

EXECUTIVE BOARD

13TH JULY 2015

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair];

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

Present as observers – Councillors T. Devichand, J. Edmunds, P. Hughes-Griffiths and J.D. James;

The following officers were also in attendance: -

Mr. M. James	Chief Executive;
Mr. J. Morgan	Director of Communities;
Mr. R. Sully	Director of Education and Children;
Ms. W. Walters	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy);
Mr. E. Bowen	Head of Planning;
Mr. M.V. Davies	Head of Property Maintenance and Construction;
Mr. J. Fearn	Head of Corporate Property;
Mr. I. Jones	Head of Leisure and Sport;
Mr. C. Moore	Head of Financial Services;
Ms. L. Rees-Jones	Head of Administration and Law;
Mr. R. Staines	Head of Housing and Public Protection;
Ms. G. Ayers	Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager;
Mr. R. Edmunds	Trading Standards Services Manager;
Ms. D. Williams	Press Manager;
Mr. M. S. Davies	Democratic Services Officer.

(Council Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen: 10.00 a.m. – 11.20 a.m.)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. Gravell and J. Tremlett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
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G.O. Jones 8 – Outdoor Sports Pitch Fees Secretary of Carmarthen Town F.C.;

G.O. Jones 12 – Appointment of LA Governor Cllr. Jones is the person being nominated.

3. WELSH GOVERNMENT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN SCHEME

The Executive Board considered a report which sought approval to adopt the Welsh Government's Home Improvement Loan Scheme which provided a new opportunity for Carmarthenshire County Council to access funding to help individual home owners, small portfolio landlords or developers and charities to improve homes and increase housing supply. Welsh local authorities would receive £10m in total, with Carmarthenshire's share being £900,000, which would need to be repaid to Welsh Government by March 2030. Registered Social Landlords are not eligible for the scheme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

3.1. to accept the loan offer from Welsh Government;

3.2. to amend the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy to offer loans in accordance with the national scheme.

4. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered a revenue budget year- end report for 2014/2015. The final outturn figures indicated an overspend for the year at departmental level of £679k which had been offset by an underspend of £1,763k on Capital Charges. The resultant outturn meant that the Authority had drawn £0.175m from its general reserves for the 2014/2015 financial year compared to a budgeted requirement of £0.801m.

Environment Services were particularly commended for their performance given the reduced budget.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Budget Monitoring report be received.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014-15 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update on the Capital Programme spend against budget for 2014/15 as at the 31st March, 2015. The report included details of the main variances.

The Board was advised that it had been a particularly successful year for the Authority in terms of the amount of external funding it had secured which meant it was able to press ahead with capital projects.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the capital programme update report be received.

6. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2014-2015

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The Executive Board was reminded that Council, at its meeting held on the 19th February, 2014 (Minute 7 thereof refers), had adopted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy. In line with that policy the Board received the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report which outlined the Authority's Treasury Management activities in 2014/15 and summarised the activities that had taken place during 2014/15 under the headings of: Investments; Borrowing; Treasury Management Prudential Indicators; Prudential Indicators; Leasing and Rescheduling.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report 2014/15 be received.

7. DOG CONTROL ORDERS: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (CRIME AND POLICING) ACT 2014

The Executive Board considered a report on the Dog Control Orders: Anti Social Behaviour (Crime and Policing) Act 2014 and the opportunity it provided to enhance the Council's enforcement ability to respond to public opinion which called for action against irresponsible dog owners. This opinion had manifested itself through complaints to members, the Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings and directly to the Authority. The report summarised the responses following an informal public consultation undertaken to gauge public opinion and detailed the range and type of Public Spaces Protection Orders that could be taken forward through the statutory order making process. The issue had also been considered by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee which had proposed two further orders.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

7.1. to commence the statutory order making process in order to allow the proposed public space protection orders (PSPOs) set out below to be implemented, subject to further formal consultation:

7.1.1. a county wide order requiring people to clean up after their dogs on all public land within the County (Dog Fouling Order);

7.1.2. a county wide order requiring people to place their dog on a lead by direction of no more than 2m in length when directed to do so by authorised officer, which could include local authority officers, police officers and/or PCSOs (Dogs on Leads by Direction Order);

7.1.3. an order excluding dogs from children's play areas (Dog Exclusion Order – Children's Play Areas);

7.2. that the following additional orders proposed by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee be considered in 6 months:

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- An order for dogs to be kept on leads at all times on all sports pitches, parks and playgrounds;
- An order for dogs to be kept on leads at all times on all public highways.

8. OUTDOOR SPORTS PITCH FEES

[NOTE: Councillor G.O. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof.]

The Executive Board considered a report on feedback from the consultation process on the proposal to charge for Sporting facilities' (football, rugby, bowls and cricket) and subsequent negotiations with the sporting community undertaken in conjunction with Carmarthenshire Unified Sports Committee (CUSC).

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to accept the recommended budget profile to enable sports pitch fees to move from Council funding support to self funding by 2018/19, as detailed in the table below:-

<i>Subsidy</i>	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Football pitches	£0	£0	£0	£0
Rugby pitches	£0	£0	£0	£0
Cricket pitches	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bowling Greens	£22,500	£11,250	£5,625	£0
Changing Rooms	£59,000	£29,500	£7,750	£0
Sponsorship	£2,000	£2,000	£0	£0
TOTAL	£83,500	£42,750	£15,500	£0

9. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2015-2020

The Executive Board considered the Corporate Strategy 2015-2020 which detailed the Council's strategic priorities and aspirations and outlined what the Authority planned to do to achieve its vision for Carmarthenshire. The Strategy would be reviewed annually and the Council's progress in delivering the priorities therein would be published in the Annual Report.

It was suggested that reference to any consultation with the County's youth be included in the report and that the issue of Business rates be expanded to include detail on its purpose and how it was collected.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Corporate Strategy for 2015-2020 be adopted.

10. DRAFT EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

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The Executive Board considered its Draft Forward Work Programme for 2015/16. The purpose of the Programme was to encourage and enable greater understanding between the Executive, all Councillors, the public and other stakeholders and assist the Scrutiny Committees in planning their contribution to policy development and holding the Executive to account. It also gave the public and stakeholders a chance to see the forthcoming major decisions to be made by the Executive Board and the County Council over the next 12 months. The Forward Work Programme would be reviewed and published quarterly to take account of changes and additional key decisions.

Individual Executive Board Members were invited to comment and clarify details within their particular portfolio areas.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Executive Board Draft Forward Work Programme 2015/16 be endorsed.

11. BURRY PORT HARBOUR – FUTURE MAINTENANCE

The Executive Board considered a report detailing future maintenance and management options for Burry Port Harbour in light of the large quantities of sand and silt which had been deposited in the harbour over the last three years during the winter months. The annual sand dredging cost for the harbour channel and basin was in the region of £40k and was covered within a budget that had been created internally, for this purpose. The silt dredging of the inner harbour, however, could cost anything between £200-400k+ and would be required every 10 years or so. This work was becoming critical in order for the Harbour to continue to operate and for Pontoon hire fees to be charged but there was no capital funding earmarked for this purpose.

Members commented on the importance of Burry Port harbour, not only locally but countywide and beyond. Reference was also made to the recent planning applications approved for developments around the harbour area.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 11.1. to continue with annual sand dredge along the approach channel and over as much of the harbour basin as possible;**
- 11.2. to market test the feasibility and cost of using the West Dock as a recipient area for silt including the design of a simple retaining bund / wall (boards / steel beams dropped into slots);**
- 11.3. Market test the cost of dredging the entire harbour basin to remove the silt;**
- 11.4. A further report be submitted in due course.**

12. APPOINTMENT OF LA GOVERNOR

[NOTE: Councillor G.O. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof.]

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UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Cllr. G.O. Jones be appointed as an LA Governor on the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Myrddin.

13. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 15TH MAY 2015 – STRAY HORSES

The Executive Board considered a request that the Welsh Government be informed of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's concern, arising from debate on the new Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014, that legislation continued to be introduced without any additional funding being provided to assist local authorities in its implementation.

The Executive Board Member for Environmental and Public Protection circulated a copy of a letter he had written to Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources, conveying the above concern, together with a copy of a reply received from Rebecca Evans AM, Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, in which she stated that her officials had met with representatives from the Heads of Trading Standards and the WLGA on the 8th June 2015 to discuss the related issue of the future of Animal Health and Welfare Framework enforcement and that ongoing dialogue would include a discussion on prioritisation of activities including those around the Control of Horses Act. The Executive Board Member for Environmental and Public Protection stated that he had been unaware of the meeting referred to in the Deputy Minister's letter. Trading Standards Services Manager added that his officers were still trying to ascertain what transpired at the meeting and pointed out that although the Deputy Minister had stated that there were no statutory duties under the Act it was still an enabling Act and the Welsh Government expected a vigorous response from local authorities by enforcing against fly grazing and stray horses.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Deputy Minister's response be noted but that she be requested to outline what was discussed at the meeting held on the 8th June 2015 and the outcome.

14. MINUTES

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 15th June, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

16. 29 STEPNEY STREET, LLANELLI

The Executive Board considered a report on a request from the tenant of the above Council-owned premises for a rent free period under the terms of the original lease. The report contained details of the tenant's finances, community engagement, employment and trading income and expenditure.

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Members spoke of the excellent work being undertaken by the tenant and the positive effect the Gallery and Coffee shop was having in Llanelli town centre. It was considered, however, that a rent free period could not be agreed to but rather that a stepped rent arrangement should be adopted in order to secure a future market rent for the property.

RESOLVED that the tenant of 29 Stepney Street, Llanelli be offered the following rental terms for the next 4 years:

Oct 2014 - Oct 2015 rent at 25% of market value;

Oct 2015 - Oct 2016 rent at 50% of market value;

Oct 2016 - Oct 2017 rent at 75% of market value;

Oct 2017 - Oct 2018 rent at market value.

CHAIR

DATED