice and was advised that the reference to 14 and 10 days respectively meant calendar days.

Reference was made to page 398 of the report and to the exemption to the Order for working dogs, specifically those being lawfully used for the purposes of hunting. The Board's attention was drawn to a recent gathering of the Carmarthenshire Hunt in Laugharne and to the resultant levels of dog fouling on the streets. It was suggested that the hunt be contacted to ascertain if it would voluntarily agree to clean the streets after a hunt or, if it could enter into an agreement with the Council to undertake the cleansing works. The Board was informed that investigations would be undertaken in that regard.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 17.1 That the responses received from the public consultation be received.**
- 17.2 That the Public Spaces Protection Order annexed to the report (Appendix 1) come into force on the 1st July, 2016**
- 17.3 That a fixed penalty of £100 be applied to breaches of the Public Spaces Protection Order, to be paid within 14 calendar days (subject to the early repayment scheme)**
- 17.4 That an early repayment scheme be approved where a fixed penalty of £50 could be paid, if payment was received within calendar 10 days**

18. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015 - PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2016/17

The Executive Board received for consideration the Improvement Action Plan 2016/17 arising from the Welsh Audit Office's Corporate Assessment undertaken of Carmarthenshire County Council during October 2015 that provided a position statement of the authority's capacity and capability to deliver continuous improvement.

It was noted that the Authority had been highly praised by the Audit Office for having a well-established vision driven by a strong collective leadership from both the Executive and Corporate Management teams and that a strong ethos of continuous improvement ran through everything the council undertook. The Auditor had also made six proposals for improvement, as detailed in the report and

the action plan had been produced to address those areas which would be incorporated within the 2016/17 Improvement Plan.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 18.1 That the Action Plan produced to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the Corporate Assessment Report 2015 be approved,**
- 18.2 That the Action Plan be monitored via PIMS to the Executive Board half yearly alongside the online performance monitoring dashboard.**

19. EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Executive Board, in accordance with the Council's constitution, gave consideration to its Forward Work Programme prepared in liaison with all departments and the Executive Board Business Manager that highlighted the major policy and budgetary decisions to be taken over the next 12 months. It was noted that the programme would continue to be reviewed and published on a bi-annual basis thereby ensuring an up to date programme was always in place.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the updated Forward Work Programme be approved for publication.

20. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2016

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 22nd February 2016 be signed as a correct record.

22. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

23. JOINT VENTURE LAND

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals to release a developer from its obligations with regard to the development of an area of land within the Llanelli Joint Venture

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 23.1 That the developer of land in the Llanelli Joint Venture be released from the obligations of the current development agreement on the terms detailed within the report, subject to Welsh Government Approval.**
- 23.2 To progress an alternative development at the site in conjunction with the Welsh Government.**

24. ENFORCEMENT OF COSTS ORDER

(NOTE: All officers, with the exception of the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Administration and Law and the Democratic Services Officer left the meeting for this item)

The Executive Board considered a report on the enforcement of costs awarded to the Council by the High Court.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 24.1 That the Council pursue the costs awarded to it by the High Court.
- 24.2 That consideration of pursuing the costs awarded in the counter claim be deferred.

CHAIR

DATE