

WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2020

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP** AT **10.00 AM, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2020** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

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

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**
- 3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 8TH JANUARY 2020**
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

9 - 16

5.1 QUESTION BY MR D SMITH TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Has the County Council a forward plan to increase the amount of renewable energy generated on Council owned land? In this connection has it identified sites and examined the possibilities provided by decentralised battery storage options?”

5.2 QUESTION BY MR N BIZZELL-BROWNING TO CLLR D JENKINS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

“Is the County Council investing in Human Resources to help in the climate emergency? i.e.

- To what extent have the council considered introducing remote (home) working, ie zero travel related carbon etc?
- How many new jobs has the County Council created specifically to deal with the crisis?
- What percentage of existing employee hours have been diverted to the emergency?
- What training programs have been planned so that council employees, clients and service providers understand the existential threats facing us, for example Carbon Literacy Training?” (carbonliteracy.com)

5.3 QUESTION BY MS K LANGDON TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“What are the Council doing to encourage (a) a common approach to biodiversity, sustainable conservation and sharing of best practice. And (b) encouraging community education, action and involvement (which is surely a key part of the biodiversity process?”

5.4 QUESTION BY MS S SYLVAN TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“In 2018 we faced horrendous flooding in Carmarthenshire leading to homelessness and death. We are being told that extreme weather conditions like this will become the new normal as the climate breaks down. Does the council have a climate crisis fund and risk assessment for the area? How much money is in the fund and can it be deployed to counter climate threats?”

5.5 QUESTION BY MS C STRANGE TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“How much of the Council’s Net Zero Action plan (summarised at Appendix 1 in the draft) predates the declaration of an emergency?”

5.6 QUESTION BY MR M REED TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Regarding carbon free motoring, there may be a significant and measurable impact on tourism if the council fail to install the correct infrastructure. How many electric and hydrogen car charging points have already been installed in Carmarthen or are planned for installation in 2020?”

5.7 QUESTION BY DR A BELLAMY TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“We face a climate crisis of global significance in which "business as usual" will no longer be adequate nor possible. Until now "best value" for land has always been interpreted as the highest financial bid. In the context of the climate emergency, is it time to redefine best value to prioritise value to the local community?”

5.8 QUESTION BY MS J THOMPSON TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“In relation to the Council's net zero carbon strategy, I am wondering about biodiversity, including indigenous species that are threatened with extinction. Could you tell me if there is a register of degraded habitats in the county and a risk analysis of indigenous species and what the corresponding action plan is, if any?”

5.9 QUESTION BY MS S WEAVER TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Given recent research findings (Science 05 July 19: Vol 365, Issue 6448, pp 76 - 79) that a trillion trees could be planted globally to mitigate two thirds of anthropogenic carbon emissions to date - without encroaching on crop land or urban areas - and that this is the cheapest and most powerful method of all proposed solutions to the

climate emergency:

- what plans does the council have to support community tree planting in the next year by making land and funding available?"

5.10 QUESTION BY MS D SMITH TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"Does the council know of further potential to sequester carbon in Carmarthenshire (soil/peat/trees - -) which it can encourage - and how can we help?"

5.11 QUESTION BY MS D GROOM TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"As agriculture in the UK is massively subsidised, I should like to understand why the County Council is spending money in its 'Moving Carmarthenshire Forward' plan to boost food production indiscriminately when we understand that one of the most effective actions that consumers can take is to eat less meat."

5.12 QUESTION BY MR P HUGHES TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"I am interested to know how many of each diesel, petrol, and electric vehicles Bwcabus has in its fleet and what plans the council has to go fully electric?"

5.13 QUESTION BY REV PROF D JENKINS TO CLLR M STEPHENS, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

"The current Summary Introduction to the Local Development Plan (<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216121/ldp-summary-introduction-english-final.pdf>) does not mention climate. A more detailed version mentions climate change http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/05_strategy-and-strategic-policies.htm#Ch5_3will but there is no flesh yet on the bones of strategy or policy. How will the plan reflect the declaration of a climate emergency; will the Council garner public views via a Citizens Assembly?

5.14 QUESTION BY MS G JENKINS TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"According to Prof Sir Ian Boyd, former chief scientific adviser to the UK government, half of the nation's farmland needs to be transformed into woodlands and natural habitat to fight the climate crisis and restore wildlife. In that context, what plans have the council made for rewilding?"

**5.15 QUESTION BY MR D REED TO CLLR C CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND
RURAL AFFAIRS**

“I wanted to ask what major changes have occurred since the adoption of the Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) template that contribute to alleviating the climate emergency?”

**5.16 QUESTION BY MS C LAXTON TO CLLR C CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND
RURAL AFFAIRS**

“Considering that in addition to well-known concerns, council contractors are known to use Glyphosate inappropriately and that they don’t always use safety equipment, is it time to ban its use?”

**5.17 QUESTION BY DR A LAXTON TO CLLR C CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND
RURAL AFFAIRS**

“How does the acreage of solar panels in Carmarthenshire compare to that of other counties?”

**5.18 QUESTION BY MR B KLEIN BRETELER TO CLLR C
CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

“In relation to the granting of a licence to extract 110,000 tonnes of coal from the existing Glan Lash coal mine in Shands Road Llandybie. Notwithstanding that the Council will have no authority to insist on the exact quantity of coal that could be sold for burning or non-burning markets.

In light of the County Councils’ declaration of a climate emergency on the 20th of February, 2019, Not 12 twelve months ago, does the council agree that granting a licence for the extension of the coal mine would be detrimental to the health of people in the local community, the health and bio diversity of the remaining woodlands in Carmarthenshire and increase the carbon footprint within Carmarthenshire and is the granting of planning permission for the extraction of fossil compatible with the declaration of a climate emergency and compliant with CCC policy and commitments under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016?”

**5.19 QUESTION BY MR R THOMSON TO CLLR C CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND
RURAL AFFAIRS**

“To evaluate the net zero carbon strategy there will be a need to measure the change in renewable energy output, requiring an inventory of power sources. For example, how many roofs provide solar power in Carmarthenshire and what is the power output?”

5.20 QUESTION BY MS H GRIFFITHS TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Is the Dyfed Pension Fund now disinvested from the fossil fuel industry? In particular has it disinvested from Blackrock whose Investments in ExxonMobil, Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell and BP were responsible for 75% of Blackrock’s \$90bn losses over the last decade (reported in 2019).”

5.21 QUESTION BY MR B DOYLE TO CLLR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Having spent decades religiously recycling and recently finding out that it may quite well have been shipped all the way to Malaysia, only to end up being dumped in a river and eventually making its way to the ocean. There it threatens huge amounts of marine life and humanity with contaminated food chains. It would have been better sent to landfill. So, is there any way that people can gain some insight into where and how our recycled items are processed?”

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED).

7. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION:

7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FOZIA AKHTAR

That Carmarthenshire County Council –

- Believe that more needs to be done to improve diversity within our workforce
- Commit’s to working with community groups to understand the barriers that exist for individuals BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic)
- Call’s on the Executive Board to create an Advisory Panel to consider what actions can be taken to increase diversity in the workplace

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

8.1 NET ZERO CARBON PLAN (EXECUTIVE BOARD 3RD FEBRUARY 2020) 17 - 44

8.2 CWM ENVIRONMENTAL LTD - LOAN FUNDING REQUIREMENT (EXECUTIVE BOARD 3RD FEBRUARY 2020) 45 - 50

9. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:-

9.1 6TH JANUARY 2020 51 - 52

9.2 20TH JANUARY 2020 53 – 58

10. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION (AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE WEBSITE)

10 .1 EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 25TH NOVEMBER 2019

10 .2 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13TH JANUARY 2020

10 .3 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 14TH JANUARY 2020

10 .4 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 21ST JANUARY 2020

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COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 8 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor K. Madge (Chair)**Councillors:**

F. Akhtar	S.M. Allen	L.R. Bowen	K.V. Broom
C.A. Campbell	J.M. Charles	D.M. Cundy	C.A. Davies
W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies	G. Davies	H.L. Davies
I.W. Davies	J.A. Davies	S.L. Davies	E. Dole
P.M. Edwards	H.A.L. Evans	L.D. Evans	R.E. Evans
W.T. Evans	A.L. Fox	S.J.G. Gilasbey	C.J. Harris
P. Hughes-Griffiths	T.M. Higgins	J.K. Howell	P.M. Hughes
A. James	J.D. James	R. James	D.M. Jenkins
J.P. Jenkins	G.H. John	B.W. Jones	D. Jones
G.R. Jones	H.I. Jones	A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis
K. Lloyd	S. Matthews	A.S.J. McPherson	E. Morgan
A.G. Morgan	D. Nicholas	B.D.J. Phillips	J.S. Phillips
D. Price	B.A.L. Roberts	E.M.J.G. Schiavone	H.B. Shepardson
A.D.T. Speake	B. Thomas	D. Thomas	E.G. Thomas
G.B. Thomas	G. Thomas	J. Tremlett	A. Vaughan Owen
D.T. Williams	D.E. Williams	J.E. Williams	

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
 P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
 S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways;
 D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager;
 J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP: 9:30am - 10:55am**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.A. Curry, K. Davies, J.S. Edmunds, D.C. Evans, A.D. Harries, C. Jones T.J. Jones, J.G. Prosser, L.M. Stephens and S. Najmi.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
T.A.J. Davies	9. – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/21.	His sister is a Head of Service within Carmarthenshire County Council.
A. Speake	9. – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/21.	He is in receipt of a war disability pension.
S. Allen	10.2 - Modernising Education Programme -Proposal to Change the Nature of Provision at Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol Llangynnwr and Ysgol Llys Hywel.	She is an LEA School Governor at Ysgol Llys Hywel.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chair extended his sincere condolences on behalf of Elected Members and Senior Officers to Councillor Tina Higgins and her family on the passing of her husband and also Councillor Ann Davies and her family on the passing of her father.

The Chair extended his congratulations to the following:-

- Mr Nigel James Miller from Kidwelly on being awarded an MBE in the New Years Honour, for services to people with learning difficulties;
- Mr Mark Collins, Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police on being awarded the Queen's Police Medal;
- Mr Nick Richards-Ozzati from Llangennech on being awarded the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal.
- Angela Hughes, Chief Executive, Wales Air Ambulance on being awarded an OBE for services to Emergency Air Service in Wales.
- Mr John Gwyn Jones who was brought up in Brynaman, but had spent over 33 years living and working in South East Asia had received an MBE for services to British Education overseas.
- To Hendy Primary School Choir for winning S4C's Prynhawn Da annual 'Carol yr Ŵyl' competition. The Choir entered the competition which was for primary schools in Wales where a member of staff of the school had to compose an original carol. Hendy Primary school was one of 30 schools to compete in the competition this year, with the 10 best choirs being filmed for the programme.
- The Chair welcomed Hendy Primary School Choir to the meeting and thanked the teacher, Mrs Sian Lloyd for her work in writing and composing the song. The Council were afforded the opportunity to listen to the Choir singing the winning song.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

Observations were raised in relation to reference of unanimously stated within the decision of minute numbers 8.2 and 8.4.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 13th November, 2019 be signed as a correct record, subject to the reference to 'UNANIMOUSLY' being removed from minute numbers 8.2 and 8.4.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no questions from Members had been received.

7. INSIGHT PRESENTATION

Council was informed that a number of pupils from Carmarthenshire Schools had participated at an event which was held at Yr Egin, Carmarthen. The event provided the pupils with an insight into the difficult decisions facing a local authority during budget setting process whilst managing ongoing financial cuts and increasing public demand.

This event was held annually, however this year, as the budget proposals were yet to be set, the format had been modified to afford pupils with an opportunity to look at topics, chosen at random and to bring forward recommendations in the role of the Executive Board. Schools from Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Ysgol Bro Myrddin, QE High, Ysgol Dyffryn Amman, Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth, Ysgol Coedcae and Ysgol Strade attended the event and provided valuable feedback.

The Leader introduced pupils from each of the following schools who, in turn, outlined the presentations they had made at the aforementioned event:

- Maes y Gwendraeth
- Dyffryn Amman
- Bro Dinefwr

Whereupon the pupils were congratulated on their presentations and thanked for attending.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Andre Morgan, Chair of the Standards Committee, who had been invited to present to Council the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the 2018/19 period.

Mr Morgan thanked the Council for the opportunity of presenting the Annual Report on behalf of the Standards Committee and proceeded to provide an overview of the issues addressed by the Committee during 2018/19. Those included Code of Conduct Complaints, Applications for Dispensation and the Code of Conduct Training for Town and Community Councils.

The Chair thanked Mr Morgan for his presentation and for the work undertaken by the Standards Committee

RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for the period 1st April, 2018 to 31st March 2019 be received.

9. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2020/21

[NOTE:

- Councillor T.A.J. Davies, had earlier declared an interest in this item but remained in the Chamber.
- Councillor A. Speake, had earlier declared an interest in this item and left the Chamber prior to the consideration thereof.]

The Council considered a report on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/21 and was advised that in 2013, the Westminster Government replaced the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme with a localised scheme. It was reported that whilst in England, councils operated their own individual schemes, the position in Wales was different with responsibility having been devolved to the Welsh Government and an all-Wales scheme developed, which had been in place since that time. Although the scheme had been established on an all-Wales Basis, each Welsh local authority was required by prescribed Requirements Regulations to formally adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31st January each year.

The Executive Board Member for Resources reminded members that although it was a single all-Wales scheme, local authorities had to re-adopt the scheme annually if they wished to take advantage of the limited discretionary powers they had to vary the standard scheme in respect of the three areas outlined in the report.

Furthermore, since the scheme's introduction, Carmarthenshire had, in common with most Welsh Authorities, used its discretionary powers and fully disregarded any Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and similar payments when calculating entitlement. Therefore, it was highlighted that by accepting the recommendations contained in the report, Carmarthenshire would continue to disregard those payments.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that for 2020/21 the Council:

- 9.1 Formally adopts the standard all-Wales Council Tax Reduction Scheme provided for in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013;**
- 9.2 Implements the annual up-rating figures (used in entitlement calculations) and other technical amendments included in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2019, due to come into effect in the January 2020;**
- 9.3 Continues to exercise its discretion with regard to the limited discretionary elements of the prescribed scheme as outline in the report's Executive Summary.**

10. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-

10.1. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL RHYS PRICHARD

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 2nd December, 2019 (Minute 5 refers) had considered a report on the outcome of the Statutory Consultation undertaken by the Council on its proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh medium.

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

“that the proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh medium, as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented.”.

10.2. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y DDWYLAN, YSGOL GRIFFITH JONES, YSGOL LLANGYNNWR AND YSGOL LLYS HYWEL

(NOTE: Councillor S. Allen declared an interest in this item and remained in the Council Chamber during its consideration by the Council).

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 2nd December, 2019 (Minute 6 refers) had considered a report on the outcome of the Statutory Consultation undertaken by the Council on its proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol Llangynnor, Ysgol Llys Hywel from dual stream to Welsh medium.

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

“that the proposal to change the nature of provision of Foundation Phase provision Ysgol y Ddwylan from dual stream to Welsh medium, as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented from 1st September 2020.”

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

“that the proposal to change the nature of provision of Foundation Phase provision Ysgol Griffith Jones, from dual stream to Welsh medium, as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented from 1st September 2020.”

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

“that the proposal to change the nature of provision of Foundation Phase provision Ysgol Llangynnor, from dual stream to Welsh medium, as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented from 1st September 2020.”

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

“that the proposal to change the nature of provision of Foundation Phase provision Ysgol Llys Hywel, from dual stream to Welsh medium, as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented from 1st September 2020.”

11. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE:-

11.1. 18TH NOVEMBER 2019;

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 18th November, 2019 be received.

11.2. 2ND DECEMBER 2019;

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 2nd December, 2019 be received.

11.3. 16TH DECEMBER 2019

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 16th December, 2019 be received.

12. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:-

In accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 2(2)(n) and following the receipt of nominations from the relevant political groups it was:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 12.1 the nomination of Councillor Deryk Cundy to replace Councillor Rob Evans, as one of the Labour Group's representatives on the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee be approved;**
- 12.2 the nomination of Councillor Alan Speake to replace Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen, as one of the Plaid Cymru Group representatives on the Community Scrutiny Committee be approved.**

CHAIR

DATE

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COUNTY COUNCIL 12th February 2020

Net Zero Carbon Plan

Purpose:

To develop a clear plan for a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

Executive Board Recommendations:

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) the Net Zero Carbon Plan outlining a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 be adopted, and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan.

Reasons:

The Notice of Motion unanimously supported by County Council on 20th February 2019 requires that a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon be developed within 12 months.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES

Scrutiny committee and date Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee
15th November 2019

EXECUTIVE BOARD / COUNCIL / COMMITTEE:

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO EXECUTIVE BOARD that the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan be endorsed.

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs

Directorate	Designations:	
Environment and		
Chief Executive's	Director of Environment	01267 224647 RMullen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ruth Mullen		
Report Author:		
Kendal Davies	Sustainable Development Manager	01267 228351 5351 jkdavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

12th February 2020

Net Zero Carbon Plan

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The meeting of County Council on 20th February 2019 unanimously resolved that the Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen be supported:

“...we propose that Carmarthenshire County Council:

1. Declare a climate emergency
2. Commit to making Carmarthenshire County Council a net zero carbon local authority by 2030
3. Develop a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon within 12 months
4. Call on Welsh and UK Governments to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions
5. Work with Public Services Board and Swansea Bay City Deal partners to develop exciting opportunities to deliver carbon savings
6. Collaborate with experts from the private sector and 3rd sectors to develop innovative solutions to becoming net zero carbon.”

2. The attached Plan outlines a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. A pragmatic approach is being adopted that initially focuses on the carbon emissions that are presently measured by the Council from: (a) Non-domestic buildings; (b) Street lighting; (c) Fleet mileage; and, (d) Business mileage. However, it is recognised that this approach needs to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing circumstances, including the reporting requirements yet to be introduced by Welsh Government as part of its ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. Within the confines of the Plan ‘Net Zero Carbon’ and ‘Carbon Neutral’ are considered to be interchangeable.
3. The Plan’s initial narrow focus is not intended to limit or preclude other potential wider actions to address the climate emergency, and some of these are identified in Appendix 3 of the attached document.

4. The Council has adopted proactive programmes to reduce its carbon emissions over a number of years. Whilst there is a commitment to significantly further reduce carbon emissions, it is recognised that however energy / carbon efficient Services become the Council will inevitably still have a residual carbon footprint. This situation is acknowledged by the “Net” in the Net Zero Carbon equation as it enables this residual carbon footprint to be compensated for by the generation of renewable energy and / or via carbon offsetting (such as by the planting of trees).
5. Whilst the preferred primary method of compensating for the Council’s residual carbon footprint is to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy generated on Council-owned land, this is dependent on enhancements to the capacity of the local electricity distribution network. This is beyond the direct control of the Council and discussions are ongoing with Western Power Distribution and Welsh Government to seek the necessary improvements. However, as one unit of carbon has the same climate impact wherever it is emitted, the benefit is the same wherever it is reduced or avoided.
6. At the Members Seminar on the Net Zero Carbon Plan held on 21st January 2020, Stephen Cirell of APSE Energy (Association for Public Service Excellence) concluded his presentation with the following assessment: “Carmarthenshire is taking its responsibilities seriously and has developed a credible plan.”
7. Amongst the actions identified in the attached Plan are proposals to report performance annually, together with annual reviews of the action plan.
8. It is proposed that a more accessible version of the Plan be created including a version suitable for a young person to understand.
9. It is RECOMMENDED that:
 - (1) the Net Zero Carbon Plan outlining a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 be adopted, and
 - (2) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan.

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: Ruth Mullen Director of Environment

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Notice of Motion supported unanimously by County Council on 20th February 2019 requires that a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon be developed within 12 months.

This echoes Welsh Government's ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, and with 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' (March 2018).

2. Finance

The Council has adopted proactive programmes to reduce its carbon emissions over a number of years. Consequently, there will be financial implications in significantly further reducing carbon emissions as much of the more cost-effective measures have already been undertaken. For example, to-date energy efficiency programmes in non-domestic buildings have been financed using interest-free funding secured from Salix / Wales Funding Programme, however there will be a need to supplement this funding to enable further energy measures with higher payback periods to be delivered if we are to full achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Whilst the preferred primary method of compensating for the Council's residual carbon footprint is to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy generated, this would require significant financing. Compensating for the Council's 2018/19 carbon footprint by renewable energy generation could require more than £20m capital investment, at a time of increasing pressure on Council budgets. Choosing to prioritise this investment would inevitably mean delaying or removing other capital schemes under consideration, including the implications for match funding contributions, such as 21st Century schools Welsh Government contribution or Regeneration schemes match-funding.

There will be a need to establish robust business cases for each potential renewable energy project. The more favourable investment returns of the projects, the lower the impact on other council budgets will be.

3. ICT

The actions identified in the Plan complement the Council's ICT strategies to facilitate more efficient working practices such as Cloud hosting, agile working via provision of laptops / Skype, and paperless meetings.

4. Risk Management Issues

Climate change is seen as one of the world's greatest threats.

5. Physical Assets

Reducing carbon emissions would have significant implications for a variety of the Council's physical assets: non-domestic buildings, street lighting and fleet. There is also potential for use of Council owned land and buildings for renewable energy generation.

6. Staffing Implications

Staff, and Member, awareness and buy-in will be required to enable the Council to successfully deliver significant carbon reductions. This will require specific training and communications.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Ruth Mullen

Director of Environment

1. Scrutiny Committee	YES
2. Local Member(s)	N/A
3. Community / Town Council	N/A
4. Relevant Partners	N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations	N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
N/A		

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Route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030

February 2020

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Foreword

Climate change is recognised by many as one of the world's greatest threats. At the opening ceremony of the United Nations-sponsored climate talks in Katowice, Poland in December 2018, Sir David Attenborough called climate change "our greatest threat in thousands of years", adding "If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon." Storm Callum in 2018 vividly demonstrated how Carmarthenshire is not immune from the effects of climate change.

At the meeting of the County Council on 20th February 2019 I was impressed by the question asked by Miss Coral Sylvan regarding what the Council is doing with respect to climate change. I don't recall somebody as young as eleven years old previously attending a meeting of the Council to challenge elected Members. Following an impassioned debate, Members unanimously resolved to declare a climate emergency and committed to become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

Leading the Council's climate change strategy has been included in my portfolio of responsibilities as Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs, and I recognise that it is a huge challenge that will require action by all Services within the Council and by many other bodies locally, nationally and internationally.

As a starting point, this action plan outlines a pragmatic route towards the Council becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. It is intended to be a living document and will evolve over time. This is a long-term plan for the next ten years and as such more proposals will be added as it develops. Further technological breakthroughs will inevitably come forward in due course, but the most important thing is that the Council has started on this important path.

We want everyone in the community to play a part in this important work and look forward to working both on the emissions from our own activities and more widely with partners to bring this about.

Please note that hyperlinks are provided throughout this document, where the text appears underlined, that direct the reader to further web-based information.

Cllr Cefin Campbell

Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs

1. Background

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C. The IPCC found that a 1.5°C world would have significantly lower climate-related risks for natural and human systems than a 2°C world, and that global carbon emissions would need to reach net zero around 2050 to have no, or limited, overshoot beyond 1.5°C of climate change. Behind this report is a huge body of scientific research and analysis with near unanimous agreement amongst the world's scientific community.



Consistent IPCC reports and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change summits have come and gone. They attract publicity and media attention at the time but action by world leaders to work towards the plans agreed at these meetings has been slow.

The IPCC Special Report of October 2018 was the strongest yet, effectively saying that the world had just 12 years to get a grip with this issue or irreparable damage will be done to our ecosystem.

This has led to a realisation that time is fast running out which resulted in a climate emergency being declared during 2019 by many organisations including Carmarthenshire County Council and over 250 other UK local authorities. The Welsh Government and UK Government have also declared a climate emergency.

2. Notice of Motion

The meeting of Carmarthenshire County Council on 20th February 2019 unanimously resolved that the following Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen be supported:

"...we propose that Carmarthenshire County Council:

1. Declare a climate emergency
2. Commit to making Carmarthenshire County Council a net zero carbon local authority by 2030
3. Develop a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon within 12 months
4. Call on Welsh and UK Governments to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions
5. Work with Public Services Board and Swansea Bay City Deal partners to develop exciting opportunities to deliver carbon savings
6. Collaborate with experts from the private sector and 3rd sectors to develop innovative solutions to becoming net zero carbon."

3. Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030

3.1 Outline Approach

When a council passes any motion, it reflects the importance that the organisation places on the issue and it signals its intent to address it; therefore, if a council passes a climate emergency motion the same can be said for this agenda. The use of the term "emergency" is significant and, by definition, this is not a normal motion. If that is the case, then the actions that a council takes should not be normal either.

Carmarthenshire County Council is a member of the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and in 2019 joined APSE Energy – a collaboration of over 100 UK local authorities who are working towards the municipalisation of energy. APSE Energy was established to help support local authorities to make the most of their assets in the energy arena and to help them take a leadership role within it. The APSE Energy publication 'Local Authority Climate Emergency Declarations: Strategic and practical considerations for climate emergency declarations, targets and action plans' (June 2019) has informed the Council's approach. This recognises that whilst an emergency declaration deserves an appropriate response, a local authority cannot abandon everything to tackle climate change as there are other legal duties and responsibilities to fulfil as well as locally identified priorities it has committed to addressing.

A pragmatic approach, therefore, is being adopted for the route towards the Council becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. This initially focuses on the carbon emissions that are presently measured by the Council; however, it is recognised that this approach needs to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing circumstances, including the reporting requirements yet to be introduced by Welsh Government as part of its ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. This initial focus is not intended to limit or preclude other potential wider actions to address the climate emergency and some of these are identified in **Appendix 3**.

The Council has, over a number of years, adopted proactive programmes to reduce its carbon emissions and previously reported performance in its Annual Reports. It is proposed that these reported emissions initially constitute the scope of the Council's commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030. These carbon emissions are from:

- (a) Non-domestic buildings;
- (b) Street lighting;
- (c) Fleet mileage; and,
- (d) Business mileage.

Whilst the Council is committed to significantly further reduce its carbon footprint, it recognises that however energy/carbon efficient its Services become it will inevitably still have a residual carbon footprint. This situation is acknowledged by the "Net" in the Net Zero Carbon equation as it enables this residual carbon footprint to be compensated for by the generation of renewable energy and/or via carbon offsetting (such as by the planting of trees). This can be summarised thus:

Carbon Footprint	–	Renewable Energy Generation Carbon Offsetting	=	Net Zero Carbon
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3.2 Carbon Footprint

Carbon Footprint	–	Renewable Energy Generation Carbon Offsetting	=	Net Zero Carbon
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(a) Non-domestic buildings

Non-Domestic Buildings	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 v 2017/18	
	Result	Result	Result	Progress	% change
Consumption (kWh)	66,808,735	63,690,923	64,857,362	Declined	+1.8%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	18,923	16,258	14,822	Improved	-8.8%

Notes:

(1) Whilst consumption (kWh) increased in 2018/19, carbon emissions (tCO₂e) decreased due to a reduction in the emission conversion factor for electricity. The continuing decarbonisation of the electricity distribution network (National Grid) will help to accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from the Council's consumption of electricity.

(2) The performance data quoted in this document uses UK emission conversion factors issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) where appropriate. These emission conversion factors are published annually, for example: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2018>

Council's core corporate property portfolio:

Property Type	Total
Admin Buildings / Offices	18
Car Parks	68
Care Homes	7
Commercial Properties	107
Community Centres	2
County Farms	24
Day Centres	6
Depots	6
Galleries & Theatres	4
Industrial Estates	20
Leisure Centres / Pool	4 ⁽¹⁾
Libraries	14
Livestock Marts	3
Markets	2
Museums	4
Parks	22 ⁽²⁾
Primary Schools	95
Public Conveniences	11
Secondary Schools	12

Notes: ⁽¹⁾ Plus other pools within education establishments.

⁽²⁾ Community asset transfers have been / are being discussed.

Energy consumed by the Council's non-domestic buildings (2018/19):

Utility	Consumption (kWh)	Carbon Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Electricity	19,984,610	6,139
Gas	39,176,883	7,207
LPG	1,398,425	300
Oil	3,878,728	1,073
Kerosene	418,716	103
Total	64,857,362	14,822

Council's top energy consuming / carbon emitting buildings (2018/19):

Buildings	Consumption			Carbon Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
	Electric (kWh)	Gas (kWh)	Total (kWh)	
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	722,044	3,672,147	4,394,191	897
Ysgol Dyffryn Aman Leisure Centre	481,514	3,959,401	4,440,915	876
Parc Dewi Sant / Saint David's Park	807,421	2,218,002	3,025,423	656
Llanelli Leisure Centre	481,805	2,132,878	2,614,683	540
Queen Elizabeth High School	755,044	1,228,131	1,983,175	458
Llys y Bryn Care Home	235,390	1,446,621	1,682,011	338
Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth	466,174	1,014,585	1,480,759	330
Ffwrnes Theatre	500,845	847,569	1,348,414	310
Ysgol Bro Dinefwr	503,656	812,441	1,316,097	304
Glan y Môr School	188,568	1,318,863	1,507,431	301
County Hall	533,111	621,271	1,154,382	278
Total	5,675,572	19,271,909	24,947,481	5,289

Note: Included in the Council's Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project

The Council has reduced carbon emissions from its non-domestic buildings by 38% since 2005/06 - from 23,733 tCO₂e to 14,822 tCO₂e.

Actions - Existing buildings

- The Council spends in-excess of £4m annually on energy for its non-domestic buildings. The procurement of energy has become increasingly complex with prices volatile and linked to both UK and global factors. In order to minimise risk, the Council procures its energy using Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreements, via the National Procurement Service (NPS), for the vast majority of supplies. All electricity procured via the NPS is from renewable energy sources, with 40% of this being sourced from within Wales in 2018/19 (**Note:** The consumption of this 'green' electricity is reflected in the (decreasing) UK emission conversion factor for electricity, and as a consequence the Council is currently unable to directly benefit from carbon savings resulting from its procurement of 'green' electricity as this would effectively be double-counting the carbon savings).
- To-date, the Council has invested over £2 million in some 200 energy efficiency projects financed under the interest-free Salix invest-to-save programme. This investment is projected to save over £7 million / 41,000 tCO₂e over the lifetime of the installed technologies. This investment, coupled with the Council's on-going property rationalisation, agile working and maintenance programmes, is producing financial and carbon savings in times of increasing utility prices.
- The Council is currently participating in the Welsh Government supported Re:fit Cymru programme in order to identify energy, and water, efficiency opportunities in non-domestic buildings including schools. Re:fit Cymru allows the Council to accelerate the roll-out of energy efficiency in a more comprehensive manner and at a greater pace than could be achieved using limited in-house resources. Unlike previous Salix projects, under the Re:fit Cymru programme a service provider is appointed via a national procurement framework and guarantees identified savings as part of an energy performance contract. A £2.5m interest-free loan has been secured from Welsh Government Wales Funding Programme to deliver a Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project comprising over thirty buildings which is projected to save an estimated 690 tCO₂e every year.

Actions - New build

- The Council has a significant new build programme. All major new build projects incorporate renewable energy technologies where appropriate with solar photovoltaic (PV) installations being incorporated into many recent Modernising Education Provision 21st Century Schools projects and new housing developments. Battery storage is also being investigated and has been proposed for inclusion as part of the Glanmor new housing development.
- Other low or zero carbon technologies that have been installed and evaluated for future inclusion where viable include: Ground source heat pumps; Air source heat pumps (currently progressing a scheme to install heat pumps at flats within Llys yr Ysgol Sheltered Housing Complex to replace inefficient electric storage heaters); Biomass boilers; and, Solar thermal systems. In addition, and in order to minimise energy use from new buildings, a 'Fabric First' approach to energy efficiency is also being progressed and, where feasible, to achieve 'Passivhaus' certification.

- The 'Passivhaus' standard is a rigorous energy standard for buildings that provides a quality assurance for both energy and environmental performance. This involves designing buildings to meet the required performance standards and includes: very high levels of insulation; extremely high-performance windows with insulated frames; airtight building fabric; 'thermal bridge free' construction; and, a mechanical ventilation system with highly efficient heat recovery. 'Passivhaus' buildings have been shown to achieve a 75% reduction in space heating requirements, compared to standard practice for UK new build.
- In September 2015, the Council successfully delivered the first 'Passivhaus' educational facility in Wales for the redevelopment of the former Burry Port Infant School site. Further projects at Ysgol Trimsaran (September 2017) and Ysgol Parc y Tywyn (June 2018) have been built to achieve the 'Passivhaus' standard. Monitoring at these developments shows the buildings to be using only 15% of the annual gas consumption of a traditionally constructed school. This approach is now being considered for forthcoming projects. Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools funding formula does not cover the full cost of building new schools to the 'Passivhaus' standard; therefore, additional funding would need to be found to deliver this level of construction.
- Design specifications and briefs are continually reviewed and amended to reflect new technologies and energy efficient equipment, for example electric vehicle charging points are now being specified on current and future projects including Ysgol Cwm Tywi, Ysgol Pum Heol and new housing developments.

The 'SystemsLink' energy management software system has been procured in order to achieve better monitoring of the Council's energy consumption; better management of billing (potentially via paperless systems); and, to allow web-based access to individual sites. Accurate data is critical for planning, monitoring and reporting progress towards becoming net zero carbon; accordingly, 'smart' and sub-metering technology will be extended to ensure timely capture of energy consumption data.

Target

Appropriate carbon reduction target to be developed as part of annual review of action plan.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-01	Deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy/carbon savings	Head of Property	Apr 2021
NZC-02	Develop further phases of Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) project, or similar, to achieve accelerated energy / carbon savings	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-03	Incorporate the 'Passivhaus' standard, where appropriate, in new building construction projects	Property Design Manager	On-going
NZC-04	Continually review and amend design specifications and briefs to reflect new technologies and energy efficient equipment	Property Design Manager	On-going
NZC-05	Extend 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data	Various	On-going
NZC-06	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021

(b) Street Lighting

Street Lighting	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 v 2017/18	
	Result	Result	Result	Progress	% change
Consumption (kWh)	5,718,531	4,873,979	4,202,381	Improved	-13.8%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2,569	1,874	1,291	Improved	-31.1%

The Council has reduced carbon emissions from its street lighting by 65% since 2011/12 - from 3,681 tCO₂e to 1,291 tCO₂e.

Actions

- The Council has recently completed the conversion of over 80% of its 20,000 street lighting lanterns to low energy light-emitting diode (LED) lighting with interest-free funding secured under Welsh Government's Wales Funding Programme. The remaining street lights are low energy dimming lanterns which will also be changed to LED at end of life.

- The Council maintains approximately 4,300 community lights on behalf of the 72 town and community councils in Carmarthenshire. These pay the Council an annual fee for energy and for the maintenance of their lights. The stock owned by each town and community council varies in number up-to 500 lighting units. It is proposed to convert all of these street lighting columns to LED - any energy efficient, dimmable lanterns to be converted to LED at the end of their operational life. The Council has secured interest-free funding in the form of a loan from Welsh Government to replace these units with LED lights and is acting as banker for the project. The Council is also project manager and has been through a competitive tendering process to appoint a contractor for the replacement programme. Town and community councils will repay the Council over an eight-year period with agreements being put in place. The repayment of the loan by the respective town and community councils is off-set by the energy savings and after the eight year pay-back there will be significant savings for these councils.

Target

Appropriate carbon reduction target to be developed as part of annual review of action plan.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-07	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's street lighting as part of annual review of action plan	Public Lighting Engineer	Mar 2021

(c) Fleet Mileage

Fleet Mileage	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 v 2017/18	
	Result	Result	Result	Progress	% change
Mileage (miles)	5,127,150	5,121,289	4,982,428	Improved	-2.7%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3,790	3,852	3,856	Declined	+0.1%

Notes:

- (1) This indicator covers vehicles in the Council's fleet that obtain fuel from bunkered diesel stores in Council depots.
- (2) Whilst overall mileage, and associated diesel consumption, reduced in 2018/19, carbon emissions increased due to an increase in the UK emission conversion factor for diesel.

The Council has reduced carbon emissions from its fleet mileage by 19% since 2012/13 - from 4,752 tCO₂e to 3,856 tCO₂e.

Actions

- The refuse and tipper / gritter fleets were renewed in 2016 and incorporate reduced emissions technology compliant with Euro 6 standards. They are amongst the most advanced commercial fleets in Wales for diesel powered vehicles.
- Fuel usage is monitored, and areas of driver behaviour challenged where necessary.
- All heavy goods vehicle (HGV) tyres are re-tread / re-grooved to gain maximum usage.
- Vehicles are regularly inspected and serviced in line with manufacturers' recommendations to ensure optimum performance and emission standards.
- Under-utilised vehicles are identified during fleet reviews and taken-out of circulation thus reducing fleet mileage.
- Route realignments carried-out for refuse collections and gritter routes have reduced HGV mileage.
- The Council was the first local authority in Wales to have electric vehicles in 2010, and currently has eight electric pool cars.
- In reviewing the most appropriate fuel powered vehicles for each of its Services, the Council recognises that electric vehicles may not always be the most suitable, for example the development of electric HGVs is still in its infancy for achieving the mileages required.

Target

Appropriate carbon reduction target to be developed as part of annual review of action plan.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-08	Review the most appropriate fuel powered vehicles for each of the Council's Services	Fleet Manager	On-going
NZC-09	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's fleet mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Fleet Manager	Mar 2021

(d) Business Mileage

Business Mileage	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 v 2017/18	
	Result	Result	Result	Progress	% change
Mileage (miles)	4,186,640	3,948,586	3,846,615	Improved	-2.6%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,260	1,159	1,118	Improved	-3.5%

Note: This indicator covers work-related duties undertaken by Council staff in their own cars or using pool vehicles.

The Council has reduced carbon emissions from its business mileage by over 36% since 2012/13 - from 1,756 tCO₂e to 1,118 tCO₂e.

Actions

- The Council is currently reviewing its pool car provision to reduce business, or 'grey fleet', mileage. This includes an evaluation of whether increasing the number of pool cars will reduce mileage claims and act as a deterrent against potentially unnecessary journeys thus reducing mileage and associated carbon emissions.
- The Council is aiming to increase the number of its electric pool cars (currently eight) as an alternative to existing diesel-powered cars.
- Grant funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) has recently been secured to install 26 electric charging points for public use throughout the County. The installation of more electric vehicle charge points, including potentially at the Council's Trostre Depot, will encourage greater use of electric pool cars which are currently under-used due to a lack of charging facilities for longer journeys. An electric vehicle strategy for the County is being produced.
- Staff pool bicycles are provided in and around Carmarthen to help reduce business mileage associated with short journeys. In addition, the Council operates a staff cycle-to-work scheme with over 600 bicycles being purchased to-date. Some of these bicycles are also used for business journeys.

Target

Appropriate carbon reduction target to be developed as part of annual review of action plan.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-10	Undertake a review of the Council's pool cars to identify opportunities for carbon reduction	Head of Transportation & Highways	TBC
NZC-11	Finalise electric vehicle strategy for the County	Transport Strategy & Infrastructure Manager	TBC
NZC-12	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's business mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Head of Transportation & Highways	Mar 2021

3.3 Renewable Energy Generation / Carbon Offsetting

Carbon Footprint	–	Renewable Energy Generation Carbon Offsetting	=	Net Zero Carbon
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To-date, over 1.15 megawatt (MW) of solar PV has been installed on the roofs of various Council buildings including schools.

Over recent years, the Council has sought to significantly increase the amount of renewable electricity it generates but has been frustrated by the limited capacity of the local electricity distribution network (National Grid). Previous applications to the electricity distribution network operator - Western Power Distribution – for connecting to the electricity network have resulted in inflated, unviable costs due to significant reinforcement costs having to be met by prospective developers, such as the Council.

Therefore, whilst the Council's preferred primary method of compensating for its residual carbon footprint is to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy generated on its land, this is dependent on enhancements to the capacity of the local electricity distribution network. Unfortunately, this is beyond the direct control of the Council and discussions are ongoing with Western Power Distribution and Welsh Government to seek the necessary improvements.

Carbon offsetting involves compensating for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions arising from industrial or other human activity, by participating in schemes designed to make equivalent reductions of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Because one unit of CO₂ has the same climate impact wherever it is emitted, the benefit is the same wherever it is reduced or avoided. Achieving verified carbon reductions could include protecting rainforests in Sierra Leone or potentially local tree planting. This can be a complex issue and represents the option of last resort unless tree-planting / peatland enhancement on Council controlled land is deemed to qualify for carbon offsetting (**Note:** This to be confirmed when Welsh Government publishes its Land Use guidance as part of carbon neutral public services reporting framework).

The Council is working with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects. The Energy Service supports the public sector in Wales to bring tangible projects to fruition and advises on energy-related issues. The Energy Service is currently undertaking a review of the Council's land to identify potential opportunities for ground-mounted solar PV and wind turbines. A similar exercise was previously undertaken with the Building Research Establishment and Parsons Brinkerhoff – whilst potential sites were identified, these were not then financially viable due to local grid constraints. Major renewable energy projects typically take several years to develop to completion (**Note:** 'Energy Generation in Wales 2018', October 2019, sets out the current energy generation capacity of Wales and analyses how it has changed over time).

Actions

- As mentioned previously, 100% of the electricity the Council procures via the NPS is from renewable energy sources.
- In April 2015, the Executive Board accepted a tender for an ambitious and innovative programme to install solar PV systems on all the Council's suitable Housing and non-domestic buildings. This was a no-cost community 'rent-a-roof' model with the option for the Council, and local community, to directly invest if desired. Unfortunately, subsequent UK Government announcements of major, immediate cuts to feed-in-tariff subsidies resulted in the programme for the Council's Housing stock being abandoned in September 2015. Whilst a programme of solar PV installations on non-domestic buildings was completed, this was greatly reduced compared to that originally proposed due to the removal of UK pre-registration process to enable schemes to secure favourable feed-in-tariff rates and compounded by severe local capacity issues on the National Grid.
- Since 2015, whilst there has been a demise in feed-in-tariff subsidies for new solar PV installations, the cost of solar PV systems has continued to decline, and battery technology has emerged as a potential mainstream application. Coupled with the rising cost of electricity it seems inevitable that there will be a viable solar solution – it appears to be just a question of when. The Council continues to monitor the situation to assess whether the market has sufficiently stabilised to consider re-introducing a Housing-based solar project.

Target

Appropriate target for renewable energy generation to be developed as part of annual review of action plan.

Note: A significant increase in the generation of renewable energy will be required to compensate for the Council's residual carbon footprint.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-13	Work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-14	Work with National Procurement Service (NPS) to support greater procurement of energy from locally generated renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-15	Explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting	Strategic Asset Manager	On-going

NZC-16	Develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021
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3.4 Working with Welsh Government

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets a target for Welsh Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (on 1990 levels) by 2050. Welsh Government declared a climate emergency on 29th April 2019 and, as a response, accepted the recommendations from the UK Committee on Climate Change for emission reduction of 95% by 2050 with ambition to be net zero (**Note:** For Wales / Carmarthenshire carbon emissions see 'UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2017', June 2019).

'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' (March 2018) sets out the Welsh Government's approach to cut carbon emissions and increase efficiency in a way that maximises wider benefits for Wales, ensuring a fairer and healthier society. It sets out 100 policies and proposals that directly reduce emissions and support the growth of the low carbon economy.

Since 2010, the Council has been a participant under the mandatory UK-wide Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. Consequently, it has been required to purchase non-refundable allowances for each qualifying tonne of carbon arising from its electricity and gas consumption. The Council paid £258,396 under this Scheme based on its emissions for 2018/19. Whilst the Council's emissions have continued to reduce, the level of 'tax' levied for each tonne of carbon emitted increases annually to further incentivise carbon reduction. The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme was abolished following the 2018/19 compliance year, however this cost will not disappear as the Climate Change Levy will be raised to compensate. Welsh Government is to consult on options for a successor to the CRC Scheme (Policy 19, 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales').

Welsh Government has an ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, and will be supporting the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality (Policy 20, 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales'). Based on recent carbon foot-printing undertaken by Natural Resources Wales and NHS Wales, Welsh Government proposes to prioritise the following four key themes to meet this ambition: (1) Mobility and Transport; (2) Procurement; (3) Land Use; and, (4) Buildings. Aether Ltd has secured the contract to develop the reporting guidance, and the Council is one of several Public Bodies that have agreed to become 'early adopters' and work with Welsh Government to establish consistent, Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting. The final set of documentation is to be delivered to the Welsh Government by the end of 2019/20 and will be circulated to all Public Bodies as soon as possible after receipt. This will assist in baselining carbon emissions, developing plans and monitoring progress towards emissions reduction targets.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-17	Collaborate with Welsh Government and other 'early adopter' Public Bodies to introduce carbon reporting as part of the ambition to achieve a carbon neutral Welsh public sector by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Jun 2020

3.5 Working with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board / Swansea Bay City Deal partners

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 established a statutory board, known as a Public Services Board (PSB), in each local authority area in Wales. The PSB is a collection of public bodies working together to improve the well-being of their county. The Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB's) Healthy Environment Delivery Group is currently undertaking a Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment for Carmarthenshire in order to develop clear and defined actions that can be taken by individuals, communities and organisations.

Building upon previous joint working, Carmarthenshire PSB will shortly be holding a workshop to establish how member organisations are responding to climate change, outlining current and planned activity within their organisations, and to identify opportunities for collaboration across PSB partners.

The Swansea Bay City Deal programme includes eleven projects across four key themes of Economic Acceleration; Life Science and Well-being; Energy; and, Smart Manufacturing. These include Llanelli's Wellness and Life Science Village and Homes as Power Stations projects.

The Welsh Government Energy Service is proposing to develop a Regional Energy Plan for Swansea Bay City Region based on recent work produced by the Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA) and Regen.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-18	Work with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB's) Healthy Environment Delivery Group to undertake a Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment for the County	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	On-going
NZC-19	Work with Carmarthenshire PSB partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-20	Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales	Head of Regeneration	On-going

3.6 Collaboration with experts from the private sector and 3rd sectors

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act requires public bodies to implement five key ways of working in future decision-making: looking to the long-term; taking an integrated approach; involving a diversity of the population; working with others in a collaborative way; and, understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.

The Council works in close collaboration with a vast range of partners. The following are examples of some of the private sector and 3rd sector organisations that it proposes to work with to deliver this action plan (this is not an exhaustive list):

Private Sector

Council's contractors, including Ameresco - preferred service provider for the Council's Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project

3rd Sector

Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
Ynni Sir Gâr | Carmarthenshire Energy

For example, the Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) has recently established a Carmarthenshire 3rd Sector Environment Network. This Group is intended as a forum for CAVS to feedback to the 3rd sector on how the Carmarthenshire PSB's Healthy Environment Group is progressing etc.

This action plan covers the next ten years and further technological breakthroughs will no doubt come forward in due course such as local low carbon transport, power and heat solutions through hydrogen and fuel cells.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-21	Work with the Council's contractors to explore innovative approaches to carbon reduction	Various	On-going
NZC-22	Participate in the Carmarthenshire 3 rd Sector Environment Network established by Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)	Various	On-going
NZC-23	Work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going

3.7 Integration and Communication

The Council has adopted a corporate approach to draft this action plan with meetings chaired by Cllr Cefin Campbell and attended by various Officers. Representatives from Welsh Government Energy Service, Welsh Local Government Association and APSE Energy have also attended these meetings.

It is recognised that Staff, and Member, awareness and buy-in will be required to enable the Council to successfully deliver significant carbon reductions. This will require specific training and communications. Initially, it is proposed to undertake a Staff survey to identify how individuals can contribute to the Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority.

Draft templates for undertaking Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) on Council proposals and decisions have been agreed for a period of testing before introduction during 2020. IIA includes requirements to assess impact as required through:

- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, and Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- General Data Protection Regulation 2016

During the testing phase the inclusion of Environment (Wales) Act 2016 impact assessment requirements will help to put climate change / carbon reduction within the DNA of the Council.

In September 2019, millions of young people, and adults, throughout the world took part in the global 'Climate Strike' inspired by the young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. The Council is a partner in Walk the Global Walk, an international learning opportunity for schools, which aims to support young people to take action for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2019/20, all 12 of the County's secondary schools plus two primary schools have signed-up and will focus on Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action. The Council, together with Dolen Cymru Lesotho (the other Welsh partner in the project), are supporting pupils to learn about climate change and take action in their schools and communities by providing:

- A bilingual resource pack and workshop for teachers
- Leadership training and support for 'Global Goalkeepers' (pupil ambassadors)
- Participation in a model UN Climate Change conference and debate
- Participation in the 'Global Walk', a high-profile Climate Action event around Carmarthen town.

Performance on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 will be reported annually, together with annual reviews of the action plan.

Actions to be undertaken

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
NZC-24	Undertake Staff survey to identify how individuals can contribute to the Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority	Media and Marketing Manager	May 2020
NZC-25	Incorporate climate change / carbon reduction in Integrated Impact Assessment process to be introduced by Council	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	TBC
NZC-26	Support the 'Walk the Global Walk' project in the County's schools to promote awareness of climate change	Officer for International School Linking	On-going
NZC-27	Review action plan following publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new national carbon reporting framework	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021
NZC-28	Publish performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Annual

Appendix 1

Action Plan

Ref	Action to be undertaken	Lead Officer	By When
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Carbon Footprint – Non-domestic buildings			
NZC-01	Deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy/carbon savings	Head of Property	Apr 2021
NZC-02	Develop further phases of Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) project, or similar, to achieve accelerated energy / carbon savings	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-03	Incorporate the 'Passivhaus' standard, where appropriate, in new building construction projects	Property Design Manager	On-going
NZC-04	Continually review and amend design specifications and briefs to reflect new technologies and energy efficient equipment	Property Design Manager	On-going
NZC-05	Extend 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data	Various	On-going
NZC-06	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021

Carbon Footprint – Street Lighting			
NZC-07	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's street lighting as part of annual review of action plan	Public Lighting Engineer	Mar 2021

Carbon Footprint – Fleet Mileage			
NZC-08	Review the most appropriate fuel powered vehicles for each of the Council's Services	Fleet Manager	On-going
NZC-09	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's fleet mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Fleet Manager	Mar 2021

Carbon Footprint – Business Mileage			
NZC-10	Undertake a review of the Council's pool cars to identify opportunities for carbon reduction	Head of Transportation & Highways	TBC
NZC-11	Finalise electric vehicle strategy for the County	Transport Strategy & Infrastructure Manager	TBC
NZC-12	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's business mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Head of Transportation & Highways	Mar 2021

Renewable Energy Generation / Carbon Offsetting			
NZC-13	Work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-14	Work with National Procurement Service (NPS) to support greater procurement of energy from locally generated renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-15	Explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting	Strategic Asset Manager	On-going
NZC-16	Develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021

Working with Welsh Government			
NZC-17	Collaborate with Welsh Government and other 'early adopter' Public Bodies to introduce national carbon reporting framework as part of ambition to achieve carbon neutral Welsh public sector by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Jun 2020

Ref	Action	Lead Officer	By When
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Working with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board / Swansea Bay City Deal partners			
NZC-18	Work with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB's) Healthy Environment Delivery Group to undertake a Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment for the County	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	On-going
NZC-19	Work with Carmarthenshire PSB partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going
NZC-20	Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales	Head of Regeneration	On-going

Collaboration with experts from the private sector and 3 rd sectors			
NZC-21	Work with the Council's contractors to explore innovative approaches to carbon reduction	Various	On-going
NZC-22	Participate in the Carmarthenshire 3 rd Sector Environment Network established by Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)	Various	On-going
NZC-23	Work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	On-going













Integration and Communication			
NZC-24	Undertake Staff survey to identify how individuals can contribute to the Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority	Media and Marketing Manager	May 2020
NZC-25	Incorporate climate change / carbon reduction in Integrated Impact Assessment process to be introduced by Council	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	TBC
NZC-26	Support the 'Walk the Global Walk' project in the County's schools to promote awareness of climate change	Officer for International School Linking	On-going
NZC-27	Review action plan following publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new national carbon reporting framework	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021
NZC-28	Publish performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Annual

Appendix 2

Carbon Reduction Summary

Key Measures of Success	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 v 2017/18	
	Result	Result	Result	Progress	% change
Non-Domestic Buildings					
Consumption (kWh)	66,808,735	63,690,923	64,857,362	Declined	+1.8%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	18,923	16,258	14,822	Improved	-8.8%
Street Lighting					
Consumption (kWh)	5,718,531	4,873,979	4,202,381	Improved	-13.8%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2,569	1,874	1,291	Improved	-31.1%
Fleet Mileage					
Mileage (miles)	5,127,150	5,121,289	4,982,428	Improved	-2.7%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3,790	3,852	3,856	Declined	+0.1%
Business Mileage					
Mileage (miles)	4,186,640	3,948,586	3,846,615	Improved	-2.6%
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,260	1,159	1,118	Improved	-3.5%
TOTAL					
Consumption (kWh)	72,527,266	68,564,902	69,059,743	Declined	+0.7%
Mileage (miles)	9,313,790	9,069,875	8,829,043	Improved	-2.9%
Carbon emissions (tCO₂e)	26,542	23,143	21,087	Improved	-8.9%

Carbon Footprint 2018/19	–	Renewable Energy Generation	=	Net Zero Carbon
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Non-Domestic Buildings		Wind Turbines	or	Solar PV panels	
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	14,822	41 	or	175,450 	= 0 tCO ₂ e
Street Lighting					
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,291	4 	or	15,282 	= 0 tCO ₂ e
Fleet Mileage					
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	3,856	11 	or	45,644 	= 0 tCO ₂ e
Business Mileage					
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,118	3 	or	13,234 	= 0 tCO ₂ e
TOTAL					
Carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	21,087	59 	or	249,610 	= 0 tCO ₂ e
		 29.5 MW		 62.4 MW	

Comparators:



Equivalent number of 500 kW wind turbines (~362 tCO₂e/year | ~1,180 MWh/year) (capacity of wind turbine at Nant y Caws)



Equivalent number of individual 250 W solar PV panels (~0.08448 tCO₂e/year | ~275 kWh/year)

Average distance from Earth to the Moon = 238,855 miles | Equatorial circumference of Earth = 24,901 miles

Renewable electricity generated by Council solar PV systems in 2018/19 = 979,071 kWh (~300 tCO₂e)

Notes: (1) Welsh Government will be introducing a new national carbon reporting framework in April 2020; consequently, the above performance data may not be directly comparable after this date.

(2) The equivalent number of wind turbines and solar PV panels is based on a high-level calculation that will change year-on-year with changes in the UK emission conversion factors for electricity. Whilst this metric is used to help demonstrate the scale of the task, it is purely meant for illustrative purposes only as it is dependent on many external variables.

Appendix 3

Climate Emergency

The initial focus of this action plan for a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority is not intended to limit or preclude other potential wider actions that contribute towards addressing the climate emergency.

Some of these actions are identified below (this is not an exhaustive list):

Housing

- Following comprehensive energy efficiency measures carried out as an integral part of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard / Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+), Welsh Government's current Welsh Housing Quality Standard target of an average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating of 65 has been achieved. The Council has not set its own target pending further guidance and targets from Welsh Government in 2020.
- The Council will continue to assess whether the market has sufficiently stabilised to consider re-introducing a Housing-based solar PV project.
- The Council made a commitment in 2016 to create an additional 1,000 affordable homes by 2021. The original plan used a range of ways to ensure that there are affordable homes within the County, for example by buying homes from the open market, bringing empty homes back into use, renting houses through 'Simple Lettings', using Planning obligations / Section 106 agreements, and by working with partners. Within the first three years, there are 700 more affordable homes in the County and a confidence that the target will be reached by 2021.
- The 'Homes as Power Stations' project aims to deliver smart, low carbon, energy-efficient homes through a co-ordinated approach across the Swansea Bay City Region. The project will deliver a programme of new build developments, the retro-fitting of existing buildings and local supply chain development support. The aims of the project are to: help tackle fuel poverty, cut carbon emissions, and meet the need for more housing. The project will monitor the health and well-being aspects of warmer homes and the impact on fuel poverty.
- The Council has recently agreed to build an additional 900 new council homes by 2029/30. These new homes are to incorporate environmentally-friendly features such as solar panels and Welsh timber, which would both be sourced and manufactured locally. The homes are designed to save the occupier up-to £1,000 a year on energy bills with walls insulated with recycled newspaper, and the wooden windows achieving the 'Passivhaus' standard.
- 'Cartrefi Croeso' has been established by the Council to develop new homes for sale and to rent.

Planning

- Carmarthenshire's Local Development Plan (LDP) is currently being revised and will run until 2033. The LDP will outline where and how development will take place within the County, through a number of planning policies. There is an overarching climate change policy in the LDP, which is supplemented by specific policies outlining how new development must consider topics such as renewable energy, sustainable design, flooding, active travel, public transport, green infrastructure and air quality.
- Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance was adopted in June 2019. A Renewable Energy Assessment has been commissioned with a view to identifying areas across the County with the suitable conditions for various renewable energy schemes.
- A green infrastructure assessment has recently been undertaken, in which all green infrastructure assets across the County have been mapped. This will help identify areas where tree planting schemes could be implemented and quantify in area (for monitoring and reporting purposes) green infrastructure across the County.
- There is an intention to introduce a new policy into the LDP regarding electric charging points for new developments to increase this provision in both residential and non-residential development.
- Peatlands are among the most valuable ecosystems on Earth. They are critical for preserving global biodiversity, provide safe drinking water, minimise flood risk and help address climate change. Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store – storing more carbon than all other vegetation types in the world combined. Conversely, damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Peatland restoration can, therefore, bring significant emissions reductions. The Council has been running the Carmarthenshire Bogs Project with funding from Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery Fund (a national peatland project has taken on some of this work during 2018/19). This project aims to conserve five sites in the County where peat is, or should be, forming.
- Consistent with national policy, Planning Ecology responses advise on the need to conserve peat sites when these form a part of a development proposal. It also advises on the retention and management of semi-natural habitats – many of which have the capacity to store carbon if appropriately managed - in line with the LDP policies and national policy.
- The Council facilitates the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (formerly Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership) which comprises over 15 organisations including the Council, government, and non-government wildlife bodies, wildlife charities and voluntary groups - all working together to conserve and enhance Carmarthenshire's biodiversity.

Waste and Environmental Services

- The Council operates a two-weekly waste collection system alternating general household waste and recycling collections over consecutive weeks, with weekly food recycling. An additional, chargeable, two-weekly collection of garden waste is also provided.
- The County currently has a recycling rate of some 59% and needs to achieve 70% by 2025. To help increase participation in food waste recycling, food bin liner bags are to be provided to all households from October 2019 onwards. A conscious decision was taken to supply degradable starch bags as opposed to plastic bags. Control measures also have recently been introduced at household waste recycling centres to improve levels of recycling at these facilities.
- The Council continues to work with schools, local groups and fast-food restaurants in relation to reducing waste and encouraging more recycling.
- The Council has recently undertaken a rationalisation exercise of its kerbside waste collection rounds that has saved some 9% per annum in terms of distance travelled for the waste collection fleet.
- The Council is currently undergoing a review of the kerbside waste collection system in preparation for a new vehicle fleet in 2021. Irrespective of the new system chosen for collection, new refuse collection vehicles will be required to replace the existing fleet. In choosing the new vehicles, the most efficient fleet will be procured that will meet the service needs and specification.
- CWM Environmental Ltd is the Councils' waste disposal and treatment company. CWM's main site at Nant y Caws, Carmarthen currently has a wind turbine and a landfill gas off-take system that can generate energy. Exploration is currently underway to assess whether there is potential for further renewable energy development at the site.
- The Council is committed to reducing its use of single-use plastics and to continue raising awareness of environmental issues in accordance with the policies it adopted on 18th April 2018 and on 10th July 2019.

Procurement

- Sustainable procurement has been identified as a key priority for a number of years and the Council adopted a Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) template in order to embed sustainability at a practical level. Since 2008 the Council has utilised the Welsh Government approved SRA tool to identify and capture sustainable gains across contracting activity. This tool helps to consider how sustainability issues can be addressed in the specification, drafting and tender stage of the procurement process, thus incorporating the SRA into the procurement contracting process. The SRA process is intended to ensure that environmental, social and economic issues are assessed, understood and managed in all key procurement decisions that relate to the procurement of goods and services.
- Carmarthenshire PSB's Prosperous People and Places Delivery Group is considering opportunities for food procurement across the public sector organisations in Carmarthenshire. The focus on the public sector procurement of local food is viewed by partners as a key priority which could have economic wealth and health impacts for the local community. The Group has secured LEADER funding to appoint a third-party to undertake a mapping exercise of current food producers in Carmarthenshire and the region. The aim is to identify what is available and what gaps exist within the current food provision within the County. A further bid has been made to the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund to appoint a Project Officer to liaise with the PSB partners to challenge current ways of working and to identify best practice for future approaches to food procurement.
- The Council is represented on regional procurement networks and engages and consults with various groups such as Eunomia, WRAP Cymru and the Welsh Local Government Association to ensure that climate change considerations are incorporated within strategic procurement documentation and associated best practice guidance to ensure that all specifications, tender documents and award criteria address climate emergency commitments.

Transportation and Highways

- Bwcabus is a flexible, bookable local bus service, designed to meet the needs of rural residents. The Bwcabus rural transportation model operates within a specific zone providing both fixed route services and pre-booked demand responsive journeys, allowing the possibility to travel where and when required.
- The Carmarthen Park and Ride service runs every 30 minutes from 7.30 am to 6.25 pm, Mondays to Friday. The service starts at Nant-y-Ci car park and stops at Carmarthen Bus Station, before moving on to Spilman Street and St Peters. The service also extends to Glangwili General Hospital before returning to Nant-y-Ci.
- The possibility of working with public transport providers to secure (Staff) travel discounts to encourage greater use of public transport is to be explored.
- The County's electric vehicle charging network is actively being expanded.
- Carmarthenshire's ambition is to become the 'cycling hub of Wales'. Together with an extensive 3,487 kilometres road network, the second longest in Wales, many cycle routes are improving the opportunities for cyclists.

Education

- The Eco-Schools programme is an international initiative that enables sustainable development to be a major part of the life and ethos of schools. The Programme gets everyone in the school community involved in improving the school environment and encouraging good citizenship. Pupils study topics including waste, litter, energy, water, transport, healthy living and global citizenship. All schools in Carmarthenshire are registered on the Eco Schools programme. At September 2019, 55 schools were on Platinum Award (the highest level awarded to schools active over 8 years); 9 schools on Green Flag x3; 15 schools on Green Flag x2; 13 schools on Green Flag x1, 13 schools on Silver Level; 1 school on Bronze Level; and, 1 school registered only.

Regeneration

- Carbon reduction is at the heart of the £1.3 billion Swansea Bay City Deal, which is being delivered by the four Swansea Bay City Region local authorities, including Carmarthenshire, with the two regional health boards and two regional universities.
- Among the projects forming part of the City Deal programme of investment is a pan-Region 'Homes as Power Stations' project. Under this Project, the retro-fitting of 7,500 homes with state-of-the-art energy-efficiency technology will complement the construction of 3,500 new, highly energy efficient homes over a five-year period. As well as helping the Region cut its carbon emissions, this Project will also tackle fuel poverty and meet the need for more housing, while benefitting supply chain businesses throughout Carmarthenshire and South West Wales as a whole.
- Also due to be part-funded by the City Deal is the Pembroke Dock Marine project that will considerably boost the Region's 'blue economy' through major investment in the advancement of marine energy. Made up of elements including a Marine Energy Test Area and a Pembrokeshire Demonstration for marine energy developers to trial, de-risk and commercialise their devices, this Project will also include infrastructure upgrades at Pembroke Port and a Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence where industry and academia can co-locate. This will place South West Wales at the forefront of a growing global industry that's projected to be worth £76 million by 2050.
- A remodelled Neath Port Talbot City Deal business case also places considerable emphasis on zero carbon fuel. Plans include a Swansea Bay Technology Centre that would transmit excess energy from solar and other renewable means to a nearby Hydrogen Centre that would then use this energy to make zero carbon fuel for council vehicles. Other elements forming part of this business case include the establishment of an electric vehicle charging route map, supplemented by air quality modelling and real-time monitoring. A National Steel Innovation Centre is also planned, where research and development will be anchored into future steel-making across the Swansea Bay City Region to further reduce carbon emissions.
- Sustainability will also be a core principle of all other City Deal projects, including Llanelli's Wellness and Life Science Village and future phases of Yr Egin creative and digital hub at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen. In October 2019 the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) agreed to fully fund a heat network feasibility study to explore options for low carbon heat to be supplied to the Llanelli Wellness and Life Science Village.
- The 'Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward' plan (June 2019) is a comprehensive look at the issues facing the County's rural communities, and a focus on what is needed to ensure support for these towns and villages to sustain and thrive. Initiatives being looked at include making innovative use of vacant or unused agricultural buildings to create hubs for entrepreneurs and improving broadband provision so that digital connectivity isn't a barrier to rural development. A Carmarthenshire 'brand' could also be developed to support and grow the County's diverse agriculture and food production sector, encouraging communities to buy local to create a re-circulating 'Carmarthenshire Pound', and boosting the County's growing tourism sector. The Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and use of plastics also feature as part of the Plan, with proposals to work with partners and agencies to create a more sustainable environment, with new infrastructure including an investment in rapid charging points for electric vehicles. The Plan also details a 'Ten Rural Towns' initiative to ensure market towns, from Llandovery to St Clears, are more economically, socially, environmentally and culturally sustainable for the future.
- The Council will continue to explore opportunities to minimise carbon as part of future direct builds of both premises and infrastructure, alongside opportunities that may be presented by hydrogen energy.

Finance

- The Council is the administering authority for the £2.7 billion Dyfed Pension Fund.
- The Fund is a long-term investor responsible for looking after the interests of beneficiaries over many decades into the future and recognises climate change and investment in fossil fuels as a significant risk factor for pension fund investments.
- The Fund takes the approach to engage actively and productively with companies in the sector through its participation in the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum. Also, via the Fund's investment managers, the Fund votes on resolutions at global AGMs seeking transparency and disclosure of climate risks and setting emission reduction targets. In this manner the Fund's view is directly communicated to individual boards.
- The Dyfed Pension Fund has an increasing level of investment in renewable and low carbon energy production via pooled funds and will continue to make such investments where the risk/return profile fits the pension fund's investment strategy. The Fund also has investments in the BlackRock UK Strategic Alternative Income Fund where some of the core strategies are in the renewable energy sector and a number of different sectors that have a direct impact on local communities including healthcare and social housing. During 2019/20 the Pension Committee will also be considering an investment in other low carbon tracker funds.
- The Fund has a comprehensive Investment Strategy Statement which is currently being reviewed.
- The Council welcomes the recent open letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and others regarding divestment and is in dialogue with Friends of the Earth Cymru on this matter.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

- The Council continues to introduce ICT good practice to actively help reduce carbon emissions, including:
 - Reducing energy consumption at its Data Centres and across its Network through the virtualisation and rationalisation of hardware and the adoption of energy efficient servers and ICT infrastructure;
 - Facilitating a reduction in staff travel through the implementation of agile working practices across the Authority including the use of laptops and online video conference meetings and calls ('Skype for Business');
 - Reducing printing across the Authority by facilitating the adoption of paperless working through better use of technology; and,
 - Applying centrally administered powered management systems to ensure all devices such as laptops and PCs are powered-down over night and when not in use during the day.

Civil Contingencies

- The Council's civil contingency role aims to help mitigate the effects of climate change by writing and testing contingency plans for the various risks involved. These risks include:
 - More extreme weather events causing severe fluvial flooding, such as Storm Callum in 2018;
 - Raising sea levels causing an increase in coastal flooding; and,
 - Hotter, dryer summers causing: water shortages; an increase in 'wild fires'; and, effects on the health of the population (especially the elderly).

Further information on the risks within Carmarthenshire can be found in the 'Dyfed-Powys Community Risk Register' (**Note:** 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report – Summary for Wales' summarises the Wales-specific evidence included in the 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report').

- The Council is a member of the Dyfed-Powys Local Resilience Forum (LRF) whose members include the Emergency Services, Health Bodies, other Local Authorities, Government Agencies and Utility Companies. The Dyfed-Powys LRF members work together to ensure arrangements are in place to help mitigate the effects of any emergencies including those caused by climate change. The role of the Council during emergencies includes providing support for the emergency services, support and care for the local and wider community and co-ordination of the response by organisations other than the emergency services. As time goes on, and the emphasis switches to recovery, the Council takes a leading role in rehabilitating the community and restoring the environment.

APPENDIX 4

Glossary of Terms

Units of measurement

A carbon footprint is measured in **tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)**. The carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) allows the different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like-for-like basis relative to one unit of CO₂. CO₂e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each of the six greenhouse gases by its 100 year global warming potential.

A carbon footprint considers all six of the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases: Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Source - <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/carbon-footprinting-and-reporting/carbon-footprinting/>

A **kilowatt hour (kWh)** is a measure of how much energy is being used. It doesn't mean the number of kilowatts used per hour. It is simply a unit of measurement that equals the amount of energy one would use to keep a 1,000 watt appliance running for an hour, for example:

- One 100 watt light bulb would take 10 hours to rack-up 1 kWh of energy.
- One 2,000 watt appliance would use 1 kWh in just half an hour.
- One 50 watt item could stay on for 20 hours before it used 1 kWh.

Source - <https://www.ovoenergy.com/guides/energy-guides/what-is-a-kwh-kw-and-kwh-explained.html>

Explanations

Terminology related to climate change can be difficult to understand especially for those with infrequent contact with the topic. Below are some terms which are commonly used:

Carbon Accounting - Carbon accounting covers a wide range of different practices and means different things to different groups of people but can generally be split into two categories: physical carbon accounting (which looks at quantifying physical amounts greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere), and financial carbon accounting (which looks at giving carbon a financial market value). Physical carbon accounting can be used to help companies and countries work out how much carbon they are emitting into the atmosphere, this is known as a greenhouse gas inventory. Once it has been established how much carbon is being emitted, reduction targets can be set. This method is also important for helping to assign responsibility to different parties for their associated carbon emissions.

Carbon accounting provides the tools to not only quantify and measure carbon emissions but also to help make informed decisions with regards to mitigation strategies. How much carbon is being emitted? Who is responsible for these emissions? Which methods should we employ to achieve the biggest carbon reductions? Are there strategies or policies which appear 'green' but actually increase our carbon emissions? Carbon accounting can help to answer all these questions, but it can be a complex process.

Source – <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/what-we-do/climate-change/case-studies/climate-research/carbon-accounting>

Net Zero Carbon – It is clear from the science that the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere resulting from human activity largely determines the extent of global warming. This means that to prevent catastrophic climate change, CO₂ emissions need to be reduced to zero. The science led to governments worldwide agreeing to achieve a balance between emissions and removal of greenhouses gases, in the Paris Agreement. 'Net zero' refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere. Like a bath with the taps on, an approach to achieving this balance can either be to turn down the taps (the emissions) or to drain an equal amount down the plug (removals of emissions from the atmosphere, including storage for the emissions such as 'carbon sinks' i.e. anything that absorbs more carbon than it releases as carbon dioxide. European forests are currently a net carbon sink as they take in more carbon than they emit).

Source - <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/news/what-is-net-zero/>

Carbon Neutral - Carbon neutrality means annual zero net anthropogenic (human caused or influenced) CO₂ emissions by a certain date. By definition, carbon neutrality means every tonne of anthropogenic CO₂ emitted is compensated with an equivalent amount of CO₂ removed (e.g. via carbon offsetting).

Source – <https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/cop21-glossary-terms-guiding-long-term-emissions-reduction-goal>

Carbon Offsetting - Put simply, offsetting means securing carbon credits equivalent to one's carbon impact. This means compensating for every tonne of CO₂ emitted by ensuring there is one tonne less in the atmosphere. Because one unit of CO₂ has the same climate impact wherever it is emitted, the benefit is the same wherever it is reduced or avoided. Achieving verified carbon reductions could include protecting rainforests in Sierra Leone or potentially local tree planting.

Source - <https://climatecare.org/carbon-offsetting/>

The Council has committed to become a 'Net Zero Carbon' local authority whilst the Welsh Government has an ambition for a 'Carbon Neutral' Welsh public sector. Within the confines of this document both these terms are inter-changeable.

Hyperlinks are provided throughout this document, where the text appears underlined, that direct the reader to further web-based information.

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COUNTY COUNCIL 12th February 2020

CWM Environmental Ltd **Loan Funding requirement**

The purpose of this report is to secure an appropriate funding facility to CWM Environmental Ltd for the purposes of financing the Company's office relocation to Nantycaws, the settlement of any end of lease payments that may fall due following the vacation of the current accommodation at Cillefwr together with the acquisition of additional land adjoining the Nantycaws Site.

Executive Board Recommendations:

To agree to a funding facility as follows:

1. Total loan facility £800k
2. Duration of arrangement – 10 years for the land acquisition, 5 years for the buildings related costs.
3. Interest at 1% above the rate set by the PWLB for 10 and 5 years respectively reflecting the security that will be available to the Council.
4. Funding facility to be operated on a draw-down arrangement – funds only drawn when required.
5. Approval of the release of funding is to be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with the Executive Board member for Resources, with the facility to be administered as follows:
 - a) Release of funding only when
 - i) Approved by the Company Board and endorsed by the CWM Environmental Ltd Shareholder group.
 - ii) Director of Corporate Services satisfied that the loan repayments are provided for within the Company's Business Plan and are affordable.
 - b) The conclusion of the detailed loan agreement to be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services.

Reasons

To agree the funding facility to enable the company to proceed with the office relocation.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted No

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr David Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources, Cllr Hazel Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Director:
Chris Moore

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

Tel No. 01267 224121

E Mail Addresses:

CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNTY COUNCIL
12th February 2020

CWM ENVIRONMENTAL LTD – LOAN FUNDING REQUIREMENT

CWM Environmental Ltd which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the authority has requested a loan facility to enable it facilitate the following:

1. In May 2020 the 15 year lease for the former MRF Unit, and the current office accommodation, occupied by CWM Environmental Ltd (CWM) at Alltynap Road, Johnstown expires and in preparation for this accommodation needs to be provided for some 12 office based staff at the Nantycaws site.
A number of options have been explored by the CWM Board, including the modification and extension of the existing weighbridge offices, with the preferred economically viable option being the installation of refurbished modular buildings at Nantycaws.
2. In addition to the cost of developing the accommodation at Nantycaws, further costs are likely to be incurred in surrendering the current lease.
3. An opportunity has now arisen to acquire the freehold of an additional 58 acres of land that immediately adjoins its site at Nantycaws, which secures the land for the future development of the company.

Funding specifics:

- Total loan facility £800k
- Duration of arrangement – 10 years for the land acquisition, 5 years for the buildings related costs.
- Interest at 1% above the rate set by the PWLB for 10 and 5 years respectively reflecting the security that will be available to the Council.
- Funding facility to be operated on a draw-down arrangement – funds only drawn when required.
- Approval for the management of the loan arrangement and the release of funding is to be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with the Executive Board member for Resources, with the facility to be administered as follows:

- a) Release of funding only when
 - i) approved by the Company Board and endorsed by the CWM Environmental Ltd Shareholder group.
 - ii) Director of Corporate Services satisfied that the loan repayments are provided for within the Company's Business Plan and are affordable.
- b) The conclusion of the detailed loan agreement to be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Chris Moore

Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NO	Legal YES	Finance YES	ICT NO	Risk Management Issues NO	Staffing Implications NO	Physical Assets NO
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2. Legal

CWM Environmental Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of CCC established under the requirements of the 1990 EPA act.

s. 68(6)(f) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 enables the authority to lend money for the purpose of enabling the company to acquire fixed assets.

3. Finance

The loan will be for £800,000 with interest charged at 1% above the rate set by the PWLB for 10 and 5 years.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
 Signed: **Chris Moore** **Director of Corporate Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

None

4. Relevant Partners

None

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

None

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
CWM Environmental Ltd 2019 Business Plan		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE BOARD

MONDAY, 6TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

C.A. Campbell, G. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, P.M. Hughes, P. Hughes-Griffiths, D.M. Jenkins and J. Tremlett

Also in attendance:

Councillors D.M. Cundy, R. James, K. Lloyd and J. Prosser

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters	-	Chief Executive
C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
G. Morgans	-	Director of Education & Children
L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
D. Hockenhill	-	Media & Marketing Manager
M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 10.25 a.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L.M. Stephens.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2019

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 16th December, 2019 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2022/23

The Board considered a report providing an overview of the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2020/21 and the following two financial years. The report provided details of the budget process, the current Welsh Government provisional

settlement and the final settlement timetable. The report also identified the validation and budget pressures that need to be considered by members in setting next year's revenue budget. The report would form the basis of the budget consultation process which would be undertaken during January and February 2020.

The report indicated that Carmarthenshire had received an increase in WG grant of 4.4% (£11.5m) taking our Aggregate External Finance to £274.159m for 2020/21. This increase was after certain transfers into the funding for Teachers Pensions and Pay, which were only partially funded within the settlement and accounted for some £5.7m of the overall funding increase.

It was noted that whilst significant work had already been undertaken in preparing the budget, this report was only an initial position statement which would be updated over the coming months as the budget was further developed, council members are engaged, public consultation takes place and the final settlement is received from Welsh Government.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the 2020/21 to 2022/23 budget strategy be approved as a basis for consultation, specifically seeking comments from consultees on the efficiency proposals detailed within Appendix A to the report.

7. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items to be considered.

CHAIR

DATE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 20 January 2020

PRESENT: Councillor L.M. Stephens (Chair)**Councillors:**

C.A. Campbell, G. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, P.M. Hughes, P. Hughes-Griffiths, D.M. Jenkins and J. Tremlett

Also in attendance:

Councillor D.M. Cundy, D. Jones and K. Madge

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

Mrs R. Mullen, Director of Environment

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)

I. Jones, Head of Leisure

J. Jones, Head of Regeneration

S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways

A. Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager

L Morris, Senior Press Officer

K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP. - 10.00 - 10.50 am**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E. Dole (absent on alternative Council Business)

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
G. Davies	12 – Appointment of Local Authority Governor	Personal

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 6TH JANUARY 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 6th January, 2020 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. CROSS HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING CENTRE

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals for the authority to purchase its Joint Partners 50% interest in 3 acres of land at the former West Tip Site at Cross Hands for subsequent onward sale to the Hywel DDa University Health Board for the provision of a Community Health and Wellbeing Centre (as detailed in the plan at Appendix 2 to the report). If approved, the cost of acquisition was £315k with the subsequent onward land sale to the Health Board, including the Council's existing 50% interest, being in the sum of £630k.

The Executive Board was advised that the onward sale of the land to the Health Board would be subject to the Welsh Government's approval of both the Health Board's Outline, and Full, Business Cases for financial support to deliver the proposed Centre together with the granting of planning consent for the proposed development. It was noted that whilst there would be some risk to the Council in proceeding with the land acquisition on the above basis, the risk was mitigated in terms of the planning condition as the land was currently allocated within the LDP for the proposed use and, in the unlikely event the proposed scheme did not proceed, the Council would be able to dispose of the land for alternative use, subject to planning.

The Executive Board Member for Resources referred to the above statement regarding the Health Board seeking planning consent for the proposed development and advised that, subsequent to the despatch of the agenda for the meeting, outline planning consent had been granted

The Chief Executive advised that prior to the commencement of the meeting she had been approached by Councillor D. Jones, one of the local ward members who, whilst supportive of the scheme, had requested she be able to speak with officers to gain more insight into the proposal. She confirmed those arrangements would be made.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council agrees to purchase its Joint Venture Partner's 50% interest in the above land at the former West Tip Site at Cross Hands in the sum of £315,000 and that officers be authorised to simultaneously progress the sale of the whole of the land to the Hywel Dda University Health Board

7. PRESS AND MEDIA PROTOCOL

The Executive Board considered a report on proposals for updating and strengthening the Council's existing Press and Media Protocol, adopted by Council in June 2015. The new protocol, if adopted, reflected changes in the media environment and would assist the Marketing and Media Team to manage press and media communications and relationships on behalf of the Council whilst also providing guidance to all staff and members. It would also assist the Council in providing information, promoting its services and developing its image as an open and transparent organisation accountable to the local community.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the new Press and Media Protocol be adopted

8. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided the latest budgetary position as at 31st October 2019, in respect of the 2019/2020 financial year.

Overall, the monitoring report forecasted an end of year overspend of £3,512k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £5,035k. The HRA was predicting a £33k underspend to the year end.

The Executive Board was advised that one of the major overspends, in the sum of £3m, related to the Schools Delegated Budgets and that the Directors of Corporate Services and Education and Children, together with other officers, were working closely with the affected schools Head Teachers and Governors to introduce corrective measures to address their deficits

In light of the current forecast of a potential significant overspend at departmental level, the report recommended that Chief Officers and Heads of Service continue to critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate mitigating actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets as a matter of urgency.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

8.1 the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report be received;

8.2 Chief Officers and Heads of Service continue to critically review their budgetary positions and implement all necessary and appropriate actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets as a matter of urgency.

9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019-20 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report which provided an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2019/20 capital programme as at the 31st October 2019.

Departmentally, a net spend of £63,753k was forecasted compared with a working net budget of £64,304k giving a £551k variance. The net budget had been re-profiled by £4.848m 2019/20 to future years in order to take account of the updated spend profile information. Furthermore, the budget slippage from 2018/19 had also been included within the figures appended to the report.

In addition, the Executive Board noted that an Education and Capital Spend budget re-profiling exercise was currently being undertaken to reflect the progress of schemes within the 5 year capital programme on the MEP programme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the capital programme update report be received.

10. CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO THE COUNTY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (VARIOUS CAR PARKS, CARMARTHENSHIRE) CONSOLIDATION (VARIATION NO. 4) ORDER

The Executive Board was advised that the Executive Board Member for Environment at a Decisions Meeting held on the 10th May 2019 had considered proposals for the introduction of the above Parking Order. At that meeting, it was resolved to approve part of the Order in respect of the off street car parks at Parc Myrddin North, Carmarthen, Parc Myrddin Registrars, Carmarthen, Selwyn Samuel Llanelli and Dafen Row, Llanelli and for the proposals in respect of the following car parks to be subject to further consideration:

- a) Burry Port Harbour
- b) Woodlands, Burry Port
- c) Shoreline, Burry Port
- d) Festival Fields, Llanelli
- f) Rotary Way, outside Pembrey Country Park
- g) Mynydd Mawr, Woodlands, Tumble
- h) Mynydd Mawr woodlands, Cefneithin
- c) North Dock, Llanelli
- d) Sandy Water Park, Llanelli
- f) Llyn Llech Owain
- g) Pendine
- h) Bynea

The Executive Board thereupon considered the outcome of the consultations on the proposals for the above car parks identified above and the objections received thereto together with the officers' recommendations in response to those objections, as detailed in the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 10.1 That the car parks referred to in paragraphs 3.4.1 (Shoreline car park, Burry Port), 3.7.1 (Woodlands car park, Mynydd Mawr, Tumble) and 3.8.1 (Woodlands car park, Cefneithin) of the report summary be removed from the proposed Off Street Car Parking Order and the situation at those car parks be monitored;**
- 10.2 that with the exception of the car parks referred to in paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.7.1 and 3.8.1 of the report summary, the proposals as described in the Draft Order detailed in Appendix 1 to the report in relation to the remaining car parks specified in paragraphs 1(i) and 1(ii) of the report summary be implemented**

11. FARE PAYING SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

The Executive Board received an update report on the Council's Fare Paying School Bus Service on the impact of the change in government legislation on the Council's school bus transport provision, including its spare seat policy. The Executive Board Member referred to the reports' three recommendations being presented for the Boards consideration and proposed that recommendations 1 and 3 be amended to read:

- 1) An amendment to the Authority's Spare Seats Policy to waive the current annual £50 charge, with effect from the 1st September, 2019.
- 3) An Executive Board Advisory Panel be established comprising 6 members, on a cross party basis, together with the Executive Board Member for Environment, to look at all issues relating to Home to School Transport to report back to the Executive Board

Reference was made to a recent news programme where it had been stated by Lee Waters A.M. that Carmarthenshire County Council had interpreted the government's legislation differently to other local authorities and clarification was sought on the accuracy of that statement. The Head of Transportation and Highways confirmed the Authority had not interpreted the legislation differently to any other local authority.

Councillor D. Cundy, in accordance with CPR 11, referred to the impact the change in legislation was having on some 500 pupils within Carmarthenshire and asked "Would the Executive Board Member not agree with me that the review mentioned as a recommendation in this report, must start immediately with all councillors consulted and working together, supporting the parents of whatever ward and make some swift impact to ensure that we eradicate the unsafe routes and help to provide suitable and safe transportation as well as look to a new future of an in house transport delivery for all our children"

The Executive Board Member for Environment in response reminded the Board of both the history of the current position with fare paying school bus services that had arisen as a result of the Department for Transport's decision to remove the full exemption from the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations (PSVAR) compliance for school transport vehicles, and to the efforts being made nationally and locally to the Welsh Government and the Department for Transport seeking the exemption's full reinstatement. She also referred to her amendment to the report seeking the establishment of an advisory panel to the Executive Board to look at all issues relating to Home to School Transport that would report back to the Executive Board.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that should the on-going dialogue between the Welsh Local Government Association and the Welsh Government fail to result in the re-instatement of the current full exemption for DDA/PSVAR compliance on school transport services, the Council approves the following measures:-

1. An amendment be made to the Authority's Spare Seats Policy to waive the current annual £50 charge, effective from the 1st September, 2019;
2. The Authority continues to pursue the Welsh Government and the Department of Transport for a change in the application of the Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations to allow bus operators to continue using coaches on school bus routes operated on a commercial basis;
3. An Executive Board Advisory Panel be established comprising 6 members, on a cross party basis, together with the Executive Board Member for Environment to look at all issues relating to Home to School Transport and to report back to the Executive Board.

12. APPOINTMENT OF LA GOVERNOR

[NOTE: Councillor G. Davies, earlier declared an interest in this item]

The Board was advised that, in accordance with the Local Authority's appointment policy for LA Governors, where LA Governor vacancies exist or are due to arise, nominations are invited from the Governing Body Chairperson, the Headteacher and the local Elected Member. Subsequently, all nominations are considered by the Executive Board Member for Education & Children, who makes the appointments.

It was reported that nominations had recently been received for vacancies at Brynamman School and as Councillor Glynog Davies, being the Executive Board Member for Education and Children, was one of the nominations received, the local Elected Member and the current Chair of Governors at Brynamman School, it would not be appropriate for him to consider those nominations. Accordingly the Executive Board would need to determine the nominations received. It was also noted that the reference in the report to Mr Pedrick, as one of the nominees, being a community councillor was incorrect and that he was in fact a Town Clerk.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that in order to meet statutory obligations for filling vacancies on School Governing Bodies County Councillor Glynog Davies and Mr A. Pedrick be appointed governors at Brynamman School.

13. **ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.**

There were no items of urgent business.

CHAIR

DATE