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MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2020

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE **ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD AT **10.00 AM ON MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2020** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

Democratic Officer:

Janine Owen

Telephone (Direct Line):

01267 224030

E-Mail:

JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

NOTE:

If you require Welsh to English simultaneous translation during the meeting please telephone: 0330 336 4321 Passcode: 32176803#.
(For call charges contact your service provider)

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

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 MEMBERS

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 7 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Karen Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | Mansel Charles |
| 3. | Councillor | Jeanette Gilasbey |
| 4. | Councillor | Dorian Phillips |
| 5. | Councillor | Susan Phillips |
| 6. | Councillor | Dai Thomas |
| 7. | Councillor | Aled Vaughan Owen (Vice Chair) |

LABOUR GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Penny Edwards |
| 2. | Councillor | Tina Higgins |
| 3. | Councillor | John James (Chair) |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Arwel Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | Joseph Davies |
| 3. | Councillor | Alan Speake |

NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP – 1 MEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------|-------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Eryl Morgan |
|----|------------|-------------|

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.
3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
4. HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020 5 - 42
5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 43 - 46
6. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 47 - 54

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2020

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020

Purpose:

To present the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2020 for information and consideration

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider and note the contents of the report which provides an update on the condition and performance of the highway network and related financial information

Reasons: The report provides an annual update as set out within the Highway Asset Management Plan adopted by Council in July 2018.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Hazel Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment.

Directorate Environment
Name of Head of Service:
Stephen Pilliner

Designations:
Head of Highways and Transport

E Mail Addresses:
SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Report Authors:
Richard Waters
Chris Nelson

H&T Services Manager
Highway Asset Manager

rwaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CNelson@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2020

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

In July 2018 Council resolved to adopt the Highway Asset Management Plan which included an undertaking to present an Annual Statement Report on the condition and performance of the highway network and to include investment options, and their implications on the asset condition, within the report. An Annual Statement Report was subsequently presented in 2019.

The Annual Statement Report 2020 includes an overview of the highway network and provides detailed commentary on the following three key highway asset areas:

- Highways (carriageways, footways and cycleways)
- Bridges and Structures
- Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals

For each asset category the report details its condition, how its condition has changed since the last report and how it will change into the future depending on funding scenarios which are set out within the report.

The Annual Statement Report summarises that the Highway network in Carmarthenshire is the second largest in Wales and extends to over 3500Km. Although much of the County is predominantly rural in nature it nevertheless has the third highest level of traffic in Wales.

In common with highway authorities around the country Carmarthenshire has a backlog of highway maintenance and that backlog is unfortunately growing. This has necessitated a risk-based approach to its management to focus on the higher priorities for resource allocation.

The highway network carries a range of road users from cyclists and pedestrians through to 44 tonne heavy goods vehicles and operates through weather conditions ranging from hot sunny summers to sub-zero winters with snow and ice. All of these impact on the fabric of the highway asset and continuous investment is required to ensure it is fit for purpose. Carmarthenshire has one of the lower quartile rates of spend per kilometre on highways and roads for Wales.

Welsh Government grant funding (£5.2M over three years 2018-21) has topped-up the authority's budgets and since the last report we have resurfaced 34Km of roads. This has kept our roads relatively stable with a slight deterioration overall. However, 2020/21 is the final year of grant funding so investment levels will dip significantly if there is no further grant. Unless the level of investment and revenue budget is sustained there will be deterioration of our roads and this is

modelled within the report.

The authority's footway and cycle network exceed 1000km in length, investment in maintenance has been modest and is mainly focused on local priorities.

Our highways are supported by almost 1,900 structures which includes around 800 bridges, 560 retaining walls 459 large culverts and 49 footbridges. Welsh Government grant funding has helped address storm damaged areas particularly along the A484 where new retaining walls have been required in a number of locations. The number of sub-standard structures has decreased from 56 to 54 and these are being carefully monitored to ensure they remain safe for public use.

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. Less efficient street lighting units have been converted to LED and since the last report the Public Lighting Team have worked with Town and Community Councils to introduce LED lighting units in Community Lights. This project was developed on an invest to save basis to reduce carbon emissions, lower energy costs and improved light quality. The project was completed in the summer of 2020.

The Public Lighting Team have also introduced new technology to enable efficient mobile working so that lighting surveys, checks and works can be recorded electronically in place of the previous paper-based system. There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team. There are 1,662 older steel lighting columns which are beyond their service life and should be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. There is also 304Km of underground electrical cabling which is ageing and is not being replaced. An investment programme is required to renew this cabling to prevent cable faults, power outages and to ensure public safety.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES -Highway Asset Management Plan: Annual Statement Report 2020

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: S Pilliner		Head of Highways & Transportation				
Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES
Finance The Annual Statement Report 2020 details the implications of various funding scenarios which will be subject to future budget setting and grant availability.						
Risk Management Issues The Highways Asset Management Plan adopts a risk based approach to managing the highway network and details of this are set out within the Highway Asset Management Plan.						
Physical Assets The Highway Asset Management Plan sets out the Council's approach in managing the highway asset and relates this to national, regional and county objectives. The Annual Statement Report 2020 provides information on the current condition of the asset and sets out how the asset condition has changed and will change in the future depending on funding scenarios.						

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below	
Signed: S G Pilliner	Head of Highways & Transportation
1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A 2. Local Member(s) - N/A 3. Community / Town Council - N/A 4. Relevant Partners - N/A 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A	
EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THERE ARE NONE

HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2020

Environment Directorate,
Highways and Transport
Division

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Page 9

Contents

Section 1 – Introduction	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Challenges	3
1.3 Achievements	4
1.4 Highways	5
1.5 Structures	6
1.6 Lighting	7
Section 2 – Highways	8
2.1 Highways Status Report	8
2.2 Ash Die-back	10
2.3 Drainage surveys	11
2.4 New Technology – Condition and inventory surveys	12
2.5 Highways Condition	13
2.6 Highways Investment Options	16
2.7 Highways Summary	19
2.8 Footways and Cycleways	20
2.9 Footways and Cycleways Summary	21
Section 3 – Bridges and Structures	22
3.1 Bridges and Structures Introduction	22
3.2 Bridges and Structures Status	24
3.3 Bridges and Structures Summary	29
Section 4 – Lighting	30
4.1. Lighting Introduction	30
4.2 Street Lighting Asset	31
4.3 Illuminated Signs and Traffic Signals Asset	32

Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The highway network plays a vital role in facilitating the safe and efficient movement of goods and people. It underpins not just our economy but also the fabric and wellbeing of our communities. In common with highway authorities around the country the highway network in Carmarthenshire does however have a maintenance backlog and this is recognised through the HAMP where a risk-based approach is adopted in line with the recommended Code of Practice.

Going forward a HAMP Maintenance Manual will be developed to provide a specific focus on areas such as Network Hierarchies and Safety Inspection Policies.

Maintaining the highway network in a serviceable condition remains a challenge, particularly when considering the external influences which combine to undermine our roads. Severe weather events can significantly undermine our highways and issues such as the COVID pandemic challenge the logistical operation of maintaining our highways. Despite these challenges there has also been considerable progress made in how we manage our asset.

1.2 Challenges

The County has been subject to a number of significant weather events during 2019-20. Although Storm Callum caused widespread damage in 2018, particularly along the A484, there have been a number of subsequent major storms which have brought down trees, flooded roads and damaged the fabric of our highway infrastructure. These included:

- Storm Lorenzo 3rd October 2019
- Storm Hannah 26th to 27th April 2019
- Storm Ciara 8th to 9th February 2020
- Storm Dennis 15th to 16th February 2020
- Storm Ellen 19th to 21st August 2020
- Storm Francis 25th August 2020
- Storm Aled 2nd to 4th October 2020

It is considered that the frequency of these events is increasing, and this will have an impact on the highway network.

COVID 19 has clearly changed the way we all go about our daily lives on a personal level and has impacted all aspects of society. The County Council is a primary responder and a large part of this duty includes managing the highway and transport networks to ensure that vital services and support systems are maintained through difficult times. Although this has challenged our own logistical operations, we have

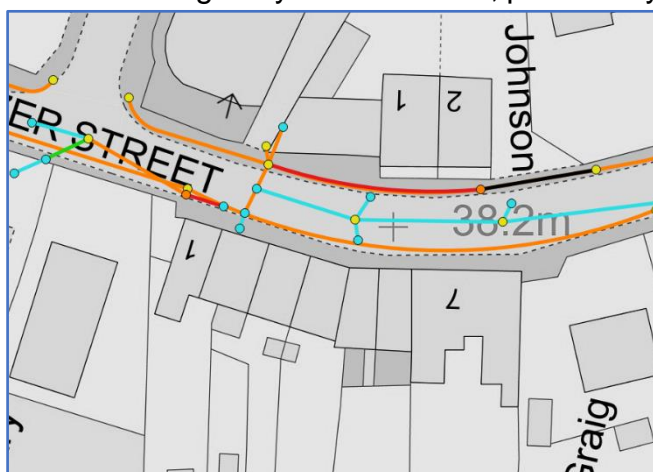


nevertheless reacted to support regional COVID responses and major incidents such as the oil tanker derailment at Llangennech.

Ash Dieback is an additional challenge for our highway teams. Our 3500Km highway network is predominantly rural in nature and many highway verges and boundaries contain ash trees with the majority likely to be killed by the disease. Our highway teams have undertaken specific inspections of 581Km of A and B Class roads which has identified 2,512 diseased highway trees and 10,392 private trees requiring attention. Despite the COVID pandemic we have continued with surveys of 1155Km of C Class road, identifying 218 highway trees and 14386 private trees which have advanced ash dieback. A major tree felling programme is in place and follow-up surveys planned along with surveys of our unclassified highway network.

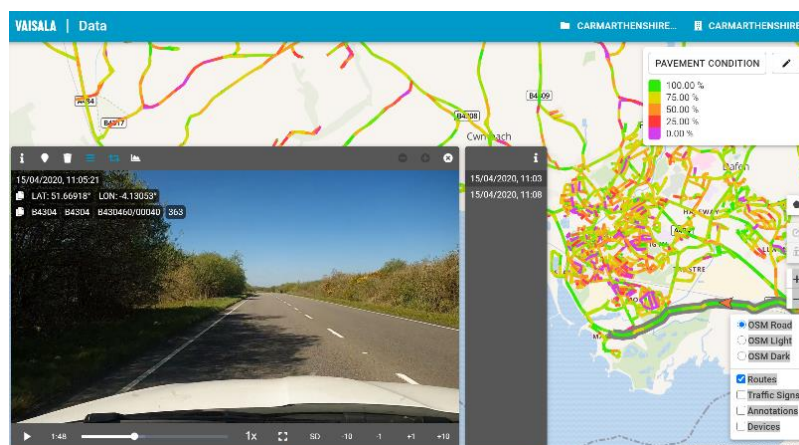
1.3 Achievements

Highways and Transportation has been successful in securing Welsh Government funding for the repair of a number of structures damaged by Storm Callum, particularly along the A484 north of Carmarthen where there is an extensive repair programme in place. A drainage survey system has been put in place with a pilot project undertaken to clean and survey sections of the most flood prone parts of the highway network. The A484 has been a particular focus. The study maps the drainage asset and identifies problems which may contribute towards flooding for proactive attention.



New map-based technology has also been introduced to undertake surveys of the highway network using an adapted smartphone. The surveys were undertaken through the summer months when other works were restricted to build up an inventory of the highway network.

The data collected utilises artificial intelligence to assess highway condition, map traffic signs and road markings.



To date 96% of the highway network has been surveyed and survey data can be access remotely by staff which reduces the need for site visits.

1.4 Highways

The road, or carriageway asset, is by far the largest asset in terms of operational importance and investment value. Over recent years traffic volumes have continued to increase along with customer expectation. Increased levels of usage combined with the effects of more frequent adverse weather events can accelerate the deterioration of road surfaces. During the first few months of the COVID lockdown we saw dramatically reduced traffic volumes. However, this was short lived and whilst travel patterns have adjusted there has been a gradual return to the original volumes. Heavy goods vehicle journeys, which cause the most significant stress on the fabric of the highway are less likely to have reduced during this period as essential supply chains were maintained.



Carmarthenshire's highway network provides the vital infrastructure which supports and facilitates connectivity within our County and with the rest of Wales. Our road system ensures businesses continue to operate, people get to work, food reaches shelves, children get to school and hospitals. It is difficult to think of many activities in the community or of many services delivered by the County Council which are not at some stage reliant on our highway network.

Ensuring this network remains fit for purpose and provides for the safe and efficient movement of goods and people is an essential component in maintaining a healthy, vibrant and prosperous Carmarthenshire.

1.5 Structures

A number of bridge strengthening projects are progressing this year including Doethie bridge near Rhandirmwyn and Berem Bridge Pontyberem. The authority has a significant number (54) of sub-standard structures due to assessed weight capacity which are regularly monitored to maintain safe operation. In addition to on-going maintenance of existing structures stock the number of failed edge of highway supports is on the increase due to severe weather events, reduced highway drainage maintenance and the additional impact from increased traffic volumes and larger agricultural vehicles on the highway network.

- The Authority has 54 bridges where carrying capacity is less than the required EU loading requirement. The current rate of funding available for bridge strengthening is below that of what is required to make inroads in addressing the problem at hand. In accordance with Technical Standards, monitoring alone of sub-standard structures should be for a defined period of time. Should sufficient funding not be forthcoming, then the number of structural weight restrictions on the highway network will increase.
- The Authority is faced with an increasing number of highway support issues along the highway network which are closely associated with adverse weather conditions, particularly heavy rainfall.
- Immediately following the severe weather and flooding due to Storm Callum a programme of special inspections was carried out on main rivers and structures vulnerable to scour. No issues were identified during these initial reactive inspections.
- A large proportion of the bridge stock, especially those located on fast flowing rivers, are susceptible to scour. Scour will be identified during the inspection programme, and remedial works undertaken as required. Level 1 scour assessments are planned to proceed this winter and a Level 2 assessment programme will be developed subject to approved funding case.

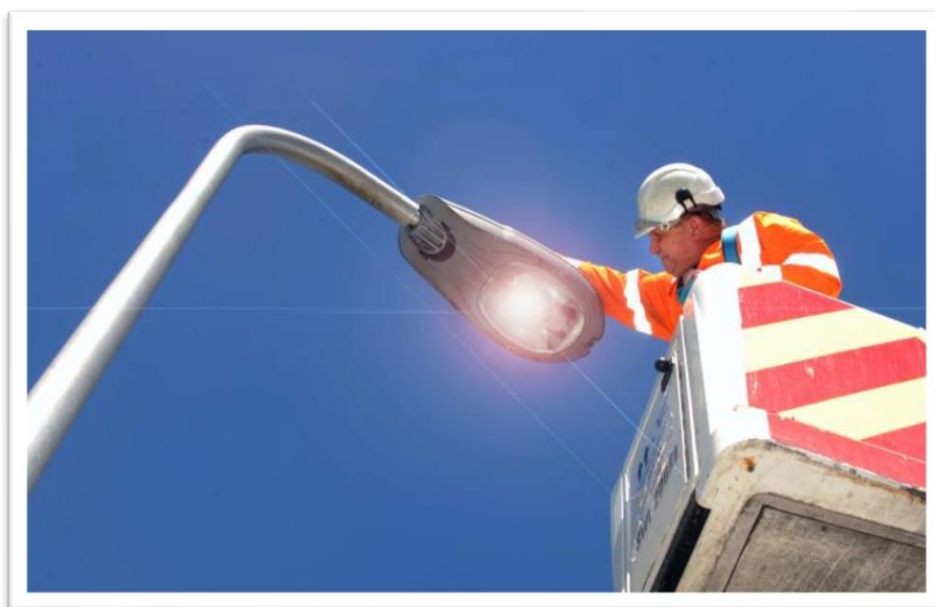
1.6 Lighting

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. Since the last Annual Statement, the Public Lighting Team have worked in partnership with Town and Community Councils to introduce LED lighting units in Community Lights. This project was developed on an invest to save basis to reduce carbon emissions, lowered energy costs and improved light quality. The project was completed in March 2020.

The Public Lighting Team have also introduced new technology to enable mobile working so that lighting surveys, checks and works can be recorded electronically in place of the previous paper-based system.

There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team:

- A large number of older steel lighting columns are life expired. Regular inspections help to reduce the risk of failure and where structural issues are identified they will be removed immediately.
- There are around 304Km of underground electric cables supplying lighting units which are deteriorating, and this is leading to an increasing number of cable faults and power outages.



Section 2 – Highways

2.1 Highways Status Report



The Transportation and Highways Division has been able to maintain key services this year despite the lockdown restrictions. A large programme of road refurbishment has been delivered and by early November we will have resurfaced 22km of priority sections of road. In addition, we surface dressed 63km of road providing essential surface restoration and preventative maintenance treatment. A significant portion (44%) of this has been funded by Welsh Government road refurbishment grant. There is no indication of grant funding for 2021 and our road refurbishment programmes in 2021 will be significantly reduced as a result and in addition to a £300k reduction in revenue funding from PBB's. We continue to have an overall lower than average level of investment in our Highways and transport, ranking 18th out of 22 authorities and remain in the lower quartile across Wales.

Based on known funding levels, the length of road estimated to be in a poor condition is predicted to increase from 9% to 28% over the next 20 years.

Key Facts

Carmarthenshire has the **second largest** highway network in Wales (3482 Km of highway) and is more than double the Welsh average of 1578km

We have the **third highest traffic volume** in Wales - in 2018 the wales average was 1.33 billion vehicle km/per year and Carmarthenshire were third at 2.06 billion (Cardiff 3.0 and RCT at 2.15 were highest)

In 2018/19 our **spend on highways and transport was ranked 18th out of 22** authorities on money spent per km on highways and transport services. £4620/km compared to a Welsh average of £10524/km.

(* data from StatsWales.gov.wales)

There have been a number of particular points of note over the last year (2019-20) regarding our highway network. Work has continued in delivering projects funded by the £5.2M road refurbishment grant from Welsh Government (2018-21) and the £3.1M grant in March 2019 for remedial works following Storm Callum. A further £936k has been secured from Welsh Government to address storm damage highway infrastructure and work is progressing on a number of schemes.

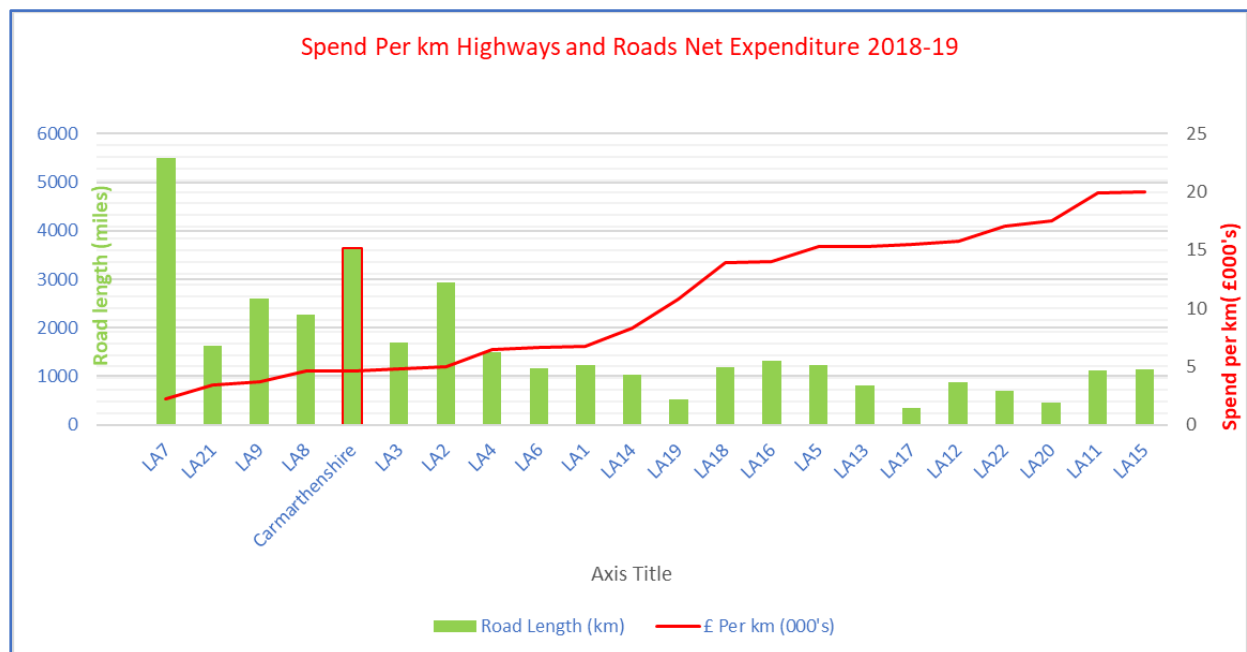
Carmarthenshire successfully hosted stage 6 of the Women’s Tour of Britain in June 2019.

Our 3500km highway network is subject to many external influences which cause the asset to deteriorate such as weather impacts and traffic loading. There is a backlog of carriageway maintenance works in Carmarthenshire equating to £36M. It is currently estimated that £6M/year needs to be invested in our roads to maintain the current condition level. Our current investment consists of £0.6M of County Council funding which has been bolstered through grants of £5.2M over a 3-year period from Welsh Government. The impact of current investment levels and investment options are set out within this report.

The latest available condition survey data for 2018-19 show that Carmarthenshire **remains in the lower quartile** for road condition.

Road Conditions: Percentage of A,B and C Roads in poor condition (18-19 data)		
A Roads	5.2%	Ranked 20th (out of 22 authorities in Wales)
B Roads	4.2%	Ranked 10th (out of 22 authorities in Wales)
C Roads	12.5%	Ranked 17th (out of 22 authorities in Wales)

These performance figures are directly related to investment levels in Carmarthenshire. The graph below shows an investment comparison with other local authorities in Wales.



The impacts of different investment levels are discussed in this report. The Welsh Government has provided additional grant funding in recent years amounting to £5.2M over the period 2018-21.

Table 1. Estimated carriageway maintenance need based on measured road condition

Road Class	A	B	C	U	Total	
Network Length (km)	249.6	331.5	1283.8	1617.1	3482	
Av. Width (m)	7.3	6	5	3		
Surfacing rate (£)	12	10	10	10		
Surface dressing Rate (£)	5	4	2.5	2.5		
% Red (>100) Resurfacing	5.4	4.7	12.5	10		Condition
% Amber 1 (80-100) Resurfacing	5.5	5.4	9.3	3.8		
% Amber 2 (40-80) Surface treatment	26.5	23.5	28.8	21.5		
Total	37.4	33.6	50.6	35.3		
Area Red	98392.32	93483	802375	485130		One off costs
£ (resurfacing cost)	£1,180,708	£934,830	£8,023,750	£4,851,300	£14,990,588	
Area Amber 1	100214.4	107406	596967	184349.4		
£ (Resurfacing cost)	£1,202,573	£1,074,060	£5,969,670	£1,843,494	£10,089,797	
Area Amber 2	482851.2	467415	1848672	1043029.5		
£ (Surface treatment cost)	£2,414,256	£1,869,660	£4,621,680	£2,607,574	£11,513,170	
Sum Total	£4,797,537	£3,878,550	£18,615,100	£9,302,368	£36,593,554	

The above table indicates that to rectify all areas of highway requiring remedial surfacing works would cost £36,593,554.

2.2 Ash Die-back

Ash trees across Europe are under attack by a pathogen that significantly affects the structural strength of ash trees. The authority has established a management plan to respond to this and the Transportation and Highways Division has taken on a key role in managing trees on and alongside the highway. In 2019 highway inspection teams undertook surveys of all A and B roads across the county (581km) and identified 2512 Highway trees and 10326 private trees requiring immediate attention due to the level of the disease. Works packages have been developed using specialist contractors to remove hazardous trees on the public highway. Trees on private land are subject to notice and appropriate action by the landowner.

Despite the COVID pandemic we have continued with surveys on our C Class network and surveyed 1155 km (90%) of C roads, identifying 218 highway trees and 14386 private trees.

This programme is an on-going risk for the authority and is likely to require continued survey and funding as the impact of the disease is understood. Whilst the majority of the trees are on private land, as the highway authority we have a duty to identify potential risks affecting the safe use of the highway, and we work with landowners to reduce these risks.

2.3 Drainage surveys

A pilot survey was undertaken early in 2020 by a specialist survey team using Quickcam survey techniques in order to record detailed location information of our drainage assets above and below ground and also provide a condition rating. The survey records the service level (ability to carry water) and its structural condition. In total we surveyed around 15km of the A484 north of Carmarthen. The results are being assessed however initial findings indicate some significant issues. Further surveys are planned for this year and this information will be used to develop funding bids to establish a pro-active programme of survey and repair.



Investment will be required to maintain serviceability and efficient functioning of our drainage assets.

Of the 15km surveyed, we recorded almost 22km of linear drainage (mainly pipes) and 1081 point items (gullies and manholes). The survey provides a detailed map along with video and photo information.

The surveys identified:

- 450m of pipe as not fit for purpose.
- 1126m of pipe blocked or in an unsafe condition



Examples of blocked pipes

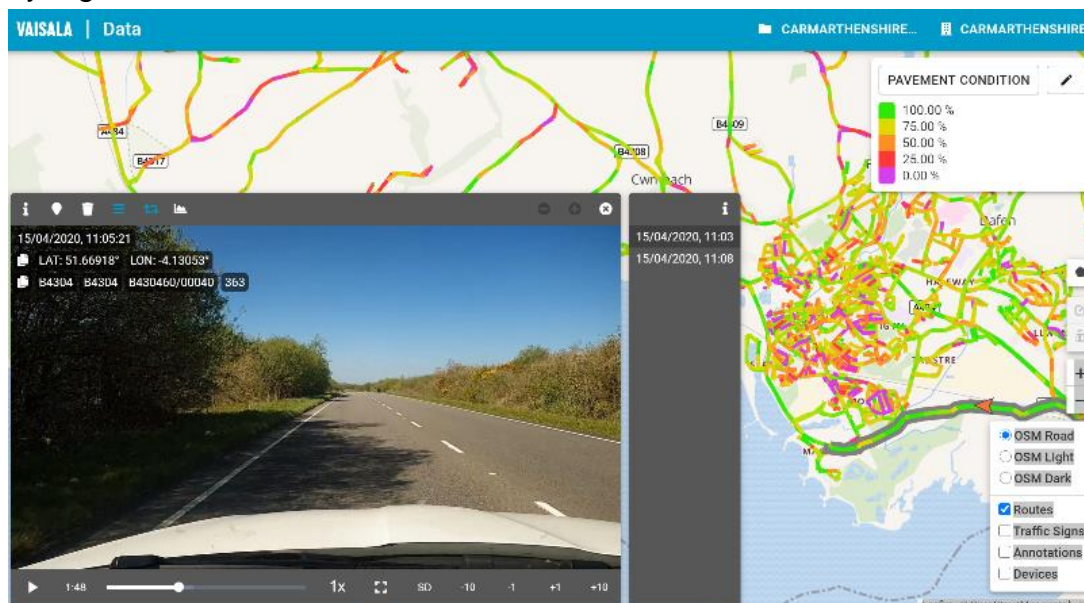
Using the data from these surveys to extrapolate condition it could be estimated that there are the following lengths of drainage systems requiring investment on the A&B network alone.

- **Estimated 17.4km of pipe not fit for purpose.**
- **Estimated 43.6km of pipe blocked or in an unsafe condition**

Further surveys will provide a more accurate estimate however it is clear that funding needs to be identified to carry out programmed cleansing of drainage systems in addition to traditional gully emptying.

2.4 New Technology – Condition and inventory surveys

In March 2020, we commissioned a new technology system which enabled us to undertake surveys of the highway network using an adapted smartphone. This was part of a project to improve our inventory and asset data. The project was supported by a growth bid fund.



During the lockdown period and throughout the summer we have redeployed staff that were unable to undertake their day job and also taken advantage of quieter roads to undertake these surveys. To date we have surveyed 96% of our network, a staggering 3407km. This information provides us with an up to date video which is map based. The artificial intelligence in the system carries out a condition analysis of the highway network to produce a coarse visual assessment (CVI). In addition the system recognises and categories highway signs which can assist us with managing our assets. To date over 22,000 signs have been recorded and categorised.

As a result, we have been able to review and assess issues and projects on the highway network by having access to current information. This has been very helpful with the travel restrictions and going forward provides opportunities for efficient ways of working.

2.5 Highways Condition

This section sets out the condition trend and provides commentary on the asset performance and investment levels.

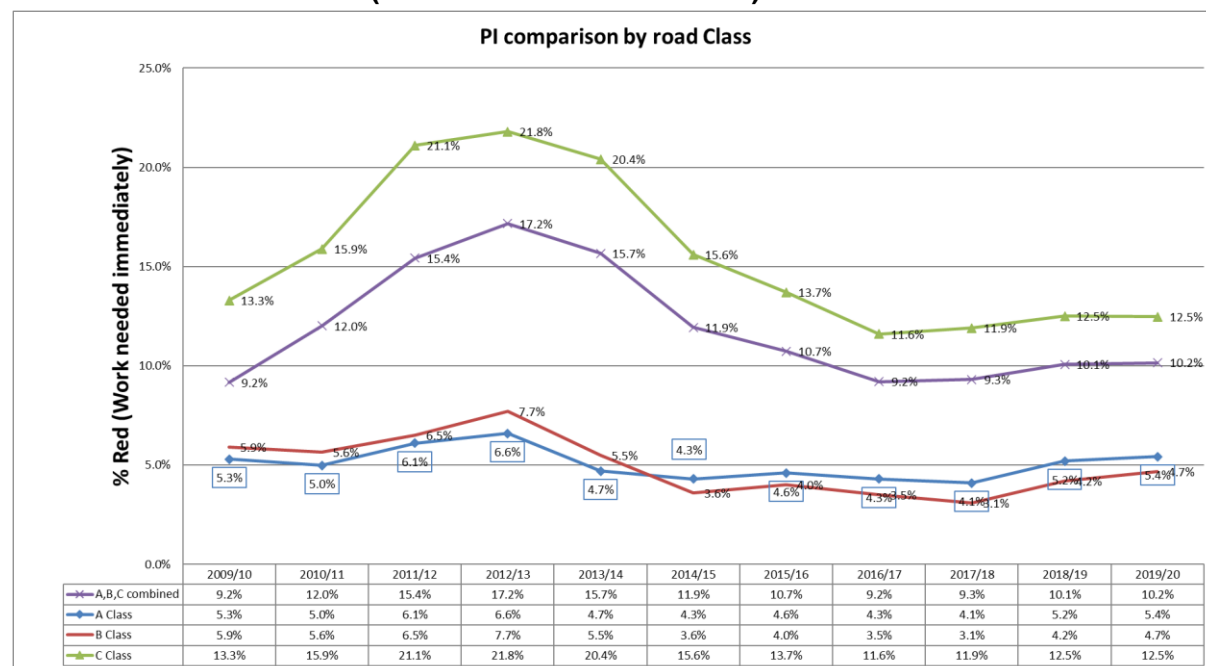
The current Welsh Government refurbishment grant (2018-20) has funded a number of surfacing schemes around the County which were prioritised to target areas of greatest risk.

In 2019 we resurfaced 34km of an estimated 350km which is in a poor condition (Red)

The condition of the County road network over the 10-year period of analysis is one of minor deterioration overall. The condition of A and B Class roads has remained relatively stable over the period although there is a continued trend of decline despite recent investment. Compared across Wales our road condition is in the lower quartile.

Asset Group: Carriageways (Roads)

Measured road condition (PI – Performance Indicator)



The sharply changing condition indicators between 2009-2015 illustrate the impact of a period of significant flooding and successive harsh winters followed by increased investment in road maintenance in 2012-15 (Local Government Borrowing Initiative).

Commentary	<p>Our carriageways are maintained through a combination of corrective and preventative treatments and we use the network hierarchy to prioritise investment within budget resources. Early investment in preventative treatments provides a more cost-effective approach and decreases the need for more expensive reactive maintenance. We require additional investment to fund a pro-active approach so that road treatments can be carried out road surfaces deteriorate beyond an economic threshold.</p>		
Expenditure Summary by category 2019-20	Cost Category	£	Output
	Planned Maintenance - Corrective	£2,085,757	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 resurfacing schemes provided. • 25km of new surface along with carriageway patching works.
	Planned Maintenance - Preventative	£1,764,454	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 surface dressing schemes provided. • 57km of new surface treatment.
	Routine Cyclic Maintenance	£4,069,218	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclic gangs & routine works, drainage, sign cleaning, grass cutting
	Routine – Reactive Repairs (emergency)	£540,557	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pothole repairs etc.
	Routine – Reactive Repairs (non-emergency)	£401,953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage and surface repairs, sign repairs
	Routine – Inspection & Survey	£276,079	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset management & condition surveys
	Operating Costs	£903,769	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Winter Maintenance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above cost categories are based on groupings developed in accordance with national reporting requirements and to inform budget planning. • The overall length of road treated in 2019-20 was 82 km, which is 2.3% of the highway network. This equates to a treatment period of over 42 years on average per section of road. 		
Drainage	<p>The lifespan of our highway network is greatly influenced by having a good system of drainage to take surface water off the road and this also has important highway safety benefits.</p>	<p>In 2019 we maintained our electronic recording system to capture details of each gully cleaned, the levels of silt in the gully and any defects found. This helps inform decisions regarding the</p>	

In the urban areas there will normally be a system of road gullies with connecting carrier pipes taking surface water to the nearest available watercourse.

In the rural areas the drainage system will be a combination of road gullies and grips (channels through the highway verge) which are often connected to roadside ditches and again normally discharge to the nearest available watercourse.

Around the highway network we currently have over 55,000 road gullies which we clean annually on a scheduled basis. Similarly, our aim is to recut grips on an annual basis prior to the winter season.

cleaning operation to target areas of greatest need.

In common with other local highway authorities the inventory of the interconnecting drainage pipes lacks detail. Recent growth funding has provided a pilot survey carried out early 2020. and cleaning works prioritised towards high risk areas of the network and known flooding areas. The data is summarised in this report. The data will provide a better understanding of the drainage network, the identification of problems and minor improvements, all of which will help reduce further flood risk.



Highway at Pontweli during Storm Callum

2.6 Highways Investment Options

Road assets deteriorate slowly over time and consequently a long-term view needs to be taken. This report includes 20-year forecasts to enable decisions to be taken with an understanding of their long-term impact. The investments analysis for 2020-40 includes the recent Welsh Government grant which is in its final year (2020) and proposed PBB reductions.



A number of budget scenarios showing the effect of investment on the carriageway condition performance indicator have been carried out.

Condition forecasting methodology

This has been carried out using a forecast model developed by the County Surveyors Society Wales CSSW Road Asset management project. The tool is intended for use by Welsh authorities to assist in Asset Management and budget planning. The results are considered realistic and demonstrate the impact of a continued reduction in real terms investment in the highway network, against a backdrop of increasing traffic volumes and user expectation. Reductions in preventative maintenance are leading to higher levels of reactive repair placing further pressure on the reducing revenue resources. Unplanned works are by nature less economical and increase safety risk for road users and increased risks to the authority due to and are less environmentally friendly due to wasted resources.

The calculations are based on depreciation of the existing highway network and using known treatment costs and current condition values from SCANNER data. The condition indicator used in the examples is a combined indicator across all road classes and provides an indication of the likely effect of current budget levels on actual carriageway condition across the County.

The following options show the predicted levels of road condition related to each funding scenario. There are 3 investment options that have been considered for comparison:

Road condition indicators

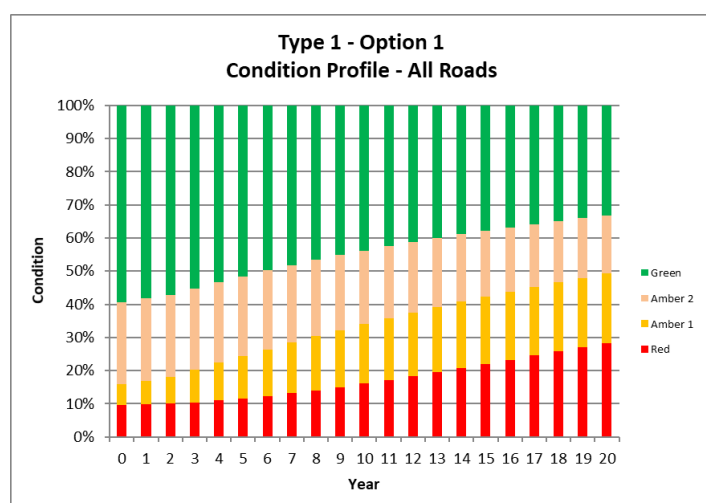
A description of the condition indicators and potential maintenance treatments are as follows:

- **Green** – Good condition - No planned works are anticipated in the next 3 years
- **Amber 2** – Preventative maintenance, typically surface dressing on the 3-5 year programme
- **Amber 1** – (Imminent Red) Works should be planned by Year 3 – part Preventative/Corrective maintenance i.e. Resurfacing/Surface dressing/patching
- **Red** – Maintenance work needed now – Corrective maintenance i.e. Road Resurfacing

Options summary

Option 1 - Existing budget – funding including WG Grant of £1.5M in 19/20 and £2.1m 20/21, County Capital £600k/annum and Revenue £1300k/annum, reducing in 21/22 by £1.5M (end of WG Grant) and 300k PBB revenue reduction.

Funding/Year	19/20	20/21	21/22 onwards
Welsh Government	1.5	1.5	0
CCC	1.9	1.9	1.6
Total invested	3.4	3.4	1.6



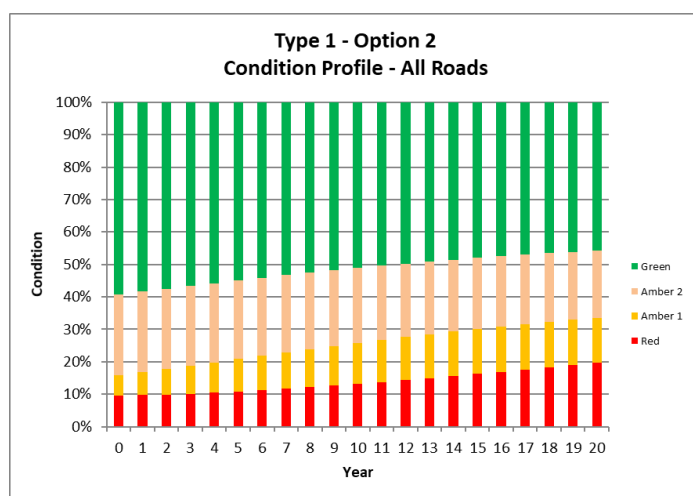
The percentage of road in poor condition (Red) increases from 9% (313km) to 16% (556km) at 10 years and 28% (974km) at 20 yrs.

The percentage of road in good condition (Green) falls from 59% to 43% at 10 years and to 33% at 20 years.

Option 2 – Modest option - Modelled investment of £3.4M/annum

This maintains funding at current levels including the additional £1.5M grant, £600k County Capital & Revenue £1300k (assumes WG grant continuing).

Funding/Year	19/20	20/21	21/22 onwards
Welsh Government	1.5	1.5	1.5
CCC	1.9	1.9	1.9
Total invested	3.4	3.4	3.4



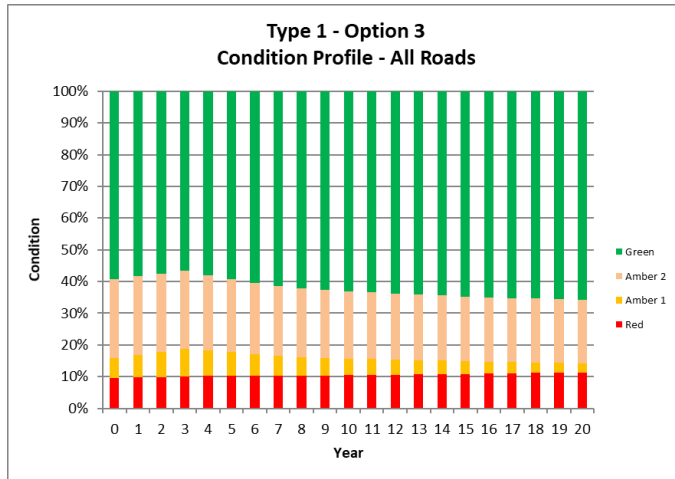
The percentage of Red increases from 9% (313km) to 13% (452km) at 10 years and to 20% (696km) at 20 yrs.

The percentage of Green falls from 59% to 51% at 10 years and to 45% at 20 years. This represents a reduction of 557km of highway in a good condition.

Option 3 – Steady-state Option -. Modelled investment of £6M/annum.

This option maintains the asset in a steady state condition with a gradual improvement. This requires an increase to the existing budgets in year 4 to **£6M**. This is most likely to be funded by Capital £5m and Revenue £1m.

Funding/Year	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23 onwards
Welsh Government	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
CCC	1.9	1.9	1.9	4.5
Total invested (£m)	3.4	3.4	3.4	6.0



The percentage of Red increases marginally from 9% to 10% at 10 years and 11% in 20 yrs.

The percentage of Green increases from 59% to 63% at 10 years and to 66% at 20 years.

This provides for an almost steady state. A modest improvement is predicted in the percentage of

highway in good condition with the length of roads in poor condition remaining stable.

2.7 Highways Summary

The management of our highway network is a key component in delivering many of our corporate objectives. There is an adage that a ‘stitch in time saves nine’ and this has relevance to highway maintenance.

Initial capital investment in preventative surface treatments provide a very cost-effective way of prolonging the life of the carriageway. This reduces the necessity for more expensive resurfacing treatments at a later stage. It also decreases reactive carriageway repairs such as pothole repairs and relieves pressure on revenue budgets and resources. However, such an approach does require initial capital funding.

The County Council currently invests £1.6M in surfacing and surface dressing work and this has been bolstered by Welsh Government Grant of £5.2M (2018-2020) which has significantly improved our rate of investment. The carriageway condition data does confirm a long-standing backlog of highway maintenance and demonstrates the necessity to invest in our highway network to prevent future deterioration. Potential PPB savings of £300k will have a further impact on road conditions unless grant funding is available to offset this budget reduction.

2.8 Footways and Cycleways

Asset Group: Footways and Cycleways							
	Statistics					Commentary	
Footways	Footway Length by Material (km)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmarthenshire's footway/cycleway network is extensive at over 1000km. • CSS Wales is developing a National Code of Practice for a footway hierarchy. • We will develop a programme of headline condition data in line with the CSS Wales HAMP procedure. • Footway inspections are currently carried out at regular frequencies alongside road inspections. 	
		Bituminous	PCC Slabs	Precast blocks	Concrete		Total
	Total	869	48	6.5	12.8		936
	<p>The predominant material for our footways is bituminous macadam.</p> <p>Our footway resurfacing programmes are based on local priorities with budgets allocated in line with the extent of footway.</p> <p>Reactive repairs to footways in 2019-20 cost £22,062 and were funded through revenue budgets.</p> <p>In addition to reactive repairs, in 2019-20 we invested £200,000 of Capital funding into a programme of footway refurbishment works, with an additional £100k in 2020. Additional linkages with Active Travel funding and Safer Routes in Communities is also being utilised to improve routes for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>						
Cycleways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On road cycle-lanes – 2.6km • Dedicated cycle-tracks/shared use paths – 23.3km • On road cycle routes (e.g. National Cycle Network) – 126km <p>These lengths are estimated based on current confirmed responsibilities for the highways service.</p> <p>Increasing cycling numbers and networks will require continued investment.</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cycleway network is currently being formulated and formal inspection regimes introduced. This will support the County Council's cycling ambitions • Repair and service level targets will be established in line with National recommendations 	

Asset Group: Footways and Cycleways		
	Statistics	Commentary
Key Issues	Corporate funding has been provided to support off-road cycleways which will help to maintain these routes. Funding for on-road cycle routes remains a challenge.	
Current Strategies	<p>The council's current strategy is to keep the footway asset in a condition which is safe and does not hinder the customer's journey. We do this by means of regular safety inspections and a prioritised reactive repair system.</p> <p>A more pro-active programme of preventative maintenance and refurbishment will be developed, subject to approval, as part of our maintenance manual (Part 4 of the HAMP).</p>	

2.9 Footways and Cycleways Summary

Our footway and cycleway networks play an important role in facilitating sustainable modes of travel and directly support the Active Travel agenda. The County Council has set out its ambition of being the cycling hub of Wales and the HAMP has an important role in supporting our adopted cycling strategy.

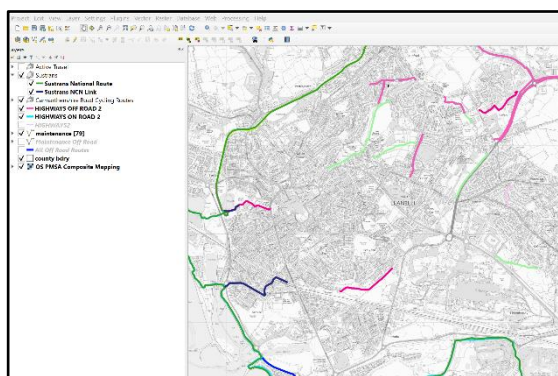
Footways are currently inspected on a regular basis alongside carriageway inspections and a methodology is being developed for cycleway inspections.



A wide review of known cycle routes is underway and proposals are being developed to develop a hierarchy led management plan and to improve consistency in the inspection and maintenance across the cycle network.

A programme of work is underway on a number of key routes across the county and around 170k will be invested in maintenance of cycle routes.

In 2019/20 we were able to introduce a £200k investment into footway maintenance and an additional £100k in 2020. This is important to continue and build on investment in footways, and in cycleways, to realise our corporate objectives. Current Capital budgets do not support this. A pro-active capital investment in preventative treatments can reduce the demand for less economical reactive maintenance which pressurises our revenue budgets.



Section 3 – Bridges and Structures

3.1 Bridges and Structures Introduction

Carmarthenshire has an extensive highway network, the second largest in Wales, and providing vital support to that network there are some 1872 structures. Whilst our 799 highway bridges and 49 footbridges may be easily appreciated there are also 560 retaining walls with a cumulative length of around 19Km, 459 culverts and 5 subways which all provide a largely unseen but nevertheless key role in supporting the highway network. These structures have been built over a wide timespan and vary considerably in the materials and construction methods. 55 of the structures are listed.

These structures are relied upon to remain in service year after year and accommodate changes in traffic and vehicle loadings. All structures are inspected and assessed on a scheduled basis in accordance with National standards to ensure that the inspection regime provides timely, accurate and appropriately detailed information on asset condition and performance. Safety defects are identified and addressed in a prioritised manner, and the data informs effective maintenance management and planning of our highway structures.

There are currently 54 bridges which have been assessed as sub-standard (reduced to 54 from 56 in 2019 following further assessment of 2 structures) in terms of carrying capacity, of which 9 are weight restricted for some classes of heavy vehicles. Where required, regular monitoring inspections are being carried out and all bridges are managed in accordance with strict technical standards to keep these structures in service and maintain their safe operation. It is estimated that the cost of strengthening these sub-standard structures is of the order of £8.8 million. It is also estimated that the maintenance backlog on highway structures is circa £5.5 million.

As part of our review of practices to comply with recommendations of the 2018 Code of Practice, CSS Wales are developing accreditation for Structures inspections. Our inspection team are in the process of under-going a competency assessment to ensure our inspections are carried out to the required standards.

Revenue funding in 2019 has remained steady and allows reactive and routine maintenance works to be undertaken. There is however a significant backlog of repair and preventative works which should be considered for funding. Planned PBB reductions of £24k in 2021 will not support improvements to maintenance regimes, which are largely reactive.

Capital funding of £834k in 2019 enabled the following output:

- New Footbridge at Pontyates
- Highway support retaining wall A484 near Pante, Bronwydd
- Completion of Pantyglyn retaining wall, Llanybydder
- Design work and land charges for strengthening programme schemes



A484 Pante Retaining Wall

A programme of design and construction is underway aiming to reduce the number of sub-standard structures. Notable schemes commencing in 2020 include:

- Railway Inn Llanpumsaint - Bridge strengthening
- Doethie Bridge, Rhandirmwyn – Bridge replacement
- Mynyddygarreg Bridge – Bridge replacement
- Berem Bridge, Pontyberem – Bridge replacement
- Sawdde Culvert, Llangadog – Upgrade works

The following section provides detail on the status of our structure's assets, their condition and investment options for their continued maintenance.

3.2 Bridges and Structures Status

Asset Group: Highway Structures

	Statistics	Commentary																																				
The Asset	<p style="text-align: center;">CCC Highway Structures Inventory by Road Type</p> <table border="1"> <caption>CCC Highway Structures Inventory by Road Type</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Road Type</th> <th>Subways</th> <th>Culvert 0.9m < Span < 1.5m</th> <th>Retaining Walls > 1.5m height</th> <th>Foot bridges</th> <th>Highway Bridges: Span > 1.5m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Listed structures</td> <td>54</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Road Type unclassified</td> <td>231</td> <td>160</td> <td>169</td> <td>41</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Road type B & C</td> <td>445</td> <td>254</td> <td>245</td> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Road type A</td> <td>123</td> <td>45</td> <td>146</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>total number</td> <td>799</td> <td>459</td> <td>560</td> <td>49</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Road Type	Subways	Culvert 0.9m < Span < 1.5m	Retaining Walls > 1.5m height	Foot bridges	Highway Bridges: Span > 1.5m	Listed structures	54	0	1	0	0	Road Type unclassified	231	160	169	41	0	Road type B & C	445	254	245	7	0	Road type A	123	45	146	1	0	total number	799	459	560	49	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge inventory is stored in the WDM Asset Management System (WDM) • There is a high confidence in the core structural inventory data and additional data is updated as part of the routine General Inspection regime of structures. • Growth in the structures' asset has been minimal in the last five years. The increase in numbers is related to new highway retaining structures to address highway support issues coupled with the construction of new structures
	Road Type	Subways	Culvert 0.9m < Span < 1.5m	Retaining Walls > 1.5m height	Foot bridges	Highway Bridges: Span > 1.5m																																
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Inspections	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Inspection Statistics</th> <th>No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of bridges requiring principal inspections – 6 years</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of principal inspections scheduled to be undertaken in 19/20</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of principal inspections on time</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of structures requiring general inspections – 2 years</td> <td>1872</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of planned general inspections</td> <td>936</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of general inspections on time</td> <td>778</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Inspection Statistics	No.	Number of bridges requiring principal inspections – 6 years	42	Number of principal inspections scheduled to be undertaken in 19/20	7	Number of principal inspections on time	7	Number of structures requiring general inspections – 2 years	1872	Number of planned general inspections	936	Number of general inspections on time	778	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 structures have been identified that require a Principal Inspection. The remainder of the structures are fully inspected through General Inspections. • Principal inspections suspended in 2020 due to COVID restrictions 																						
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Asset Group: Highway Structures																				
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	Assessment Statistics	No.																		
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<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight Restrictions</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of council owned / maintained weight restricted bridges (excluding acceptance weight restriction)</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of council owned / maintained height / width restricted bridges</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weight Restrictions	No	Number of council owned / maintained weight restricted bridges (excluding acceptance weight restriction)	9	Number of council owned / maintained height / width restricted bridges	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 9 weight restricted bridges, three are programmed for upgrading in 2020/21. 													
Weight Restrictions	No																			
Number of council owned / maintained weight restricted bridges (excluding acceptance weight restriction)	9																			
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Bridge Condition Indicators	<p style="text-align: center;">Bridge Stock Indicator 2015-16 - 2019/20</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>15/16</th> <th>16/17</th> <th>17/18</th> <th>18/19</th> <th>19/20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BSClav</td> <td>90.32</td> <td>90.96</td> <td>90.35</td> <td>90.01</td> <td>91.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSCcrit</td> <td>86.25</td> <td>87.54</td> <td>85.76</td> <td>85.62</td> <td>86.76</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Definition:</p> <p>BCIAv is the average BCI for a bridge evaluated taking into account the condition of all structural elements in a bridge.</p> <p>BCIcrit is the critical BCI for a bridge evaluated taking into account the condition of those elements deemed to be of very high importance to the bridge.</p>		15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	BSClav	90.32	90.96	90.35	90.01	91.19	BSCcrit	86.25	87.54	85.76	85.62	86.76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2019-20 BSClave of 91.19 and BSCcrit of 86.76 indicate that the highway structures are in a good to very good condition (score of 80-100 in accordance with CSS Wales performance indicators. <p>As a consequence of sustaining the current level of revenue funding, the overall condition performance indicator values have remained fairly constant.</p>
		15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20														
BSClav	90.32	90.96	90.35	90.01	91.19															
BSCcrit	86.25	87.54	85.76	85.62	86.76															

Asset Group: Highway Structures

Statistics		Commentary	
<p>BSCIAv and BSCCrit are the average and critical condition index for a bridge stock evaluated using the BCIAv and BCICrit values for all bridges in the stock.</p>			
Performance Indicators	Description	2019/20 Result	Comments
	% of Principal Inspections carried out on time	100%	
	% of General Inspections carried out on time (frequent highway safety inspections mitigate safety risks where structural inspections are overdue)	83%	Staffing levels restricted output
	Bridge Stock Condition Indicator – average BSCIAv	91.19	
	Bridge Stock Condition Indicator – average BSCCrit	86.76	
	No. of Council owned bridges failing European standards	126	Figures to 31.03.20
	No. of Council road bridges with weight or width or height restriction	10	9 weight restrictions and 1 height restriction

Asset Group: Highway Structures																														
	Statistics	Commentary																												
Historical Investment	<p style="text-align: center;">Historical Structures Investment 2014-20</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Historical Structures Investment Data (Estimated)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Revenue (£)</th> <th>Capital (£)</th> <th>WG (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>900,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>800,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>780,000</td> <td>250,000</td> <td>50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>780,000</td> <td>900,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>800,000</td> <td>750,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>820,000</td> <td>400,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>830,000</td> <td>830,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	WG (£)	2014-15	900,000	0	800,000	2015-16	780,000	250,000	50,000	2016-17	780,000	900,000	0	2017-18	800,000	750,000	0	2018-19	820,000	400,000	0	2019-20	830,000	830,000	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned works comprise of maintenance programmes which target renewing the asset. Reactive works are smaller scale defects which require repair to reduce safety issues. Budgets are based on historical costs. Such works are funded from the revenue budget.
Year	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	WG (£)																											
2014-15	900,000	0	800,000																											
2015-16	780,000	250,000	50,000																											
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2017-18	800,000	750,000	0																											
2018-19	820,000	400,000	0																											
2019-20	830,000	830,000	0																											

Prioritisation of Overall Funding Needs

Using the structures priority matrix which takes into account the following:

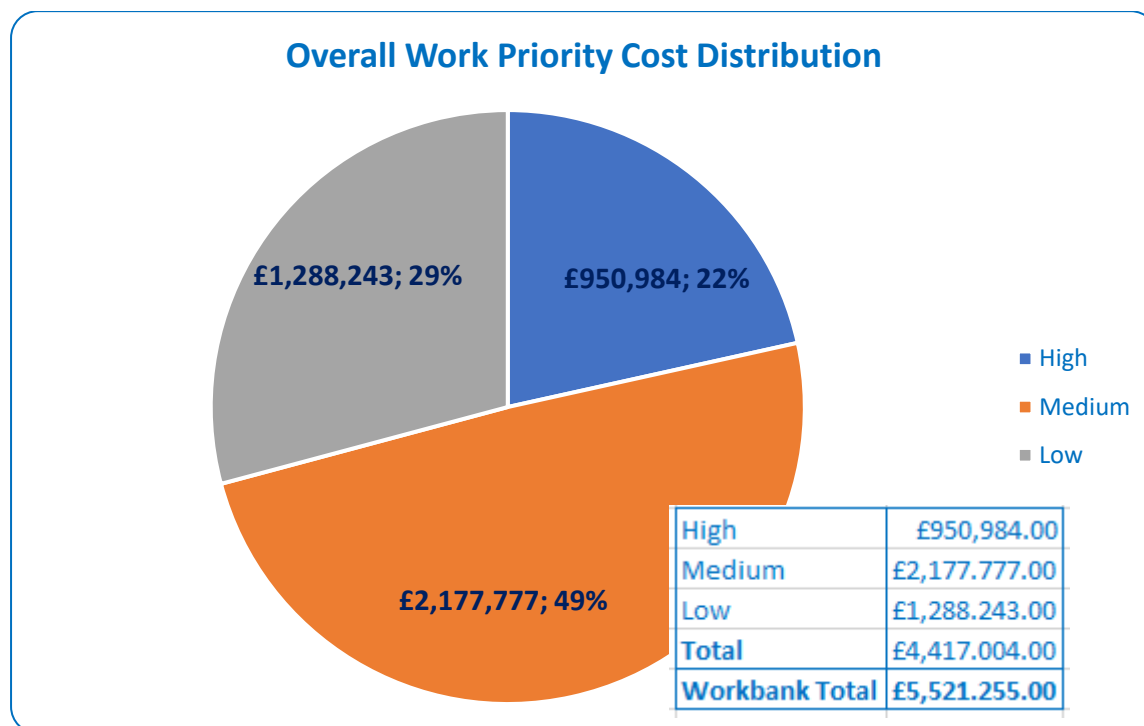
- Road Hierarchy
- Structural condition
- Access/community impact
- Network issues
- Traffic management impact

Strengthening / Replacement

There are currently 54 structures located on the highway network that whilst in safe operation, are considered sub-standard in terms of their load carrying capacity. There are also a number of structures, due to their overall poor condition, which have been included for replacement. Detailed design is currently being carried out on 15 structures, with a high priority being assigned to structures with a high scoring derived from the priority matrix.

Maintenance Needs

The following figures are derived from the Department's Bridge Management System and relates to the estimated cost of addressing defects identified by the Bridge Inspectors as part of biennial General Inspections. The work is categorised as high, medium and low priority in a scoring matrix which uses factors including extent, severity and defect type. The overall cost is termed the work bank total.



3.3 Bridges and Structures Summary

The bridge stock has displayed a slight upwards trend in terms of the Condition Performance Indicators since 2015/16 – the limited amount of inspection data available prior to this date, primarily in relation to retaining walls, gave figures which were not truly representative and have not been included. It is considered that the overall condition performance indicators will not improve in the short term, however by sustaining the current level of revenue funding, it is considered that the overall condition performance indicators will remain between 80 and 90 which represents 'Good' to 'Very Good' condition in accordance with the County Surveyors Society (Wales) classification of structures condition Performance Indicators (see table below).

Bridge Stock Indicator	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
BSClav	90.32	90.96	90.35	90.01	91.19
BSClcrit	86.25	87.54	85.76	85.62	86.76

Continued investment in our bridges and structures is essential to maintain continuity of our highway network. Current funding levels are maintaining our asset stock in a steady state condition, although if in-roads are to be made into the current maintenance backlog and to upgrade our sub-standard structures then further investment will be required.

Section 4 – Lighting

4.1 Lighting Introduction

Carmarthenshire has an extensive highway network and associated with this we have a large system of highway lighting. There are over 20,000 individual lighting units owned by the County Council and maintained by our Public Lighting Team. The Team also manage around 5000 community lights for Town and Community Councils. In addition, the Public Lighting Team also manage our stock of illuminated traffic signs and our permanent traffic signals.



Since the last Annual Statement, the Public Lighting Team have worked in partnership with Town and Community Councils to introduce LED lighting units in Community Lights. This project was developed on an invest to save basis to reduce carbon emissions, lowered energy costs and improved light quality. The project was completed in summer 2020.

The Public Lighting Team have also introduced new technology to enable mobile working so that lighting surveys, checks and works can be recorded electronically in place of the previous paper-based system

There are two key areas of concern which need to be addressed:

- A large number of older steel lighting columns are life-expired and risk structural failure if they are not replaced which is a safety risk.
- There are 304Km of underground electric cables which are deteriorating and resulting in an increasing number of cable faults which result in power failures and a safety risk.

4.2 Street Lighting Asset.

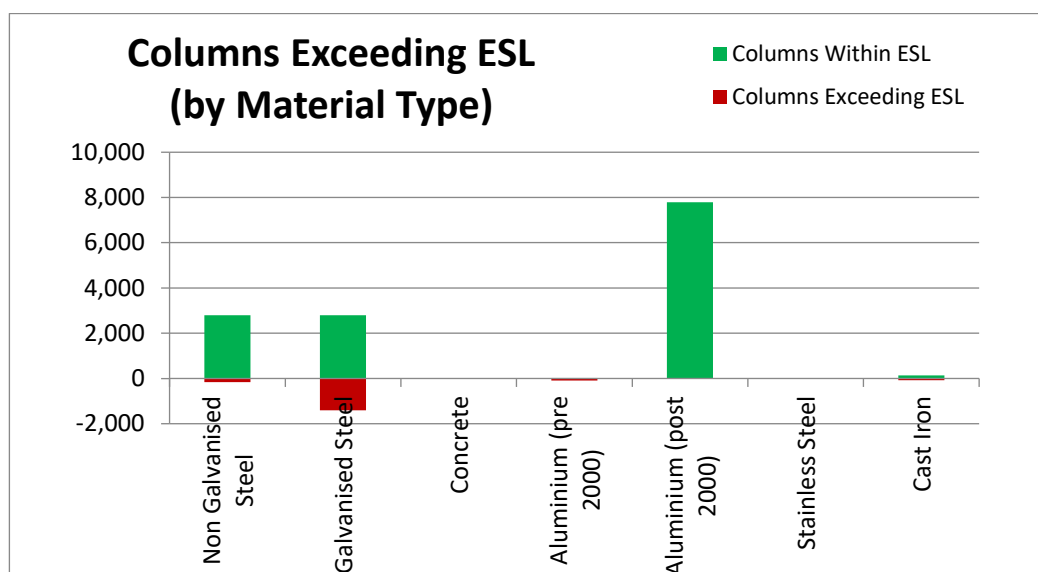
The street lighting asset can be considered in three main areas:

- Lighting columns
- Luminary units
- Electric supply cabling

Lighting Columns

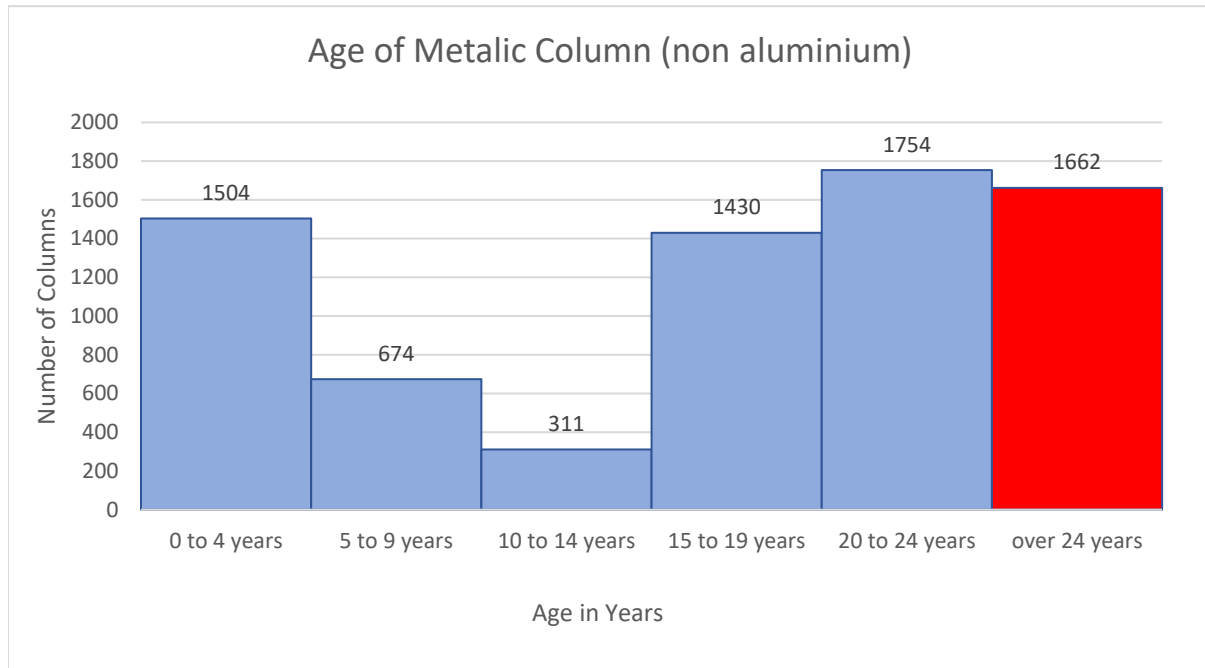
There are currently 20,229 street lighting columns which includes bracketed units on third party wooden poles. This figure has grown through new lighting or development by 768 (3.9%) over the past 5 years.

The age of a street lighting column and its material can be used to provide a broad assessment of structural condition and Expected Service Life (ESL). This is represented for the range of lighting columns in use throughout the County in the graph below.



A key concern are the existing steel columns which are considered to have an ESL of up to 25 years before replacement. Based on current data 22.6% (1662 out of 7335) of our metallic lighting columns/brackets exceed their expected service life. Whilst these are subject to a management regime with regular inspections and the removal of columns deemed to be unsafe, a programmed for replacement is required.

The graph below shows the age profile of these metal columns and identifies the number currently beyond their Expected Service Life.



Luminary Units

A successful replacement programme has introduced LED units to the streetlights we own and to those we manage for our Town and Community Councils. These units provide energy savings and reduce carbon emissions and also require less maintenance.

Supply Cable

The majority of our existing 304km supply network is of a significant age and in many cases accurate records are not available with regards to the exact age and cable type. A prioritised survey and testing programme are required in order to establish the future life expectancy of the cable network and develop a programme of renewal.

4.3 Illuminated Signs and Traffic Signals Asset

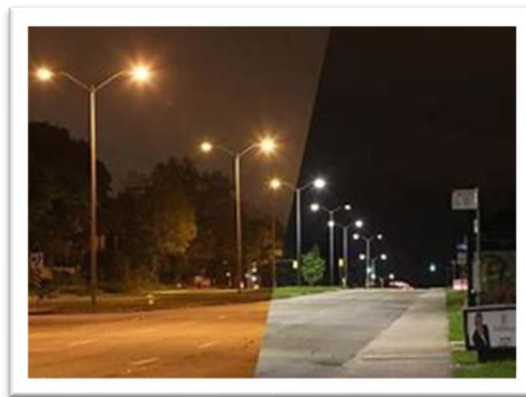
Carmarthenshire has over 3,400 illuminated signs and bollards on the highway network. All new installations are specified to be LED sign lights and solar bollards.

There are 72 Traffic signal installations on the Highway network. These are made up of 52 pedestrian crossings and 20 Traffic Signal junctions

4.4 Lighting Summary

Significant progress has been made in improving the highway lighting asset in recent years through the LED replacement programme in our own lighting stock and on behalf of Town and Community Councils. This has provided a considerable energy saving and contributes towards our corporate carbon reduction targets. Using new technology to enable mobile working is also leading to improved record keeping, a more efficient way of working and less reliance on paper-based systems.

The condition of our street lighting columns does require careful management with investment and a risk-based approach introduced. Similarly the aging condition of our electric supply cabling requires an investment programme to reduce the increasing number of cable faults and power outages being experienced.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2020

FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 1st February 2021

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

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Executive Board Member
3-year Revenue Budget Consultation	As part of the Council's consultation procedures on the development of its 3-year Revenue budget strategy, all scrutiny committees are provided with the opportunity of considering commenting on the Strategy.	To enable the scrutiny committee to consider and comment on the budget settlement, departmental service budgets and efficiency savings proposals and to make any recommendations for change to the Executive Board and Council.	Councillor D. Jenkins EBM for Resources
Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	As a result of the development of the Neighbourhood Team in the Environmental Protection Section in 2018, complaints of anti-social behaviour have increased considerably. Whilst successful investigations have been achieved through increased and improved partnership working, the demand on the service is resulting the requirement to prioritise complaints in order to focus resources on more serious issues which could result in harm to neighbours/ community.	To enable the scrutiny committee to consider and comment on the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy prior to the Executive Boards consideration for Approval on 8th February 2020.	Councillor P.M. Hughes EBM for Public Protection
Waste Service Review Delayed – This report will be presented to the Committee meeting in March /April upon receipt of feedback from Welsh Government.	The Council needs to consider the potential for increasing its recycling performance in future. A study has been commissioned to establish if there are alternative ways of collecting recyclable and waste materials at the kerbside. The study benchmarks the current methodology against alternative forms of collection, including Welsh Government's preferred form of collection.	The report will set out potential future options for the collection of recycling/waste at the kerbside, including the viability of alternative methods of collection. Currently awaiting feedback from Welsh Government.	Councillor H.A.L. Evans EBM for Environment

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme for 2020/21 is attached for information.

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting held on 24th November 2020

No items have been circulated to members of the Environmental and Public Scrutiny Committee for information since the last meeting.

In line with the Committee's 2020/21 Forward Work Programme the list of reports below will be forwarded to Committee Members outside of the formal Scrutiny Committee process. Members will be able to raise any questions/queries regarding the content of the report to the Scrutiny Officer by e-mail. At the Committee's request, responses to any questions/queries raised will be placed here. Should Members wish to discuss a report at the formal meeting, arrangements can be made to do so in line with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

- Public Conveniences
- Update on WG Speed Limit Review (20mph) –after *WG has published review report*
- Environment Act Forward Plan Update
- Report on the impact of flooding in Carmarthenshire
- Active Travel update
- Annual Performance Report (Half yearly) – *Feb 2021*
- Report on fly-tipping

Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme 2020/21

24 th November 2020	14 th December 2020	1 st February 2021	5 th March 2021	19 th April 2021	Joint Scrutiny Committee E&PP + SC&H Date to be confirmed
E&PP Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20	Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update	3-year Revenue Budget Consultation	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) - Future Delivery Plan	Budget Monitoring 2020/21 for April to December 2020	Substance Misuse Service Report
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2020/21		Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	Net Zero Carbon Action Plan	Task and Finish Review Report on Financial Exploitation and Safeguarding Scheme (FESS)	Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Report
Covid-19 Position Statement covering • Environment remit		Waste Service Review <i>[Delayed to March/April]</i>	Corporate Strategy	Dog Breeders Licence Update (Change of Policy/legislation)	
Covid-19 Position Statement covering • Public Protection remit			Corporate / Departmental Business Plans	E&PP Scrutiny Committee - Actions Update	
Budget Monitoring 2020/21 for April to August			Budget Monitoring 2020/21 for April to October		
The following information/update reports will be sent to Committee Members via e-mail throughout the year:-					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Conveniences • Update on WG Speed Limit Review (20mph) – <i>dependant on WG publishing their review report</i> • Environment Act Forward Plan Update 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the impact of flooding in Carmarthenshire • Active Travel update • Annual Performance Report (Half yearly) – Feb 2021 • Report on fly-tipping 		

IMPACT OF THE COVID -19 ON SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire was suspended during April – October 2020.

The E&PP Scrutiny Committee, on 6th November 2020 reviewed its Forward Work Programme to prioritise the reports for the remainder of 2020/21.

OTHER REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED:

The following reports will be included to the FWP at a later date:-

- Referral from P&R Scrutiny Committee (27/1/2020) – Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales
- 2020 Review of Licensing Policy
- Carmarthenshire Pollinator Strategy and Action Plan
- Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Action Plan
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) North

ITEMS FOR JOINT MEETINGS IN 2020/21:

Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting with Social Care and Health– April 2021 (to be confirmed):

- Area Planning Board’s Drug & Alcohol Misuse Strategy Report
- Substance Misuse Service Report

TASK & FINISH REVIEW:

At its informal Forward Work Programme Development Session held on the 22nd February 2019, the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee considered several topic options for a task and finish to review. However, the Committee agreed in principal to undertake a review into the Trading Standards Services – Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS) initiative, as it was felt that fraud was escalating and was a particular concern for the elderly and vulnerable residents living in Carmarthenshire. A final report of the task and finish review is due to be presented to the Committee at the revised date of April 2021.

At its meeting held on 15th November 2019, the Committee considered a report on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire. The Committee unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee’s next Task and Finish review in 2021.

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Shaping the future of Waste strategy

Ash Die-back – All member seminar

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor J.D. James (Chair)

Councillors:

J.M. Charles, T.A.J. Davies, J.A. Davies, K. Davies, P.M. Edwards,
W.T. Evans (In place of D. Thomas) S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, E. Morgan,
B.D.J. Phillips, A. Vaughan Owen and A.D.T. Speake.

Also in attendance:

Councillor H.A.L. Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment;
Councillor P.M. Hughes, Executive Board Member for Public Protection;
Councillor D.M. Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources.

The following Officers were in attendance:

J. Fearn, Head of Property;
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;
S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways;
L. Quelch, Head of Planning;
R. Carmichael, Rural Conservation Manager;
J. Edwards, Business Improvement Manager;
R. Edmunds, Consumer and Business Affairs Manager;
D.W. John, Waste Services Manager;
R. S. Waters, Highways and Transportation Manager;
R. James, Group Accountant;
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting:- 10:00am - 11:35am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Thomas and Councillor S. Phillips.

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

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.
There were no declarations of interest made.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES COVERED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report presented by the Executive Board Members for Environment and Public Protection covering the elements within their portfolio Environment and Public Protection respectively on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Environment Department's services within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee as follows:-

The Executive Board Member for Environmental Services covered the following:-

- "Waste and Environmental Services.
- Building Cleaning (including Schools, where relevant)
- Transport and Streetscene including Highways, Street Lighting, Bridges, Traffic Management, Parking Services, Cycle paths and Rights of Way

The Executive Board Member for Public Protection covered the following:-

- Environmental Enforcement including Litter, Dog Fouling; Abandoned Vehicles etc
- Planning Enforcement
- Biodiversity"

The report described how the Authority managed during the pandemic and covered the service priorities going forward.

The Executive Board Members advised that the pandemic had significantly impacted on the Department's budgets, both in terms of additional costs and loss of income. Some of the costs had been covered by Welsh Government grants but many unfunded areas remained impacting upon on the Council's future budget.

A number of questions / observations were raised on the report. The main matters were as follows:

- An observation was made in relation to the recycling performance which was predicted to exceed the statutory target of 64%. It was asked what advantage was being made of the situation and what plans are in place to maintain the recycling rates? The Executive Board Member for Environment stated that during the lockdown period many homes took advantage of the situation to have a clear out and thanked residents for utilising the recycling provisions. Ongoing work with the marketing media team would take place to help raise the recycling profile and inform residents of what recycling services are available. It was hoped that a performance target of 70% would be achieved by 2024/2025.

- In response to a query regarding the kerbside collection and if there had been any extra provision made during the pandemic, the Executive Board Member for Environment explained that whilst the Council no longer delivered blue bags to individual households the stocks of blue bags in dedicated blue bag stockists had increased, a list of which was available on the Council website. In addition, the annual delivery of blue bags and food liners had commenced and was likely to be completed by March 2021.
- Reference was made to the online booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). It was asked if this would continue into the future and what the costs were? The Executive Board Member for Environment explained that in terms of costs the newly developed online booking system, whilst was easier to manage, did require additional staffing resources on HWRC sites to ensure that Covid-19 restrictions were implemented effectively, together with the necessary entry controls associated with an online booking system were adhered to.
- As a result of the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres in the initial stages of the pandemic, it was asked if there was any evidence of an increase in fly-tipping? The Executive Board Member for Public Protection reported that unfortunately fly-tipping in general was on the increase and had been for sometime. The Head of Homes and Safer Communities agreed and added that there had been a significant increase in fly-tipping over the summer months likely to be as a result of householders having a clear out during the lockdown period.
- In response to a query regarding enforcement matters during the pandemic, the Executive Board Member for Public Protection emphasised that the priority was the safety of staff and therefore only high priority enforcement cases, where there was an imminent risk to life or the environment, had been progressed as normal since lockdown in March. Investigations in relation to medium and low priority cases as defined in the Enforcement Protocol were largely suspended but work on these had started to gradually re-commence late August. Furthermore, it was reported that during the pandemic it would appear that a great level of potentially unlawful activity had occurred which had put a significant strain on the Planning Division since the follow up work on the potential breaches had started. In recognising that many of the cases would be complex and would also require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to reach a resolution, the Head of Planning stated that it was recognised that additional staff would be required and was currently being considered.

In acknowledging the dedication, commitment, flexibility, and personal resilience shown and applied by staff, the Committee wished to commend their aptitude and contribution of which was invaluable in continuing to provide a service to the Communities within Carmarthenshire.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

5. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOMES AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Committee received a report presented by the Executive Board Member for Public Protection which provided a summary of how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the Public Protection services from a service user, staff and Council perspective whilst providing clear information on actions taken.

The report focussed on key delivery issues and future developments in the following service areas:

- Test, Track and Trace (TTP);
- Animal Health;
- Licensing;
- Financial Investigation Unit;
- Trading Standards;
- COVID-19 Team- Advice and Enforcement;
- Pollution;
- Public Health and Well-being; and
- Food, Safety and Health
- Dog Fouling; Abandoned Vehicles etc

A number of questions / observations were raised on the report. The main matters were as follows:

- It was asked if there had been any problems in receiving the correct information from the public? The Executive Board Member for Public Protection acknowledged that whilst there were individuals not adhering to the regulations and the advice provided in order to minimise the transmission rate, the percentages cited on page 45 provided reassurance that the track and trace team set up within Public Protection Services continued to provide a successful Track and Trace Service and providing the necessary advice and guidance. The team managed the TTP process in conjunction with regional and Hywel Dda Health Board colleagues.

The Head of Homes and Safer Communities stated that for the week 16th - 22nd November 2020, the TTP team had successfully made contact with 89% of the 337 individuals who had received a positive Covid-19 result. It was reported that the TTP team had experienced difficulties in contacting some individuals as they were not answering phone calls.

A concern was raised that vital information which helps contact tracing was being withheld by the public. The Executive Board Member for Public Protection acknowledged the concern and stated that the TTP team were doing their utmost to manage the situation in Carmarthenshire. In addition, it was commented that some employees may intentionally be withholding information in order to avoid having to receive sick pay.

Concerns were raised in relation the infectious period of Covid-19 and if this information was being properly broadcasted. The Head of Homes and Safer Communities agreed that in conjunction with Hywel Dda and Public Health Wales the TTP team could deliver clear messages in relation to the infectious period which would help inform members of the public.

In response to an earlier query, the Head of Homes and Safer Communities reported that he had received confirmation from Public Health Wales that the infectious period of Covid-19 was 10-days and therefore a positive test was likely to be the result during this period.

It was commented that the NHS track and trace app was only downloadable on newer smartphones and therefore concern was raised that there were members of the public may be being overlooked as they were not able to partake in the track and trace. The Head of Homes and Safer Communities provided reassurance that as the NHS app was a separate entity to the TTP process. The TTP team make every effort to contact those affected by telephone.

- In acknowledgement to the additional workload that had been placed upon the Trading Standards department, it was asked if there was scope to employ additional members to cope with the demand. The Head of Homes and Safer Communities reassured the Committee that an additional 7 employees would be joining the department in the next week which had been funded by the Welsh Government.

The Committee, together with the Executive Board Member expressed their gratitude to both staff and managers for their commitment in dealing with the most difficult of situations from homelessness, housing management and community engagement through to development and investment the flexibility and adaptability shown was exemplar.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

6. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

The Committee considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report in relation to the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee services, which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st August, 2020 in respect of the 2020/21 financial year.

The Executive Board Member for resources explained that the summary position for the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Services were projecting an overspend of £1,264K on the revenue budget. The variances on capital schemes, detailed within the report, showed a forecasted net spend of £11,088k compared with a working net budget of £14,397k providing a variance of -£3,291K. In addition, the budget included a new allocation of £74k from the Welsh Government for rights of way access improvements.

The Committee was advised by the Executive Board Member for Resources that the budget included a new allocation of £74k from the Welsh Government for rights of way access improvements.

A number of questions / observations were raised on the report. The main matters were as follows:

- Reference was made to Appendix 2 of the report [page 63]. In response to a query raised in relation to the temporary vacant post within the Public Rights of Way department the Executive Board Member for Environment stated that this had become vacant due to a recent promotion and the process to fill the post would commence in the near future.
- Reference was made to Appendix 2 of the report [page 61]. It was asked when the vacant posts within the Animal safety section would be filled? The Head of Homes and Safer Communities stated that the process of filling the posts had commenced and following appointment the team would be up to full complement.
- Reference was made to Appendix 2 of the report [page 62]. It was asked who funded the Dyfed Powys LRF Covid 19 Support 2020/21 Grant and was there potential of receiving this again next year? The Group Accountant confirmed that the Dyfed Powys LRF Covid 19 Support Grant was funded by Welsh Government and would be seeking guidance from Welsh Government as to whether monies could be carried over to the next financial year depending on how much is spent during this financial year.
- In response to a query in relation to future payments of PPE, Cleaning and Morgues the Executive Board Member stated that the Welsh Government would continue to fund all Covid-19 related matters, however it was emphasised that the future funding heavily depended on funds continuing to be received from the Central Government to Welsh Government.
- In relation to the School Crossing Patrols it was explained by the Executive Board Member that all school crossing patrol sites had been subject to health and safety risk assessments prior to schools restarting to ensure that they could operate safely with regard to Covid-19 and requirement for social distancing. The Head of Transportation and Highways reiterated that sites had been assessed with respect to Covid-19 and added that in accordance with budget efficiencies, risk assessments of sites had been undertaken and where a site did not meet National Safety Criteria the Patrol would not be replaced following retirement or officer leaving the Service. Where that happens, the department would engage with the school in terms of whether there were other options which included considering volunteers. However, the Head of Transportation and Highways indicated that some sites could be difficult to recruit even when payment is offered.

- Reference was made to Appendix 2 of the report [page 69]. It was asked what the comment 'offset variances in other areas' meant relating to the Road Safety Improvement Schemes? The Head of Transportation and Highways clarified that there was £569k allocated for road safety capital and footway improvements, some of which was from match funding for the grants that had been received enabling a contribution to be made towards capital projects under other budget headings in the report to lever in greater value in terms of road safety outcomes. It was also pointed out that whilst there were challenges in delivering projects due to the Covid pandemic, it was planned to deliver the full programme of grant works.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The Committee received for consideration its Annual Report on the work undertaken during the 2019/20 municipal year. The report had been prepared in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution which requires Scrutiny Committees to prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committee's activities over the previous year.

The report provided an overview of the Committee's work programme and the key issues considered during the year. The report also provided details of development sessions and site visits arranged for the Committee as well as attendance data.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2019/20 be received.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme for 2020/21, which had been prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution which required Scrutiny Committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes identifying issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the municipal year.

The Chair referred to the report which included the reasoning of the absence for the performance reports and business plans in the Forward Work Programme. The Chair explained that Officers had now completed the review of the performance monitoring cycle and suggested that reports would be ready for consideration as follows:-

- Annual Performance Report (Half Yearly) - 1st February 2021
- Corporate / Departmental Business Plans - 5th March 2021

It was proposed and duly seconded to include the Corporate/Departmental Business Plans to the Committee's Forward Work Programme and the Annual Performance Report to be e-mailed to Committee Members for comment.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that subject to the addition of the departmental business plans, the Forward Work Programme for the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee for 2020/21 be endorsed.

9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21ST FEBRUARY 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 21st February, 2020 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE