

FRIDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL MEETING** OF THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD AT 10.00 AM, ON MONDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 2020** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

NOTE:-
If you require Welsh to English simultaneous translation during the meeting please telephone 0330 336 4321 Passcode: 07632343#
(For call charges contact your service provider)

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEMBERSHIP - 10 MEMBERS

| Councillor | Portfolio |
|--|---|
| Councillor Emlyn Dole | Leader Corporate Leadership and Strategy; Chair of Executive Board; Represents Council at WLGA; Economic Development Represents the Council on the Swansea Bay City Region; Collaboration; Marketing and Media; Appoints Executive Board Members; Determines EBM Portfolios; Liaises with Chief Executive; Public Service Board |
| Councillor Mair Stephens | Deputy Leader Council Business Manager; Human Resources; Performance Management; Wales Audit; Training; I.C.T.; T.I.C. (Transformation, Innovation and Change); Strategic Planning |
| Councillor Cefin Campbell | Communities and Rural Affairs Rural Affairs and Community Engagement; Community Safety; Police; Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; Tackling Poverty; Wellbeing of Future Generations; Third Sector Liaison ;Equalities, Climate Change Strategy. |
| Councillor Glynog Davies | Education and Children Schools; Children's Services; Special Education Needs; Safeguarding; Respite Homes; Regional Integrated School; Improvement Service; Adult Community Learning; Youth Services; School Catering Services, Lead Member for Children and Young People; Youth Ambassador |
| Councillor Hazel Evans | Environment Refuse; Street Cleansing; Highways and Transport Services; Grounds Maintenance; Building Services; Caretaking; Building Cleaning; Emergency Planning; Flooding, Public Rights of Way. |
| Councillor Linda Evans | Housing Housing – Public; Housing – Private, Ageing Well |
| Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths | Culture, Sport and Tourism Town and Community Councils Ambassador; Development of the Welsh Language; Theatres; Sports; Leisure Centres; Museums; Libraries; Country Parks; Tourism. |
| Councillor Philip Hughes | Public Protection Trading Standards; Environmental Health. Environmental Enforcement; Planning enforcement; Unlicensed Waste; Parking Services; Bio diversity |
| Councillor David Jenkins | Resources Finance & Budget; Corporate Efficiencies; Property/Asset Management; Procurement; Housing Benefits; Revenues; Statutory Services (Coroners, Registrars, Electoral, Lord Lieutenancy); Armed Forces Champion Contact Centres and Customer Service Centres |
| Councillor Jane Tremlett | Social Care & Health Adult Social Services; Residential Care; Home Care; Learning Disabilities; Mental Health; NHS Liaison/Collaboration/ Integration; Care Home Catering Services, Carers' Champion; Dementia Care Champion; Disability Ambassador |

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.**
3. **TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2020** 5 - 12
4. **CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20** 13 - 100
5. **QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT - 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2020** 101 - 118
6. **SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT** 119 - 122
7. **REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2033** 123 - 224
8. **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.**

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 21 September 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, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Also in attendance:

Councillors D.M. Cundy and D. Price

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services

R. Mullen, Director of Environment

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

D. Hockenfull, Marketing and Media Manager

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

S. Davies, Head of Access to Education

A. Bebb, Electoral & Civil Registration Service

G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

S Burford, Project Manager

L.J. Jones, Environmental Health Practitioner

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

J. Hawker, Digital Support Officer

J. Corner, Technical Officer

L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer

G. Jones, Digital Support Engineer

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 10.35 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

| Councillor | Minute Number | Nature of Interest |
|---------------------|---|---|
| P. Hughes Griffiths | 7 – Impact of Covid 19 On Air Quality in Carmarthenshire. | He lives in Richmond Terrace, an area that was monitored for air quality. |

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 7th September, 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. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SENIOR CORONER PEMBROKESHIRE AND CARMARTHENSHIRE JURISDICTION

The Board considered a report detailing the proposal to appoint Mr Paul Bennett as Acting Senior Coroner for the Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire Jurisdiction following the resignation of Mr Mark Layton as of 31st May, 2020.

It was noted that each respective Council in conjunction with the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor/Ministry of Justice, had a legal obligation to ensure that the jurisdiction had in place effective coroner service arrangements that were adequately resourced.

However, with the appointment of an interim solution, under the Coroner and Justice Act 2009, the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor's Department / Ministry of Justice required each respective Council to first consider whether the jurisdiction should be amalgamated with another Coroner area before a permanent Senior Coroner appointment was made.

Consent to appoint a permanent Senior Coroner would not be given until the issue of amalgamation of coroner areas was fully considered, resulting in the need for an interim appointment.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to:

- 6.1 Approve the temporary appointment on 1 June 2020 of Mr Paul Bennett as Acting Senior Coroner for the Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire Jurisdiction.**
- 6.2 Authorise the necessary steps required to address the issue of amalgamation of the Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire Coroner Area with another Coroner Area as required and in accordance with the directions of the Chief Coroner, Lord Chancellor/Ministry of Justice.**

7. IMPACT OF COVID19 LOCKDOWN ON AIR QUALITY IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

[Note: Councillor. P. Hughes-Griffiths had earlier declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the consideration and determination thereof].

The Board considered a report detailing the impact of COVID 19 lockdown on air quality in Carmarthenshire.

Lockdown resulted in a drastic reduction of road vehicle moment and an improvement in air quality.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to:

- 7.1 Commit to discourage non-essential journeys under the ‘new normal’ arrangements by expanding on current policies relating to home and agile working, when the work can be done effectively either at home or at a closer more convenient office base.**
- 7.2 Encourage staff to consider using non-travel related digital techniques as a preferred first option (where possible) for meetings and training purposes.**

8. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided the latest budgetary position as at 30th June 2020, in respect of 2020/2021. The budget position recognised the substantial additional pressures that had been placed on the Authority in responding to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Overall, the monitoring report forecasted an end of year overspend of £7,400K on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £8,000k.

The Executive Board's attention was drawn to the fact that the forecast did not include any allowance for reduction in Council Tax collection and this was being closely monitored by the Director of Corporate Services.

The report confirmed that the Authority was submitting a monthly hardship claim to Welsh Government for additional Covid-19 expenditure. The majority of costs were being refunded, though some were deemed ineligible and it was not clear how long the funding mechanism would continue.

In light of the significant forecasted overspends at departmental level, Chief Officers and Heads of Service were asked to critically review options available to them to limit the forecasted overspend of budgets, whilst recognising the pressure Covid-19 had placed on the Authority's overall budget.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 8.1 The Budget Monitoring report be received, and consideration given to the budgetary position and appropriate corrective action.**
- 8.2 Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review options available to them to limit the forecasted overspend of budgets, whilst recognising the pressure Covid-19 has placed on the Authority's overall budget.**

9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report which provided an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2020/21 capital programme as at the 30th June, 20120.

Departmentally, a net spend of £69,816k was forecasted compared with a working net budget of £114,079K giving a £44,263K variance.

The net budget included original HRA and General Fund programme, approved by Council on 3rd March, slippage from 2019/20, new projects approved by Executive Board on 29th June 2020 and budgets relating to Covid-19 Response Field Hospitals.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 9.1 The capital programme update report be received.**
- 9.2 The virement detailed in the report be approved.**

10. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2019-2020

As part of the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Executive Board considered the Council's Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for the 2019-20.

The Council adopted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and the five year capital programme for 2019-20 on the 20th February 2019. The Annual report listed the activities that took place in 2019-20.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 2019-20 be adopted.

11. 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.

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

13. PENTRE AWEL

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 12 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The report contains details about potential academic partners who have not as yet signed memoranda of Understanding with the Authority. Although the public interest would normally favour transparency and openness, this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in this case until the MOUs have been signed.

The Executive Board considered a report on Pentre Awel in relation to the submission of the City Deal Business Case, agreements with academic partners and Phase 1 design development.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL that it:

- 13.1 Approves the final Business Case (as attached in appendix 1) for formal submission to the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee for approval to submit to Welsh Government and UK Government.**
- 13.2 Agrees and approve the signing of Memorandum's of Understanding with academic partners. To note that these discussions fit within the overall planning for education skills and training.**
- 13.3 Endorses the completion of the RIBA Stage 3 detailed design development work and outputs.**

**14. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME MIM 21st CENTURY SCHOOLS
WELSH EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PARTNERING
AGREEMENT**

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 12 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 and 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

Although the public interest test would normally favour transparency and openness, this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in this case (i) so as not to damage the commercial interests of the preferred /bidder company; (ii) so as to protect the Authority's and the other Participants' interests in connection with the legal advice provided to them in connection with these documents.

The Executive Board considered a report on the Mutual Investment Model 21st Century Schools Education Partnership – Strategic Partnering Agreement.

The Executive Board was advised that with agreement of the Chairs of the Education & Children Scrutiny and Policy & Resource Scrutiny Committee, under Article 6.7 of the Constitution the call-in period had been waived. This was to enable the Authority to meet the deadline set by the Welsh Government

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO:

- 14.1 Note the progress of the Preferred Bidder Stage of the Competitive Dialogue Procedure under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as outlined in this report;**
- 14.2 Approve the execution, delivery and performance of the Strategic Partnering Agreement with the Welsh Education Partnership Co in September 2020 to facilitate the delivery of a range of infrastructure services and the delivery of education and community facilities;**
- 14.3 Approve the Strategic Partnering Agreement at exempt Appendix A of this report and summarised in Appendix 1 of this report so as to give effect to recommendation (b);**
- 14.4 Note that the Strategic Partnering Agreement shall be executed as a deed and attested in accordance with Article 13.5 of the Constitution;**

- 14.5 Approve the appointment of Simon Davies as ‘Participant Representative’ to sit on the Strategic Partnering Board;**
- 14.6 Note that in agreeing to the Strategic Partnering Agreement, it is not being asked to decide to proceed with any Project at present. Any recommendation to proceed with a Project will be reported back to Executive Board in future report(s) for decision.**

CHAIR

DATE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the content of the Annual Report.

Reasons:

1. Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 we must publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.
2. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
3. This report meets both these requirements in one document.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted:

Not applicable due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Exec Board Decision Required

Yes (5th October 2020)

Council Decision Required

Yes (14th October 2020)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Mair Stephens (Deputy Leader) and Cllr Cefin Campbell (Communities and Rural Affairs)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Directorate Chief Executive's Noelwyn Daniel Report Author Robert James | Designations: Head of ICT & Corporate Policy Performance Management Officer | Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 246270 NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224486 RNJames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
|--|---|---|

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides:

- an overview of 2019/20 Performance
- progress reports for all 15 Well-being Objectives
- recently published 2019/20 results from the National Survey for Wales

The statutory publication deadline for this Annual Report is the 31st October.

COVID-19

We have a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report for 2019-20 by the 31st October 2020. There has been no relaxation on this statutory duty despite the pandemic. It is not possible to provide as much in-depth analysis and evaluation as we have done in previous years due to some information not being gathered nationally as a result of the current pandemic. There are some gaps in information, for instance, the Welsh Government has confirmed that comparative out-turn data will not be available for the 2019-20 period.

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: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development):

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set and publish well-being objectives | Corporate Strategy update published – June 2019. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a statement about well-being objectives | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish an annual report of progress | This will be accomplished by the enclosed Annual Report |

Only when a public body can demonstrate it has taken into account the sustainable development principle in the setting, taking steps and meeting of its well-being objectives will it be compliant with the Act. Public bodies may take other matters into account when making their decisions, but in order to comply with the Act they must take into account the 5 ways of working.

1. Long term
2. Integrated
3. Involving
4. Collaborative
5. Preventative

2. Legal

We have to publish our Annual Report by the 31st October to comply with the Local Government Measure 2009.

3. Finance

Well-being Objective 15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better use of Resources covers financial matters.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

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

All Departments have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide comments on their performance and progress.

Public Consultation

- As in previous years we consulted with the public on the set of Well-being Objectives as part of budget consultation.
- Analysis of the results showed agreement for the objectives.

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

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

| Title of Document | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|---|
| The Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 | https://gov.wales/local-government-measure-2011-guidance |
| Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. SPSF2: Individual Public Body Role | SPSF2:Individual Public Body Role |
| June 2019 - Corporate Strategy | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1219049/corporate-strategy-revised-2019-20.pdf |

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

ANNUAL REPORT for 2019/2020

on the Council's Corporate Strategy



October 2020

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Welcome from the Leader of the Council



Once again it is time to publish our annual report so that we can examine how we have progressed against our well-being and improvement objectives. It illustrates the stark contrast between where we started the year and how it has ended. It also highlights how much has been done for the residents of our county and how much more we intend to do, although some of it may be on hold while we deal with the current pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 has impacted on us all and forced us as an Authority to adapt our services almost overnight, initially to ensure that we could support and assist our residents to respond to the pandemic and now to aid the recovery process. The impact on our county and across the country has been significant and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The way we deliver our services in the future is likely to have to adapt longer-term but I can assure you that we are planning and delivering to ensure we are able to provide the safest and most effective services to our residents.

It's important to remember that this is a report on 2019/20 and the pandemic only impacted in the last few weeks of the financial year in question. It seems indulgent to spend time on reporting on the past year at this time, but it gives us a baseline to judge recovery against. It is good practice to maintain a focus on performance and outcomes, recognise progress and identify and address weaknesses in an open and transparent way. This will aid us as we plan for future delivery of services. It is also a legal obligation to publish this report by the 31st October and there has been no relaxation on this requirement. It is not as comprehensive as usual as Welsh Government has understandably not compiled the comparative results of all councils in Wales as it would normally due to the pandemic. Our regulators have not been able to complete any annual assessments for 2019/20 due to the pandemic's impact which we would also normally have included.

The report does show the progress we are making against our Corporate Strategy's Well-being Objectives and I am very pleased that our end of year results as measured by the performance indicators all councils in Wales shows an 8% net improvement. This is a considerable step from the 25% net decline the previous year. I am also pleased to see that the National Survey for Wales identified us in the top 5 of the 22 councils in Wales for providing high quality services.

Other highlights for me would include the publication of our strategy on Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Report, the first of its kind in Wales. The strategy makes clear our aspiration to regenerate our local economies and protect the Welsh Language with 55 recommendations for action and will stand us in good stead as we respond to the impacts of the pandemic. We were also the first in Wales to publish a Net Zero Carbon action plan, to ensure we deliver on our declaration of a Climate Emergency. I am pleased with the progress to date and we will continue to ensure action is taken against our set objectives so that we can achieve our commitment.

We have some of the finest officers in Wales, and the past few months has more than reinforced that statement. I can't thank them enough for their efforts throughout the year and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been extremely humbling. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that our residents, communities, organisations, and businesses are kept safe and supported. I really must pay tribute to the front-line staff who've shown great courage in continuing their work, often putting others before themselves and their families. I'd also like to thank those who have moved from their day-to-day work to cover other areas of front-line service – those who usually work in offices who have worked in care homes, driving buses, and delivering food. The commitment and willingness to support others is truly inspiring.

When I became Leader five years ago, my appeal to this county was that we should be innovative, and even daring, in our approach and over the past few months I have witnessed that immeasurably. It is pleasing to see the progress being achieved in across Carmarthenshire and we will continue to move Carmarthenshire forward over coming years.

Councillor Emlyn Dole

Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council

We welcome constructive comments on our strategies and services. Feedback from customers and service users is essential in identifying opportunities for improvement and we hope that if you have any comments or suggestions that you believe would help that you will share them with us. Please contact us at **Corporate Performance Management**, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen SA31 1JP or email at performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly changed the world we live in within the space of a few months. However, we have a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report for last year by the 31st October 2020. There has been no relaxation on this statutory duty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In some cases, at the time of preparing this report, Council resources remain committed to dealing with the crisis/recovery and it is therefore not possible to provide as much in-depth analysis and evaluation as we have done in previous years. There may also be some gaps in information available, for instance, the Welsh Government due to the pressures of dealing with the crisis has agreed that comparative *Out turn data* will not be available for 2019-20.

This report has been written to assess performance during *April 2019 to March 2020*. At least 11 months of the year went by before the crisis hit.



COVID-19 TIMELINE

| | | IMPLICATIONS |
|-------|------------------|--|
| FEB | 28 th | The first COVID-19 case in Wales was confirmed |
| | 3 rd | CONTAIN PHASE - The UK Government published an action plan for the UK |
| MARCH | 10 th | Carmarthenshire County Council Meeting |
| | 12 th | The UK Government moved to the DELAY PHASE . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was in recognition that the virus was beyond containment and steps required around delaying the onset, with the aim of extending and flattening the peak of the pandemic curve. The aim of this is to reduce extreme pressures upon health and social care services to minimise loss of life. |
| | 12 th | All officers moved into <i>Gold Command</i> mode (a command hierarchy used for major incidents) |
| | 16 th | Carmarthenshire's <i>Executive Board</i> met |
| | 18 th | The <i>Chief Executive</i> had to take the decision to suspend all democratic meetings as a precaution |
| | 19 th | A decision had to be taken to close the Authority's administrative buildings to the public to protect staff |
| | 23 rd | Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a ' lockdown ' in an attempt to halt the spread of the virus. He gave an instruction to the nation <i>to stay at home except for limited purposes, including travelling to and from work, but only where absolutely necessary and the work could not be done from home</i> |
| | | Urgent arrangements were made on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential and Domiciliary Care School closures for a significant period Provision of childcare arrangements for critical / essential staff to enable them to continue to work whilst schools closed. Business advice, support and intervention Continued refuse collection Enhanced cleaning Community volunteer coordination and support. Rapid reduction in services and move to home working enabled by IT readiness, staff communications and support, revision of HR policies Redeployment of staff from non-critical to critical Financial losses from closure of leisure centres, catering services, loss of car park income, trade waste income etc. and increased expenditure |
| JUNE | 10 th | On the 10th June, County Council meetings were restored via digital means |

When the going gets tough...

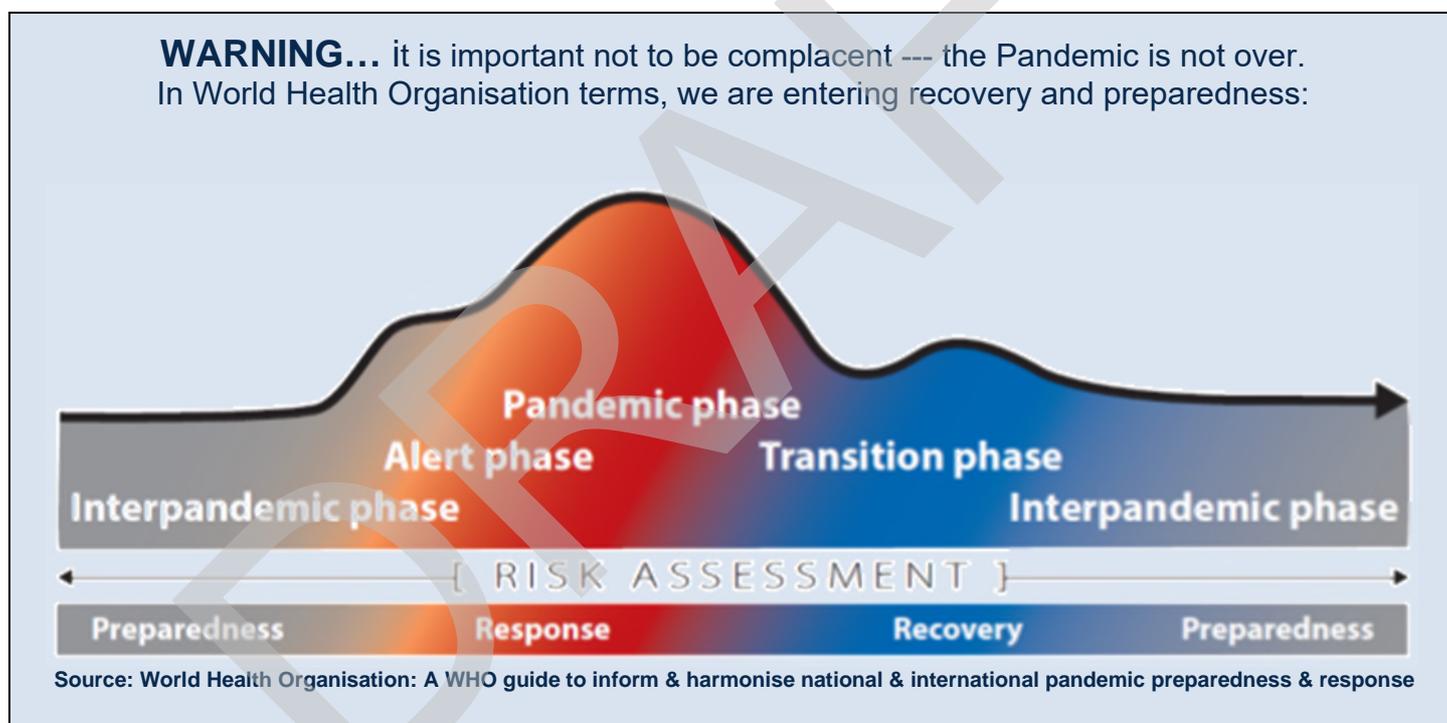
This period was an enormous challenge and the organisation pulled together in a crisis to ensure that we supported our residents and communities. It saw the best of us in commitment, conscientiousness, compassion, and creativity for the well-being of our communities.

To make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities, we will be identifying our key learning points at an organisational level and across the breadth of our services. One thing is evident, we cannot and will not be returning to the pre COVID-19 “status quo”.

RECOVERY is based on four key stages:

- Baseline (Pre-pandemic state) - this report covers this stage
- Emergency protection phase (acute lockdown period)
- Prepare and adapt phase (phased lifting of restrictions)
- Prevail (new normal)

This report will provide useful baselines to help gauge recovery.



At the time of writing this report on 2019/20 we are undertaking a detailed Community Impact Assessment that will look at the impact of the pandemic and at whether changes to how we do things (the working practices of ways we deliver services) are likely to have a positive or negative impact on the people we service and on those we deliver services. This will help us plan to reduce or remove negative impact.

Our Annual Report on 2020-21 will fully evaluate the year and the COVID-19 pandemic effects on our services.

Introduction

In June 2018, we published a *New Corporate Strategy for 2018-23*. This document is an Annual Report that examines our progress in the second year 2019/20 of the Strategy.

It is produced by the Council because we believe we should provide comprehensive and balanced information to the public about our services, so that they can see how we are performing and the challenges we are facing. It is also a statutory duty under the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Working with Partners

As a Council we are not alone in working to improve the lives of Carmarthenshire's citizens. We are collaborating with other public bodies. We have set up a *Public Services Board* (PSB) and this partnership has published a [Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan](#). All the separate public bodies in the partnership publish their own Well-being Objectives and we will be working to meet many common objectives. The PSB has also published an [Annual Report for 2019/20](#)

Equality and Diversity

Strategic Equality Plans (SEPs) are important documents that set out how public bodies will consider the needs of groups with protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. This is intended to ensure that all individuals receive just and equitable treatment in respect of service delivery and strategy/policy formulation. During 2019/20, we have revised our SEP and our Strategic Equality Objectives.

To develop the equality objectives, we have engaged with our residents, engaged with our workforce and used relevant information. This information includes Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) research reports and Welsh Government reports and policies.

Public services in Mid and West Wales joined together to ask the public their views on equalities. This included a survey and engagement events during May-June 2019. The survey gathered views on how people from different backgrounds experience six major areas of life.

- Education
- Work
- Living Standards
- Health
- Justice and Personal Security
- Participation.

The partnership included Ceredigion County Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Powys County Council, Dyfed Powys Police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Brecon Beacons National Park & Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

During the year, the Carmarthenshire Disability Partnership, chaired by the Executive Board Disability Champion has continued to develop, with a key aim of making sure that services delivered by the Council meet the needs of disabled people throughout the county. One of the key areas of work during the year was involvement in Pentre Awel (formerly known as Delta Lakes Well-being village). The project team engaged the Carmarthenshire Disability Partnership (CDP) during the design development phase to allow due consideration to be given to accessibility and inclusivity in relation to building facilities and layout.

Arup – the design consultants for the project – presented plans/schematics to the CDP as they evolved and sought feedback on a number of topics within the remit of the Group, including: welfare provision (accessible toilets), public transport, disabled car parking, hydrotherapy pool access, changing places facilities and accessible public realm environments.

Welsh Language (also, please see *Well-being Objective 14*)

We are continuing to implement the *Welsh Language Standards* across the Council with significant internal communication work undertaken during 2019-20. Messages about the Standards were conveyed to staff through presentations by the Policy Team, through the communication streams maintained by Marketing and Media and through the Departmental Language Leaders. More intensive work conveying messages about the Standards and the use of Welsh in the workplace was also undertaken at various events across the Council's buildings on *Diwrnod Shwmae*, on St David's and at other times during the year.

During 2019-20, work was undertaken with the Leisure division to promote compliance with the Standard on courses for the public. An in-house training video was commissioned to advise staff how to provide Welsh medium swimming lessons within a bilingual setting. The video led the staff through the whole process of providing swimming lessons, from registering the child, to offering feedback to parents and to providing the training sessions themselves. The video ensured that the lesson was undertaken in Welsh without slipping back into English and ensured that staff understood the requirements of providing lessons as well as dealing with parents. Following the training, a survey was carried out to gather staff impressions of the video and to ask what further support they would need. As a result, further training was provided, which took the form of Welsh swimming terms workshops in Ammanford, Llanelli and Llandovery during February 2020.

The *Welsh Language County Strategic Forum*, which continues to be led by the Council and includes representation from the county's language promotion organisations, as well as public bodies with language officers, has also continued with its role of developing a programme of promoting the Welsh language in the county and instigated much joint planning for the implementation of the Carmarthenshire Promotion Action Plan, which is in line with the Promotion standards. The forum met four times and specific attention was given to pre-school years, planning, population movements, young people and Welsh for adults.

DRAFT

Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment



Well-being Objectives

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.

2. Help children live healthy lifestyles.

3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all.

4. Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning & career pathways.

5. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work & improving the lives of those living in poverty.

6. Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county.

7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity).

9. Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities.

10. Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity & independence in their later years.

11. A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.

12. Looking after the environment now and for the future.

13. Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

14. Promoting Welsh language and culture.

15. Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources

How we measure the success of our Well-being Objectives

See *Appendix 2* for details of all of the success measures

The Council is working with local, regional and national partners to improve the following measures.

| Well-being Objectives | | Key success measure | Previous result | Most Current Result |
|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Start Well | WBO 1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences. More detail on Page 13 | % Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year | 10.4 | 8.6 |
| | WBO 2 - Help children live healthy lifestyles. More detail on Page 16 | % Children overweight or obese | 29.4 | 26.6 |
| | WBO 3 - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners. More detail on Page 19 | Average Capped 9 points score for pupils | 363.1 | 367.2 |
| | WBO 4 - Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training. More detail on Page 22 | Year 11 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) | 1.8 | Not available |
| Live Well | WBO 5 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty. More detail on Page 26 | % Households Living in Poverty | 35.5 | 33.7 |
| | WBO 6 - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county. More detail on Page 29 | Median Gross Weekly Full-time Earnings (£) | 511.3 | 536.5 |
| | WBO 7 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes. More detail on Page 32 | Number of affordable homes in the County | 247 | 315 |
| | WBO 8 - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity). More detail on Page 34 | % of adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good | 66 | 70 |

| Well-being Objectives | | Key success measure | Previous result | Most Current Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age Well | WBO 9 - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities. More detail on Page 38 | % Say they have a sense of community | 47.7 | 51.6 |
| | WBO 10 - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years. More detail on Page 41 | % Agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area | 56.2 | 47.5 |
| | WBO 11 - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the county. More detail on Page 44 | % of people who are lonely | 18.3 | 16.2 |
| In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment | WBO 12 - Look after the environment now and for the future. More detail on Page 48 | % Waste reused, recycled or composted | 58.95 | 64.66 |
| | WBO 13 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity. More detail on Page 51 | % roads that are in poor condition Class A, B & C | 5.2 4.2 12.5 | 5.4 4.7 12.5 |
| | WBO 14 - Promote Welsh Language and Culture. More detail on Page 54 | % Can speak Welsh | 37.8 | 37.4 |
| | WBO 15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources. More detail on Page 59 | Number days lost due to sickness absence | 9.8 | 10.7 |

Outcome Measures

The Well-being Future Generations Act promotes a shift in focus from service productivity, to all public bodies working together to progress outcomes that improves the quality of life of citizens and communities, both now and in the future.

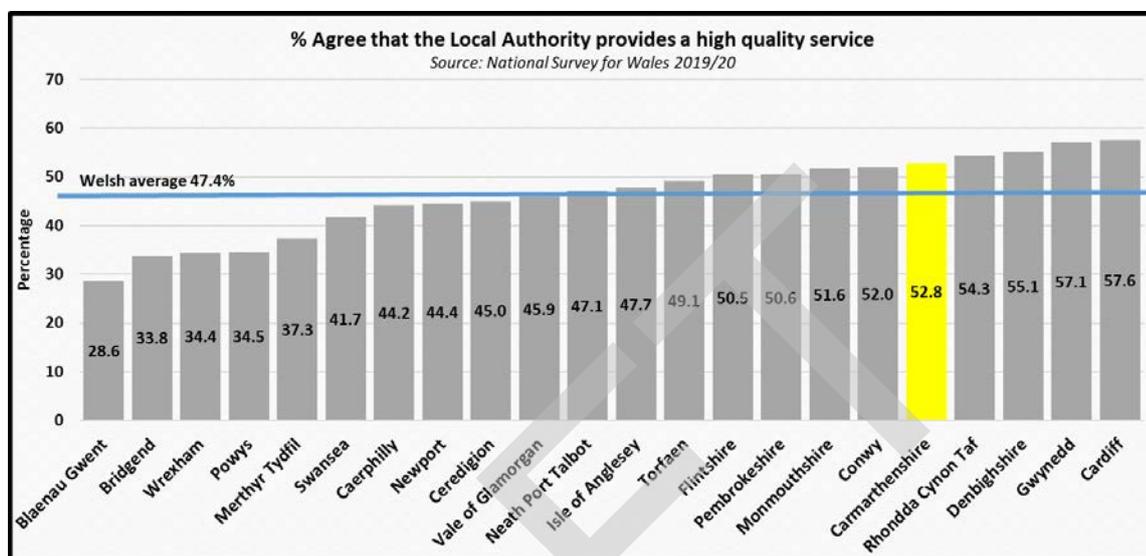


National Survey for Wales

The published results are based on around 12,000 interviews carried out across Wales between April 2019 and March 2020. Over 600 were interviewed in Carmarthenshire.

The 2019/20 [headline results](#) were published on 14th July, 2020 with additional information being published by Welsh Government as and when available.

On providing a **high quality service**, we have moved from 8th to 5th place and improved on the previously available result of 51% (2016/17).



We have extracted the results currently available at Local Authority level and ranked the results for all 22 authorities from worst position (22nd) to best (1st) - **See Appendix 3**. Please note that not all of these results are attributable to the Councils performance.



[Link to Welsh Government's National Survey for Wales](#)

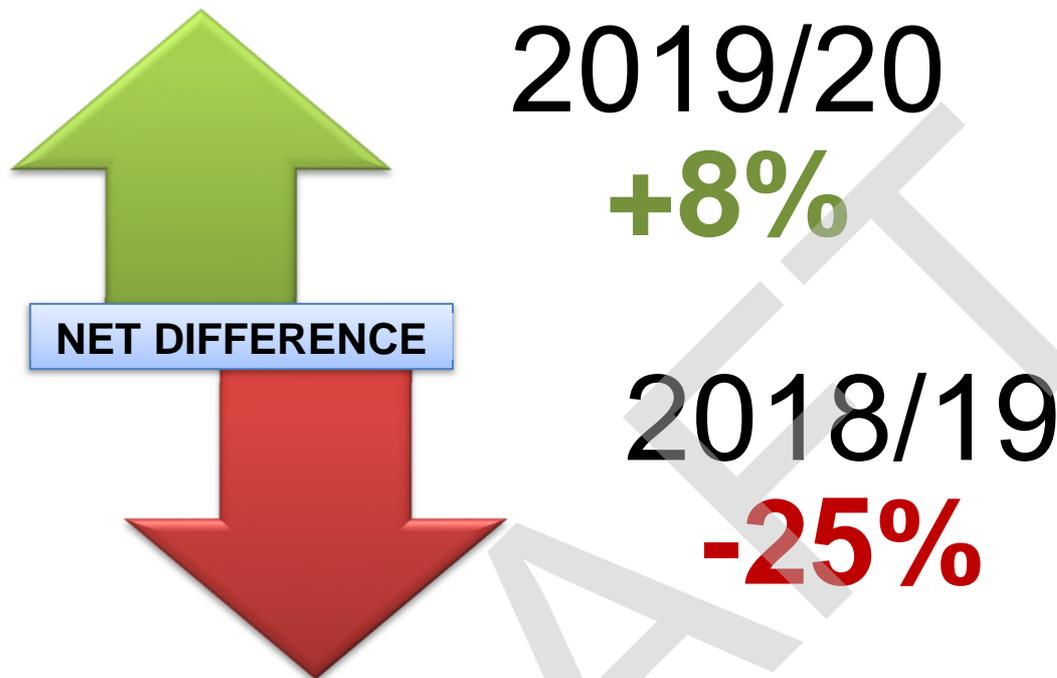
Consultation undertaken by the Council

- ❖ Throughout the year, a number of consultation and engagement projects were conducted. These included but were not limited to consulting on; Reviewing Licencing Policy; Period Poverty in association with the Youth Council; Road closures and Forward Planning.
- ❖ The *Budget Consultation* attracted the highest participation rate in over five years, a total of 2,006 responses were received from various sections of the community, including individuals, businesses, town and community councils and representative groups and organisations. This increase in participation was largely attributed to the promotion of the consultation, along with the revised format of the online survey. The results from the engagement with citizens gave members a clear indication of the services they would like to safeguard which resulted in some proposals being removed. *Examples of proposals removed after negative comments from the public included, the closure of Whitland Household Waste Recycling Centre; the closure of public toilets; the reduction to the Youth Support Services budgets; and the proposed increases to cemetery charges.* This underlines the importance of full engagement ensuring that individuals throughout Carmarthenshire are listened to therefore assisting members to make key decisions.
- ❖ We have reintroduced staff surveys to ensure that staff views are heard regarding the organisation. The engagement with members of staff in all departments has been vital to the success of the surveys which can be seen in the number of employees participating. In the latest survey, over 30% of the organisation took part in the voluntary survey. Staff have been asked to give their views on communications received corporately and from management, health and well-being. A number of key actions have emerged from the data collected which have now been implemented across the organisation.

Public Accountability Measures

There is also a National suite of measures that all Councils in Wales have to collect, but due to COVID-19, the results for all authorities are not available for comparison. We can however report our own results.

More measures improved than declined during 2019/20 despite sustained budget reductions, increased demand and expectations.



| Year | Improved | Constant | Declined | Net Difference (Improved - Declined) |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2019/20 | 47% (13 measures) | 14% (4 measures) | 39% (11 measures) | 8% |
| 2018/19 | 36% (12 measures) | 3% (1 measure) | 61% (20 measures) | -25% |

Regulatory Verdict

During the year our Regulatory bodies issued a number of reports on Council Services and these are listed in **Appendix 5**



<https://www.audit.wales/>

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/language>

<https://careinspectorate.wales/>

Start Well





Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

The number of Children Looked After has *significantly reduced*

Carmarthenshire has the lowest number of children in care throughout Wales, and figures are reducing steadily year-on-year with more and more families being supported to stay together.

Supporting Families to stay together

- ❖ One of the simplest, yet most effective, changes made in recent years is to **integrate** and align teams working across children's services and education and bringing staff with specialist skills together to provide a whole team around a family in need, opposed to attaching a single social worker to an individual case.
- ❖ This **collaboration** has allowed sharing of skills, perspectives and ideas to provide a bespoke package of support for each family, as well as creativity in finding different ways of linking in with families and keeping them together.
- ❖ Teams focus on **involving** families and building relationships with families to fully understand their needs, and what intervention will work best for them – often inviting families to work with them to commission tailor-made specialist support ensuring their needs are met in a way that best works for them.
- ❖ **Prevention** and early years intervention is also a key feature – in a recent six months period, the service supported 18,000 families with a range of community-based services to build resilience and prevent the need for families to have contact with the statutory social care system.
- ❖ It is not about targets, but about keeping families together **long term**, and reducing the number of children requiring care without ever compromising safe practice. There is a willingness to work differently and try new approaches to support families in need and prevent them from needing our services.



“Carmarthenshire Council is doing some great work to keep families together and avoid children going into care. Carmarthenshire stands out because the team is prepared to think and do things differently. As First Minister, I want to build on the work happening here, understand why it is having an impact and to share the good practice throughout Wales so we can help to keep more families together.”

Mark Drakeford - First Minister of Wales

Why it is important

- Because giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course
- Early intervention is key to long term health and well-being. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status
- Because Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to multiple risks associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care.

Success Measure



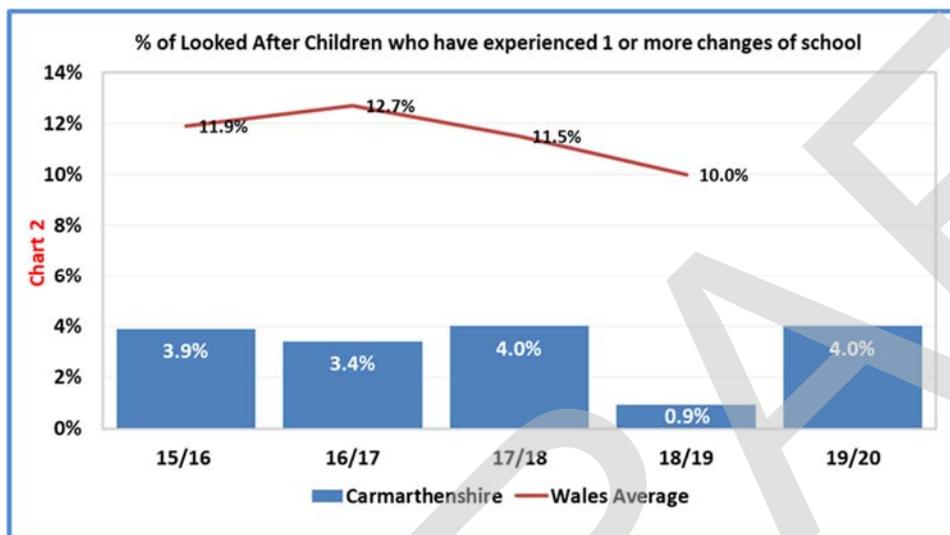
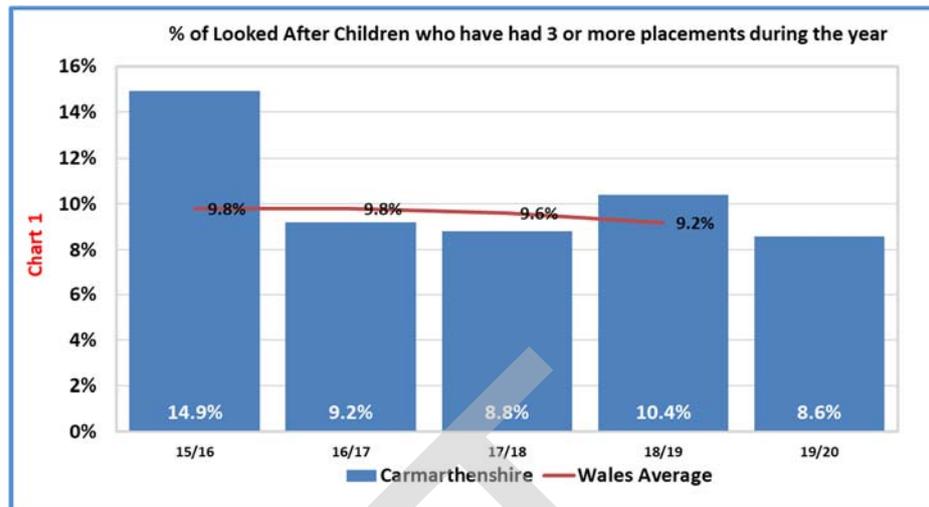
The % of children in care who had to move 3 or more times has reduced to **8.6%**



Explaining the Results

We are pleased to have seen an improvement in placement stability with a reduction in the number of children having moved 3 or more times during 19/20, with 8.6% (14 out of 163) compared to 10.4% (19 out of 183) in 18/19 and below the Welsh Average of 9.2%. (See Chart 1)

We consistently perform well in maintaining looked after children in the same school, which is also an important factor in improving outcomes.



During 19/20 4 out of 101 children changed schools (See Chart 2). Remaining in the same school is not always in the best interests of a child e.g. distance to travel or academic needs not being met. In the **long-term** our focus is on **prevention** and maintaining children at home with families and out of the care system wherever possible, as well as providing extra resources for foster carers to support the children in their care to maintain placement stability and avoid the need to move wherever possible.

Progress made

- ⊙ We have continued to **transform children's social work practice** integrating **systemic practice and Signs of Safety** into a coherent approach to delivering children social work services. It has been informed by research as well as feedback from stakeholders.
- ⊙ We have continued to extend and refine the **TAF (Team Around the Family)** approach across the county for 0-25-year olds. The new TAF in schools team commenced 1/4/19.
- ⊙ The **30 hours free Childcare Offer** has now been available county wide for over a year to all eligible working parents/carers. **1,222** applications have been processed to date. **203** childcare providers have registered, and another 168 are currently taking part. On Average £143,000 is paid to Childcare Providers in Carmarthenshire per month. This is a significant saving for many families who are reporting now being able to plan their first ever family holiday and consider working additional hours.
- ⊙ We have reviewed our **services for disabled children**, young people and their families with the setting up of a 0-25 'through age' model which will deliver a consistent care pathway with input from health and education based on need, not age so that children and their families receive the services they need, when they need them and where they can best access them.
- ⊙ The **Families First (FF)** programme (0-25 years) continues to deliver early intervention support services for disadvantaged children, young people and families. The three focus areas are: - Parenting, Young People and Disability support. During 19/20 projects supported 11,682 individuals (3,890 families).
- ⊙ **Flying Start** early years' service has been undergoing a 3-year expansion to increase capacity and is now being delivered across 18 areas covering 767 post codes across Carmarthenshire to families with children aged 0-3 living in some of the most disadvantaged areas.

Celebrating success of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

The Annual celebration of the achievements and accomplishments of Looked after Children and Care leavers took place in the Xcel Bowl, Carmarthen on 25th October 2019.

Awards were presented for success in school, art, music, sport and for volunteering.



As Corporate Parents we have a responsibility to ensure that all our children and young people succeed and are supported to achieve their aspirations. Well done to all who received awards and to all our partners for their support. A special thank you to a newly former choir, **VOICES ALOUD** who entertained us and persuaded us to sing!



The way we work

Working together for disabled children Delivering what families want - not what we think they want.

By working together with the parents of special needs disabled children and including them every step of the way we achieved a better afterschool and holidays scheme.

The parents and volunteers involved, remain involved to ensure the children have a good time. It was not a quick fix, but it worked. One parent said "knowing the Council is on your side is just brilliant - it's a way of being"

"This new way of working together has developed relationships and is a true reflection of collaborative working and co-production. For the approach of co-production to work, there must be investment in the process. It provides a greater understanding of customer needs and builds relationships.

Sarah Bolton, Inclusion co-ordinator



The work won the Council's annual award for Transformation, Innovation and Challenge



Executive Board Member For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies



Well-being Objective 2 Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

Obesity in children in Carmarthenshire is reducing

The obesity rate in Carmarthenshire is at its lowest point for four years. This remains a long term invest to save objective ensuring the long-term health of children.

Why it is important

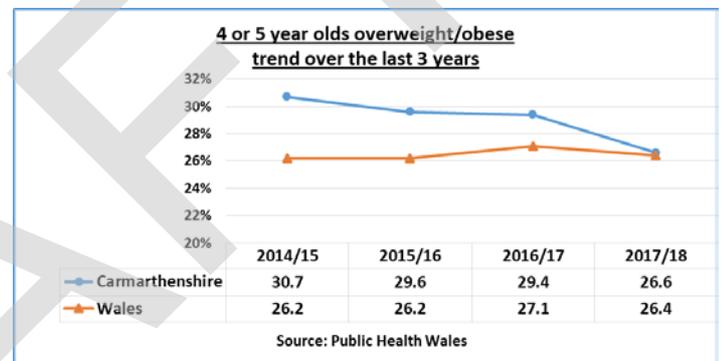
- The Play Sufficiency Assessment identified playing outside as the most popular setting for children but also found that 32% of parents worried about their child's safety.
- Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for the positive well-being of children.
- Living healthy lives allows children to fulfil their potential and meet education aspirations.
- Habits established early in life remain with people to allow them to play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.

Success Measure

26.6% of children are overweight or obese



(An improvement on the previous year)

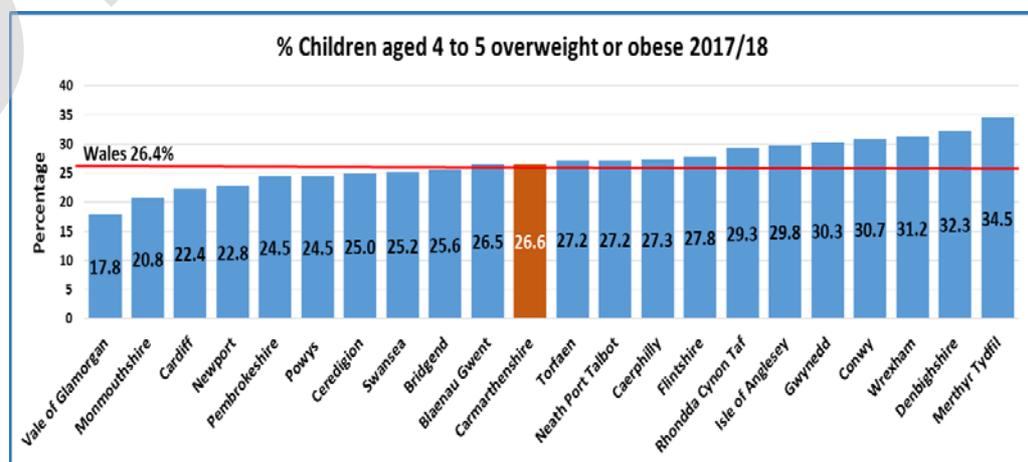


Explaining the Results

The most recent Child Measurement Programme for Wales data is for 2017/18 published in May 2019. Due to COVID-19 implications we are not sure when the 2018/19 data will be published by Public Health Wales.

The programme of child measurements is carried out with children attending reception class in schools in Wales. In 2017/18, 93.2% of eligible children participated in the programme in Carmarthenshire, with 94.1% in Wales.

- There has been a downward trend in the % of overweight or obese children aged 4 to 5 in Carmarthenshire over the last 4 years. From 30.7% in 2014/15 to 26.6% in 2017/18 and moved from 3rd highest to 11th highest in Wales. The gap between us and the Welsh average has closed and currently just above the figure of 26.6%.



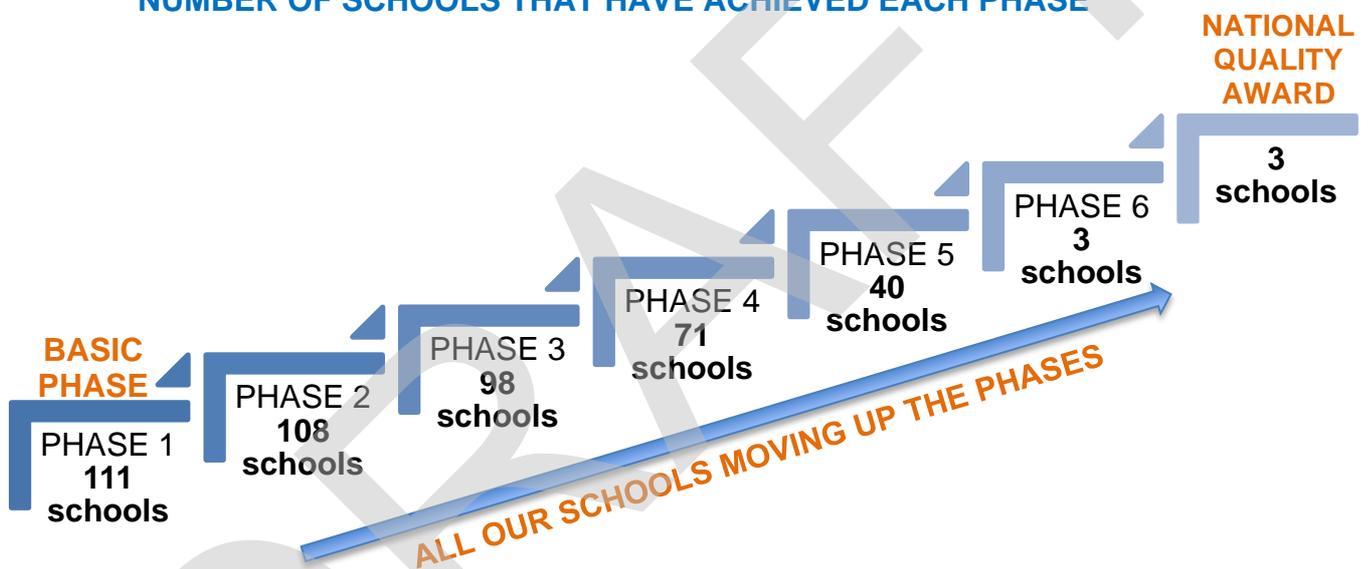
- The proportion of children who are **obese** has reduced slightly from 14% in 2016/17 to 13% in 2017/18.
- Obesity in childhood often persists into adult life, leading to related health problems like type 2 diabetes, liver disease, higher rates of heart disease, and some cancers.

Progress Made

Increasing Physical Activity:

- ⦿ We have 86 settings in the community (cylchoedd Meithrin, libraries, etc) delivering *Actif Storytime* (a sector-leading activity initiative that gets children active through storytelling)
- ⦿ Our *Actif Passports* for children have also been hailed as such an effective model that Sport Wales have invested in a National Partnership with us, together with Welsh Triathlon and physical literacy consultants from Cardiff Metropolitan University to create a triathlon passport to be rolled out across the whole of Wales. The Carmarthenshire-based development has led to 30 schools, 37 of their staff and over 1,000 pupils being exposed to fun and progressive triathlon activity during the year.
- ⦿ Number of *attendances at Sporting Opportunities* facilitated by Sport & Leisure Officers was just over 205,000 attendances. This was less than the previous year's attendances (230,000) in the main due to Storm Dennis and the cancellation of significant big events in March due to COVID-19.
- ⦿ The [Healthy Schools' Scheme](#) is now in its 16th year with all our schools now on board the scheme. 36% of schools have *achieved Phase 5 of the Healthy Schools' initiative* and 3 schools (Ysgol Feithrin Rhydaman, Peniel and Nantgaredig) have achieved the *National Quality Award*).

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THAT HAVE ACHIEVED EACH PHASE



- ⦿ Nearly 26,000 young people (0-16) have accessed *free swim sessions*, an increase from 20,000 the previous year.

Mental Health:

- ⦿ Courses for Teachers on Well-being / pastoral issues at their school were well attended with 36 teachers attended a 1-day *Mental Health Awareness Course* and 25 teachers attended a 2-day *Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Course* leading on.
- ⦿ Educational Resources regarding Anti-Bullying were placed on the Healthy Schools Network on Hwb, reminding schools of the *National Anti-Bullying Campaign* which was held in November - *'The Change Starts with Us'*. Schools were also introduced to the child friendly *'Self Care'* apps that can be downloaded onto mobile phones which can support young people with Mental Health issues.

Healthy Eating:

- ⦿ 95% of children looked after were *registered with a GP* within 10 working days of the start of their placement. We continue to perform well and above the All Wales 18/19 figure of 90.6%
- ⦿ We have continued to ensure that schools are abiding by the *Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations* during cluster meetings, school visits and assessments

HARRI a HETI



A story by Carmarthenshire children, for children, on the effects of eating too much sugar.

The Library and Education Service got together to hold a competition to write a story or poem on the long-term implications of eating too much sugar.

The aim was to contribute to the early intervention and prevention of the incidence of obesity in children since this is a problem in Wales.

The involvement of the children was a key objective and a book was published, solely written

and designed by the children from schools throughout Carmarthenshire.

All libraries and schools throughout Carmarthenshire will be presented with the book to promote it.

'Growing in the Outdoors'

This project extends on the *innovative practice of a group of 33 schools* in Carmarthenshire who worked alongside each other last year to creatively develop learning opportunities for pupils that embraced elements of the four core purposes of our new curriculum. The emphasis was on the health and well-being of pupils and staff last year as well as their creative and literacy skills, working alongside NAWR and utilising the outdoors as much as possible. A host of local artists, poets, authors and outdoor practitioners will assist in ensuring that our schools are well supported in using their locality as part of the pupils learning experiences.



Executive Board Member For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies



Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners

Examination Outcomes Continue to Improve

Carmarthenshire's performance at GCSE continued to improve with 58.5% of our learners achieving the Level 2 Inclusive indicator (at least 5 number GCSE passes at grade A* to C including mathematics and language). This result places us comfortably above the Wales average of 53.8%.

Revised examination specifications and a National re-emphasis on pupil progress and wellbeing mean that we have to be cautious when considering any comparisons with the performance trends from previous years' data.

Within Carmarthenshire, we continue to emphasise and focus on the progress our learners achieve from their individual starting point and firmly believe that this is the true measure of success in celebration

Why it is important

- We all want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21st Century living and the world of work.
- Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015)
- Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document [Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#).

Success Measures



367.2 is the average score (best 9 exam results) for Year 11 pupils



6th highest in Wales
Source: StatsWales



93.9% Attendance at Primary Schools
93.5% Attendance at Secondary Schools



Primary Schools attendance has remained the same as the previous year while Secondary attendance has declined further (Primary 93.9% & Secondary 93.8%)
Source: StatsWales



95% are satisfied with their child's primary school



(Up on the previous year of 84%)
89% in Wales

Source: National Survey for Wales

Explaining the Results

- The average score based on the **best 9 exam results** for Year 11 pupils during 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) is 367.2 where girls had an average score of 378.5 and boys 356.4. This is an improvement on the previous year and well above the Welsh average of 354.4.
- **School attendance** in Carmarthenshire's Secondary schools has declined further during 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) to 93.5% with Primary school attendance has stayed the same result as last year at 93.9%. There will be robust consultation with Governors, Headteachers, Educational Welfare Service and related professionals to develop an action plan to improve school attendance moving forward.
- According to the 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#), 95% of participants were satisfied with their child's primary school in Carmarthenshire, this has increased from the previous year of 84% and above the Welsh average. This could be volatile dependant on the households questioned during the year.

Progress Made

- Secondary school pupils in Carmarthenshire are celebrating GCSE pass rates above the national average again this year. Almost 71% of pupils have achieved a grade C or higher, with 21.3% awarded the top A*- A grades - both higher than the averages for Wales. Standards in English Language and English Literature continue to improve across the county, with 63.5% and 80.5 per cent of entries, being awarded a C grade or above. Pupils continue to achieve strong progress in their Welsh language skills with 72 per cent of entries in Welsh Language and 88 per cent of entries in Welsh Literature attaining a C grade or better, an upward trend that bucks the national trend. Pass rates in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths have also continued to improve and surpass the Welsh averages.
- The Welsh Government's National Categorisation of schools in Wales puts schools into one of four colour-coded support categories - green, yellow, amber and red - to demonstrate the level of support they need.

| | Green | Yellow | Amber | Red |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| 2019 | 40 ↑ | 49 ↓ | 19 ↓ | 4 ↑ |
| 2018 | 35 | 54 | 21 | 2 |
- The Delivery of all Band A and B commitments identified in the Modernising Education Programme have continued, with most projects within the Band A Programme having been completed. Further schemes are being progressed for the remaining projects. The Band B project for Five Roads has commenced and the scheme for Ysgol Pembrey has also been approved by Welsh Government. These commitments mean our children and young people will receive a world class education in safe and stimulating environments.
- Carmarthenshire School Improvement team continues to provide a clear and tight focus on school leadership working within schools and settings to help them achieve their goals, offer guidance and ensure best practices are followed. Work has built effectively on each school's previous support and challenge for leadership provision in an ongoing manner focused on; Support Visits; ensuring accurate and transparent self-evaluation processes in schools; providing leadership opportunities through participation in the ERW leadership development programme; informative and developmental Leadership Seminars and participation for nominated HTs to share strategic roles within our four Strategic Forums.
- The Executive Board supported plans to change the language of education at five local primary schools. Under the proposals, foundation phase classes in September 2020 at Ysgol Y Ddwylan (Newcastle Emlyn), Ysgol Griffith Jones (St Clears), Ysgol Llangynnwr (Carmarthen), and Ysgol Llys Hywel (Whitland) will be taught in Welsh until they reach age seven, when parents can then decide the language they want their children to continue learning. From January 2020, children starting at Llandovery's Ysgol Rhys Pritchard are taught through the medium of Welsh up to the end of year six, aged 11. Our intention is to move these schools along the language continuum, coinciding with our five-year plan and our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. As a county, our aim is to see each pupil at the end of key stage two completely bilingual and confident in using the English and Welsh language.
- We have continued to improve the suitability and ICT resources within schools to ensure that all newly built schools have the latest digital technologies and infrastructures in place to deliver 21st century education.
- We are also working closely with Welsh Government as a lead Authority, steering, influencing and planning for the £5 million Digital Education grant which we will receive for Carmarthenshire Schools over the next 3 - 4 years.
- Officers have been working in partnership with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors in regard to their budget deficits. Recovery actions have been agreed and these will be monitored by officers. COVID-19 and school closure due to the national lockdown impacted on progress however, schools have realised some efficiencies.

Llanelli school's quality recognised by major award



Close to a year after its official opening, Ysgol Pen Rhos, a £10.2 million primary school was highly commended in the school project of the year category at the prestigious Education Buildings Wales Awards.

Officially opened in June 2018, the school features facilities including a flying start nursery, solar panels and classroom terraces for outdoor lessons.

A 3G pitch has also been made available for school and community use, as well as hard and soft landscaping areas. Features

including brickwork and pitched roofs have been incorporated to reflect the industrial heritage of a neighbouring terrace of houses, alongside the use of more contemporary features like metal and wooden cladding. The project also delivered community benefits including training & local employment. Funded by Carmarthenshire County Council's Modernising Education Programme and the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools initiative.

The school was initially developed and then delivered, and project managed by Carmarthenshire County Council's in-house Property Design Team, working with HLM Architects. Ysgol Pen Rhos was constructed by T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd and winning the award for the quality of the school's design and build is worthy recognition for an outstanding team effort that involved the council and its partners, as well as staff and pupils.

The inclusion of environmentally friendly features also means the school will be sustainable for many years to come, with the availability of outdoor learning and landscaped areas sure to inspire pupils now and in future.

This work has led to a facility that provides a world class learning environment, while celebrating Llanelli's rich industrial heritage. Ysgol Pen Rhos is among many completed or planned projects in Carmarthenshire that show how seriously we take our commitment to providing the county's children and communities with top quality facilities that meet the needs of the 21st century.

The way we work

CARMARTHENSIRE INSIGHT

Young people from Carmarthenshire's Secondary Schools came together with Executive Board Members and the Corporate Management Team to discuss 12 key issues for our County. Each group discussed 2 issues e.g. Welsh language, education, climate, leisure and culture. They discussed and agreed on recommendations for creating more effective and efficient services. The young people were challenged by Executive Board Members and their peers and we had very mature and honest discussions. Everyone made constructive, professional comprehensive contributions – these are the leaders of the future!



Executive Board Member For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies



Well-being Objective 4

Start Well - Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning and career pathways.

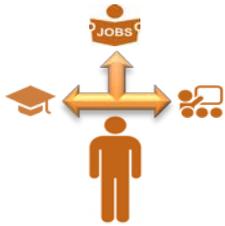
Work towards ensuring EET continues

Published results for the numbers of NEET are currently unavailable for those students leaving schools in Wales during 2019. The results are obtained from Careers Wales Destination Survey which was not concluded in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, work to ensure that all our young people will remain in Education, Employment and Work Based Training has continued and confirmation has been received that European Social Funded projects will continue until August 2021.

Why it is important

- Reducing the number of NEET young people reduces the effects of poverty and the wider cost to society of support services, reliance on benefits and offending.
- It is essential to maximise the life opportunities of children, ensuring that as many young people as possible are able to progress to school 6th forms, Further Education Colleges, apprenticeships, training provision or work.
- It enables young people to contribute positively to their local communities.

Success Measures

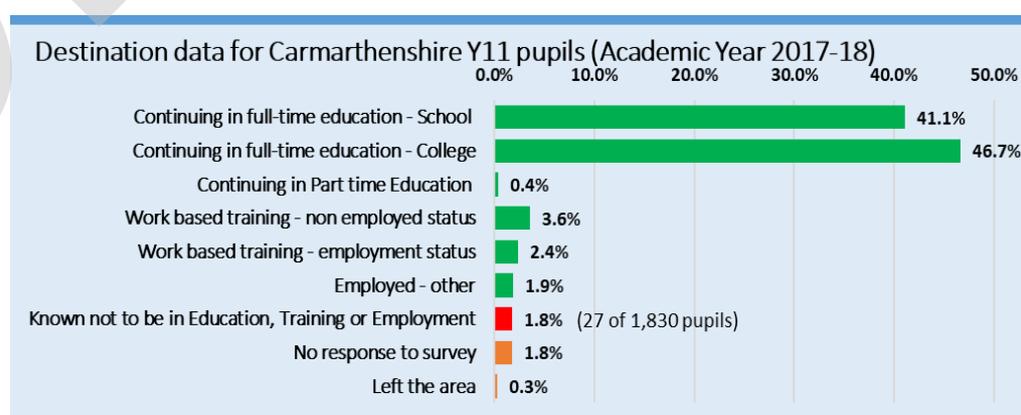


1.8% year 11 pupils &
4.9% year 13 pupils
are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
(Previous year - Yr 11: **1.4%** & Yr 13: **3.0%**)

Explaining the Results

The Office for Statistics Regulation have stated that results for this measure will not be published this year due to changing their data gathering and release practices, focussing efforts on priority analysis and statistics for as the demand increases for statistics and data to measure the impact of the COVID19 pandemic. **The last available data for 2018/19 (Academic year 2017-18) is represented above and below:**

- 1.8%, or 32 of **Year 11** pupils becoming NEET equated to 96.1%, or 1,743 pupils remaining in Education, Employment or Training. A small number of pupils (38), either did not respond to contact or were known to have left Carmarthenshire. The result ranked 14th in Wales and above the Welsh average of 1.6%.



- 4.9%, or 33 out of 673, **Year 13** pupils were known to become NEET, with 41 pupils either not responding to contact or being known to have left the area. Factors previously affecting the result include the rising cost of higher education, young people's awareness of training and employment opportunities and limited identification of this group of young people by schools following the A Level results. We will seek qualitative data to improve on this situation.

“I liked having a chance to talk about stuff that worries me”

A young person was referred to the Cynnydd project having moved into the area a year previously and despite being on roll at a local secondary school, had not attended at all.

Careers Wales organised a work placement and helped the young person to develop a plan for the future. The School Engagement Team saw the young person for 2 sessions a week. 1 to 1 support was given to achieve a qualification and support regarding healthy relationships and anger management, as well as focusing on raising self-esteem, confidence and aspirations. Group sessions included a range of activities including speaking and listening, STEM activities, challenging prejudices and improving social skills. The young person was also signposted towards local youth clubs and boxing clubs, and was offered support to attend these clubs if they so wished.

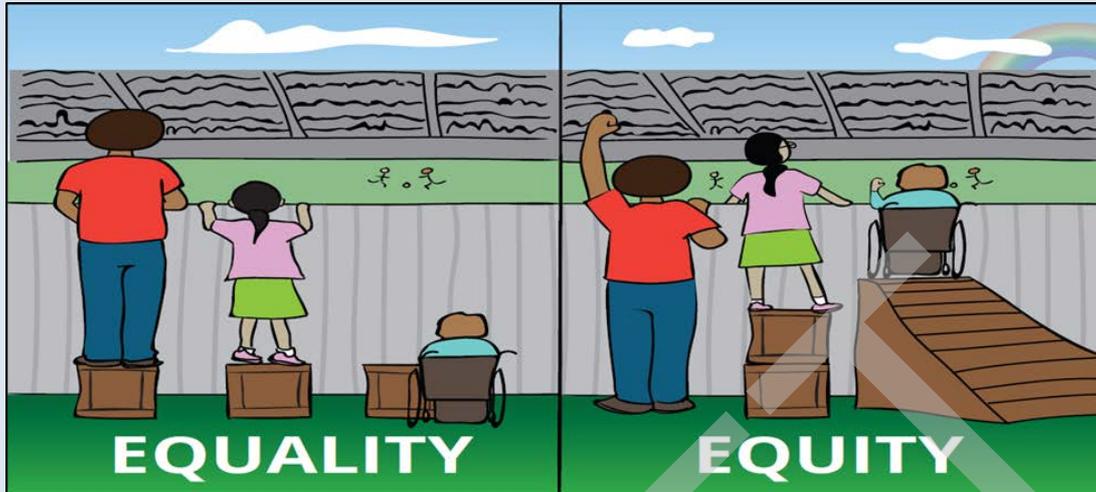
The young person engaged very well and completed a BSC qualification and a Word Processing OCN from Agored Cymru. The YP has made great progress with developing social skills and managing emotions/feelings. YP is more positive about the future and better recognise that actions have consequences. This person commenced a traineeship and was no longer NEET.

Progress Made

- ⦿ We have continued to deliver the local elements of the Cynnydd and Cam Nesa European Social Fund projects. Many young people at risk of becoming NEET have achieved qualifications, progressed into employment, education or training and have improved their attendance, attainment and behaviour as a result of Cynnydd interventions.
- ⦿ Over the past 5 years, people with learning disabilities in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion have worked together to develop a Learning Disabilities Charter – a simple list of things they expect, and need, to live fulfilling lives. The Charter has been developed with support from the Welsh Government’s Intermediate Care Fund, the West Wales Care Partnership, and Pembrokeshire College. It is supported by the County Councils of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, and the Hywel Dda University Health Board. Organisations, companies and individuals can sign the Charter and commit to treating everyone equally. There will be a quality mark developed which will be awarded to organisations or businesses who demonstrate they live up to the standards and aspirations of the charter.
- ⦿ The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) is well imbedded within the Youth Support Service. Vulnerability Assessment Profile Meetings have been held termly in the county’s secondary school provision. Additionally, Support into Employment Education and Training Meetings are held with key stakeholders for those above statutory school age.
- ⦿ The new curriculum in its final form was released on 28th January 2020. Momentum has therefore been building in ERW (Education through Regional Learning) support for implementation in schools. Carmarthenshire County Council are actively supporting this endeavour and our local interpretation of the new curriculum continues to take shape.

Education and Children's Services Department Equity Policy

EVERY LEARNER MATTERS: Proposals to Promote Equity, Well-being, Inclusion and Excellence in Carmarthenshire's learning communities



To Improve opportunity for all:

- Including all learners and ensuring that each individual has an equal opportunity for significant educational progress is a fundamental human right. This should be supported by an **equitable** and **inclusive** educational system
- Equitable and inclusive learning communities also stress **pupils' well-being**, coupled with a complementary focus upon educational **excellence**
- Major forces such as globalisation, migration, economic and social change are potentially propagating inequalities in our communities, families and the learning settings that serve them. Our wish in Carmarthenshire is that no one is left behind and that **each child can be the best they can possibly be**, by being afforded every opportunity to **fully realise their potential**
- In essence, '**Every learner matters and matters equally**' and this document paves the way towards realising that ideal in Carmarthenshire's learning communities
- This appetite to develop policy and practice in this area is governed by our collective **moral purpose** for education, and we wish to propose actions based upon a universally agreed **ethical** frame of reference
- The international and national policy backdrop is touched upon, which supports proposing a unifying vision for this area of emerging practice.
- We already have a lot to celebrate in Carmarthenshire whilst promoting equity and inclusivity.
- This future can be further co-constructed with key officers and school practitioners
- Ensuring **minimum standards** in primary and secondary schooling would appear imperative if we're to attain **equality and Social Justice**
- In order to achieve as high a level of **equality** as possible (the end game), the means to that end (**equity, wellbeing, inclusion and excellence**) will need to be applied



Executive Board Member For Education & Children
Cllr Glynog Davies

Live Well

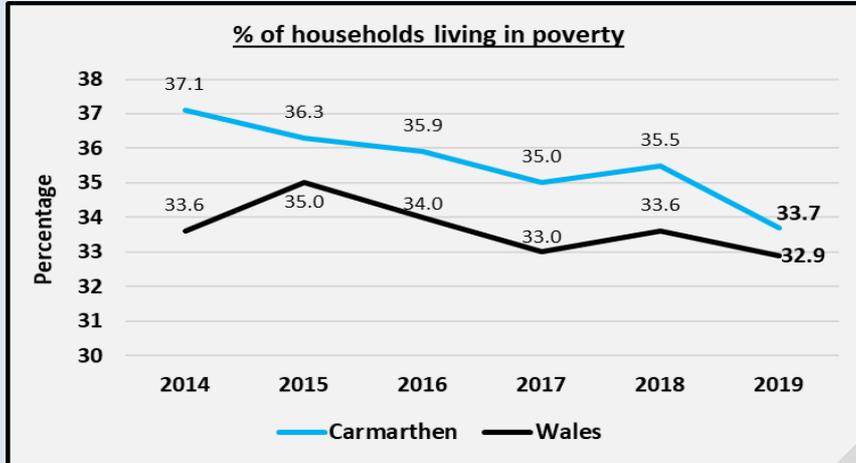




Well-being Objective 5

Start Well/Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work & improve the lives of those living in poverty

Over a third of households in Carmarthenshire continue to live in poverty



During 2019, **27,576** households in Carmarthenshire were classed as living in poverty, unfortunately this is expected to increase during 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis

Poverty is defined as when a "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income" (in 2019 less than £19,285)

Why it is important

- Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects across all aspects of well-being. It limits the opportunities & prospects for children & young people, damages the quality of life for families & communities
- Poverty can be a barrier to full participation in society and is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now and, in the future,
- Two Carmarthenshire wards (Tyisha and Glanymor) were in the top 20 worst wards for childhood poverty in Wales (both at 41.3%) *Source: End Child Poverty, Loughborough University, 2019*

Success Measures

46.4% of households threatened with homelessness were successfully prevented from becoming homeless *declined from previous year (59.5%)*

The number of households in material deprivation continues to reduce **11.3%** *Reduced from previous year (13.5%) 11th highest in Wales*

Source: National Survey for Wales

There's a **17.9%** gap in the results of pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who don't (19.7% gap in the previous year)

Source: StatsWales

Explaining the Results

- Of the 416 households **threatened with homelessness** during 2019/20, **193 were successfully prevented from becoming homeless - 46.4%**, a decline of **13.1** percentage points on 2018/19. More work needs to be carried out to ensure people who are facing housing difficulties do contact us as soon as possible, as now there are far more people with complex housing issues (i.e. drugs, alcohol, substance misuse), which makes prevention much more difficult. Unfortunately, complex cases come to us very late which leaves us very little time to find a resolution for their problem which is often with their landlord or family thus they end up becoming homeless. Through additional funding that has now been made available from Welsh Government we are looking at solutions to help those who are more complex to come forward sooner i.e. work in the communities where high volumes of presentations come from to identify and provide solutions earlier and providing more support particularly for complex individuals via the work around Housing First.
- According to the 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#) **11.3%** of participating households in Carmarthenshire were classed as **living in material deprivation**, this is below the Welsh average of 12.9% and a reduction on last year on 13.5%.
- The **gap** between **exam results** for pupils receiving **Free School Meals (FSM)** and **those who don't (Non-FSM)** has reduced by 1.8 percentage points but remains the 7th smallest gap in Wales.

Progress Made

Preventing Poverty

- ⊙ To ensure vulnerable residents are supported appropriately, work has continued to implement key *Homelessness Strategy* actions. This includes delivering a wider degree of affordable housing options, and a new commissioning plan for *temporary and supported housing* that will see smaller, more dispersed offers of accommodation. We are continuing to work with partner agencies to ensure people with housing difficulties contact us earlier to prevent their homelessness happening in the first place.
- ⊙ The *Buy With Confidence* Carmarthenshire scheme was officially launched at a networking event in February. It provides consumers with a list of local businesses that have given their commitment to trading responsibly and fairly. This scheme helps protect customers from rogue traders and illegitimate businesses.
- ⊙ We are helping Council house tenants to reduce their energy bills by continuing to assess options, and to trial new technology to improve the comfort of their homes and reduce carbon emissions to levels set by Welsh Government.

Work

- ⊙ After receiving Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes,
 - 385 adults received employability support with 100% feeling more confident about seeking work.
 - 218 received digital inclusion support with 100% feeling more confident in using the computer.
 - 258 residents gained accredited qualifications in employment related courses.
- ⊙ We have continued to work towards addressing childcare gaps and local parents/carers have been supported to balance their working and caring responsibilities. Promoting childcare as a career choice to try and attract potential new childminders has seen a major media campaign this past year. There have been 8 new childminder registrations during the year, 4 from targeted areas. There are currently 110 registered childminders within Carmarthenshire with a total of 817 registered childcare places.
- ⊙ Work is no longer a guaranteed route out of poverty. The unemployment rate in Wales remains at historically low levels, and yet, over half the people living in poverty in Wales today are in work.
- ⊙ We need to support people to develop skills and secure decent work, procure goods and services fairly and locally, where the foundational economy generates local wealth and employment, and where we move towards a low carbon society. The foundational economy is about the basic goods and services on which every citizen relies on and which keep us safe. For example, health and care services, food, housing, energy, construction, tourism and retailers on the high street. Foundational businesses, both large and small, are typically embedded or 'grounded' in the local economy. They help retain and recirculate wealth in an area, reducing leakage of surpluses and profits out of the area. As social businesses are anchored in their communities, investment in them stays in the community; recycled for wider economic & social benefits.
- ⊙ £100k has been invested to increase the number of local and regional businesses supporting the public sector in the area

Improving the lives of those living in poverty

- ⊙ To make front line support services more accessible to residents, we have extended the *Hwb* model developed in Llanelli to **Ammanford** and **Carmarthen**. On average, Llanelli deals with 2,900 appointments per month, Ammanford 1,100 and Carmarthen 2,000. The *Hwb* allows residents to: access a self-help computer point that links directly into our website, to the housing portal; direct telephone access to our Contact Centre; access employability and job search options with Partner organisations such as Workways+; pay Council related bills
- ⊙ Further work will be undertaken to analyse the different effects of poverty in different geographical areas of the county and that a plan to address those issues will be developed
- ⊙ We are supporting the **socio-economic duty** under the Equality Act 2010 to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class, by embedding into the new Integrated Impact Assessment to be introduced during 2020-21

We have been recognised in the [Future Generations Commissioners Report 2020](#) ([Chapter 3:More Equal Wales, p 17](#) & [Chapter 3:Cohesive Communities, p7](#)) as a good example of considering poverty holistically, under this well-being objective "... including steps focusing on early intervention programmes such as Flying

Page 44 Start, supporting people into employment & financial literacy."

The Vision...

'To deliver better housing, mixed use development community facilities & environmental conditions. This in turn will support improvement of the social & economic profile of the area & provide opportunities for education, training & employment.'

Tyisha: The way forward



We will be investing millions of pounds to transform the area for the benefit of the community

After extensive engagement and consultation with the Tyisha community, our ambitious regeneration masterplan is being put into action. We have been carrying out a lot of 'behind the scenes' work since the Planning for Real consultation exercise took place. We have listened to the views of the community on the area and what they wanted to change about it and now we want to put some of those ideas into action. With the community's help, we have developed a masterplan for Tyisha looking at the main issues and how we can improve on these.

What we are doing and what we plan to do:

- *Develop a community hub to provide a range of services such as early years family support, youth support and employability education and training;*
 - This is a key project within the area. We are working closely with the Llanelli Railway Goods Shed Trust to restore the Grade II listed building & bring it back into use for the benefit of the community.
- *Build new family and first-time buyer homes that are affordable to buy or to rent;*
 - We have been working with property owners in Station Road to help bring derelict buildings back into use as part of the *Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme*. The aim is to support area-based projects that promote economic regeneration with a focus on individuals & areas most in need
- *Work with landlords to improve private rental properties;*
 - There is a high level of social and privately rented properties in Tyisha and we are looking at working with a partner company to deliver a better mix of housing which will include affordable and options to buy especially for first-time buyers
- *Reduce crime, drug and alcohol issues;*
 - We are working closely with Dyfed Powys Police to tackle the drug, alcohol and antisocial behaviour issues in Tyisha. We want to make the area a safer place to live.
- *Provide a park within the ward for children to play in;*
 - Feedback has showed that there were no children's parks in the Tyisha ward. By working closely with Llanelli Town Council, we have been able to fund a play area at Ann Street together with a designated dog walking area. Work will start shortly.
- *Review bin collections and tackle litter problems*
- *Create a gateway near the train station and the site of the Wellness Village;*
- *Make the area more appealing, greener and create a 'boulevard' along Station Road*



Executive Board Member For Communities and Rural Affairs

Cllr Cefin Campbell

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Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

Median Gross Weekly Pay has increased by 5% in Carmarthenshire (from £511.4 to £536.5)

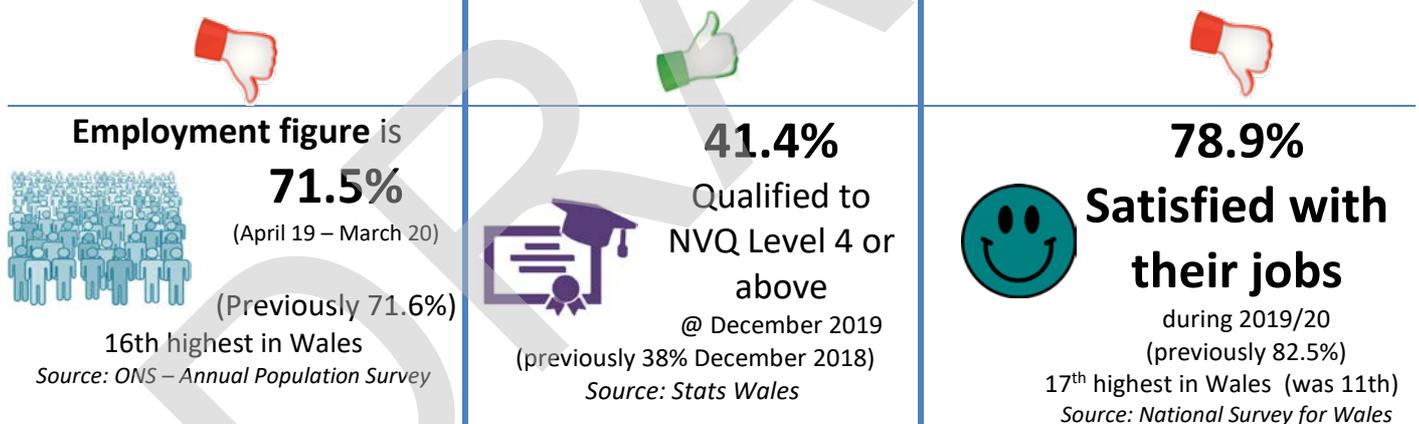
Carmarthenshire has gone up from 11th in 2018 to 9th highest wage in Wales for 2019.

This continues to be below the Welsh average of £540.7

Why it is important

- ⊙ Increasing employability has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
- ⊙ We need to have a focus on the nurturing sectors which can be considered as the foundations of our local economy for example care, food, housing, energy and construction.
- ⊙ We also need to ensure we support the principles of development within the circular economy aiming to keep resources in use for as long as possible. A more circular economy will:
 - reduce waste;
 - drive greater resource productivity;
 - deliver a more competitive Carmarthenshire economy and
 - extract maximum value whilst in use and recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

- **Employment figures** in Carmarthenshire at the end of March 2020 is **71.5%**, this is slightly down from 71.6% the previous year. This is below both the Welsh (73.7%) and UK average (75.9%), both of which have increased. We have also moved and from 15th to 16th in Wales. Although employment is not only the Council's responsibility, the figures are disappointing as we have continued to put a number of funding initiatives in place again during 2019/20 to stimulate jobs and growth in the county in the form of Property Development Fund, Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund and Business Grants and created 393 jobs. The employment figures for 2020/21 is expected to drop in Carmarthenshire as in many parts of the UK due to effect of COVID-19
- **41.4%** of working age adults living in Carmarthenshire are **qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above** in 2019, this is an improvement on 38% the previous year and above the Welsh average of 38.8%. We have the **5th highest figure** in Wales moving up from 9th the previous year.
- According to the [National Survey for Wales](#), **78.9%** of those participated were moderately or very **satisfied with their jobs**, this is below the previous result of 82.5%. We have moved down from 11th to 17th position in Wales.

Progress Made

The Swansea Bay City Deal

- ⦿ The design has been completed for the first Phase/Zone of **Pentre Awel**– this first Zone comprises the Community Health Hub and Wellness Hub, which are being brought together in a ‘Street’ design to integrate services (leisure, health, business and education/training elements with a community atmosphere where visitors are able to spend time within a quality environment). Numerous opportunities and benefits will be achieved, including the creation of 1,853 jobs across a range of sectors, supported by a comprehensive education, skills and training programme to ensure local people are best placed to capitalise on the Village development.
- ⦿ Pentre Awel was one of the *first projects in the UK to be awarded full funding (£60,000)* by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to undertake a heat network feasibility study, looking at optimising energy use and recovery.

Delivering the Transformational Strategy Area Plans

- ⦿ The Pendine Attractor Project main contract works commenced in January 2019 (due for completion in May 2021) and both hostel and museum building structures have been erected.
- ⦿ The *Carmarthen Wetlands / Y Morfa* works commenced in January 2020 and are now scheduled for completion post COVID-19 lockdown in October 2020.
- ⦿ *Jackson`s Lane Kiosk* project contractor has been appointed and works have commenced off site
- ⦿ Businesses in Carmarthen have backed a *BID* that will generate more than £165,000 per year to be used to improve Carmarthen. The businesses’ decision ensures Carmarthen is one of a small number of towns in Wales to be awarded the status, which focuses on improvements to the town through a collective effort. Businesses will pay an annual levy of 1.5 per cent every year, generating more than £165,000 per year to be used to improve the town.
- ⦿ The *Workways+ and Buccaneer* projects are progressing well with support for both the long term unemployed and businesses continuing under the objectives of their respective projects.

Carmarthenshire Rural Affairs

- ⦿ Following approval and publication of our [*Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward*](#) Report with 55 Recommendations in September 2019, the *10 rural towns programme* was launched in October 2019.
 - One of the main recommendations is that *‘we will work with local communities and stakeholders in ten of its rural towns (and surrounding communities) to develop individual plans that will aim to provide a long-term strategic vision to secure economic, cultural, social and environmental sustainability for those towns’*. Community resilience and self-help will be a key consideration of these growth plans.
 - There is also an emphasis on *creating jobs and business opportunities* so that we can retain young people and the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire and encourage those who have left the county to return and help us grow the economy.

Learning, Skills and Employability

- ⦿ The *Regional Learning & Skills Partnership* have worked with employers, schools and colleges to identify new opportunities and skills that will be required in order to ensure Carmarthenshire fully benefits from the City Deal Skills and Talent Initiative. The schools that the project has already worked with have submitted a number of project ideas that they are keen to proceed with in order to develop opportunities and raise the aspirations of young students around the City Deal projects. A Skills and Talent Business plan has also been developed and an external review of the project will be undertaken prior to the Plan being finalised.

By ensuring clear business support and supporting local economic growth

- ⦿ We worked hard to clear debris left by *Storm Dennis* and specialist contractors were drafted in to help in some areas. Business support officers contacted more than 100 businesses, who have previously been affected by floods, to offer advice and financial assistance where needed, and many were able to reopen.
- ⦿ Welsh Government funding has been secured to deliver an exciting transformation of the derelict *former market hall in Llandeilo*, creating an innovative rural business hub with bespoke employment space for rural businesses and a new rural enterprise academy.

Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site



Work commenced on the £5m infrastructure project that will see, on completion, the creation of 7 development plots that could accommodate up to 500 jobs. The works include: to complete the internal road network and earthworks to create the development plateaus together with drainage, provision of utilities, and habitat retention. The works will be completed in Autumn 2020 and provide much needed space for local and incoming investment. The works are funded via the County Council and the European Regional Development Fund and the scheme is part of the *Cross Hands Joint Venture* which is a collaborative initiative with the Welsh Government.

Ysgol Teilo Sant are young trader champions after selling all their stock on Carmarthen Outdoor Market. The annual competition involves pupils setting up a business and turning it into a profitable enterprise. The Year 6 pupils were hailed winners after battling it out with two other schools, Saron and Meidrim, in the Carmarthenshire Young Traders Competition.

The school sold over 500 flavoured home-made Welsh cakes in four hours and pocketed nearly £300 for their school.



The way we work

First vegan supermarket opens in Llanelli

The first vegan supermarket – **Kind Earth** - has opened its doors in Llanelli Stradey District Centre store in Maes Y Coed thanks to the support of a grant from Carmarthenshire County Council.



The business, owned by local resident **Matt Rogerson**, was supported with a grant through the Council's business start-up fund which is linked to job creation. The money was used to purchase equipment including an EPOS system, fridges and freezers, shelving, trolleys, baskets and light fittings. The business is a plastic free zone offering paper bags and paper carriers to customers as packaging.

In addition to selling groceries, the store will run a terracycle scheme and host a number of events, including litter picking days and workshops on a wide range of topics to improve lifestyles for the long term. The shop is not only a vegan supermarket where people can buy fresh good quality locally sourced grocery items but offers customers involvement in initiatives and workshops to make us a healthier and more sustainable community.



Executive Board Member For Economic Development
Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader)



Well-being Objective 7

Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

On Target to delivering over 1,000 additional affordable homes by 2021

Good quality, affordable homes are the bed rock of healthy and sustainable communities. We have delivered **over 970** additional affordable homes since 2016 as part of the affordable homes plan

Why it is important

- Good quality affordable homes promote *health and well-being*, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the *People and the Environment* - as the energy use within the home will be reduced, having a significant effect on reducing the fuel costs for the occupying residents. It will also have a significant effect on reducing pollutants in the atmosphere and mitigating fuel poverty in our communities.
- It's good for the *Social Structure* - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents.
- It's good for the *Economy* - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce. Affordable housing developments ensure that working families will remain in their community.

Success Measure

+ 315
Additional Affordable Homes
during 2019/20

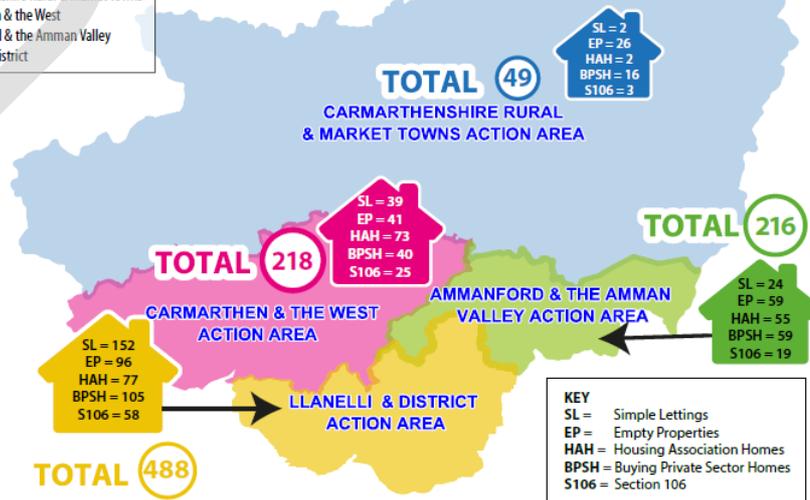


Explaining the Results

Affordable Homes Performance – Overall Performance from April 2016

971 Affordable Homes Delivered

Action Areas as a % of County Population
19% = Carmarthenshire Rural & Market Towns
22% = Carmarthen & the West
17% = Ammanford & the Amman Valley
42% = Llanelli & District



Progress Made

- As part of the 2016 - 2021 Affordable Homes Plan to date we have provided **971** additional affordable homes made up of the following:-

217: Simple lettings agency

(32: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 61: 18/19; 61:19/20)

222: Empty homes brought back into use

(28: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 67: 18/19; 64:19/20)

238: Buying private sector homes

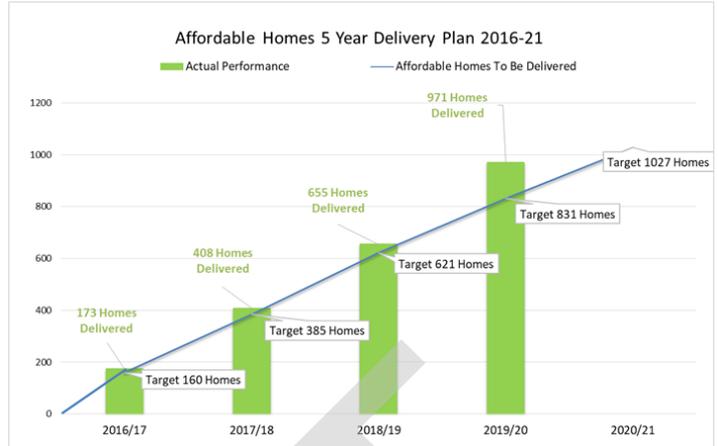
(45: 16/17; 69: 17/18; 81: 18/19; 43:19/20)

189: Housing Association new build development

(45: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 17: 18/19; 107:19/20)

105: Section 106 Contribution by Developers

(23: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 21: 18/19; 41:19/20)



- We have bought **208** private sector homes to increase the *council's own housing stock*. **30** homes have also been bought directly by Bro Myrddin and Coastal Housing Associations.
- We have five Council new build developments on site at Dylan, Garreglwyd, Glanmor Terrace, Gwynfryn and Maespiode. These developments will create 114 new affordable homes.
- Through the planning system (Section 106) **208** homes have been provided for [Low Cost Home Ownership](#) and nominated to local people who needed help to buy their own home.
- We plan to build nearly 1,000 additional Council homes.
- In May 2020 the Future Generations Commissioner published a [report](#) on the progress of the Well-being of Future Generations Act the report states: "Carmarthenshire's new build programme is identified as an excellent example of what can be delivered in the social housing sector"
- In October 2019, the Wales Audit Office published [a report on this well-being objective](#) and found that 'the Council is applying the sustainable development principle in providing additional affordable housing'



Building over 30 new council homes on one of our first sites in Dylan in Llanelli



Executive Board Member For Housing
Cllr Linda Evans



Well-being Objective 8

Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

Almost 1.5 million visits to our Sport & Leisure Facilities, generating a Social Value Return of £4.97 million during 2019/20

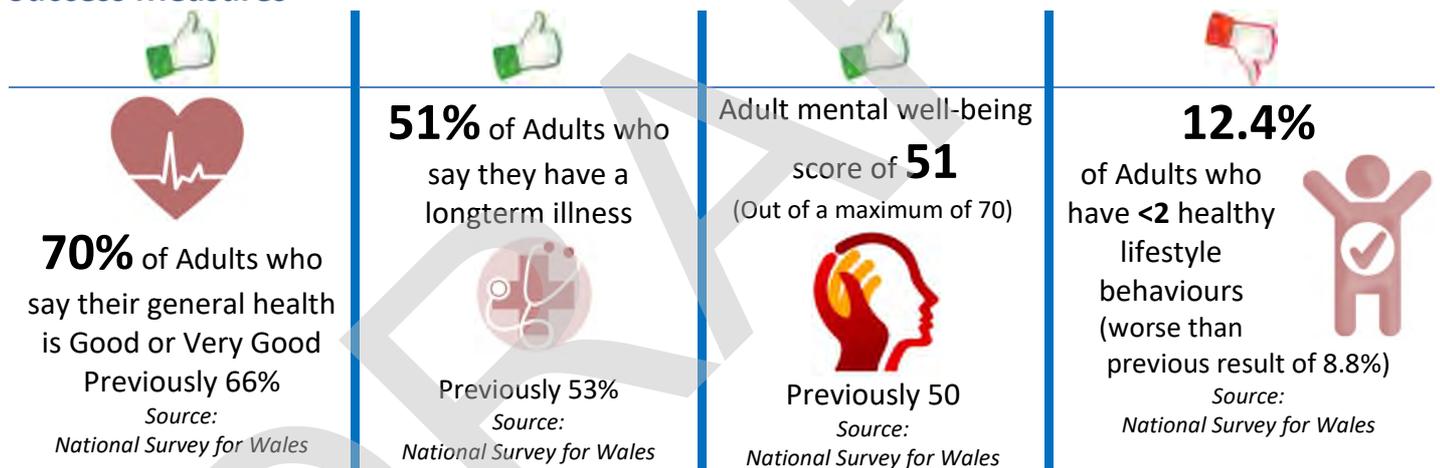
We want Carmarthenshire to be a place:

- That is the most active and healthy in the UK
- Where every person is an active participant at a *Community Club or Leisure / Cultural Facility*
- Where every child is hooked on Leisure / Cultural activity for life

Why it is important

- ⊙ Because our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- ⊙ Because the challenge is to prevent ill health.
- ⊙ Because living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- ⊙ Because many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

The following [National Survey for Wales](#) shows that:-

- **70%** of Carmarthenshire participants said their **general health is Good or Very Good**, this is an improvement on the previous result of 66%, comparatively we have moved up from 21st to 15th position in Wales. We continue to work with partners such as Public Health via the Local Service Board to promote a healthy environment for Carmarthenshire residents, including exercise, nutrition and cleaner air.
- **51%** of Carmarthenshire participants **said they had a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity**, this is a slight reduction on the previous survey result of 53% and we have moved from being the second highest result in Wales to 15th. Whilst this measure has numerous influences we continue to see increases in the number and impact of schemes such as National Exercise referral scheme with almost 1,400 referrals in the past 12 months.
- **Mental well-being score** is based on 14 positively worded statements asked as part of the survey which represents positive attributes of wellbeing and covers both feeling and functioning as opposed to mental illness or disorder and is suitable for use in the general population. Although there is an improvement it is very slight from a score of 50 to 51.
- **12.4%** of participants have **fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours** this has increased on last year of 8.8% and is now higher than the Welsh average of 10% and has moved down from 5th best to 18th in Wales.

Progress Made

- ⦿ We have continued to monitor *air quality* (nitrogen dioxide) for the residents of and visitors to the County implementing a sampling programme.
- ⦿ During the year, Actif received 1384 referrals to the *National Exercise Referrals Scheme* (NERS), 58.5% of whom engaged with the scheme, and subsequently 57.3% of these completed the 16-week programme (a 2.2% increase on 2018/19).
- ⦿ *Over £1 million* has also been secured to invest in Ammanford Leisure Centre to re-furbish the wet side changing rooms, upgrade the all-weather pitch and improve car parking facilities on site.
- ⦿ Plans for the new leisure facility in Llanelli are developing well. We are planning to invest over £25 million for a new leisure centre on the Delta Lakes site Pentre Awel.
- ⦿ Our ambition to become the *Cycling Hub of Wales* is now well established, and investment is ongoing in local, urban and competition-standard infrastructure, all underpinned by events and development work.
- ⦿ The *Mental Health Running project* launched by the department in 2018 in Llanelli has gone from strength to strength with groups now being set up across the county. Furthermore, the project has been shortlisted as a finalist for this year's Social Care Accolades.
- ⦿ In October 2019 we launched (in collaboration with the third sector and HDUHB) a crisis service '*The twilight Sanctuary*', which is open Thursday to Sunday 6pm to 2am. Individuals experiencing a crisis can speak to staff over the phone or attend the centre to receive support. This is proving to be a valuable service for those in need of urgent mental health support and will be expanded to include an overnight facility as an alternative to hospital.
- ⦿ Nominated staff within Ty Dyffryn and Cartref Cynnes Extra Care facilities have successfully completed an OTAGO exercise Programme, whereby they lead a class of service users on a weekly basis to undertake *chair exercises*. These classes maintain service user's physical health and mental well-being.
- ⦿ Within our Learning Disability Service, *Health and Well-being* has been a focus across all services seeing the development and expansion of many community groups. Activities have included, running and walking groups, a new football team, the expansion of the netball team and the development of cycle4all at Pembrey. Two service users took part in the Llanelli Half Marathon and 1 has secured a place in the London marathon.
- ⦿ From April 2019 to mid March 2020 *over 1 million physical visits were made to Carmarthenshire libraries* and over a quarter of a million virtual visits. This makes our libraries amongst the most used of all council services.

Ammanford Library links with Day Centre



Ammanford library have developed strong links with Manor Road Day Centre. The centre supports adults age 18 and over with severe learning disability to grow, develop and feel safe and belong to their community.

Women's Tour a resounding success for Carmarthenshire

The *grand finale of the OVO Women's Tour* was held in the county on 15 June 2019 and proved to be a resounding success, with thousands lining the route to cheer the cyclists on their 79-mile race through Carmarthenshire.

It showed what can be achieved when communities, businesses, volunteers and spectators, as well as event staff, security, marshals and emergency services all work together to make a special day for the county.

Stage Six of the race saw the best female cyclists in the world competing in a series of sprints, mountain climbs and descents through some of Carmarthenshire's most breath-taking landscape, starting at the historic *Carmarthen Velodrome*, crossing the *Black Mountains* and ending at the *Closed Road Circuit at Pembrey Country Park*.

Communities got involved to provide a carnival atmosphere, with many putting on their own events and family activities.

Hosting the race gave us the opportunity to *showcase our stunning landscape and scenery*, which has provided one of the most challenging stages for the cyclists in the year's Tour but has taken in some of our most breath-taking mountains and valleys.

We were particularly proud of *Manon Lloyd (Drops)*, who is from Carmarthenshire and started her cycling career with Towy Riders in Carmarthen. It must have been a fantastic feeling for her to compete with the best in the world on home soil.



Executive Board Member For Culture, Sport & Tourism
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths

Age Well



DRAFT



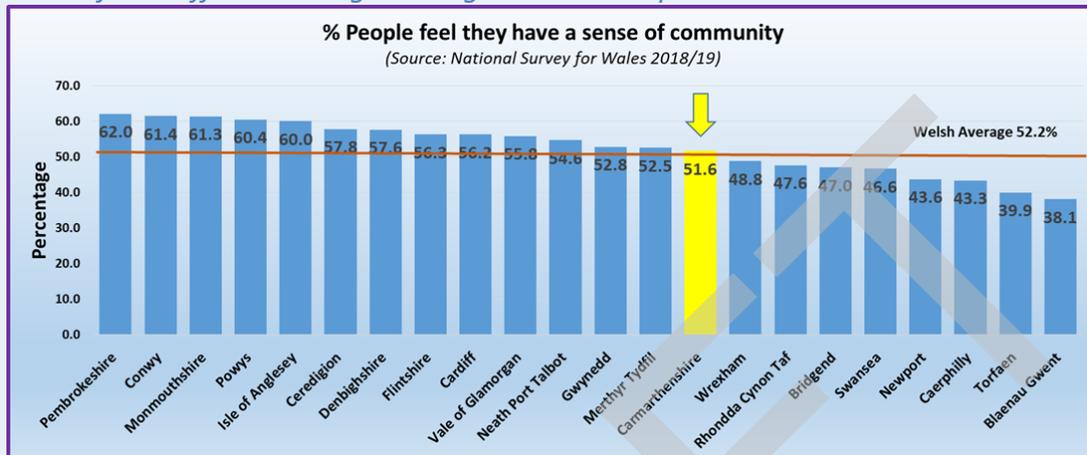


Well-being Objective 9

Live Well/Age Well - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

Sense of Community survey results have increased in Carmarthenshire from 47.7% to 51.6%

The 'Sense of Community' is derived from three questions; *People feel they belong to their local area; People in the area from different backgrounds get on and People in the area treat each other with respect!*



Despite an improved result we move down from 13th to 14th position in Wales.

Why it is important

- ⊙ Social isolation puts individuals at greater risk of cognitive decline with one study concluding that lonely people have a 64% increased chance of developing clinical dementia
- ⊙ Loneliness amongst young people has been shown to increase the likelihood of poor physical & mental health, the risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and reduce future employment opportunities
- ⊙ Social networks and friendships not only have an impact on reducing the risk of early death and illness, but they also help individuals to recover when they do fall ill.

Success Measure

76.1% People who feel safe

Previously 78.7%

7th Highest in Wales

Source: National Survey for Wales



Explaining the Results

- ⊙ The number of [National Survey for Wales](#) participants **feeling safe** has reduced from **78.7%** to **76.1%** but remains 7th place. This result was derived from four questions; people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling in the dark which will be available in due course.
- ⊙ According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#), **51.6%** of participants felt they had a 'Sense of Community', this is an improvement on previous year of 47.7%. This result was derived from three questions; People feel they belong to their local area; People in the area from different backgrounds get on and People in the area treat each other with respect'. *The breakdown for each of these questions at Local Authority level have not been published as yet.* Despite an improved result, we have moved from 13th to 14th position in Wales.

Progress Made



- ⦿ We have continued to work closely with the *Carmarthenshire Armed Forces Steering Group* and the *Armed Forces Champion* on key areas such as Housing, Service Children and Grants to support the Armed Forces community.
- ⦿ **Connect to Kindness**

This is a programme of work based on an information session that raises awareness about the *importance and benefits of kindness*. It shares 5 key messages and gives evidence about the positive effects of kindness for health and well-being. We have recruited 287 *Carmarthenshire Kindness Connectors* this year - who are champions of kindness and connectivity in their communities.

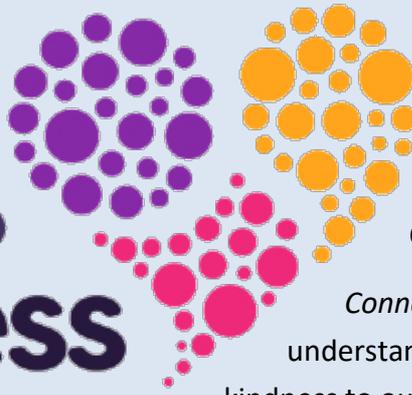
On International Kindness day (17th Feb) a roadshow was taken around the county where cafes gave free teas and coffees to people who pledged acts of kindness to others. Kindness pledges were posted on trees throughout the county and on one day 2,003 pledges of kindness were made across the county.
- ⦿ We are working with the third sector and community voluntary council (CVC) to incentivise volunteering. A *volunteering development officer* has been funded to work with communities at a town and village level and this will enable the development of Local Action Hubs that create and promote informal volunteering opportunities and kindness.
- ⦿ We have continued to support community groups and organisations to promote and publicise the huge variety of *community events* being held in Carmarthenshire.

Safer Communities

- ⦿ The Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee undertook a *Task and Finish Review on the Trading Standards – Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS)* which was completed. The Report is being developed but has been delayed due to COVID-19.
- ⦿ Awareness of *County Lines* has continued to be raised among partner organisations with sessions delivered to around 800 staff and included presentations to over 300 private landlords about vulnerable tenants.
- ⦿ A co-ordinated campaign took place for '*White Ribbon Day*' on 25 November and following on the next *16 Days of Action* a theme was identified each day, to work towards ending male violence against women.
- ⦿ A pilot '*Safeguarding Awareness*' session was held in February for licensed premises and door staff.
- ⦿ We have extended our *innovative social prescribing programme* based in GP practices across the whole county, working with patients to improve patient health and well-being through community-based solutions.
- ⦿ Carmarthen Town Centre hosted the *Cyber Bus* for the day on 19th March 2019, as part of the cyber resilience tour throughout Wales. The Bus helped to raise awareness of the public's vulnerability to cybercrime and promote how to prevent becoming a victim. 91 members of the public visited the bus for information on the day and 17 businesses were spoken to about cyber safety/security advice.

Connect to Kindness

Carmarthenshire



Simple acts of kindness can make a big difference – that’s the message from a new campaign being launched in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion.

Connect to Kindness aims to create more understanding about the benefit and impact of kindness to ourselves and others in our community.

“Scientific studies have shown that simple acts of kindness make a big difference to wellbeing and that kindness is good for you,” said Rebecca Evans, Senior Public Health Officer from Public Health Wales.

As part of the campaign, the regional partners will be developing stronger community networks in order to create an environment where acts of kindness can flourish and happen more easily.

Connect to Kindness has grown out of a programme developed within the Healthier West Wales Transformation Fund. The partners are Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, and Carmarthenshire County Councils, the Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire Associations of Voluntary Services, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Public Health Wales and the West Wales Care Partnership.

Connect to Kindness five key messages:

1. **Kindness is for everyone** - Kindness is inclusive, it knows no barriers or discrimination and is for everyone!
2. **Kindness is good for you** - Medical research has proven that being kind and receiving kindness has a positive physical effect on us
3. **Kindness connects us** - It brings us together and helps us share
4. **Kindness protects us** - It has been proven that being kind and receiving kindness helps us live longer and happier lives
5. **Kindness is inspiring** - When others are kind, we are more likely to be kind ourselves



Executive Board Member For Community Safety:
Cllr Cefin Campbell
Executive Board Member For Social Care and Health:
Cllr Jane Tremlett



Well-being Objective 10

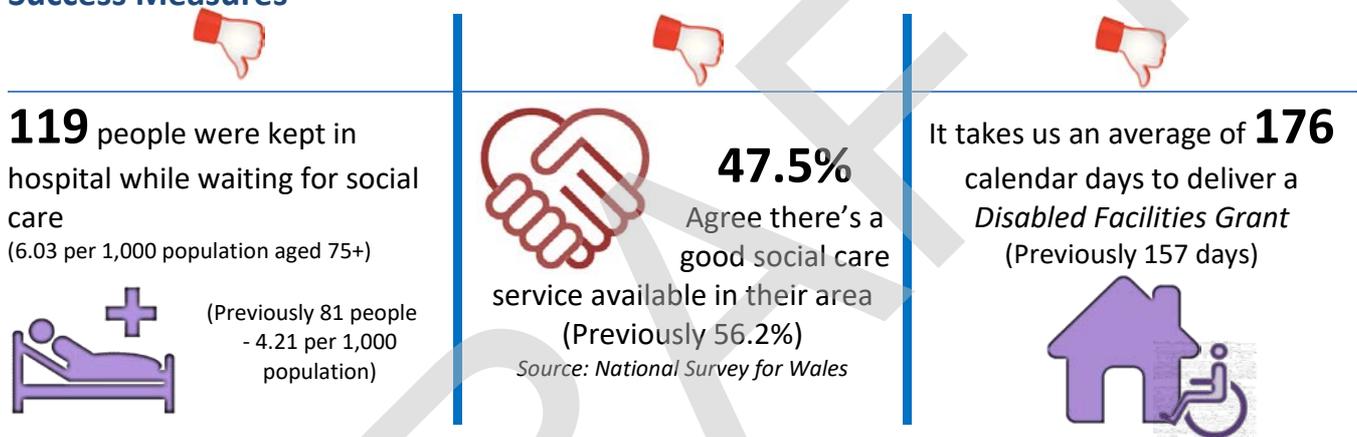
Age Well - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years

**Our Offer to the Population - 'Help to Help Yourself' (Prevent ill health or injury)
Promote independence, well-being, community engagement and social inclusion.**

Why it is important

- Because consultations have demonstrated that *'what matters'* to individuals is to be able to be as independent and well as possible for as long as possible.
- Because our frail population demographic is increasing and will require support to remain as independent as possible.
- Because it is essential that we lay robust foundations to future proof the availability of services that promote and support ongoing well-being and independence for our frail older adult population.

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

- 119 clients (75+) were **kept in hospital** during 2019/20 while waiting for social care, this is excluding figures for February and March 2020 which have not been published by Welsh government due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This is quite an increase on the previous year of 81. There is continuous flow through the acute hospitals with some complex cases causing delays in the more rural areas where capacity for Domiciliary Care can be difficult or those cases where their homes are no longer suitable.
- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#) **47.5%** of participants believed that there is **good Social Care Service available in the area**. While disappointing and unclear about the respondents, we believe we provide a high quality service to our service users and carers and have the evidence to demonstrate this.
 - We received a very good Inspection Report undertaken by the [Care Inspectorate Wales](#) in May 2019 (published 7 August 2019) that verified *that people can be confident in the quality of care and support provided*.
 - Furthermore, as part of our statutory obligation to consult with service users and carers, we obtained an excellent response rate of 604 service users and carers to the survey that demonstrated people's high levels of satisfaction with social care services in the county: For example, 85% of people said they were happy with the care and support they received; 81% know who to contact about their care and support; 83% feel safe from harm or injury; 93% treated with respect and dignity.

- The average number of days taken to deliver a **Disabled Facilities Grant** adaptation has increased to 176 days, the figure at the end of quarter three was 169 days. The additional downturn in performance caused, in part, by the delays and implications of COVID-19 on the ability to complete ongoing site work. *All Wales comparative data is not available for 2019/20.*

Progress Made

- ⦿ *Fulfilled Lives* is a long-term service that supports people living with dementia, it provides individuals with a key worker that helps people to live their life as fully as possible as their dementia progresses. The focus is on the individual directing the support that they need to maximise their independence. The service has been extended from Llanelli to include Ammanford, Amman Valley and Llandeilo, with an increase from 39 to 77 service users during 2019/20. Plans are being developed for the service to be available across the entire county, as part of the re-tendering of Community-based services which has been delayed due to COVID-19 until 2021.
- ⦿ *CUSP Carmarthenshire's United Support Project* for those who need key workers our collaborative based commissioning project in the third sector will support individuals directly. It aims to provide support to people who are 'on the cusp' of needing statutory care and provide a key worker to give co-ordinated community response to keep people well and independent. This also includes a grant scheme in the third sector that can flexibly support individual outcomes.
- ⦿ We have developed and enhanced our already very successful *Acute Response Team* in Carmarthenshire, to create crisis response service providing an alternative to hospital admission. The integrated service is delivered by single multidisciplinary team who will work together in a collaborative approach to ensure each person's pathway is seamless, reduces duplication of assessment and ensures the correct outcomes are achieved. It treats them at home as if they were in a virtual ward and includes Doctors, Nurses, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Dietician and Health Care Support Workers.
It is an extremely valuable service that gives people the care that they want, where they want it and will:
 - Improve patient and carer experience
 - Reduce emergency admissions
 - Reduce length of hospital stay
 - Reduce permanent admissions to a residential setting
- ⦿ The *Reablement Service* has supported service users to regain their mobility and independence. This has enabled some service users to return to activities they previously enjoyed e.g. swimming and attending church on Sundays.



The **CONNECT** service a new and exciting model of self-help and proactive care, supported by the use of digital and Technology Enabled Care. Based on a model operating in Spain which has proven impact on the well-being and has reduced significantly the number of people needing longer term or acute care.

The service includes:

- **Proactive calls:** an individualised self-management plan will be implemented through a schedule of calls.
- **TEC:** Bespoke and individualised equipment to support the service
- **24/7 response:** through a dedicated call centre that can deploy appropriate emergency response when crisis occurs, a mobile service will respond within an hour
- **Pathways of well-being support:** there will be a team to work with individuals provide direct pathways of support.
- **A digital prescription** including a project to create virtual friendship groups and connection. reduce loneliness and isolation for older people:
- A **proactive falls** prevention service
- Dedicated **Carer support** including rapid support for Carers through the Carers Emergency Card
- **Self Help** for long term health conditions by a bespoke Education Programmes for Patients



Executive Board Member For Social Care and Health:
Cllr Jane Tremlett



Well-being Objective 11

Age Well - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire

A slight reduction in loneliness

The National Survey for Wales annual survey showed a slight reduction in loneliness in Carmarthenshire, although it is still above the Welsh Average.

Why it is important

- Ageing well – ‘adding life to years, not just years to life’ – is important for each of us, and for our country as a whole. Older people should be seen as a vital part of society and should be able to have more opportunities to participate in and contribute to our economy and our communities. Older people are a significant asset to our community and economy.
- Wider services can make an important contribution in supporting and sustaining the independence of older people and reducing the demand on Social Services and Health Care.
- The Older Peoples Commissioner, Helena Herklots sets the ambition of ‘Making Wales the best place in the world to grow older’.

Success Measure



% of people feeling lonely in Carmarthenshire has reduced to

16.2% (Was 18.3%)

Source: National Survey for Wales



Explaining the Results

According to the 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#), **16.2%** of participating adults in Carmarthenshire **classed themselves as lonely**, this is above the Welsh average of 14.43% but has reduced from the previous result of 18.3%.



In July 2019 a Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee’s Scrutiny members Task & Finish Review looking at [Loneliness in Carmarthenshire](#) report found that:

‘There are a myriad of activities and initiatives across Carmarthenshire that are bringing about positive change and are tackling loneliness at a local level. It is recognised that a much more targeted and strategic approach is needed to maximise impact’

The significant impact that loneliness can have on physical, mental and social health is well evidenced. Addressing loneliness has been endorsed as a key form of prevention of social care needs in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) and has been recognised as a way of shifting the focus of health and social care.

The Review has also recommended 4 key actions:

1. Take a strategic approach to loneliness
2. Address loneliness as a share priority
3. Focus on building and supporting community assets
4. Directly address barriers to connection

Progress Made

Age Friendly Communities

- ⦿ The Police's *Digital Communications and Cyber Crime Unit* gave a talk at the 50+ Forum annual event in September 2019 to give advice and links to relevant websites.
- ⦿ The *50+ Forum Steering Group* promotes the interests of older people in the county
- ⦿ Service users and carers say that they are satisfied that they were able to access services in the language of their choice.

Dementia Supportive Communities

- ⦿ The Bevan Exemplar project, '*Fulfilled Lives*', which is a project that supports people living with dementia and cognitive impairment, has had a successful pilot rolled out in Llanelli. The person-centred approach to people with dementia and their families has gained exemplary status from the international renowned Bevan Commission. Its evaluation demonstrated excellent outcomes for people with dementia in terms of remaining at home with less likelihood of escalating needs

Falls Prevention

- ⦿ The *National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS)*, which has an innovative and effective approach to the provision of physical activity interventions, continues to have Falls Prevention as a key priority. Falls referrals have increased resulting in a significant uptake of the scheme.
- ⦿ '*Drink Wise Age Well*' training has been provided to staff who work with adults. This training focusses on the impact of alcohol use on the over 50's and includes a focus on early identification of problematic use.

Annual 50+ Forum

Another successful Annual 50+ Forum Event with around 500 members attending the National Botanical Gardens on the 12th September 2019.

The popular event brings together a wide variety of people and over 30 organisations and provides opportunity to reflect positively on aging as well as focusing minds on the needs of the county's older people. The annual event is supported by Carmarthenshire County Council and Welsh Government. The Event featured themes based on the priority issues raised in the 2018 Survey and subsequent mini surveys over the year and included:

- Mobility and access to transport
- Banking accessibility and staying safe on the internet
- Digital help for health and well-being, preventing loneliness and social isolation



Saron 50+ Cuppa club were one of the T2T award winners



The *Tenant to Tenant* (T2T) association presented Saron 50+ group with a second-place trophy in the community project category.

The group were so happy to have been given this award that each member keeps the trophy for 2 weeks and it's then passed on to the next member!



They set up about 4 years ago with 17 members and now have nearly 60 members who attend the cuppa club every other Wednesday from 10-12pm at Saron hall.

They have a variety of guest speakers who come along, and the atmosphere is very friendly and welcoming. A tea dance is also organised every month, but it's not compulsory to dance! They also regularly go ten-pin bowling.

[Link to the Spring 2019 edition of the 'Tenant to Tenant' magazine](#)



Executive Board Members For Housing:
Cllr Linda Evans &
Social Care & Health:
Cllr Jane Tremlett

Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment



DRAFT



Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment -

Look after the environment now and in the future

First net zero carbon action plan in Wales

In February 2020, Carmarthenshire County Council became the first local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan detailing how we work towards becoming net zero carbon in the next 10 years. We were one of the first councils in the UK to declare a climate emergency, pledging to becoming net carbon zero by 2030 - 20 years ahead of Welsh and UK government targets.

Actions include developing new carbon reductions from council's buildings, purchasing more energy efficient fleet, collaboration with other public bodies to deliver wider change, exploring opportunities for tree planting and renewable energy generation on council-owned land.

Why it is important

- The *Natural Environment* is a core component of sustainable development. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to *maintain & enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience*.
- A *biodiverse natural environment*, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- There is a *strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding environment* from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.

Success Measures



We generated **997,480**
kWh of renewable energy
during 2019/20
(increased from 979,071 kWh
in the previous year)



Our recycle rate is
64.66%
(This is an increase on the
previous year's figure of
58.95%.)



Explaining the Results

- **Recycling** increased in 2019/20 to 64.66% from 58.95% the previous year. We have therefore met the statutory Welsh Government target of 64% by 31st March 2020 avoiding any financial penalties. We undertook a programme of door-stepping to advise and encourage householders to participate in our recycling schemes. *Thanks to residents there has been a significant increase in recycling.*

Progress Made

- We have continued to deliver the *Caeau Mynydd Mawr* Special Area Conservation (SAC) Marsh Fritillary project. The project is now managing 25 sites that provide 41.05ha of land in suitable habitat for the marsh fritillary butterfly
- We continued to engage with the public advising and encouraging them to further support the council to improve its recycling performance. A comprehensive household engagement programme took place in October coinciding with changes to residual collection policy and food waste liner provision.
- We have produced and published our Flood Risk Management Plan that identifies, manages, and mitigates flood risk within our communities.
- We have continued to work with stakeholders to pilot litter management arrangements across Llanelli by introducing Local Environmental Quality Officer groups, Pride in Your Patch stakeholders group, public protection orders and joint enforcement operations by working with local Police inspectors.

Information to follow on energy consumption in 2019/20

We are awaiting:

- 2019/20 energy consumption data from our suppliers and will then need to check/verify the figures.
- Reporting guidance from Welsh Government to apply prescribed methodologies.

We hope to include data **if** received by the final publication of this report by 31st October 2020.

Electric Vehicle charging Points in Carmarthenshire



26 sites in Llanelli, Burry Port, Ammanford, Carmarthen, Gwendraeth Valley and Llandeilo are the latest locations to benefit from electric vehicle charging points.

The way we work

Dedicated Ecologist Post

We have appointed an Ecologist to ensure we meet our Biodiversity Duty as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The Ecologist works on engineering design and on site with contractors delivering projects from small schemes such as car parking and footpaths, to large schemes such as Cross hands East Strategic Employment (ESES). This includes providing and gaining protected species licences and producing ecological scope of works. Providing advice to Property Services (eg. advice on bats) to the ecological impact on Flood Defence and Coastal Protection

This post has seen immediate benefits in the delivery of the Cross Hands Link Road Phase 1 and the planning and delivery of the second phase.



Flooding

Our Operational Team undertook a clean-up operation in affected communities and businesses to deal with the aftermath of **Storm Dennis**.

Crews worked hard to clear debris left by the floods, with specialist contractors drafted in to help in some areas. A full assessment of the damage caused by the storm was carried out on all affected road surfaces, trees and bridges.

A *Support Fund* was set up for residents and businesses affected by storm.



Executive Board Member For Public Protection: **Cllr Philip Hughes**
Executive Board Member For Environment: **Cllr Hazel Evans**

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Well-being Objective 13

Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

We have improved road infrastructure, rural transport and active travel

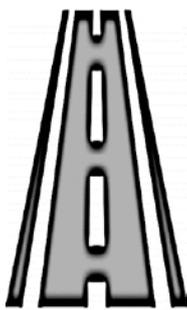
Our Transportation and Highway related services facilitate the safe movement of goods and people. Enabling access to raw commodities and markets as well as providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and social activities. We have continued to develop Active Travel by investing in shared paths and cycle paths, improved the road infrastructure to encourage economic activity and maintained a rural bus service through our Bwcabus and country cars service.

Why it is important

- *Transportation and highways* play a key role in sustaining our community. A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure, social and retail services.
- *United and connected* is one of the four Welsh Governments' aims in its 'Taking Wales Forward' plan. Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- *Sustaining access to services* through Active Travel plans will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community including walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.

Success Measures

Roads that are in poor condition:



5.4% of our A Class

(A decline on 5.2% in 18/19)

4.7% of our B Class

(A decline on 4.2% in 18/19)

12.5% of our C Class

(This has remained constant with the 18/19 figure of 12.5%)



Our road casualty numbers have increased with **113** people being killed or seriously injured on the roads (97 in 2018)

(2nd highest in Wales)

Source: Stats Wales



Explaining the Results

- **Road conditions in Carmarthenshire have deteriorated during 2019/20.** Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales. The combined % of A class, B and C class roads in Carmarthenshire in a poor condition (red zone) has increased; with A class roads increasing from 5.2% to 5.4%, B roads from 4.2% to 4.7% but C roads have remained in a steady state condition with 12.5% in poor condition. The overall increase of poor condition (red zone) during last year equates to some 175km of road, this is a significant length of the network. Due to budget limitations, investment is not keeping pace with the rate of deterioration. We shall submit an additional funding case in order to address the 'red' sections and also request increased investment in preventative maintenance.
- **A total of 113 people were killed or seriously injured** on Carmarthenshire's roads in 2019, this is the 2nd highest figure in Wales behind Powys and an increase on 2018 of 97. These include 25 motorcyclists and 27 persons aged 16-24. Although we cannot control the number of road traffic incidents on the county road network, we do work with partner agencies to encourage the safer use of the road, engage with high-risk road user groups (motorcyclists, the elderly, young drivers), invest in targeted road safety engineering projects and assist the Police with speed enforcement campaigns and address community concerns about speeding.

Progress Made

- ⦿ There has been significant investment in *Safe Routes in the Community and Safe Routes to Schools* to encourage more sustainable travel.
- ⦿ We have been developing masterplans for *Active Travel* provision that will support access to employment, education health and leisure £1.4m has been successfully secured from Wales Government to progress active travel schemes in Llanelli Carmarthen Ammanford and Cross Hands a number of schemes are nearing completion.
- ⦿ Funding has been allocated to the South West Wales region to further develop an integrated *METRO style transport system*. Whilst funding is administered via City and County of Swansea, Carmarthenshire has been working hard to ensure the County and Regional interests are fully considered for the development of a Metro transportation system. Work is currently being undertaken on rail services. Priorities have been submitted for Carmarthenshire which includes a requirement for a faster rail service to West Wales using the Swansea District Line. Our bid of £450k for Local Transport Network Fund to the Wales Government was successful. This will be used to improve key strategic public transport infrastructure across the County.
- ⦿ **Cycling Hub:** We have continued to develop our aim to establish Carmarthenshire as the Cycling Hub of Wales. Our Strategic Boards continue to meet and are progressing with a number of actions set out in the Cycling Strategy. We continue to make progress on the Cycling infrastructure such as Tywi Valley Path and *Active Travel networks*. An initial £313k funding was awarded by the Welsh Government to progress the design and feasibility of our Active Travel aspirations. Challenges remain for rural Authorities such as Carmarthenshire to benefit from Active Travel funding, which is being targeted by the Welsh Government at urban areas.



A **£1.8million scheme** has improved the Wind Street and Tirydail junction in Ammanford. The new roundabout has significantly helped ease congestion after it replaced the old four-way traffic light system.

We secured the funding through the Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund to improve the layout and boost the town's long-term regeneration plans.

The way we work



Bwcabus

A rural bus service that has been described as a lifeline to its passengers is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Bwcabus operates six days a week in the Teifi Valley within north Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, and across Pembrokeshire, allowing users to pre-book journeys or use fixed services to link into TrawsCymru and other local bus services.

Its users have otherwise little access to the public transport network, and - they say - it helps them maintain jobs, see their GPs, and socialise with friends.

Passengers such as Janet Davies, from Talgarreg, said Bwcabus was her *'only lifeline'* and played an important part in maintaining her independence. She uses the service weekly as she has no other means of transport. *"This bus is amazing – the service is so reliable and the drivers are always pleasant,"* she said. Anona Jones, from Ffostrasol, is one of the service's longest serving users. She said she was only able to hold down her job at Glangwili Hospital thanks to the reliable service Bwcabus provided. Now retired, she continues to use the service for socialising, and said: *"without Bwcabus I would be in a mess – we would have to move."*

Launched in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion on August 24, 2009, the *'demand responsive'* service is led by ourselves, on behalf of a cross-county partnership. Such was the success of the scheme that it was extended into Pembrokeshire in 2017 to further benefit rural communities.

Carmarthenshire Roads

We have invested **£2.65m** on Carmarthenshire roads over the year. A host of improvement works, and resurfacing have been completed after investment by the authority and funding from the Welsh Government.



Executive Board Member For Environment:
Cllr Hazel Evans



Well-being Objective 14

Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

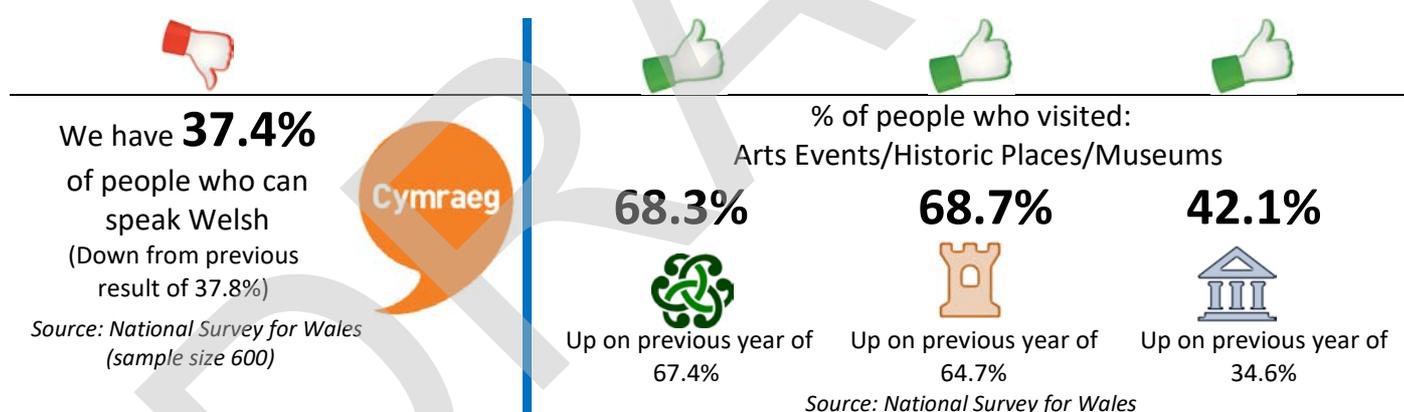
We will increase the confidence of Welsh speakers and therefore the use of the Language in every sphere of life and encourage and support the county's organisations to make the Welsh Language an increasingly natural medium for their Services.



Why it is important

- Support and development in the use of the Welsh language has been identified as a key element in developing the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area in terms of tourism, business investment and addressing rural poverty.
- We have a good track record of supporting the arts and have been leading the way as one of the most culturally-committed local authorities in Wales, as we continue to value and invest in the arts despite the challenge of austerity and public funding cut.
- We will take purposeful steps to positively affect population movements attempting to attract our young people to establish or re-establish themselves in the county, so that the gains that are made in terms of Welsh speakers through the education system are not lost. Also, to make significant efforts to assimilate newcomers and ensure that new planning developments do not have a detrimental effect on the viability of the Welsh language

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

- According to the 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#), 37.4% of participants said they could speak Welsh. This is down on 2018/19 (37.8%) but continues to be the 4th highest percentage in Wales. This survey gives a good annual indication, based on a sample of the population, of the number of Welsh speakers, however, the Census is the only source that gives a whole population figure, with 43.9% (78,000 speakers) noted in 2011, the highest number of Welsh speakers in county.
- According to the [National Survey for Wales](#) the number of survey participants from Carmarthenshire attending an arts event, visiting historical places and visiting a museums in Wales during 2019/20 have increased. Both visits to Arts events and museums are below the Welsh average of 70.4% and 42.5% respectively but the % visiting historic places are above the Welsh average of 62.5.
Please note that the questions asked whether they attended or visited these were in Wales and not specifically in Carmarthenshire.

Progress Made

Promoting the Welsh Language

- ⊙ We have continued to lead the *Welsh Language Strategic Forum* which meets four times during the year. This year, attention was given to developing the Language in Pre-school years, Planning, Integration, Young People and Welsh for Adults. A full round of updates on the Action Plan has now been completed, and work has begun on measuring the impact of the Promotion Strategy.
- ⊙ Several events were held in our workplaces during the year to *promote the Welsh language internally*. These events were an opportunity to draw attention to the requirements of the Standards, to share resources to facilitate the use of Welsh at work and to celebrate the many efforts of our staff who are learning Welsh and leading on promoting the Welsh language.
- ⊙ A new leaflet was designed and printed to *promote Welsh-medium education* which aimed to allay the concerns of non-Welsh speakers about not being able to assist with children's homework when children are in Welsh medium education. [Welsh Homework? No problem](#)
- ⊙ As part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) we have *supported the impact assessment process* in order to identify and lessen any potential negative effects on the Welsh language. A detailed assessment has been prepared which will be discussed as part of the LDP. This includes data on inward and outward migration. A detailed Topic Paper on the Language has also been prepared. Members of the County's Strategic Welsh Language Forum have responded to the public consultation on the LDP.
- ⊙ Our relationship with the [National Centre for Learning Welsh](#) has continued to grow and staff have been supported to follow and attend a wide range of opportunities, including intensive Work Welsh courses and residential provision. The online 10 hour 'Croeso' modules are also promoted amongst all new employees.



Promoting Welsh Culture

- ⊙ The ['Things to Do'](#) section of the Discover Carmarthenshire website continues to be one of the most visited, with residents and tourists interested to see what is going on. All Council 'events' including those from libraries, parks, museums, theatres and outdoor countryside have been populating their information on the website.
- ⊙ In May 2019, *Carmarthenshire's library service* was highlighted as a model for the rest of Wales in a Welsh Government report and the Council was praised for its commitment to the future of its library service and for its forward-thinking approach in creating a new digital learning environment alongside its more traditional offering. **Carmarthenshire is the best in Wales** for both its investment in reading materials and spending per head on library provision, as well as the third highest in Wales for PC provision.
- ⊙ We have continued to deliver *a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision* at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum and Museum of Speed Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors. Developments to date are:-
 - Museum of Speed construction and exhibition design is progressing.
 - Parc Howard Essential Works package is out for listed building planning consent and the programme continues to be monitored by the Parc Howard Collaboration Group.
 - A long term plan for Kidwelly Industrial Museum, including preservation of scheduled ancient monuments, is in development.
 - A £1.2 million restoration began at Carmarthenshire Museum in January 2020

Dathlu Diwylliant Celebration of Culture 2019



Carmarthenshire's second Celebration of Culture Awards saw eighteen finalists selected from more than 110 entries.

In a collaborative partnership between Carmarthenshire County Council, the Llanelli Star and the Carmarthen Journal, the Carmarthenshire Culture Awards, shone a spotlight on the breadth and depth of cultural activity and talent we have across the County, at the Ffwrnes theatre in April 2019. Winners were chosen from public nominations across 6 categories - excellence in Visual Arts & Crafts, Performing Arts, Creative Media, Literature, Heritage and Music. There were also winners in two special categories.

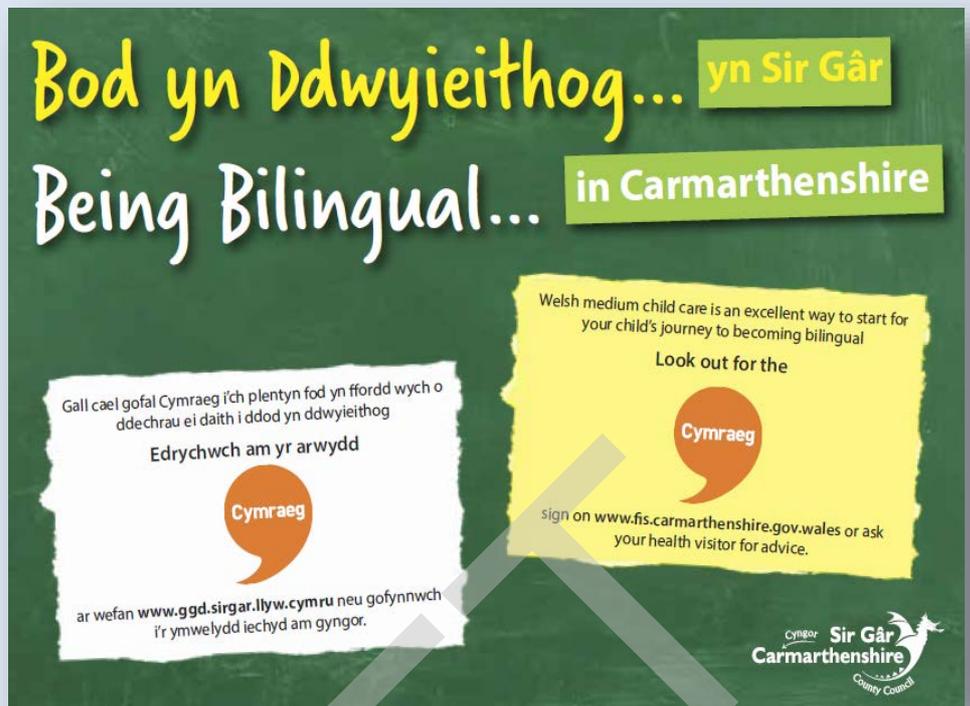
The award for Young Talent went to **Cerys Angharad**, a 10-year old harpist who has already won numerous national awards.

Carmarthenshire's Town and Villages of Culture for 2019 were Whitland and Drefach Felindre. The Town Council took the lead in Whitland whilst a working group was set up in Drefach Felindre to organise a programme of cultural events throughout the year.

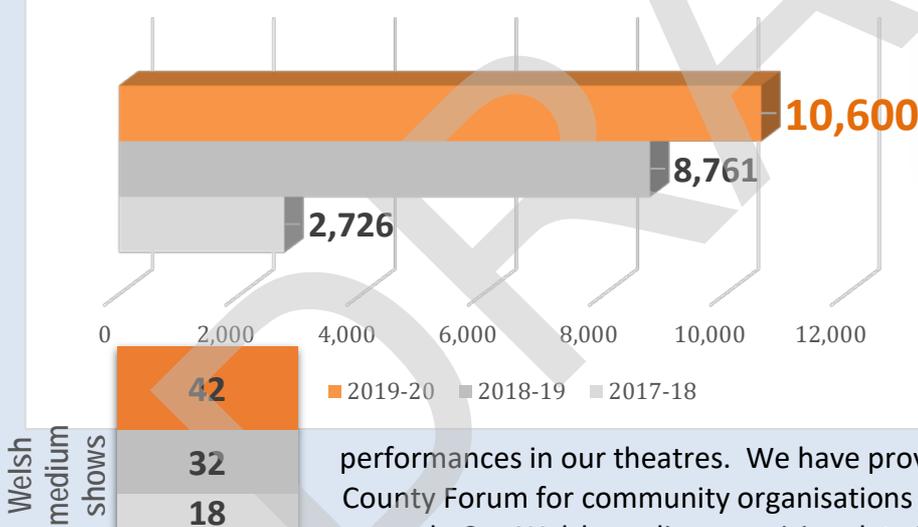


In order to promote our Welsh language support services, our [Being Bilingual booklet](#) was reprinted but with an additional reference to Welsh medium childcare. This reference signposted families to the information on Welsh language settings on the family information website and to the health visiting.

These were included in the book packs distributed to families receiving support from flying start.



Tickets sold for Welsh medium shows increases significantly



Following considerable changes to our Theatres' Welsh medium provision, our Leisure vision has been working tirelessly to promote these services and to ensure audiences for the Welsh

performances in our theatres. We have provided specific information to the County Forum for community organisations to disseminate information on the ground. Our Welsh medium provision data illustrates that the number of tickets sold for Welsh language shows has continued to increase.



Executive Board Member
For Welsh Language, Culture and Tourism:
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths

Building a Better Council & Better Use of Resources





Well-being Objective 15a - Building a Better Council

A Platinum Standard for staff health and well-being

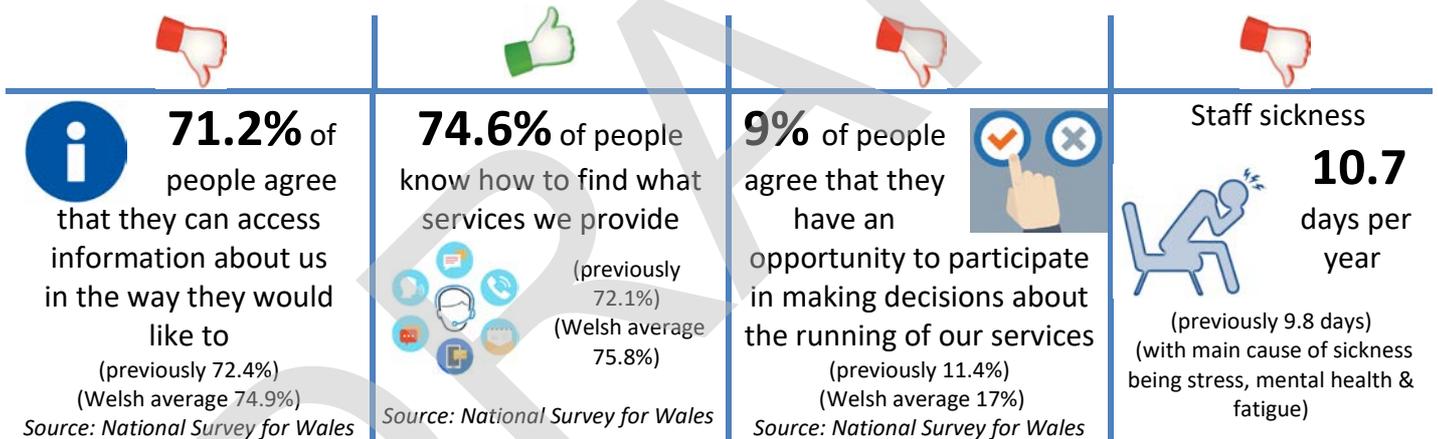
Once again the Council has achieved the highest award in recognition of the work we do to support our staff's health and well-being. The Platinum [Corporate Health Standard](#) is the quality-mark for workplace health promotion in Wales led by the Welsh Government. The Council [is the only Local Authority in Wales](#) to hold this award and has done so since 2009. Organisations are re-assessed every three years and this year we have been revalidated with the Gold and Platinum awards

Why it is important

- It is important that our strategic plans are aligned and integrated
- In Building a Better Council we want to make every effort to secure a more efficient, ethical, transparent and accountable local government that supports and enhances public participation and democracy.
- The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires **7 areas** of corporate change, which are a key expectation of the Future Generations Commissioner in Annual Reporting.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 Corporate Planning | Covered by Building a Better Council |
| 2 Performance Management | |
| 3 Workforce Planning | |
| 4 Financial Planning | Covered by Making Better Use of Resources |
| 5 Assets | |
| 6 Procurement | |
| 7 Risk | |

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#):
 - **71.2%** of participants agreed that they could access information about us in the way they preferred, this is a slight decline on the previous year of 72.4% and continues to be below the Welsh average of 74.9%, but we have moved from 17th to 16th position.
 - **74.6%** agreed that they knew how to find what services we provide; this is an improvement on the previous year of 72.1% but continue to be below the Welsh average of 75.8%. We have moved up from 18th to 13th position in Wales.
 - Only **9%** agreed that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of our services. This is well below the Welsh average of 17% and in 21st position and has declined since the last available result in the 2017/18 survey of 11.4% and 16th position.
- **Staff Sickness** within the Authority has increased to **10.7 days** in 2019/20 from 9.8 days in 2018/19. The Attendance Team have worked on accuracy and timeliness of sickness absence data entry which will have an impact on the overall figure. Detailed analysis will be taken following the COVID-19 impact on attendance for the last quarter.

Progress Made

Corporate Planning

- We have provided liaison and support to each of the *Public Service Boards Delivery Groups* and an Annual Report on the progress of the Well-being Plan has been prepared.
- The *Strategic Equality Plan* has been reviewed and agreed by full Council. A detailed action plan focussing on outcomes will be developed.
- We published a *Corporate Strategy refresh* at the end of June 2019 which incorporated all our Well-being Objectives. This received a Wales Audit Office certificate of compliance.
- The *Transformation Innovation and Change programme* continues to improve services and processes; identifying and supporting the delivery of efficiency savings and supporting cultural and behavioural change across the organisation. Efficiency savings identified and/or delivered from the wider TIC Programme to the end of 2018/19 total nearly £20m.
- Our work with *Town & Community Councils (T&C)* and other community organisations to look at ways to invest in upgrading local leisure provisions has progressed well throughout the year with many Councils engaged in various projects.

Performance Management

- We have ensured the Council fully responds and complies with the *requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act* including consideration of the five ways of working in all that it does.
- To comply further with the Act, we prepared a *2018/19 Annual Report* which received feedback from the Future Generations Commissioners Office, acknowledging our progress on the requirements of the Act. The Commissioner found that *'Overall you're making good progress and we welcome your work to consolidate your plans into one, as part of a more integrated approach'* and *'There is clear understanding of and commitment to the 5 ways of working'*.

Workforce Planning and Health & Well-being

- We have continued to ensure we fully support staff to maintain a healthy life style, which includes proactive and preventative actions, education to raise awareness on key health topics and, where necessary, ensuring the careful management of staff sickness absences in the interest of the staff and the provision of services.
- 50 volunteer *Well-being Champions* have recently been trained and will be working, encouraging and motivating their colleagues - developing clubs, teams, activities and corporate messages which improve mental and physical health & well-being.
- We reintroduced staff surveys to ensure that staff views are heard regarding the organisation. Engagement with members of staff in all departments has been vital to the success of the surveys which can be seen in the number of employees participating. In the latest survey, over 30% of the organisation took part in the voluntary survey.

Information & Communications Technology

- The new 3 Year *Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2023* has been written, but formal approval is on hold currently due to COVID-19. The ICT Service has been quick to react to assist our customers in adopting and delivering the critical services they have to provide during this pandemic. Laptops, Smartphones and Telephony solutions have been rolled-out quickly to allow greater *Working from Home*. Microsoft Teams and BYOD available to allow for greater collaboration. Several systems and processes have been developed - StaffHub, Free School Meals Direct Payments, Business Rate Relief etc.
- We have continued to develop the *Council's website* in response to both customer expectation and demand and internal requests from our departments. In comparison to the previous year we have seen a 33.5% increase in people using our website and the number of pageviews is up by 22.3%.
- We successfully moved to a paperless environment following a series of training events and 1:1 sessions provided to elected members and officers. The first paperless meeting took place on the 3rd September 2019.

time to change

Wales

let's end mental health discrimination

our schools as well as recruiting a new Well-being Coordinator who will focus on mental health and initiatives supporting this work.

We have continued with our commitment to reducing the stigma of mental health conditions and have recently re-signed the **Time to Change pledge**, which confirms our continued support, priority and work on reducing mental health discrimination. We are also now looking to recruit mental health first aiders and supervisors across the authority and in

Superfast Broadband

We have worked with partners to assist and act as technical advisors, addressing issues in terms of superfast broadband and mobile phone signal across the County and in particular in rural areas. A proposed '[Digital Connectivity Action Plan for Carmarthenshire](#)' has been produced and we have worked with Welsh Government, Openreach, Mobile Providers and other relevant stakeholders to inform this Action Plan. The document summarises the current situation in terms of Broadband and Mobile connectivity across the County, identifies priority areas which require intervention and presents several potential workstreams which could be pursued in order to further improve the situation. We are also leading on behalf of Carmarthenshire on the Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure project, ensuring the needs of the County are at the forefront of plans for the regions Digital Connectivity.

Couple made history on New Year's Eve

Our **Registration Service** pulled out the stops to help a Newcastle Emlyn couple become the first to form a civil partnership as man and woman in the UK. New legislation came in to force on December 31 allowing opposite sex couples to be recognised as civil partners for the first time in the UK.

It is believed the couple were the first in Wales – possibly the UK – to form a partnership at two minutes past midnight on New Year's Eve, at the exact time they sign the schedule to make their partnership binding in the eyes of the law.



Youth Council's Work Recognised

Carmarthenshire Youth Council acts as a voice by representing the views and opinions of all young people in the county. Its main aim is to bring about positive change, development and create opportunities for young people to become involved in decision making/democratic processes within the authority, national and international level. The young people involved with the council have developed excellent skills in campaigning and lobbying decision makers, including a successful campaign to overturn a County Council decision to cut school transport.



Executive Board Member For HR, Performance Mgt, ICT, TIC:
Deputy Leader **Cllr Mair Stephens**



Well-being Objective 15b - Making Better Use of Resources

We have achieved £90 million of savings over the last 10 years, aiming to minimise the impact on front line services

The financial position faced by local authorities has had a consistent theme with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions. We have had to manage reductions in service budgets, whilst at the same time the pressures on the budget have been increasing in terms of demand and expectations. We strive to manage this situation by reducing our spending without any significant impact on the frontline services valued by our communities.

Why it is important

- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.
- Further financial pressures are likely to arise from such things as rising energy costs, an increasing number of older people needing services from us, office, school buildings and highways that require significant investment, and this is in addition to the current uncertainty in the economic outlook as the UK embarks on the process of leaving the European Union.
- The *Well-being of Future Generations Act* requires **7 areas** of corporate change, **4** within Making Better Use of Resources which are a key expectation of the Future Generations Commissioner in Annual Reporting. [FGC - The journey](#)

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 | Financial Planning | Making Better Use of Resources |
| 5 | Assets | |
| 6 | Procurement | |
| 7 | Risk | |

so far: May 2018

Success Measures



Explaining the Results

- With increased access to online services (digital connectivity), more customers are paying for services through our website with a **17% increase** in the number of **online payments** from 39,321 in 2018/19 to **46,044 in 2019/20** increasing customer satisfaction and efficiency of service.
- The Authority had a savings target of £9 million in the year and had delivered around two thirds of this before the attention was rightly diverted towards COVID-19 activity.
- According to the 2019/20 [National Survey for Wales](#) the number of participants agreed that *we ask for their views before setting our budget* was only 9% (Welsh average 9.2%), this is a decline on the previous year of 11.3% and in 9th position (previously 7th). This is disappointing especially since our 2020/21 Budget consultation which took place in December 2019 attracted the highest participation rate in over five years, with a total of 2,006 responses were received from various sections of the community, including individuals, businesses, town and community councils and representative groups and organisations.

Progress Made

Financial Planning:

- ⦿ Our Well-being Objectives identified financial commitments to each objective; we revised the format of our *Members Budget Seminars* holding seminars over 2 days which was well received, and the impact of our Well-being Objectives were considered. This year's budget consultation received more responses than any of our previous years, and budget proposals were removed as a result.
- ⦿ *Budget monitoring* continues to be an important part of the system of internal control, all new budget managers have had training as well as refresher training at the commencement of each financial year.

Assets:

- ⦿ *Service Asset Management Plans* were undertaken for 2019/20, however, recent events impact on service delivery/ways of working which will have property implications. Therefore the intended publication of the Corporate Asset Management Plan in the Spring of 2020 was suspended in order to take account of the resetting of services and review of corporate priorities/projects, many of which relate to property assets or have implications for the Council's Estate.
- ⦿ We are making best use of the *Council's property and assets* with a focus on rationalising office accommodation and sharing with other partners as well as facilitating community ownership of assets for community benefit. Part of Building 8 St David's has been leased to Hywel Dda for office accommodation. The majority of the Council's recreational assets have been transferred to Town and Community Councils to facilitate local ownership and investment

Risks:

- ⦿ Our *Corporate, Departmental and Service Risk Registers* were all updated in 2019/20 in line with the Risk Management & Contingency Planning Strategy 2018-22 ([Web link to strategy](#)) and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Procurement:

- ⦿ We have embedded sustainable development throughout our *Procurement Strategy* ([web link](#)) and activity and have maximised the positive impact of our decisions on the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales through procuring sustainably and pursuing the maximum Community Benefits wherever possible. (see case study on following page)

The way we work

Our Corporate Procurement Unit supports our Departments in achieving their aims under the Future Generations Act and take on a lead role or significantly support the following of Carmarthenshire's 15 Well-Being Objectives: -

| Well-being Objective | | Corporate Procurements Unit Input |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Start Well | 4 <i>Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning and career pathways</i> | Through the pursuit of Community Benefits in Procurement Tenders and reporting via the Community Benefits Measurement Tool. |
| Live Well | 6 <i>Create more jobs and growth throughout the county</i> | Through the pursuit of Targeted Recruitment & Training via the inclusion of Community Benefits in Procurement Tenders. |
| Age Well | 10 <i>Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence</i> | Supporting the Communities Department in the tender process such as for domiciliary care and supporting people. |
| | 11 <i>A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire</i> | |
| In a healthy and safe environment | 12 <i>Look after the environment now and for the future</i> | We embed sustainability from the outset into all tenders over £25,000 by completing the Welsh Government's Sustainability Risk Assessment Tool and incorporating the findings into the Tender Specification |
| | 14 <i>Promoting Welsh Language and Culture</i> | As part of meeting our Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 requirements we are committed to treating the English language no less favorably than the Welsh Language. We translate all tender documentation over our tender threshold off £75,000 into Welsh. |
| Corporate Governance | 15 <i>Building a Better Council /Making Better use of Resources</i> | We embed sustainable development throughout our Procurement activity, by looking to maximise the positive impact our decisions have on the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales through procuring sustainably and pursuing the maximum Community Benefits possible |



The *Future Generations Report May 2020* states that **'We need to focus on the outcomes and not the process of procurement'** Steve Edwards, (Director of Regulation & Commercial Wales & West Utilities). We need public bodies to consistently consider procurement through the lens of

the Act, making the Act central to commissioning, procurement, monitoring, and evaluating outcomes. Redefining what we mean by 'value' would enable public bodies to consider how they can improve social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes through their procurement decisions, **providing evidence of how procurement spend contributes to delivering their well-being objectives.** Including specific contract clauses focussed on sustainability and well-being, and weighting these as part of the scoring, equal to the cost and quality considerations, zero carbon, resource-efficient buildings and infrastructure.



Recognised in Future Generations Report May 2020 Passivhaus Schools – Burry Port

The £8.5m Ysgol Parc y Tywyn project in Llanelli provides 350 school children from the Burry Port area with an outstanding new learning environment. The project is the second of two new-build Passivhaus schools to be completed within the academic year.

The schools were built under the Welsh 21st Century Schools investment programme with the aim to maximise capital investment, while delivering consistently high quality and sustainable environments for pupils and teaching staff through the Passivhaus standard, as well as complementing the other agendas of Welsh Government, including the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Supporting the Foundational Economy



We ensure that local small to medium sized enterprises are given full opportunity to compete for and provide goods, services and works to the Authority.

We engaged with 475 contractors, suppliers & providers over a series of 14 different supplier engagement / early market briefing events including a Briefing Session for the SWWRFC 2020 tender, ADIRA (IT for Schools) & the forthcoming Print & Signage tender. We held a Supplier Engagement Event & subsequent Sell2Wales Workshop at Parc y Scarlets in May 2019 for the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework (SWWRFC) 2020 which has a value in excess of £1 billion over a period of 4 years, covering 4 Local Authorities in the South West Region and many other public bodies. Over 200 Contractors attended the event where the procurement Team run through a variety of topics including the tender approach, Health and Safety and Community Benefits. This was followed by a Live Tender Workshop run by Business Wales to provide potential Contractors with a full package of free tender support.



- A Prosperous Wales**
- A Resilient Wales**
- A Healthier Wales**
- A More Equal Wales**
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities**
- A Globally Responsible Wales**

We also held “Sell2Wales” Workshops & “Live” Tender Workshops to support our Tenders. The aim of these Workshops initiatives, managed by the Council’s Procurement Team and delivered by Business Wales Tender Advisers, was to pro-actively engage with suppliers who require this level of assistance with submitting their tenders via the electronic tender portal, Bravo.



Executive Board Member For Resources:
Clr David Jenkins

APPENDICES

DRAFT

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are separate but interconnected legal obligations. Our Well-being Plan combined both requirements and this Annual Report does the same.

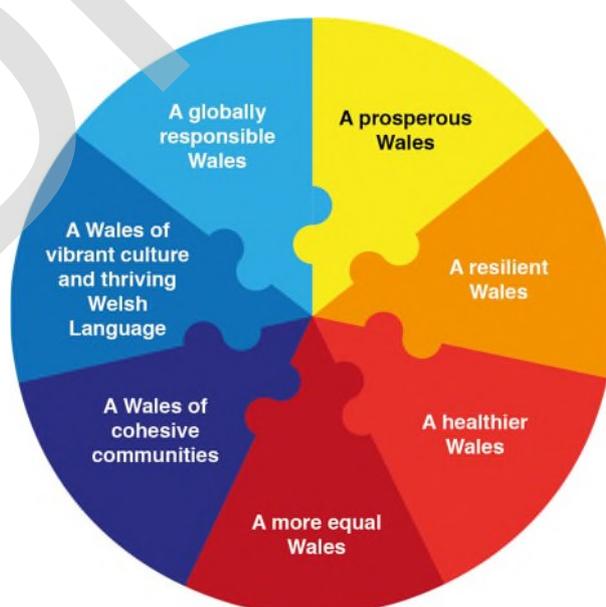
The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Council to set Improvement Objectives every year. They do not have to change every year or be deliverable within one year.
- Our Improvement Objectives are essentially the same as our Well-being Objectives as they are based on a thorough evidence-based understanding of the communities we serve and local needs. We compare our Service performance and satisfaction results with all Councils in Wales to make sure we improve where we most need to.
- We have a duty to improve, often delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

This is an Act introduced by the Welsh Government which will change aspects of how we work. The general purpose of the Act, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales, take the needs of future generations into account. The Act is designed to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The new law states that:-

- We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is **'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'**
- We must demonstrate 5 ways of working:
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative (see **Appendix 1**)
- We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.



For the first time in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we were required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximised our Contribution to the Well-being Goals. **Page 85**

How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the 7 National Well-being Goals

| Carmarthenshire's 2019/20 Well-being Objectives | | 7 National Well-being Goals | | | | | | | |
|--|----|--|------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | Prosperity | Resilience | Healthier | More equal | Cohesive Communities | Vibrant culture & Welsh Language | Global responsibility | |
| Start Well | 1 | Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | 2 | Help children live healthy lifestyles | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 3 | Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | 4 | Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning and career pathways | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Live Well | 5 | Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | 6 | Create more jobs and growth throughout the county | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 7 | Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 8 | Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity) | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Age Well | 9 | Support good connections with friends, family & safer communities | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | 10 | Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity & independence in their later years | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 11 | A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the county | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment | 12 | Look after the environment now and for the future | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| | 13 | Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | 14 | Promote Welsh Language and Culture | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | | Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Success measures for our Well-being Objectives

Success measures for our Well-being Objectives

The table below shows the most recent result of our success measures and whether it has improved on our previous available result.

| PAM – Public Accountability Measures (National); ONS - Office for National Statistics; NSW - National Survey for Wales; NWBI - National Well-being Indicator | | Has our result improved | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | Previous result | Most Current Result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ |
| WBO 1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences. | | | | |
| 1 | % Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year (PAM/029) | 10.4 | 8.6 | ↑ |
| WBO 2 - Help children live healthy lifestyles. | | | | |
| 2 | % Children overweight or obese | 29.4 | 26.6 | ↑ |
| WBO 3 - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners. | | | | |
| 3 | Average Capped 9 points score for pupils (PAM/032) | 363.1 | 367.2 | ↑ |
| 4 | % Attendance in primary schools (PAM/007) | 93.9 | 93.9 | ↔ |
| 5 | % Attendance in secondary schools (PAM/008) | 93.8 | 93.5 | ↓ |
| 6 | Satisfaction with child's primary school (NSW) | 84 | 95 | ↑ |
| WBO 4 - Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training. | | | | |
| 7 | Year 11 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (PAM/009) | 1.8 | Not available | Not applicable |
| 8 | Year 13 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (5.1.0.2) | 4.9 | Not available | Not applicable |
| WBO 5 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in | | | | |
| 9 | % Gap of Capped 9 points score for pupils eligible for FS M (Free School Meals) and those who don't | 19.7 | 17.9 | ↑ |
| 10 | % of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (PAM/012) | 59.5 | 46.4 | ↓ |
| 11 | Household in material deprivation (NSW) (NWBI) | 13.5 | 11.3 | ↑ |
| 12 | % Households Living in Poverty (CACI 'PayCheck') | 35.5 | 33.7 | ↑ |
| WBO 6 - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county. | | | | |
| 13 | Employment figures (ONS - Annual Population Survey) (NWBI) | 71.6 | 71.5 | ↓ |
| 14 | Jobs created with Regeneration assistance (EconD/001) | 419.0 | 393.0 | ↑ |
| 15 | Median Gross Weekly Full-time Earnings (£) (NWBI) | 511.3 | 536.5 | ↑ |
| 16 | Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above (Stats Wales) (NWBI) | 38.0 | 41.4 | ↑ |
| 17 | People moderately or very satisfied with their jobs (NSW) (NWBI) | 82.5 | 78.9 | ↓ |
| WBO 7 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes. | | | | |
| 18 | Number of affordable homes in the County (7.3.2.24) | 247 | 315 | ↑ |
| WBO 8 - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity). | | | | |
| 19 | % of adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good (NSW)(NWBI) | 66 | 70 | ↑ |
| 20 | % of adults who say they have a longstanding illness (NSW)(NWBI) | 53 | 51 | ↑ |
| 21 | Adult Mental Well-being score (NSW)(NWBI) (Out of a maximum score of 70) | 50.2 | 51.1 | ↑ |
| 22 | % adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (NSW/NWBI) (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or veg a day, not drinking above guidelines & meet the physical activity guidelines). | 8.8 | 12.4 | ↓ |
| WBO 9 - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities. | | | | |
| 23 | Have a sense of community (derived from three questions on belonging; different backgrounds get on, treat with respect) (NSW) (NWBI) | 47.7 | 51.6 | ↑ |
| 24 | People feeling safe (at home, walking in the local area, and travelling) (NSW) (NWBI) | 88.2 | 88.2 | ↔ |

| PAM – Public Accountability Measures (National); ONS - Office for National Statistics; NSW - National Survey for Wales; NWBI - National Well-being Indicator | | Has our result improved | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | Previous result | Most Current Result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ |
| WBO 10 - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years. | | | | |
| 25 | Rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care (PAM/025) | 4.21 | 6.03 | ↓ |
| 26 | Agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area (NSW) (elderly, children, disabled and carers) | 56.2 | 47.5 | ↓ |
| 27 | Days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015) | 157 | 176 | ↓ |
| WBO 11 - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the county. | | | | |
| 28 | % of people who are lonely (NSW) (NWBI) | 18.3 | 16.2 | ↑ |
| WBO 12 - Look after the environment now and for the future. | | | | |
| 29 | Use of renewable energy (kWh) | 979,071 | 997,480 | ↑ |
| 30 | % Waste reused, recycled or composted (PAM/030) | 58.95 | 64.66 | ↑ |
| WBO 13 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity. | | | | |
| 31 | % A Class roads that are in poor condition (PAM/020) | 5.2 | 5.4 | ↓ |
| 32 | % B Class roads that are in poor condition (PAM/021) | 4.2 | 4.7 | ↓ |
| 33 | % C Class roads that are in poor condition (PAM/022) | 12.5 | 12.5 | ↔ |
| 34 | Number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads (5.5.2.21) | 97 | 113 | ↓ |
| WBO 14 - Promote Welsh Language and Culture. | | | | |
| 35 | Can speak Welsh (NSW) (NWBI) | 37.8 | 37.4 | ↓ |
| 36 | % of people attended arts events in Wales in last year (NSW) | 67.4 | 68.3 | ↑ |
| 37 | % of people visited historic places in Wales in last year (NSW) | 64.7 | 68.7 | ↑ |
| 38 | % of people visited museums in Wales in last year (NSW) | 34.6 | 42.1 | ↑ |
| WBO 15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources. | | | | |
| 39 | 'Do it online' payments | 39,321 | 46,044 | ↑ |
| 40 | People agree that they can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to (NSW) | 72.4 | 71.2 | ↓ |
| 41 | People know how to find what services the Council provides (NSW) | 72.1 | 74.6 | ↑ |
| 42 | People agree that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services. (NSW) | 11.4 | 9.0 | ↓ |
| 43 | Number days lost due to sickness absence. (PAM/001) | 9.8 | 10.7 | ↓ |
| 44 | Reduction in organisational 'running costs' (£m) | 8.0 | 5.7 | ↑ |
| 45 | People agree that the Council asks for their views before setting its budget. (NSW) | 11.3 | 9.9 | ↓ |

National Survey for Wales Results Published July 2020

2019/20 National Survey for Wales

The following are results of the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales that are currently available at local authority level, but not all of these are attributable to the Councils performance.

Where the same question was asked in a previous survey, the table below shows whether we have improved our performance and our rank position.

| In AR | Questions asked in the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator | Has our result improved | | | 22 nd | 21 st | 20 th | 19 th | 18 th | 17 th | 16 th | 15 th | 14 th | 13 th | 12 th | 11 th | 10 th | 9 th | 8 th | 7 th | 6 th | 5 th | 4 th | 3 rd | 2 nd | 1 st | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|--|--|
| | | Previous available result | 2019/20 survey result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ | Worst results | | | | | | | | | | | | Best Results | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Arrows start from our previous position | | | | | | | | | | | | to our 2019/20 position | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | ✓ % People agree that they can access information about the Authority in their preferred way. | 72.4 | 71.2 | ↓ | 64.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 82.6 | | |
| 2 | ✓ % People know how to find what services the Council provides. | 72.1 | 74.6 | ↑ | 63.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 81.9 | | |
| 3 | ✓ People agree that the Council asks for their views before setting its budget. | 11.3 | 9.9 | ↓ | Below 6.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 23.1 | | |
| 4 | ✓ People agree that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services. | 11.4 | 9.0 | ↓ | 8.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 24.1 | | |
| 5 | People agree that the Council does all it can to improve the area. | 35.8 | 34.4 | ↓ | 21.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 52.9 | | |
| 6 | People agree that the Council provides high quality services. | 51.0 | 52.8 | ↑ | 28.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 57.6 | | |
| 7 | ✓ Satisfaction with child's primary school | 84 | 95 | ↑ | Below 84 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 97 | | |
| 8 | Satisfaction with child's secondary school | 89 | 86 | ↓ | There are too many unreliable or missing data to compare across authorities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | ✓ Yes can speak Welsh (NWBI/37) | 37.8 | 37.4 | ↓ | Below 7.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Same | | 64.1 | | | |
| 10 | ✓ % of adults who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words (NWBI/36) | 29.8 | 30.4 | ↑ | Below 3.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Same | | 60.9 | | | |

| In AR Page 02 | Questions asked in the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator | Has our result improved | | | 22 nd | 21 st | 20 th | 19 th | 18 th | 17 th | 16 th | 15 th | 14 th | 13 th | 12 th | 11 th | 10 th | 9 th | 8 th | 7 th | 6 th | 5 th | 4 th | 3 rd | 2 nd | 1 st | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|--|--|
| | | Previous available result | 2019/20 survey result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ | Worst results | | | | | | | | | | | | Best Results | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Arrows start from our previous position | | | | | | | | | | | | ● ● to our 2019/20 position ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | % of people who are lonely (NWBI/30) | 18.3 | 16.2 | ↑ | There are too many unreliable or missing data to compare across authorities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | % of people who volunteer (NWBI/28) | 33.9 | 27.2 | ↓ | 15.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 32.9 | | | |
| 13 | Household in material deprivation (NWBI/19) | 13.5 | 11.3 | ↑ | 21.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.9 | | |
| 14 | Keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties - All Adults | 62.7 | 66.6 | ↑ | 57.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 74.3 | | |
| 15 | Keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties - Pensioners | 79.8 | 83.7 | ↑ | 79.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 88.7 | | |
| 16 | Keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties - Non-Pensioners | 56.4 | 60.7 | ↑ | 50.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 71.3 | | |
| 17 | % of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs (NWBI/20) | 82.5 | 78.9 | ↓ | 67.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 89.5 | | |
| 18 | Whether household has internet access | 87.0 | 88.9 | ↑ | 84.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 93.3 | | |
| 19 | % Satisfied with the most recent public sector website visited | 79.4 | 84.2 | ↑ | 74.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 85.5 | | |
| 20 | Whether use the internet (including Smart TV and handheld devices) | 88.4 | 89.8 | ↑ | 85.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 94.2 | | |
| 21 | % of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week (NWBI/38) | 35.1 | 35.1 | ↔ | 22.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 39.4 | | |
| 22 | % of people who say their general health was Good or Very Good | 66 | 70 | ↑ | 79 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 64 | | |
| 23 | % of adults who say they have a longterm illness | 53 | 51 | ↑ | 55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 42 | | |

| In AR | Questions asked in the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator | Has our result improved | | | 22 nd | 21 st | 20 th | 19 th | 18 th | 17 th | 16 th | 15 th | 14 th | 13 th | 12 th | 11 th | 10 th | 9 th | 8 th | 7 th | 6 th | 5 th | 4 th | 3 rd | 2 nd | 1 st | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| | | Previous available result | 2019/20 survey result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ | Worst results | | | | | | | | | | | | Best Results | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Arrows start from our previous position | | | | | | | | | | | | ● ● to our 2019/20 position ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | % of adults that Smoke (combined 2 years result) | 16.6 | 16.2 | ↑ | 25.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Same | | | | | 10.8 | | |
| 25 | % of adults that are E-cigarette users (combined 2 years result) | 7.0 | 6.7 | ↑ | 11.8 | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.6 | | |
| 26 | % of adults that drink more than 14 units a week (combined 2 years result) | 19.9 | 21.5 | ↓ | 25.2 | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 14.0 | | |
| 27 | % of adults that ate 5 portions of fruit & vegetables a day (combined 2 years result) | 18.6 | 21.7 | ↑ | 15.1 | | | | | ● | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | 33.9 | | |
| 28 | % of adults that active for 150 minutes or more a week (combined 2 years result) | 55.3 | 55.6 | ↑ | 39.6 | | | | | | | | | | ● | | ■ | | | | | | | | | 63.0 | | |
| 29 | % of adults that active for 30 minutes or less a week (combined 2 years result) | 27.8 | 27.6 | ↑ | 48.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | ■ | | 25.3 | | |
| 30 | % of adults that are overweight or obese (BMI 25+) (combined 2 years result) | 61.7 | 63.6 | ↓ | 70.0 | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 49.9 | | |
| 31 | % of adults that are obese (BMI 30+) (combined 2 years result) | 24.3 | 28.2 | ↓ | 32.3 | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18.1 | | |
| 32 | % of adults that have one or less healthy behaviours (Based on the above measures 24-31) (combined 2 years result) | 8.8 | 12.4 | ↓ | 14.0 | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6.5 | | |
| 33 | % of people attended arts events in Wales in last year | 67.4 | 68.3 | ↑ | 60.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | 80.4 | | |
| 34 | % of people visited historic places in Wales in last year | 64.7 | 68.7 | ↑ | 48.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | ■ | | 73.9 | | |
| 35 | % of people visited museums in Wales in last year | 34.6 | 42.1 | ↑ | 26.6 | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | 63.2 | | |
| 36 | % of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year (NWBI/35) | 71.9 | 64.2 | ↓ | 59.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 84.3 | | |

**Whether our
2019/20 results
for Public
Accountability
Measures have
improved**

Public Accountability Measures (PAM)

| The table below shows our 2019/20 result and whether it has improved on our 2018/19 result. | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------|--|
| Public Accountability Measures (PAM) - is a National suite of measures that all councils in Wales have to collect, but due to COVID-19, DataCymru who centrally collect the data on behalf of Welsh Local Government Association have decided not to collect data for 2019/20. Therefore, we cannot measure how we perform against other authorities for 2019/20, but we can measure if we have improved year on year. | | Has our result improved from 2018/19 to 2019/20 | | |
| | | Our 2018/19 result | Our 2019/20 result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ |
| WBO1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences | | | | |
| 1 | % Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year (PAM/029) | 10.4 | 8.6 | ↑ |
| 2 | Percentage of child assessments completed in time (PAM/028) | 87.2 | 88.7 | ↑ |
| WBO3 - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners. | | | | |
| 3 | % Pupil attendance in primary schools (PAM/007) | 93.9 | 93.9 | ↔ |
| 4 | % Pupil attendance in secondary schools (PAM/008) | 93.8 | 93.5 | ↓ |
| 5 | Average Capped 9 score for pupils in year 11 (PAM/032) | 363.1 | 367.2 | ↑ |
| WBO4 - Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) | | | | |
| 6 | % of Year 11 Leavers not in education, employment or training (NEETS) (PAM/046) | 1.8 | Not available | Not applicable |
| WBO5 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty | | | | |
| 7 | % of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (PAM/012) | 59.5 | 46.4 | ↓ |
| WBO7 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes | | | | |
| 8 | % Private sector dwellings returned to occupation (PAM/013) | 7.40 | 7.72 | ↑ |
| 9 | Number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use (PAM/045) | 0 | 7 | Year on year comparison not suitable |
| 10 | Number of additional affordable housing units delivered per 10,000 households (PAM/036) | 15 | 22 | ↑ |
| 11 | Average number of calendar days taken to complete all housing repairs (PAM/037) | 14.6 | 13.8 | ↑ |
| 12 | % of homes that meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) (PAM/038) | 100.00 | 100.00 | ↔ |
| 13 | % of rent lost due to properties being empty (PAM/039) | 2.9 | 3.4 | ↓ |
| WBO8 - Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and Adult obesity) | | | | |
| 14 | % of Quality Indicators (with targets) achieved by the library service (PAM/040) | 97.5 | 97.5 | ↔ |
| 15 | Visits to Sport & Leisure facilities per 1000 population (PAM/017) | 8,401 | 7,768 | ↓ |
| 16 | % of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that complete the 16 week programme (PAM/041) | 55.1 | 57.4 | ↑ |
| 17 | % of NERS clients whose health had improved on completion of the exercise programme (PAM/042) | Not available | 78.4 | Not applicable |
| 18 | % Food establishments that meet food hygiene standards (PAM/023) | 95.77 | 96.02 | ↑ |
| WBO10 - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years | | | | |
| 19 | Days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015) | 157 | 176 | ↓ |
| 20 | Rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care per 1,000 population aged 75+ (PAM/025) | 4.21 | 6.95 | ↓ |

Public Accountability Measures (PAM)

The table below shows our 2019/20 result and whether it has improved on our 2018/19 result.

| Public Accountability Measures (PAM) - is a National suite of measures that all councils in Wales have to collect, but due to COVID-19, DataCymru who centrally collect the data on behalf of Welsh Local Government Association have decided not to collect data for 2019/20. Therefore, we cannot measure how we perform against other authorities for 2019/20, but we can measure if we have improved year on year. | | Has our result improved from 2018/19 to 2019/20 | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------|--|
| | | Our 2018/19 result | Our 2019/20 result | Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓ |
| WBO12 - Looking after the environment now and for the future | | | | |
| 21 | % of all planning applications determined in time (PAM/018) | 72.6 | 71.6 | ↓ |
| 22 | % of planning appeals dismissed (PAM/019) | 71.4 | 80.0 | ↑ |
| 23 | % of streets that are clean (PAM/010) | 91.5 | 98.0 | ↑ |
| 24 | Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents (PAM/035) | 2.3 | 2.5 | ↓ |
| 25 | Kilograms of municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person (PAM/043) | 179.7 | 156.3 | ↑ |
| 26 | % Municipal waste reused, recycled or composted (PAM/030) | 58.94 | 64.66 | ↑ |
| WBO13 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity | | | | |
| 27 | % A roads that are in poor condition (PAM/020) | 5.2 | 5.4 | ↓ |
| 28 | % B roads that are in poor condition (PAM/021) | 4.2 | 4.7 | ↓ |
| 29 | % C roads that are in poor condition (PAM/022) | 12.5 | 12.5 | ↔ |
| WBO15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources | | | | |
| 30 | Number days lost due to sickness absence. (PAM/001) | 9.8 | 10.7 | ↓ |
| 31 | Number of apprentices on formal recognised apprenticeship schemes per 1,000 employees (PAM/044) | Baseline 20 | 34.4 | ↑ |
| Please note that not all Well-being Objectives (WBO) have allocated National Measure(s) | | | | |

| Of the 31 PAM measures for 2019/20 - year on year improvement can be measured for 28. | Number | % |
|---|--------|-----|
| Improved | 13 | 47% |
| Constant | 4 | 14% |
| Declined | 11 | 39% |

Our Regulatory Reports

The following list of regulatory reports were issued during the last twelve months:



LOCAL REPORTS

[Service User Prospective Review: Online Services \(May 2019\)](#)

[Review of Risk Management \(July 2019\)](#)

[Annual Improvement Report \(August 2019\)](#)

[Well-being of Future Generations: Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes \(October 2019\)](#)

NATIONAL REPORTS

[The Effectiveness of Local Planning Authorities in Wales \(Jun 2019\)](#)

[The 'Front Door' to Adult Social Care \(Sept 2019\)](#)



LOCAL REPORTS

[Inspection of Older Adults \(August 2019\)](#)



In January 2020 the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales published guidance, called 'journeys' outlining steps towards the national goals that we will be assessed by.

Well-being in Wales: the journey so far

In May 2020, the Future Generations Commissioner published the Future Generations Report 2020 on the progress of the Act over the last 5 years and made a number of recommendations for public bodies which we will consider.



We would welcome your feedback,
please send your thoughts, views and opinions to:



Performance Management
ICT and Corporate Policy
Chief Executive's Department
County Hall
Carmarthen
Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



Tel: **01267 224486**
Email: **performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**



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Follow this plan and add your Tweets on our **[Twitter](#)** page - **#CarmsReport**

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

1ST APRIL 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2020

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That the Executive Board considers and approves the report.

Reasons:

To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020.

PEB:

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted

YES

Scrutiny committee and date

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee TBC

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. D.M. Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Director: Chris Moore

Designation: Director of Corporate Services

Tel No. 01267 224120; E Mail: CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Report Author: Anthony Parnell

Designation: Treasury and Pension Investments Manager

Tel No. 01267 224180; E Mail: AParnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

1ST APRIL 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2020

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020.

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: **C Moore** Director

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Within the requirements of the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Report 2020-21

3. Finance

The authority's investments during the period returned an average return of 0.37%, exceeding the 7 day LIBID rate.

Gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £0.136m and interest paid on loans was £0.96m.

The Authority did not breach any of its Prudential Indicators during the period. At the period end the investments included £0.53m of KSF investments.

The administration of KSF is expected to continue for some time again and further updates will be provided in future reports.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **C Moore** Director

1. **Scrutiny Committee-** For information to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee TBC
2. **Local Member(s)** NA
3. **Community / Town Council** NA
4. **Relevant Partners** NA
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** NA

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|--------------|---|
| CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice Revised 2017 | | County Hall, Carmarthen |

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EXECUTIVE BOARD
DATE: 5TH OCTOBER 2020

**QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND
PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT**

1st April 2020 – 30th June 2020

A QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

1. Introduction

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2020-2021 was approved by Council on 3rd March 2020. Section B 1.1(2) stated that Treasury Management activity reports would be made during the year. This report outlines the Treasury Management activities in the period 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020 and satisfies the reporting requirement stated above.

2. Economic Update

Growth fell in April 2020 by -24.5% year on year after the closedown of whole sections of the economy. Some changes during lockdown are likely to be long lasting e.g. a shift to online purchasing, working from home, etc. The lockdown has also had a sharp effect in depressing expenditure by consumers which means their level of savings have increased and debt has fallen. This could provide fuel for a potential surge in consumer expenditure once some degree of normality returns.

In June 2020 the Monetary Policy Committee decided to add a further £100bn of Quantitative Easing purchases of gilts, but to be implemented over an extended period to the end of the year. The total stock of QE purchases will then amount to £745bn. It is not currently thought likely that the MPC would go as far as to cut Bank Rate into negative territory, although the Governor of the Bank of England has said all policy measures will be considered. The Governor also recently commented about an eventual tightening in monetary policy – namely that he favours unwinding QE before raising interest rates. Some forecasters think this could be as far away as five years.

The recent Government measures to support jobs and businesses will result in a huge increase in the annual budget deficit for the current year, from about 2% to nearly 17%. The ratio of debt to GDP is also likely to increase from 80% to around 105%. Economic statistics during June 2020 were giving a preliminary indication that the economy was recovering faster than previously expected. However, it may be a considerable time before economic activity recovers fully to its previous level.

3. Investments

One of the primary activities of the Treasury Management operation is the investment of surplus cash for which the Authority is responsible. As well as the Authority's own cash the County Council invests School Trust Funds and other Funds, with any interest derived from these investments being passed over to the relevant Fund.

All surplus money is invested daily on the London Money Markets. The security of the investments is the main priority. Appropriate liquidity should be maintained and return on investments the final consideration. It continues to be difficult to invest these funds as the market continues to be insecure and as a consequence appropriate counterparties are limited.

The total investments at 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020 analysed between Banks, Building Societies, Local Authorities and Money Market Funds, are shown in the following table:

| Investments | 01.04.20 | | | | 30.06.20 | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | Call and notice | Fixed Term | Total | | Call and notice | Fixed Term | Total | |
| | £m | £m | £m | % | £m | £m | £m | % |
| Banks | 19.00 | 0.53 | 19.53 | 27 | 26.00 | 0.53 | 26.53 | 18 |
| Building Societies | 0.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4 | 0.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 5 |
| Money Market Funds | 12.00 | 0.00 | 12.00 | 16 | 15.00 | 0.00 | 15.00 | 10 |
| DMADF (DMO) | 0.00 | 18.00 | 18.00 | 24 | 0.00 | 56.00 | 56.00 | 38 |
| Local Authorities | 0.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 29 | 0.00 | 43.00 | 43.00 | 29 |
| TOTAL | 31.00 | 42.53 | 73.53 | 100 | 41.00 | 106.53 | 147.53 | 100 |

Investments on call are available immediately on demand.
Fixed term investments are fixed to a maturity date.

The DMADF (DMO) limit was increased in April 2020 to £70m from £40m by the Director of Corporate Services (under Emergency powers) following approval by the Executive Board Member for Resources and Chief Executive.

The £147.53m includes £0.53m (13.33% of original claim) invested in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander which has been reduced from the original £4.0m by distributions.

During the period the total investments made by the Council and repaid to the Council (the turnover) amounted to £834.01m. This averaged approximately £64.15m per week or £9.16m per day. A summary of turnover is shown below:

| | £m |
|--|---------------|
| Total Investments 1st April 2020 | 73.53 |
| Investments made during the quarter | 454.00 |
| Sub Total | 527.53 |
| Investments Repaid during the quarter | (380.01) |
| Total Investments at 30 June 2020 | 147.53 |

The main aims of the Treasury Management Strategy is to appropriately manage the cash flows of the Council, the required short term and longer term market transactions and the risks associated with this activity. Lending on the money market secures an optimum rate of return and also allows for diversification of investments and hence reduction of risk, which is of paramount importance in today's financial markets.

The benchmark return for the London money market is the "7 day LIBID rate". For 2020-2021 the Council has compared its performance against this "7 day LIBID rate". For the period under review the average "7 day LIBID rate" was -0.04% whereas the actual rate the Council earned was 0.37%, an out performance of 0.41%.

This outperformance can be quantified to £152k additional interest earned compared to the "7 day LIBID rate".

The gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £136k.

The income from investments is used by the Authority to reduce the net overall costs to the Council taxpayer.

4. Update on the investments with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF)

As at 30th June 2020 the sum of £3.47m principal and £212k interest had been received from the Administrators, which equates to 86.67% of the claim submitted. The Administrators estimate total dividends payable to non-preferential creditors at 86.80%.

A further update will be provided in future reports.

5. Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY)

Within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020-2021, the Council's investment priorities are:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity and
- Yield

The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover short term cash flow needs but also to seek out value available in significantly higher rates in periods up to 12 months with highly credit rated financial institutions.

Attached in Appendix 1 is the Investment Summary and Top 10 Counterparty Holdings (excluding the £0.53m in KSF) as at 30th June 2020.

6. Borrowing

One of the methods used to fund capital expenditure is long term borrowing. The principal lender for Local Authorities is the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

Under the Treasury Management Strategy it was agreed to borrow when interest rates are at their most advantageous.

The total loans at 1st April 2020 and 30th June 2020 are shown in the following table:

| Loans | Balance at 01.04.20 £m | Balance at 30.06.20 £m | Net Increase/ (Net Decrease) £m |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) | 425.42 | 422.92 | (2.50) |
| Market Loan | 3.00 | 3.00 | 0.00 |
| Salix, Invest to Save, HILS & TCL | 4.11 | 4.11 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 432.53 | 430.03 | (2.50) |

The Salix interest free loans have been provided by an independent publicly funded company dedicated to providing the public sector with loans for energy efficiency projects.

This interest free Invest-2-Save funding is to assist in the conversion of traditional street lighting to LED, which will help deliver a legacy of reduced energy costs and associated carbon taxes.

The Home Improvement Loan Scheme (HILS) repayable funding is provided by the Welsh Government to help individual home owners, small portfolio landlords, developers and charities to improve homes and increase housing supply.

The Town Centre Loan (TCL) repayable funding is provided by the Welsh Government to provide loans to reduce the number of vacant, underutilised and redundant sites and premises in town centres and to support the diversification of the town centres by encouraging more sustainable uses for empty sites and premises, such as residential, leisure and for key services.

6.1 New Borrowing

No new loans were borrowed during the period.

6.2 Interest Paid

Interest paid on loans in the period was:

| PWLB Interest Paid £m | Market Loan Interest Paid £m | Total Interest Paid £m |
|--|---|---|
| 0.89 | 0.07 | 0.96 |

7. Rescheduling and Premature Loan Repayments

No rescheduling opportunities arose during the period and there were no premature repayments of debt.

8. Leasing

No leases were negotiated in the period ended 30th June 2020.

9. Conclusion

The Treasury Management function for the period ended 30th June 2020 has been carried out within the policy and guidelines set in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2021.

B. QUARTERLY PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

1. Introduction

As part of the 2020-2021 Budget and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2021, Council adopted a number of Prudential Indicators. These Indicators are designed to ensure that any borrowing or other long-term liabilities entered into for capital purposes were affordable, sustainable and prudent.

The Indicators are required by the Local Government Act 2003 and the Revised Prudential Code of Practice in order to control Capital Finance. The Prudential Code also required that those Prudential Indicators that were forward looking should be monitored and reported. Some of the indicators are monitored by officers monthly, and are only reported if they are likely to be breached, others are to be monitored quarterly by the Executive Board.

2. The Monitored Prudential Indicators

2.1 Affordability Prudential Indicator

2.1.1 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

The indicator set for 2020-2021 in the Budget was:

| | 2020-2021 % |
|----------|------------------------|
| Non –HRA | 4.74 |
| HRA | 33.93 |

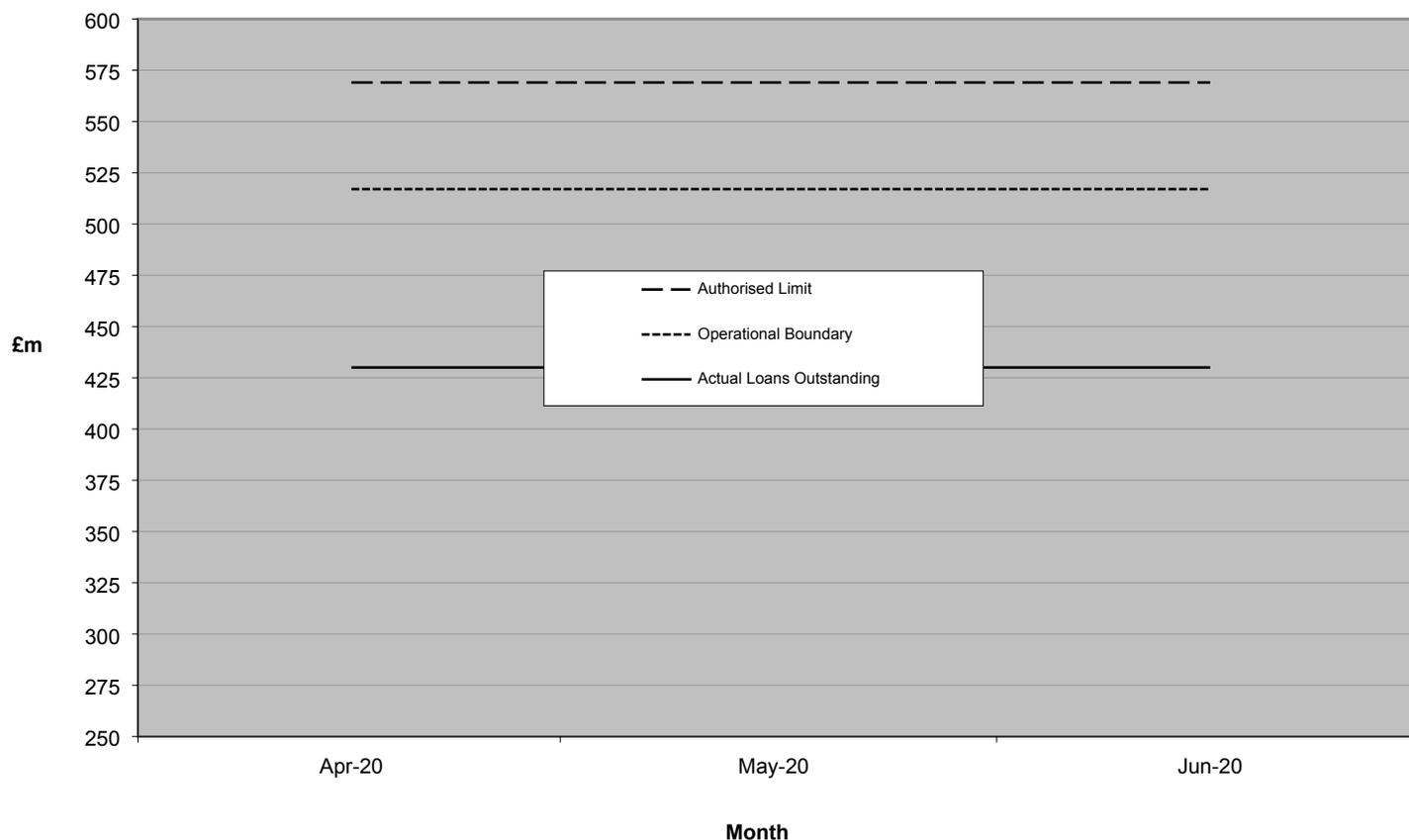
An examination of the assumptions made in calculating this indicator concluded that there have been no changes in the period.

2.2 Prudence Prudential Indicators

2.2.1 The Gross Borrowing and Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) indicator

The indicator set by the Budget for Gross Borrowing and CFR was that the Section 151 Officer envisaged no difficulty in meeting the requirement of the Gross Borrowing being less than the accumulated CFR for 2020-2021. An examination of assumptions made when calculating the Prudential Indicator show that there have been no material changes.

2.2.2 Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary



The actual value of loans outstanding must not exceed the Authorised Limit. In normal activity actual loans outstanding should be close but less than the Operational Boundary. The Operational Boundary can be breached in the short term due to adverse cash flows.

| | Apr-20 | May-20 | Jun-20 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Authorised Limit | 569 | 569 | 569 |
| Operational Boundary | 517 | 517 | 517 |
| Loans Outstanding | 430 | 430 | 430 |

Neither the Authorised Limit nor the Operational Boundary have been breached.

2.3 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

2.3.1 Interest Rate Exposure

Position as at 30th June 2020:

| | Fixed Interest Rate £m | Variable Interest Rate £m | TOTAL £m |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Borrowed | 427.03 | 3.00 | 430.03 |
| Invested | (106.53) | (41.00) | (147.53) |
| Net | 320.50 | (38.00) | 282.50 |
| Limit | 510.00 | 51.00 | |
| | | | |
| Proportion of Net Borrowing Actual | 113.45% | (13.45)% | 100.00% |
| Limit | 125.00% | 5.00% | |

The authority is within limits set by the 2020-2021 indicators.

2.3.2 Maturity Structure Of Borrowing

| | Structure at 30.06.19 % | Upper Limit % | Lower Limit % |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Under 12 months | 5.27 | 15 | 0 |
| 12 months to 2 years | 3.65 | 15 | 0 |
| 2 years to 5 years | 6.74 | 50 | 0 |
| 5 years to 10 years | 9.23 | 50 | 0 |
| 10 years to 20 years | 17.89 | 50 | 0 |
| 20 years to 30 years | 18.40 | 50 | 0 |
| 30 years to 40 years | 23.10 | 50 | 0 |
| 40 years and above | 15.72 | 50 | 0 |

The authority is within the limits set by the 2020-2021 indicators.

2.3.3 Maximum principal sums invested longer than 365 days

| | 2020-2021 £m |
|---|-------------------------|
| Limit | 10 |
| Actual as at 30 th June 2020 | NIL |

3. Conclusion

For the period 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020 the actual Prudential Indicators to be monitored by the Executive Board are within the limits set by the Budget 2020-2021 and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2021. This is also true for the indicators being monitored by officers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Executive Board considers and approves the report.

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Investment Summary as at 30th June 2020

Carmarthenshire County Council

| Totals | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|
| Total | £147,000,000 | |
| Calls & MMFs | £34,000,000 | 23% |
| Fixed Deposits | £113,000,000 | 77% |
| Specified | £147,000,000 | 100% |

| Weighted Average | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Yield | | 0.25% |
| Maturity (Days) | | |
| Total Portfolio | Total Portfolio | 23.13 |
| Long Term | | |
| Short Term | | |
| AAA | - | 1.00 |
| AA | F1 | 32.01 |
| A | F1 | 6.55 |
| BBB | F2 | 0.00 |
| CCC | C | 0.00 |

| Risk Factors | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| < 1 year | £2,003 | 0.001% |
| 1 - 2 years | £0 | 0.000% |
| 2 - 3 years | £0 | 0.000% |
| 3 - 4 years | £0 | 0.000% |
| 4 - 5 years | £0 | 0.000% |
| Total Portfolio | £2,003 | 0.001% |

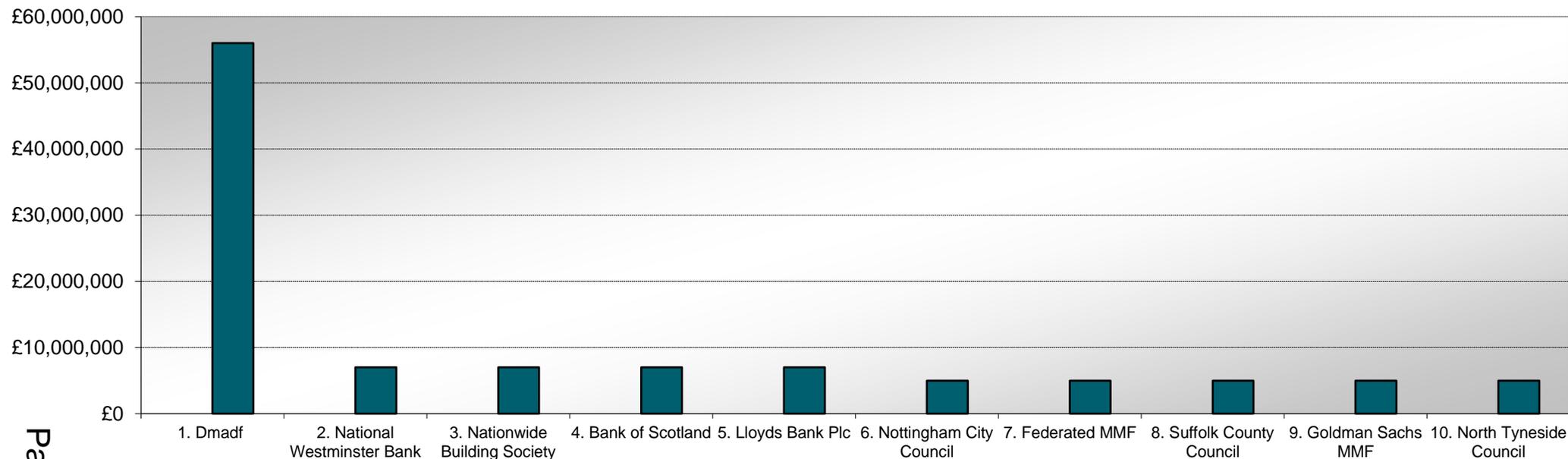
| Maturity Structure | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| < 1 Week | £58,000,000 | 39% |
| < 1 Month | £70,000,000 | 48% |
| 2 - 3 Months | £6,000,000 | 4% |
| 3 - 6 Months | £13,000,000 | 9% |
| 6 - 9 Months | £0 | 0% |
| 9 - 12 Months | £0 | 0% |
| 12 Months+ | £0 | 0% |
| Total | £147,000,000 | 100% |

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Top 10 Counterparty Holdings

Carmarthenshire County Council

| Counterparty | Principal | % of Total Holding | WAM (Days) | WAYield | WADefault |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. Dmadf | £56,000,000 | 38.89% | 18 | 0.01% | 0.001% |
| 2. National Westminster Bank | £7,000,000 | 4.86% | 25 | 0.58% | 0.006% |
| 3. Nationwide Building Society | £7,000,000 | 4.86% | 4 | 0.25% | 0.001% |
| 4. Bank of Scotland | £7,000,000 | 4.86% | 1 | 0.00% | 0.000% |
| 5. Lloyds Bank Plc | £7,000,000 | 4.86% | 1 | 0.45% | 0.000% |
| 6. Nottingham City Council | £5,000,000 | 3.47% | 34 | 0.20% | 0.002% |
| 7. Federated MMF | £5,000,000 | 3.47% | 1 | 0.57% | 0.000% |
| 8. Suffolk County Council | £5,000,000 | 3.47% | 164 | 0.40% | 0.007% |
| 9. Goldman Sachs MMF | £5,000,000 | 3.47% | 1 | 0.11% | 0.000% |
| 10. North Tyneside Council | £5,000,000 | 3.47% | 29 | 0.10% | 0.001% |



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EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

Purpose:

To seek endorsement of an amendment to the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee Agreement (Schedule 12, Clause 7.1)

Recommendations/key decisions required:-

- To endorse the decision of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee to amend the Joint Scrutiny Committee quorum arrangements, as detailed within the report.
- To authorise the Head of Administration and Law to enter into a deed of variation to effect the changes to the Joint Committee Agreement

Reasons:

Any variation of the agreement requires approval by all 4 Authorities.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Leader of the Council

Directorate Chief Executive's

Designations:

Tel Nos.01267 224010

Name of Head of Service:

Head of Administration &
Law

LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.
uk

Linda Rees Jones

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

Council at its meeting held on the 9th October 2019 (Minute 10.3 refers) endorsed amendments to the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee Agreement which had arisen following recommendations from reviews by the UK and Welsh Governments and the region itself.

During the debate, a request was made by the Joint Scrutiny Committee Chair for Council to approve further changes which included an amendment to the Scrutiny Committee quorum arrangements. The former Chief Executive had advised Council that the draft Joint Scrutiny minutes clearly requested the Joint Committee to consider these amendments, therefore any proposed amendment would firstly need to be considered by the Joint Committee itself and if agreed those amendments would then need to be placed before each of the 4 local authorities to consider and adopt the proposed changes.

The Joint Committee at its meeting held on the 9th July 2020 (Minute 79 refers) considered a report on Joint Scrutiny – Change to Terms of Reference and **resolved** to amend Clause 7 of Schedule 12 – Terms of Reference of Joint Scrutiny Committee in that the current Clause 7.1 be deleted and amended as follows:

7. Quorum

7.1 The quorum for meetings shall be no less than 6 members, which must include at least 1 member from each of the 4 Authorities. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is not permitted to scrutinise a matter relating to a project if a member representative of the Councils involved in that project is not present at the meeting.

The Council is asked to endorse the recommendation of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

No

[Link to the minutes of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee held on the 9th July 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: **Linda Rees Jones** **Head of Administration & Law**

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - the City Deal is a good example of the 5 Ways of Working promoted by the Act and will make a significant contribution to the 7 well-being goals

2. Legal

The Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee shall be governed by the provisions of the Joint Committee Agreement. The terms of the Joint Committee Agreement commits Carmarthenshire County Council to discharge its responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Heads of Terms document signed on 20th March, 2017.

The Councils may from time to time vary the terms of reference of the Joint Committee and this shall be a matter reserved to the Councils. The reservation to the Councils does not preclude the Joint Committee from making recommendations to vary the terms of the reference the reference where it considers they shall promote the Council's Obligations.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

Legal officers have considered the position now that the Deed of Variation has been finalised and Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Pembrokeshire are also making arrangements for the amendment to be agreed in accordance with their respective decision-making processes.

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:

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|--------------|---|
| Swansea City Region Joint Committee Agendas and Minutes | | http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=664&Year=0&LLL=0 |
| Carmarthenshire Council Agenda and Minutes 9 th October 2019 | | http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=155&MId=2009&Ver=4 |

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2033

Purpose: Revised Delivery Agreement and Update Covid-19

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To endorse the continued progress of the Revised Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033 (and supporting documents) and the approach outlined within the report.
- To approve the Revision of the Delivery Agreement to include a 7-month extension to the timetable and other consequential amendments including those arising from Covid-19.
- To write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Welsh Government, to further request the amendment of the legislation regarding the ‘drop dead date’ provisions.
- To grant officers delegated authority to make non-substantive typographical, cartographical and/or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Draft Deposit Revised Local Development Plan.

Reasons:

- To comply with the Council’s statutory obligations in terms of the preparation and progression of a Revised Local Development Plan for Carmarthenshire, in accordance with statutory procedures.
- To respond and have regard to the implications of Covid-19 on the preparation of the Revised LDP and amend the content of the Delivery Agreement accordingly.
- To ensure that the preparation and adoption of the Revised (replacement) LDP proceeds in a timely manner and as close to the expiration of the current LDP as possible.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted Community Scrutiny Committee: TBC

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Mair Stephens

Directorate : Environment

Designations :

Tel Nos. 01267 228659

Name of Head of Service:

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Report Author: Ian Llewelyn

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5TH OCTOBER 2020

REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 – 2033

REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT AND COVID-19 UPDATE

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This Report follows on from the resolution of County Council on the 10th January 2018 to formally commence the preparation of a Revised (replacement) Local Development Plan (LDP), along with the Welsh Government's approval of the Delivery Agreement on the 28th June 2018, including its timetable for Plan preparation.

Members will recall that the County Council at its meeting on the 13th November 2019 endorsed the Deposit Revised LDP 2018 - 2033 and its supporting documents (Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal) along with two draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the statutory 6-week public consultation. This commenced on the 29th January 2020 and following an extension of over 2 weeks closed on the 27th March 2020.

The preparation of the Deposit Revised LDP represented an important milestone in the Council delivering on its statutory responsibilities to prepare an up-to-date Development Plan for the County (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority).

This report reflects on the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak on the consultation and on the continued preparation of the Revised LDP. It also considers the implications of the outbreak on the timetable for the adoption of the LDP and proposes to revise the Delivery Agreement (and its component timetable and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)) ahead of Welsh Government agreement.

It should be noted that the responses received as part of the Deposit Version consultation earlier this year and the officer recommendations in response to those consultations do not form part of this update report. They will be part of a subsequent report to Council to be progressed in due course.

2. Background

The preparation of the Revised LDP reflects the Council's statutory responsibilities to produce the Revised LDP under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Deposit Revised LDP sets out policies and proposals for future development and use of land for Carmarthenshire over the period to 2033.

The Delivery Agreement, as originally approved by the Welsh Government (WG) back in 2018, identifies the timeline for the preparation and Adoption of the Plan by November/December 2021.

At the time of the publication of the Deposit Revised LDP in January 2020 the plan's progress towards adoption was in accordance with the content of the approved Delivery Agreement and its timetable. However, the final two weeks (which formed the extended period of the consultation from 6 to 8 weeks) were impacted by the gradual move into lockdown with the closure of public libraries and customer service centres.

At this point all planned public engagement events and drop in sessions had been completed. Consequently, there was no cancellation of events or disruption to planned engagement. However, access to documents at public buildings during that last 2 weeks was limited albeit access remained available through an extensive on-line resource.

Noting that this restricted access to the advertised deposit locations may have impacted on the ability of some interested parties to submit representations, the decision was taken to adopt a pragmatic approach in response to the unforeseeable change in circumstances caused by COVID-19. In this respect where the respondent's ability to submit within the consultation deadline was affected by the outbreak, a degree of flexibility was applied to the receipt of representations and more detailed supporting evidence.

On 18th March 2020, the Welsh Government issued a letter to all Chief Planning Officers in Wales regarding the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the preparation of Local Development Plans (Appendix 1).

This letter whilst identifying that technical work can be progressed, recognised that reporting processes and the ability to adhere to the agreed plan preparation timetables may be difficult, due to COVID-19. Detailed consideration should be given to the implications on the timing of plan preparation and how much additional time will be required. This will require a revised DA at a later point in time.

Specifically, this letter in relation to Carmarthenshire Revised LDP noted the following: "Consultation on the LDP Deposit plan concludes on the 27 March 2020. Provided all the engagement events specified in the CIS are completed and stakeholders can access places where the relevant plan documentation is located, the plan will have fulfilled its legal obligations regarding the consultation stage. This is a matter for the LPA to confirm."

The Welsh Government have in the form a Ministers letter 7 July 2020 (Appendix 2). This has provided subsequent further guidance on the progress of LDP's given the impact of COVID-19.

It is clear both through Welsh Government acknowledgement but also through the impacts arising from Covid-19 and the associated lockdown that there will be inevitable and unavoidable delay to the timetable for the adoption of the LDP. Consequently, a Revised Delivery

Agreement is required to extend the timetable for the Plan's preparation beyond the current adoption date in November/December 2021. It should be noted the extension to the timetable and changes to the Delivery Agreement would need to be agreed by the Welsh Government.

3. Revised LDP

The Deposit Revised LDP is the Council's proposed statutory land use plan for its administrative area (excluding that area contained within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and covers the period 2018 – 2033. The preparation of the Plan is governed by defined statutory procedures with the process subject to a series of stages prior to its adoption. This process culminates in the Examination in Public (EIP) which will be presided over by an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers. Upon its adoption, the Revised LDP will supersede the current adopted LDP. It should be noted that the Inspector's recommendations are binding upon the Council.

Once adopted, the Revised LDP will guide and manage development. It will inform future infrastructure and investment programmes from both internal and external partners as well as playing a key role in delivering on the Council's declared Climate Change emergency. It will provide the local policy basis to determine future planning applications. It is therefore essential that it remains relevant and appropriate in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

A key element of the Deposit Plan is founded on the need for it to make appropriate provision for a sustainable and deliverable level of growth - reflecting the ambitions of the County and meeting the needs of its communities. This has been supported by a robust and updated evidence base whilst seeking to deliver on key strategic influences including:

- The Council's Strategic Regeneration Plan 2015 – 2030 – Transformations;
- Swansea Bay City Deal – including Yr Egin and the Wellness and Life Science Village;
- The New Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2023;
- The Council's Well-being Objectives; and
- Council resolutions – including the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the motion on Planning and the Welsh language;
- Rural Taskforce Report and recommendations;
- National planning policy and legislative agenda;
- Our Commitment to Affordable Homes 2015 – 2020 and Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2016-2020;
- Building More Council Homes – 'Our ambition and plan of action';
- Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years.

The LDP seeks to promote and develop the economy across Carmarthenshire and the Deposit Revised Plan identifies appropriate land allocations to reflect Carmarthenshire as an ambitious County which attracts investment and provides opportunities for those living and working in our communities and well as a key player within a Swansea Bay regional context.

The proposed growth levels would also seek to challenge and address current demographic patterns particularly the outmigration as evidenced in the 16-19 age group. It provides opportunities to balance the demographics of the County through the retention of, and in-migration of younger adults (including those returning) to the County, and address some of the issues which could be perceived from an aging population.

In moving forward and notably in light of the Covid-19 outbreak it is recognised that the content of the Revised LDP will need to develop, acknowledge and respond to changes in evidence (including that around Covid-19), have regard to the Councils Covid-19 recovery plan as well as legislative and national policy. In this respect it will also need to be in conformity with the emerging National Development Framework. An update on the progress of which is contained within the Ministers letter which identifies an approximate 6 month delay in its anticipated approval date from September 2020 to Spring 2021 (Appendix 2).

4. Revised Delivery Agreement

Revised Delivery Agreement (DA) and its timetable and Community Involvement Scheme forms part of this report and will proceed for Council endorsement for submission to the Welsh Government for their agreement.

Subject to Welsh Government agreement, all stakeholders and those who have participated in LDP consultations or expressed an interest in being notified of the Plan's progression will be informed of its availability. The ongoing work in respect of the Revised LDP will proceed in accordance with the content of the revised DA once it has been agreed.

As a requirement of the minister's letter dated the 7 July 2020 any request to amend the DA and extend the timetable for Plan preparation would need to be accompanied by an assessment of the evidence base, strategy and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the pandemic. Robust conclusions should be reached on the need for new evidence and any consequential changes to strategy and policy before progressing plan preparation. The assessment should be submitted to the Welsh Government with requests to extend DA. This recent requirement will be developed and included as this report moves through the reporting process to Executive board and finally to Council. This will seek to ensure that the Plan and its content remain relevant. It will also identify potential changes in evidence – a number of potential areas are identified through the themes below. Whilst, any future evidential changes around these themes and other aspects of the Plan may impact on its content – the nature or indeed scope of that impact (if indeed there is any) is at this stage unknown.

It should be noted that this evidence review will be prepared over the coming months and will inform the future content of the Plan.

This reflects that LDP's are an evidence-based document.

The following identify some of the key areas of change in respect of the Revised Delivery Agreement and its content:

Deposit – Focused Additional Consultation

As identified above the final 2 weeks of the consultation on the Deposit Plan coincided with the closure of public buildings, many of which were locations where the Plan documents were available to view. Consequently, this reduced the ability of people to access the documents in a way which is consistent with that set out in the CIS. In this respect it should be noted that LDPs must be prepared in accordance with the DA and the CIS.

In order to ensure that sufficient opportunity is given to those who may have been impacted by the closure of these locations, and to fulfil our legal obligations regarding the consultation, a further 3-week focused consultation on the content of the Deposit Revised LDP and its supporting documents (excluding the Draft SPG) will be undertaken. This 3-week period will also limit any consequential delays to the adoption of the Plan beyond that set out in this report and the Revised DA.

Details of this consultation will be communicated to all stakeholders and interested parties and publicised accordingly. The responses received will be reported along with those received during the original Deposit consultation in due course.

Focused changes

Reflecting the representation received as part of the Deposit consultation and the impacts arising from Covid-19 there will inevitably be amendments proposed to the content of the Deposit LDP. Provision for such amendments is known as 'Focused Changes'. These enable the Council to respond to areas where there may have been non substantive changes as a result of evidence, factual issues, legislation and functionality of the Plan. The timetable will be amended to incorporate their preparation and for consultation on their content.

The focused changes proposed will form part of a future report and ahead of consultation.

Community Involvement Scheme

The manner in which public engagement events will take place will be reviewed in line with the Coronavirus Regulations (2020) to ensure social distancing measures can be put in place when conducting any public events. The Council will also review digital options to provide communities with information and the ability to engage with the focussed changes consultation.

Timetable

Given the inevitable impacts arising from Covid-19 and the lockdown there have and will be inevitable and unavoidable delays to the timetable for the adoption of the LDP. In this regard the Revised Delivery Agreement will set out a revised timetable for the remaining stages of Plan preparation and an updated Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) detailing our revised consultation and engagement arrangements.

The amended timetable as set out within the Revised Delivery Agreement will result in delay to the adoption of the Revised LDP. Currently scheduled for November/December 2021 the impacts arising from Covid-19 will require a minimum 6-month extension to the timetable. Taking into account the local elections in 2022 it is likely that any extension would be 7 months consequently allowing the Plan to be adopted ahead of the summer recess in 2022.

This new timetable will result in the adoption of the Revised LDP being after the 2022 local elections. This introduces a level of risk in terms of any new administration's acceptance of and buy-in to the Plan. The extension to the timetable also raises issues around the LDP drop dead dates (see below). It is however recognised that whilst a delay is unavoidable it is essential that it be kept to an effective minimum if we are to avoid a lengthy period where there is no local policy context against which planning applications can be considered.

Note: The revised Delivery Agreement along with the assessment of the evidence base, strategy and policies as required through the Minister's letter dated the 7th July 2020 will be developed as this report progresses through the reporting process to Executive Board and subsequently Council.

5. 'Drop Dead' Date - Expiration of the Current Adopted LDP

It should be noted that the current LDP runs until 31st December 2021 after which time it expires, and in accordance with the legislative provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 will cease to have any weight in decision making. This is known as the 'drop dead' date – after this time (unless the Revised LDP is adopted in advance) there will be no local planning policy framework for Carmarthenshire until the Revised LDP is adopted.

During this period of time (provisionally between 1st January 2022 and July 2022) there will in effect be a 'local planning policy vacuum' and decisions will have to be taken based on national planning policy only. This results in all site allocations, local designations, settlement boundaries and planning policies within the adopted LDP no longer being considerations. There will be no local policies, reflecting Carmarthenshire's priorities or protecting and providing for local communities. Policies that enable the council to seek financial contributions towards infrastructure and affordable housing provision would also no longer be considerations, with direct impacts on other strategic ambitions such as the delivery of affordable homes, schools etc.

The 'local policy vacuum' would increase the potential for speculative planning applications, however the implications of the recent removal of the five-year housing land availability requirement on such proposals is unclear. Indeed, it could result in undesirable forms of development being granted planning permission. This could result in significant consequences including the Council not being able to support sustainable development proposals that would benefit the people of Carmarthenshire in terms of economic growth and housing provision. The lack of a local planning policy framework represents a significant risk to decision making within the County and would result in uncertainty for investors, businesses, stakeholders and communities.

The Ministers letter of the 7th July 2020 in addressing the issue of 'drop dead' dates states the following: "I am conscious that a number of LDPs reach their end date in 2021 and 2022 and of the implications of the end date legislation for a plan led system. Therefore, I will continue to explore opportunities to introduce legislation to ensure that LDPs that have passed their end date continue to enjoy the development plan status for decision making purposes."

In light of the lack of clarity around the provisions of the 'drop dead' date it is recommended that the delay to the Plan's timetable for adoption be kept to a minimum. Whilst the Plan should seek to review its evidence and where applicable reflect that evidence, it is not at this stage considered that it should seek to revisit of the Plan's strategy and/or make significant changes to growth rates.

In addition, it is recommended that the Council seek to formally write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to further urge the amendment of the legislation regarding the 'drop dead date' provisions and to prevent any 'local planning policy vacuum'.

6. Evidential Themes

The following themes have been identified to frame those aspect where there may be a specific impacts or changes arising from Covid-19. They are not intended to be exhaustive and may not require changes in the content of the Deposit LDP but, provide a framework for consideration and will demonstrate that the Council has considered the impact of Covid-19 on these key areas.

Employment and the Economy - Review of the current evidence base will be required in respect future economic activity arising from the outbreak and how this will impact on different sectors. This will require an understanding the potential increase in agile and home working over potentially the longer term, potential changes in employment land demand/ requirements, whilst recognising unemployment is likely to increase.

Understand and reflect that High Streets and retail activity continues to change. Whilst the effects of Covid-19 are still largely unknown evidence will be required to look at the changing shape of the retail sector.

The role of the tourism sector in the local economy is recognised - understand any changes in employment patterns and demands on the sector arising from the outbreak.

In developing this broader understanding of any impacts regard will be had to the Council's Recovery Plan and any other national and regional interventions/strategies.

Population and Housing - It should be noted that further evidence is scheduled to be prepared as part of the continual need to remain appraised and up to date in relation to population changes and resultant household requirements. The withdrawal by StatsWales of the original 2018 population and household projections, due to an error on migration patterns, and their subsequent and ongoing re-issuing will require further consideration.

In addition, evidence will need to reflect the impacts of Covid-19 in so far as it can be predicted at this stage. Consideration will be required on the potential impact of Covid-19 on the requirement for affordable homes particularly if there are economic challenges resulting in greater unemployment or employment instability.

The Deposit Plan and its strategy seeks to ensure and enable access to a range and choice of homes as well as a target for the delivery of affordable homes – key in addressing affordability issues and to build sustainable and resilient communities. It is recognised that housing will have an important part to play in the economic recovery - evidence will be required to reflect the Council's recovery programme and the broader regeneration and strategic ambitions notably around maximising affordable housing provision, meeting housing need and providing opportunities to retain younger people and provide an attractive County for our younger people to return to.

Placemaking, Well-being and Green Infrastructure - Lockdown has emphasised the value and importance of place-making and of the provision of locally accessible open/green spaces for health and well-being and recreation. This is essential to our core purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities. The central role of placemaking was reinforced through the Minister's letter with the LDP as the key delivery mechanism (Appendix 2).

Climate Change - The Deposit LDP places significant emphasis on the response to Climate Change with a proactive set of policies on a number of areas including electric charging points for vehicles as part of new developments. There may be further scope to explore the relationship and compatibility with the Zero Carbon agenda. The potential for reduced car usage arising from home/agile working through a reduction in commuting patterns is noted with opportunities to build on active travel and integrated sustainable transport solutions already embedded in the Plan.

Infrastructure - Further consideration may be required around the increased emphasis on digital infrastructure and active travel options due to the increase in agile/home working. If successful, the trial measures being drawn up to support our High Streets and enable social distancing might become permanent.

7. LDP Preparatory Considerations

Note: Whilst the LDP plays a key role in shaping decision making and the location and nature of developments within the County, it is prepared and operated within the national framework set through legislation and by Planning Policy Wales and accompanying Technical Advice Notes. In this respect the Plan must have regard to National Planning Policy and legislation including the Well-being and Future Generations Act 2015, Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The process for the preparation of the LDP is set within statutory regulations, with further procedural guidance contained within the LDP Manual as prepared by the Welsh Government. The preparation and content of the LDP at the EIP will be assessed against three tests of soundness set out in national policy, namely:

1. Does the plan fit?
2. Is the plan appropriate?
3. Will the plan deliver?

Failure of the Revised LDP to comply with the 3 tests of soundness will result in it not being adopted. The full content of the tests of soundness are appended to this report.

It should also be noted that the Inspector's findings following the EIP is binding on the Authority.

Due regard will also need to be had to the emerging National Development Framework for Wales and the requirements for LDPs to conform to its content.

8. Next Steps

Following the Council's deliberations, the Revised DA and the assessment of the evidence base, strategy and policies as set out in the Ministers letter of the 7th July 2020 (Appendix 2) will be submitted to the Welsh Government for their agreement. Following their agreement, the Revised Delivery Agreement will be published with notifications sent out accordingly.

The additional evidence review will be undertaken to ensure the Deposit Revised LDP and its supporting documents are robust and that any resultant changes in the context of the focused changes are also robust.

A further report on the responses received in respect of the Deposit Revised LDP and its supporting documents together with the officer responses will be reported in due course.

It should be noted that whilst the revised LDP is being prepared, the current adopted Plan remains extant and will continue to provide the planning policy framework by which planning applications will be determined up until the end of 2021 (possibly beyond if Welsh Government address the 'drop dead date').

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 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: L Quelch

Head of Planning

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Draft Deposit LDP identifies and develops on the links and requirements necessary to ensure the Plan, and the processes in its preparation are compatible with Carmarthenshire County Council's well-being objectives. It also ensures alignment with the national Well-being Goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. Through its land use planning policies, the Revised LDP will seek to promote the principles of sustainability and sustainable development by facilitating the creation of communities and local economies which are more sustainable, cohesive and provide access to local services and facilities and reducing the need to travel.

The integration of sustainability as part of the preparation of the LDP is reflected in the undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment reflecting national and international legislative requirements. The formulation of the Revised LDP will closely consider matters of sustainability and will be prepared with the outcomes of the Plan measured in light of the Sustainability Appraisal indicators. This iterative approach ensures sustainability is at the heart of the Plan and that it is reflective of the requirements emanating from the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 and the emerging Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan.

The LDP will have full regard to the national legislative provisions and will relate and have regard to the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan. The Revised LDP will be assessed against the National and local Well-being Objectives. The Revised LDP will ensure the requirements emanating from the Act are fully and appropriately considered with the Plan, reflective of its duties.

2. Legal

The preparation of the Revised LDP reflects the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the requirements of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and secondary legislation in the form of the Local Development Plan (Regulations) Wales (As amended) 2015. Notable reference in relation to this report is made to the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and its secondary legislation on the provisions of 'drop dead dates'

The preparation of the LDP will also have appropriate regard to other sources of primary and secondary legislation including the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

The preparation of the Deposit LDP is in accordance with the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. It is also in line with national regulations and guidance in relation to its scope and content.

Reference is made to the emerging National Development Framework which sets out a high-level spatial strategy for Wales. The Revised LDP will be required to comply with its provisions. The NDF is scheduled for adoption in Spring 2021.

3. Finance

Financial costs to date are covered through the financial provisions in place - including growth items and reserves as required. Should the Planning Division Budget not be able to provide further funding necessary to meet the statutory requirements to review and prepare a development plan then an application will be made for a further growth bid for future years. With additional evidence base checks now being required in response to the Covid-19 situation it is highly likely that these reviews will lead to additional costs over and above those that would have been identified had Covid-19 not occurred.

The potential scope for additional evidence and pressures arising from extension to the timetable as proposed within the report may raise additional financial requirements beyond that within the Planning Division budget.

The Revised Delivery Agreement, in making reference to such matters, outlines the Council's commitment to prepare and adopt an up to date LDP in accordance with the Council's statutory duty.

4. ICT

Requirements in relation to ICT will seek to utilise existing resources.

6. Physical Assets

Reference is made to the potential inclusion or otherwise of Council owned sites and properties. The preparation of the Revised LDP will impact on Council land and property holdings and values through their inclusion or otherwise for potential development purposes. This will have implications on potential disposal and land valuations and consequently capital receipts.

7. Staffing Implications

Provision will be required for a Programme Officer for the Examination into the LDP (anticipated 2021/22 - subject to Revised timetable).

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: L Quelch

Head of Planning

1. Scrutiny Committee

TBC – Community Scrutiny

2. Local Member(s)

The content of the Deposit LDP, its supporting documents and the proposed SPG have been subject to full public consultation. Members will be engaged throughout the remainder of the Plan making process.

3. Community / Town Council

The content of the Deposit LDP, its supporting documents and the proposed SPG have been subject to full public consultation. Town/Community Councils(s) are a specific consultee at statutory stages throughout the Plan making process.

4. Relevant Partners

The content of the Deposit LDP, its supporting documents and the proposed SPG have been subject to full public consultation. Contributions have and will continue to be sought throughout the revision process. A range of partners are identified as specific and general consultees throughout the Plan making process.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

The content of the Deposit LDP, its supporting documents and the proposed SPG have been subject to full public consultation. Internal contributions have and will continue to be sought throughout the Plan making process.

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 |
|---|--------------|---|
| Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan | | http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/local-development-plan/ |
| Annual Monitoring Reports | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr/#.XW2KZ-hKjIU |
| LDP Review Report | | http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213042/ldp-review-report-english-version.pdf |
| Delivery Agreement | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1215059/delivery-agreement-agreed-by-welsh-government.pdf |
| Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/preferred-strategy-pre-deposit-public-consultation/#.XW2JhuhKjIU |
| Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/sustainability-appraisal-and-habitats-regulations-assessment/#.XW2J7uhKjIU |
| Evidence Base | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/development-of-an-evidence-base/#.XcFfSEb7SUK |
| Deposit Revised LDP | | https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/deposit-plan/#.Xww40kVKiUk |

Appended Update

‘Drop Dead’ Date - Expiration of the Current Adopted LDP

Following the preparation of this report further clarification in the form of a Ministerial letter (dated 24th September 2020) has been received in respect of the uncertainty surrounding the impact of ‘drop dead’ dates.

Up until receipt of this letter it was perceived that authorities with a Development Plan which expired before the adoption of a replacement would be left without a local planning policy document against which to base its decisions. However, the Minister in acknowledging this perception that LDPs will no longer be extant once they have reached the end of their plan period, has taken the opportunity to clarify the position. In so doing she states:

“The provisions in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 regarding the period to which a plan has effect were commenced on 4 January 2016. These provisions do not have retrospective effect. This means that the provisions do not apply to LDPs adopted prior to this date. Plans adopted prior to 4 January 2016 will remain the LDP for determining planning applications until replaced by a further LDP. For those LDPs adopted after 4 January 2016, the plan will cease to be the LDP on expiry of the period specified in the plan.”

In respect of the above it should be noted that the current Carmarthenshire LDP was adopted in 2014 and predates the above act. Consequently the current adopted LDP will form the basis for decision making until it is superseded by the emerging Revised LDP.

A copy of the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government is attached.

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Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JJ/2524/20

Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives National
Park Authority Chief Executives

24 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am conscious that a number of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are becoming increasingly concerned regarding the end date of their Local Development Plan (LDP) and the implications this will have for rational and consistent decision making at a local level. There are also questions over the ability to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) apply Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and the reduced certainty this will have for your communities and stakeholders.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 was amended through the Planning (Wales) Act (PWA) 2015. The Act, amongst other matters, introduced provisions specifying the period to which a plan has effect and providing that it shall cease to be the LDP at the end of the specified period.

Planning is becoming seen as an important tool in recovering from the recent Covid-19 virus, creating a more socially equitable and greener society than before, focusing around Placemaking and sustainability. To achieve this goal a plan-led system is essential.

With many LDPs nearing the end of their plan period, particularly from 2021 onwards, the perception has been that LDPs will no longer be extant once they have reached the end of their plan period. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the position.

The provisions in the PWA 2015 regarding the period to which a plan has effect were commenced on 4 January 2016. These provisions do not have retrospective effect. This means that the provisions do not apply to LDPs adopted prior to this date. Plans adopted prior to 4 January 2016 will remain the LDP for determining planning applications until

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi

replaced by a further LDP. For those LDPs adopted after 4 January 2016, the plan will cease to be the LDP on expiry of the period specified in the plan.

The first LDP to expire under the end date provisions will be on 1 January 2026. This period of just over 5 years to 2026 does provide an opportunity to explore the position further and consider whether further legislation is needed.

For the two remaining LPAs which do not yet benefit from an adopted LDP, but have an adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP), the period to which a plan has effect provisions do not apply. The two UDPs remain extant until replaced by their respective LDP.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

**Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio
Chief Planner, Planning Directorate**

To: Chief Planning Officers

18 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

Local Development Plan (LDP) Preparation - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Wales is becoming increasingly affected by the global pandemic, Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19). The health of every member of our community is the prime focus for us all at this challenging time and I know many of you have already been involved in local preparations to respond quickly and flexibly to the pandemic.

Over the last few days we have received a number of individual queries about how to progress LDPs at this time, in particular what do to about current and programmed public consultation and involvement events.

The key issues identified so far for LDPs are summarised below:

Local Authority Resources/Capacity

Many of you will be considering how to respond to the current exceptional circumstances, including the well-being of staff, the capacity of staff to progress LDPs, as well as prioritising functions within your authority to deal with the current situation. Reduced capacity within LDP teams will have a bearing on the progression of technical work to support the plan, as well as engaging with stakeholders.

Plan Engagement/Consultation

The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) is an integral part of a Delivery Agreement (DA) setting out who will be consulted, at what stage in the plan preparation process and by what medium. Ensuring conformity with the CIS is a key test of 'soundness'; failure to comply with the CIS can result in plans being unable to be found 'sound' and therefore adopted.

Specifically, the CIS sets out how a Local Planning Authority (LPA) will engage and consult at the statutory consultation stages, i.e. Preferred Strategy and Deposit. The

detail of venues, dates, times and mechanisms will be expanded as the relevant stage is reached through public notices, press and social media outlets. These can range from drop in sessions, public events, specific engagement groups etc. This equally applies to some non-statutory stages, such as the call for sites (Candidate Sites).

The impact of Covid-19 is restricting the movement of people, accessibility to public buildings and cancellation of engagement events, placing an increasing emphasis on self-isolation, particularly for the elderly who often have more limited access to the Internet. The ability to fulfil the CIS with regards to plan consultation is becoming increasingly more difficult, and could be impossible in the near future.

Delivery Agreement/Timetable

The combination of the pressures on staff, re-prioritisation in response to the current exceptional circumstances and increasing inability to fulfil the CIS, means that LDPs will find it difficult to adhere to the agreed Delivery Agreement (DA). Compliance with the agreed DA is a test of 'soundness' issue which, if not adhered to, can result in LDPs not being found 'sound', unable to be adopted and may be open to legal challenge.

Proposed Way Forward

In light of the exceptional circumstances being experienced through the Covid-19 virus, progressing an LDP in line with the legal obligations set out in both the DA and CIS will not be possible.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA 2004) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005, as amended, legislation does not anticipate, or articulate, how to deal with such exceptional circumstances.

Having considered a number of questions received from LPAs over the last few days our proposed approach is set out below.

LDPs subject to statutory consultation:

Where LPAs have fulfilled their legal obligations under the DA and CIS, they have completed that statutory stage, but will need to pause and reflect how they progress the plan. Technical work can be progressed, but reporting to Council and the ability to adhere to the agreed plan preparation timeline may be difficult, due to the current exceptional circumstances. Detailed consideration should be given to the implications on the timing of plan preparation and how much additional time will be required. This will require a revised DA at a later point in time. This situation applies to Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.

- Pembrokeshire County Council – Consultation on the LDP Deposit plan concluded on the 18 March 2020. Provided all the engagement events specified in the CIS have been completed, the plan will have fulfilled its legal obligations regarding the consultation stage.

- Carmarthenshire County Council – Consultation on the LDP Deposit plan concludes on the 27 March 2020. Provided all the engagement events specified in the CIS are completed and stakeholders can access places where the relevant plan documentation is located, the plan will have fulfilled its legal obligations regarding the consultation stage. This is a matter for the LPA to confirm.

The following three LPAs are currently/imminently subject to public consultation but will not be in a position to fulfil their DA/CIS obligations.

- Monmouthshire County Council - Consultation on the LDP Preferred Strategy concludes on the 24 April 2020. The engagement events specified in the CIS will not be completed, as venues have subsequently become unavailable. This means the plan cannot fulfil its legal obligations regarding the consultation stage.
- Torfaen County Bough Council – The Council have sought a revised DA (currently subject to agreement) indicating public consultation on the Preferred Strategy commencing April 2020. The LPA will need to reflect on whether it can fulfil the consultation obligations in both the DA and CIS. It is unlikely this can be achieved under the current circumstances.
- Ceredigion County Council - The Council have sought a revised DA (currently subject to agreement) indicating public consultation on the Preferred Strategy commencing July 2020. The LPA will need to reflect on whether it can fulfil the consultation obligations in both the DA and CIS. It is unlikely this can be achieved under the current circumstances.

With regard to Monmouthshire Council the current Preferred Strategy consultation should stop immediately. The availability of venues, staff and ability of stakeholders to engage in the plan making process means compliance with the DA and CIS cannot be achieved. The published evidence base to support the plan should be retained on the Council website. The Preferred Strategy consultation stage should be repeated from the beginning at a later date when stakeholders and resources are available to ensure full compliance with the CIS. A revised DA will be required at a later point in time.

In relation to both Ceredigion and Torfaen Council, further consideration needs to be given to the timing of plan preparation, specifically the start date for commencing consultation on both Preferred Strategies. A revised DA to rectify any timing discrepancies can be achieved at a later date.

LDPs subject to examination/submission:

Two authorities are either at or nearing examination stage.

- Wrexham County Borough Council's LDP is currently subject to examination. Whilst the hearing sessions have completed, the appointed Inspectors have not published their report. Due to the stage reached in the LDP process there is no requirement for a revised DA.

- Flintshire County Council are due to submit their LDP for examination in June/July this year. The Council should continue to finalise the plan for submission and if possible gain Council approval. If submission of the plan is delayed, a revised DA will be required to accompany submission of the plan.

LDPs due to formally commence replacement plan preparation:

For those LPAs who are currently, or are about to consult on a draft DA, careful consideration should be given to the formal start date of LDP preparation. The exceptional circumstances may mean that the commencement of plan preparation may have to be postponed for several months to enable effective engagement in the plan preparation process, as set out in the CIS and DA. A revised DA will be required at a future date.

All remaining LPAs progressing LDPs:

For those LPAs not specified above the current exceptional circumstances will have a bearing on the ability to move forward over the forthcoming months. The Welsh Government is sympathetic to the pressures faced by all LPAs in the current climate. Whilst development plan coverage remains a key priority you should consider whether existing approved DAs can be adhered to, alongside CIS engagement plans. It would also be advisable to prepare a revised DA which can be submitted at a later date when greater clarity is available.

In summary, the Welsh Government is adopting a pragmatic approach as to how plan preparation accommodates the current exceptional circumstances. It is important not to progress plans that could be in conflict with the legal requirements set out in the CIS and DA. I am asking all LPAs to reflect on their individual circumstances and consider the most prudent way forward in these uncertain times. I would also stress that as much technical work as possible is undertaken during this period.

The Welsh Government will take a pragmatic view on the implications delays on plan preparation may have on other legislative requirements, such as the end dates of plans.

I trust this letter provides clarity on how we can collectively move forward over the forthcoming months and wish you all well at this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

N. Hemington .

Neil Hemington
Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio
Chief Planner, Planning Directorate

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Ein cyf/Our ref MA-JJ-2099-20

Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives
National Park Authority Chief Executives

7 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Corona Virus pandemic is the biggest emergency humanity has faced in living memory and quite rightly the immediate role for government has been to protect the health and livelihoods of citizens. Over recent months we have achieved much by working together. Our success collaborating must be captured and built on as we move to recovery.

We already know the pandemic has impacted most on those in our communities who have least, exacerbating social, economic and environmental inequalities. Our approach going forward must focus on addressing those longstanding inequalities by taking a values based approach to recovery which promotes social, economic and environmental justice.

Some of the changes we have seen over recent months have been beneficial. The improvement of our natural environment, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality, greater reliance on active travel to access local services and the ability of people to recalibrate their work/life balance have been very positive. Just over a year ago, the Welsh Government and many local authorities declared a climate change emergency. This pandemic has demonstrated vividly that we are facing a climate and nature emergency with limited time to change our lifestyles to protect our environment and humanity from the consequences of climate change and habitat and species loss. Tackling homelessness, increasing social housing and providing fair work must also be prioritised with new vigour to address social and economic inequalities.

The planning system is central to shaping a better future for Wales and it is essential that all levels of government ensure that plans, policies and procedures improve the wellbeing of our people and the resilience of our environment. It is my strongly held view that we must not sacrifice the principles of sustainable development and place making in the pursuit of economic recovery at any cost. Up to date agile development plans are the cornerstone of our planning system. Our commitment to a plan led planning system has been reinforced and not reduced by the current crisis.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

National Development Framework

Work on the preparation of the National Development Framework (NDF) was paused when the Senedd went into emergency procedures. The First Minister's Continuity Plan has identified the NDF as a priority to be completed before the next Senedd election and will be submitted to the Senedd for scrutiny later this year with publication of the final framework early in 2021. The opportunities and challenges which the NDF was designed to address before the pandemic are equally as valid today. The urgency with which the opportunities and challenges need to be addressed is greater than ever in areas such as decarbonisation and tackling social and economic inequalities. The NDF submitted to the Senedd will include enhanced coverage on regional planning, including moving to a 4 region model advocated by many during the earlier consultation. The NDF regional policies will provide a robust framework for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs).

Strategic Development Plans

The past few months have demonstrated the benefits of regional working on complex issues through structures such as the local resilience forums. The Local Government and Elections Bill is currently progressing through the Senedd with the view to it becoming law in early 2021. The Bill will provide a legal framework for regional collaboration through the creation of Corporate Joint Committees and require the preparation of SDPs.

SDPs will be necessary to implement the NDF and support recovery from the pandemic as many of the issues which need to be addressed most urgently transverse local authority boundaries. The pandemic has placed a severe strain on public finances following a decade of austerity and we may be facing a recession at least as deep as that of the early 1980s. This will put further strain on local planning authorities which have witnessed some of the deepest cuts of all public services in recent years. Local planning authorities are also likely to see lower fee income due to the reduction of construction activity. In this context, local authorities must think strategically about the best use of their resources and I strongly urge you to consider with new vigour opportunities to collaborate to prepare Strategic Development Plans and deliver planning services more generally.

Local Development Plans

Local planning authorities must reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs under review or being implemented. Long held views and policies on matters including transportation, economic development, housing, regeneration, the role of town centres and the importance of green infrastructure have all been brought into focus recently. We must think creatively and differently to promote a sustained recovery which has people and places at its heart.

LDPs are evidence based documents. As a result of the pandemic and resulting downturn in the economy much of the evidence on which LDPs are based is likely to be out of date. This is particularly the case for economic and social evidence covering areas such as the need for social and market housing, viability, economic forecasts and transport modelling. LDPs currently undergoing review, which have not yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, should undertake an assessment of the evidence base, strategy and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the pandemic. Robust conclusions should be reached on the need for new evidence and any consequential changes to strategy and policy before progressing plan preparation. The assessment should be submitted to the Welsh Government with requests to extend Delivery Agreements (DA). It is acknowledged that this will slightly delay plan preparation in the short term. It will however minimise delays at later stages of plan preparation and reduce the chances of a plan being found unsound at examination. Where a plan is part way through a public consultation (preferred strategy or deposit plan) the consultation should cease and start afresh once the assessment has been completed and new DA approved.

I am conscious that a number of LDPs reach their end date in 2021 and 2022 and of the implications of the end date legislation for a plan led system. Therefore, I will continue to explore opportunities to introduce legislation to ensure that LDPs that have passed their end date continue to enjoy the development plan status for decision making purposes. Reviewing the current evidence base and continuing plan preparation with an appropriate strategy and policies will enable most LDPs to progress to an advanced stage as soon as possible, allowing up-to-date evidence to support decision making.

Where consultations have ceased or a review of evidence, strategy and policy has delayed the production of LDPs meaning they cannot adhere to the previously agreed timetable a revised DA will be required. The Chief Planner has been authorised to agree revised DAs. This will ensure our agreement to requests for revised DAs can be provided as quickly as possible.

A key component of a DA is the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), which sets out who, when and by what means communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the plan preparation process. For those LDPs currently being prepared there will be an approved CIS setting out arrangements. LDPs must be prepared in accordance with both the DA and CIS. With many public buildings temporarily closed, stakeholders inability to attend consultation events and issues arising from social distancing, existing CISs cannot be complied with. For these reasons, the CIS will need to be adjusted in light of the latest Government advice and social distancing principles to enable plan preparation to progress.

Regulation 9(6) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 states that an LPA need not comply with a particular requirement of its CIS if it has reasonable grounds to believe it is not likely to prejudice any persons opportunity in the exercise of the LPAs functions under Part 6 of the PCPA 2004 if it does not comply with that requirement. The Covid-19 virus is considered to be a reasonable reason, provided alternative means of engagement are put in place and communicated to all concerned. Careful consideration must be given as to how engagement may need to be adjusted in the short term, when submitting a revised DA and CIS. Possible approaches include:

- Alternative consultation venues with increased capacity to accommodate social distancing regulations
- Prior arrangement for individual briefing sessions to reduce the number of stakeholders present at any given time
- A longer consultation period to ensure stakeholders have the ability to engage, both for specific types of events and beyond the statutory 6 week period
- An increased use of web based technological tools, such as electronic presentations on key issues, short video clips, information distributed via USB sticks etc.
- Considering how the re-opening of libraries and community centres provides sufficient distribution outlets, particularly in more rural communities. Where there are more restricted options, can alternative venues be sought and communicated effectively to local communities
- Providing information directly to individuals and other stakeholders via electronic means or where this is not possible due to lack of digital skills and equipment by providing hard copies.
- The use of participatory techniques such a citizens' assemblies.

The above examples are not exhaustive. They provide an indication of how different engagement principles and mechanisms can be adopted to allow plans to progress. Consultation on a revised CIS is not required, where it is temporarily amended in light of the exceptional circumstances. This autumn the Planning Inspectorate Wales and Welsh

Government will be jointly hosting seminars on plan making, consultations, evidence and examinations at which we can all share ideas as to how best to move forward.

To assist preparation of LDPs I will not require Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) to be submitted this October. I strongly encourage LPAs to continue with data collection, as this will help shape and inform policy and plan development. If LPAs wish to publish an AMR, they can of course do so. I will expect the next formal AMR submission in October 2021.

Planning Policy Wales

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was comprehensively redrafted at the end of 2018 centred on the principles of place making. It sets out what the Welsh Government expects from development plans and is an important consideration in the decision making process on planning applications. We have undertaken a signposting exercise which will exemplify those aspects of PPW which are particularly relevant to the post Covid 19 recovery and responding to the climate and nature emergencies. Where necessary new or amended policies will be proposed. I also aim launch the Placemaking Wales Charter as soon as possible. I am grateful to those organisations which have already signed the Charter and it is important that we do not lose the momentum behind this very important initiative which is intended to improve the quality of development in Wales and promote greater community involvement in the planning system.

Finally, I wish to put on record my thanks for the work undertaken by local planning authorities to maintain the planning system locally during these unprecedented times. In recognition of the vital role that planning will play in supporting our communities in the recovery from the pandemic the planned 20% increase in planning application fees will come into effect in the summer. It is essential that the fee increase is retained in planning department budgets and that there are no offsetting reductions in corporate funding.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan
2018 – 2033

Revised Delivery Agreement – Draft for Reporting

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Section 69 (S69) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Local Planning Authority (LPA) to undertake a review of a Local Development Plan (LDP) and report to the Welsh Government at such times as prescribed. To ensure that there is a regular and comprehensive assessment of whether plans remain up-to-date or whether changes are needed, an authority should commence a S69 full review of its LDP at intervals not longer than every 4 years from initial adoption and then from the date of the last adoption following a review under S69 (Regulation 41).

1.1.2 As part of the LDP process, Carmarthenshire County Council (the Authority) prepared a Review Report which has identified a requirement to undertake a full revision of its Development Plan. The issues considered within the report are of sufficient significance to support the preparation of a revised LDP.

1.1.3 The Review Report drew upon the published AMRs, evidence gathered through updated survey evidence, and pertinent contextual indicators to support this stance. In addition, Carmarthenshire's LDP will expire at the end of 2021.

1.1.4 The current adopted Carmarthenshire LDP will remain the statutory development plan until it is replaced by a revised version of the LDP. Reference is made to the letter dated the 24th September 2020 from the Minister for Housing and Local Government wherein it was confirmed that adoption of the current LDP prior to 4 January 2016 makes provision for it to remain the basis for determining planning applications until replaced by the Revised LDP. The revised LDP covers a Plan period from 1st April 2018 through to 31st March 2033.

1.1.5 Once the Revised LDP is adopted, decisions on planning permissions will be primarily based on its content. It will also form the basis for guiding future investment programmes including those of partner organisations and infrastructure providers. It will provide a measure of certainty about what kind of development will and will not be permitted during the plan period. It determines the level of provision and location of new housing and employment opportunities and sets the framework for considering all proposals that relate to the development and use of land and buildings during the plan period.

1.1.6 The Plan will take a positive role in identifying opportunities for growth and investment, including the allocation of appropriate sites for development in a manner which is balanced against the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment. It will also consider the linguistic, social, and cultural nature of the County's communities.

1.2 Purpose of this Revised Delivery Agreement

1.2.1 As a requirement of the regulations set out above, the Council is obliged to prepare and approve a Delivery Agreement (DA) for the LDP which must then in turn be approved by the Welsh Government (WG).

1.2.2 The DA is a public statement of the Council's commitment to the preparation of the LDP, and how and when stakeholder, interested parties and communities can contribute to its preparation. The DA represents a key statutory stage in the preparation of the Plan, and

adherence to its agreed contents represents one of the tests of the soundness (See section 1.5) at the public examination stage.¹

1.2.3 As part of its preparatory process, the revised LDP will undergo a number of key stages (See Table 2). This commenced with the production of the original DA consisted of two parts: firstly, a Timetable for producing the LDP, and secondly, a Community Involvement Scheme.

(i) Timetable

The timetable details the stages involved in the formulation and preparation of the LDP and how the Council proposes to project manage its preparation. The timetable will be divided into two stages - definitive and indicative -and sets out the key parts of the process and where possible providing definitive dates. Those stages where indicative dates are given are generally post-deposit, where factors outside the Council's control may affect the process. For example, the number of representations received in respect of the LDP during a given consultation exercise.

(ii) Community Involvement Scheme

This sets out how the Council intends to consult and engage with stakeholders and partners in a meaningful way throughout the LDP process. The DA contains lists of those groups, bodies and individuals that will be consulted during the LDP preparatory process. It should be noted that these lists are not exhaustive and will be added to as appropriate throughout the LDP process.

1.2.4 The DA forms an important and statutory component in the preparation of a revised LDP. In this respect it is noted that at the Examination into the LDP, any deviations from the DA that have not been agreed with the WG will form an important test into the 'soundness' of the Plan. In this respect the DA, its timetable, and the methods which the Council utilise during the Plan's preparation are fundamental in ensuring the Plan is prepared in an appropriate, timely and inclusive manner.

1.3 Revised Delivery Agreement

1.3.1 The Council is required to keep the DA under regular review and any revision must be approved by resolution of the LPA and agreed by Welsh Government the DA should be publicised and made available for inspection in line with LDP Regulation 10. It is recognised that only exceptionally should a revised timetable be considered during plan preparation. However, in her letter of the 7th July 2020 Minister for Housing and Local Government in recognised that a revised DA will be required where the impact arising from Covid-19 meaning that the authority cannot adhere to the previously agreed timetable.

1.3.2 In this respect it is noted that the Chief Planner has been authorised to agree Revised DAs to ensure WG agreement to requests for revised DAs can be provided as quickly as possible.

¹ To be adopted, a Local Development Plan must be determined 'sound' by the examination Inspector (section 64 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act). Tests of soundness and checks are identified in Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, , and the Local Development Plan Manual – Edition 3 Chapter 6. <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020.pdf>

1.3.3 In developing the Revised DA, the Authority is required to undertake the following stages:

- Prepare a draft Revised DA;
- Consult on the Draft DA with the WG and a draft timetable with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), Cadw and Natural Resources Wales (NRW);
- To consider, and where appropriate revise the draft DA's content following its consultation; and,
- Submit to the WG for agreement.

1.3.4 Following its agreement by the WG, the Revised DA will be published along with the Covid-19 Assessment as required in the Ministers letter.

1.4 Impact of Covid-19

1.4.1 In late January 2020 the Corona Virus outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) with its subsequent impact spreading across the world's societies and throughout our communities.

1.4.2 In response to the escalating pandemic on the 18th March 2020 Carmarthenshire County Council took the decision to suspend most democratic meetings, followed on the 19th March by the decision to close the Authority's administrative buildings.

1.4.3 On the 23rd March 2020 the UK Government introduced a full "lockdown" to halt the spread of the virus. The subsequent months has witnessed not only the tragic loss of life but also impacts to how our people, businesses, organisations, and communities behave and interact at an economic, social, and cultural level.

1.4.4 On the 7th July 2020 the Minister for Housing and Local Government in her letter to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives. In this letter the Minister reiterated the role of up to date agile development plans as the cornerstone of the planning system. In this regard the letter requires local planning authorities to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs under review or being implemented. Those LDPs currently undergoing review, which had not yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, should undertake an assessment of the evidence base, strategy, and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the pandemic. This assessment has been prepared in conjunction with this Revised DA and forms part of the LDP documents.

1.4.5 A key component of a DA is the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), which sets out who, when and by what means communities and other stakeholders will be engaged in the plan preparation process. It is recognised that the pandemic and the associated lockdown has had an effect on how we access and use public building and participate in consultations/engagements. With many public buildings temporarily closed or restricted access, stakeholder's inability to attend consultation events and issues arising from social distancing, there are clear challenges in the existing CIS being able to be complied with. For these reasons, the CIS has been adjusted to reflect Government advice and social distancing principles to enable plan preparation to progress. Careful consideration has also been given as to how engagement may need to be adjusted in the short term, when submitting a revised DA and CIS.

1.5 Preparing the Revised LDP

1.5.1 The preparation of the Revised LDP has and will continue to have regard to relevant legislation, national policy, and other plans, strategies, guidance and European Directives. It has and will recognise and have regard to regional, local plans and strategies, with particular reference given to the provisions of the Public Service Board's Well-Being Plan, by providing the land use expression of a shared vision of how the County will develop and change over the Plan period.

1.5.2 The Revised LDP has and will also be informed and supported through the development of an up-to-date evidence base. However, the principles of engagement and consultation throughout its preparation is key to its development. In this respect, the timetable set out in Section 2 indicates the key stages of the Plan's preparation, whilst the Community Involvement Scheme details the nature of the consultation approaches used. During such consultation exercises, those wishing to do so may make comments on the assessments. However, it is recognised that these have had to be amended to reflect the impact of the Pandemic on the engagement and consultation processes used

1.5.3 The culmination of the Plan making process will be the independent Examination of the LDP by a Planning Inspector appointed by WG, who will consider matters relating to the soundness of the Plan. The findings of the Examination will be published in the Inspector's Report, and its content and recommendations are binding on the Authority.²

1.6 Tests of Soundness

1.6.1 In assessing the issue of soundness, the Planning Inspector will have due regard to the evidence accompanying the Plan and the representations submitted at the Deposit stage. The LPA must comply with the preparation requirements, and ensure that the Plan meets the 3 tests of soundness. Each test has a series of questions which assist in indicating the matters that may be relevant under each test. The lists are neither exhaustive nor necessarily apply in every case.

Preparation Requirements:

- Has preparation complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations, Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA) etc?)³

Soundness Tests:

Test 1: Does the plan fit? (i.e. is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)

Questions

- Does it have regard to national policy and Wales Spatial Plan (WSP)
- Does it have regard to Well-being Goals⁴
- Does it have regard the Welsh National Marine Plan
- Is it consistent with regional plans, strategies and utility programmes?

² Details in relation to the Plan making process can be found through the Local Development Manual Edition 3. <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020.pdf>

The Planning Inspectorate - Local Development Plan Examinations Procedure Guidance (August 2015) <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170503ldp-procedure-guidance-en.pdf>

³ PINS examination guidance is available from the PINS website <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170503ldp-procedure-guidance-en.pdf>

⁴ As set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring authorities?
- Does it reflect the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) or the National Park Management Plan (NPMP)?

Test 2: Is the plan appropriate? (i.e. is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)

Questions

- Is it locally specific?
- Does it address the key issues?
- Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence?
- Can the rationale behind plan policies be demonstrated?
- Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?
- Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational?
- Have the 'real' alternatives been properly considered?
- Is it logical, reasonable and balanced?
- Is it coherent and consistent?
- Is it clear and focused?

Test 3: Will the plan deliver (i.e. is it likely to be effective?)

Questions

- Will it be effective?
- Can it be implemented?
- Is there support from the relevant infrastructure providers both financially and in terms of meeting relevant timescales?
- Will development be viable?
- Can the sites allocated be delivered?
- Is the plan sufficiently flexible? Are there appropriate contingency provisions?
- Is it monitored effectively?

1.7 LDP Format and Content

1.7.1 To accord with guidance, the proposed draft structure of the Revised LDP will be as follows:

- Introduction;
- Strategy (vision, strategic issues, key policies, key aims and objectives, and monitoring targets etc.);
- Identification of Strategic and Regeneration Sites;
- Land use allocations;
- Area wide policies for development;
- Specific policies and proposals for key areas of change or protection;
- Succinct reasoned justification to explain policies and to guide their implementation; and,
- Proposal maps on a geographical base.

1.8 How does the LDP relate to other Plans and Strategies?

1.8.1 In preparing the LDP, regard will be given to national guidance and other plans, policies and programmes. Relevant national, regional and local documents will be reviewed and considered as part of the Plan's preparation. The relationship and interaction with such documents will be reviewed and will develop throughout the Plan making process. Regard will also be given to any future legislation, national policy/guidance and any plans and

strategies which may emerge throughout the revision process, the implications of which will be considered.

1.9 Potential Preparation of Joint LDP

1.9.1 As part of any LDP revision process, it was necessary and prudent to consider the potential of preparing a joint LDP with neighbouring authorities. . The Welsh Ministers have the power to direct two or more authorities to act jointly to prepare a LDP / replacement LDP⁵ where they consider appropriate.

1.9.2 As part of the process of preparing the LDP Review Report, the advantages and disadvantages of preparing a joint replacement Plan with one or more neighbouring local planning authorities has been considered, and are set out below.

- It is clear that both the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are incompatible, by virtue of their timetables for Plan preparation and review. Swansea at this time are yet to have an adopted LDP and are approaching examination, whilst Neath Port Talbot have a recently adopted Plan and therefore the timing of their review is not consistent with that of Carmarthenshire.
- Powys County Council also have compatibility issues in relation to the timing of their Plan, with an Inspector's Report anticipated towards the end of February 2018. This, coupled with limited cross border relationship would currently preclude any joint arrangement.
- The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority only occupies a small part of the County, and therefore it is not considered a viable option to prepare a joint plan. Secondly it would logistically require policy integration across a number of other Council areas.
- Whilst other neighbouring authorities present opportunities in terms of the timing of their review and revision processes, they raise issues in terms of compatibility. Ceredigion has similarities to parts of Carmarthenshire in terms of the rural context, however there is a divergence in terms of the authorities on economic collaborations, particularly in terms of Carmarthenshire's role in the Swansea Bay City Region.
- Similarly, Pembrokeshire has significant differences in the economic and cultural nature that would make a joint plan potentially more complicated and lengthy to deliver. These include differences in economic drivers, the proportion of Welsh language speakers in communities, differences in the role of tourism, and the particular relationship of Pembrokeshire to the National Park. This, together with the additional delay likely in developing and implementing a joint working arrangements, it is considered to outweigh any advantages of preparing a joint LDP.
- It is clear however that putting governance and compatibility issues aside, in the longer term a joint Plan between the three authorities and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is a possibility. However, this would be best considered once the revised LDPs of the respective authorities come up for second review, which would allow a forward programme of integration and collective working to be established in a period leading up to their review timetables.

⁵ Planning (Wales) Act 2015

1.9.3 Carmarthenshire has and will continue to work with all neighbouring Authorities and will work collaboratively and in a collective manner on common approaches where appropriate. This will include sharing and jointly preparing aspects around evidence to support the implementation and review/revision of the respective LDPs. Joint Statements of Common Ground will be prepared as necessary, to provide clarity on shared approaches.

1.10 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.10.1 The requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an integral part of the process of plan preparation and is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA has and will consider the LDP’s social and economic effects as well as the environmental aspects. A SA may be defined as follows:

“A systematic and interactive process undertaken during the preparation (and review) of a plan which identifies and reports on the extent to which implementations of the plan will achieve the environmental, social and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined and identifies opportunities for improving plan performance in relation to these”⁶.

1.10.2 European Directive 2001/42/EC is enacted in the United Kingdom through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004. It requires that a formal environmental assessment is undertaken during the production of certain plans and programmes. In this regard, the undertaking of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will require an iterative assessment of the impact of the LDP on the environment to be integrated into the plan making process.

1.10.3 The SA process has been combined with the requirements for a SEA into a single appraisal process (SA/SEA). This integrated approach will be utilised to inform the preparation of the Plan from the outset. Statutory consultees will have a key role in the SEA process, particularly environmental consultees such as Cadw and NRW. In addition, there are a number of statutory consultation requirements relating to the SEA. Table 1 sets out the key stages of the SA/SEA process.

| Table 1 ⁷: SA/SEA Stages |
|--|
| Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. |
| Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects. |
| Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report. |
| Stage D – Consulting on the preferred option of the development plan and SA Report. |
| Stage E – Monitoring significant effects of implementing the development plan. |

1.9.4 In practical terms, it is proposed that the above requirements will be met as follows:

- SA – SEA Scoping Report;

⁶ *Sustainability Appraisals of Unitary Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide (Welsh Government 2002)*

⁷ *Local Development Plan Manual 3 – Welsh Government*

- Initial / Interim SA - SEA Report alongside the pre-deposit Preferred Strategy;
- The SA – SEA Report alongside the Deposit LDP;
- Final SA-SEA report (incorporating any post Deposit LDP changes – e.g. any Focussed Changes and/or Matters Arising Changes).

1.11 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.11.1 European Directive 92/43/EEC is enacted in the United Kingdom through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These regulations clarify the responsibilities of the Plan Making Authority and set out the framework under which it should document the process. The Plan Making Authority should ultimately create a LDP that, as it is implemented, will have no significant effect (alone and in-combination) on the European Sites' resource. The European Site resource includes; Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar and European Marine Sites (EMS).

1.11.2 The HRA, whilst not forming part of the SA/SEA, has and will continue to be prepared in parallel with it. The HRA will require an iterative assessment of the impact of the LDP on the European Sites' resource to be integrated into the plan making process.

In practical terms, it is proposed that the above requirements will be met as follows:

1. Preliminary Screening Report alongside the pre deposit Preferred Strategy;
2. HRA Report alongside the Deposit LDP (if 1 above cannot rule out any impact);
3. Final HRA report (incorporating any post Deposit LDP changes – e.g. any Focussed Changes and/or Matters Arising Changes).

1.12 Supplementary Planning Guidance

1.12.1 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) are produced to provide further detail on certain policies and proposals contained within an LDP. Their preparation helps ensure particular policies and proposals are better understood and applied more effectively. Whilst an SPG does not have the same status as adopted development plan policies, they may be taken into account as a material consideration in determining planning applications. There are currently a number of adopted SPG documents accompanying the LDP. These can be viewed on the Authority's website⁸.

1.12.2 SPG can be produced in the form of:

- Guidance on a particular topic
- Master plans
- Design guides
- Area development briefs

⁸ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-guidance-spg/#.X2t5b55KiUk>

1.12.3 A review of the current SPG will be undertaken to ensure they remain relevant, and where appropriate, updated accordingly. The extent of any amendments will become clearer as the LDP progresses towards adoption. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel any existing SPG where they are no longer relevant to the content of the revised LDP.

1.12.4 The revised LDP will contain sufficient policies and proposals to provide the basis for deciding planning applications. However, where appropriate and to aid the usability of the plan, and to ensure it remains concise, the Council will use SPG as a means of setting out more detailed guidance. A list of proposed SPG together with a timetable for their production is set out within the Deposit Revised LDP.

2. The Timetable

2.1 Timetable - Key Stages

2.1.1 Table 2 sets out the proposed key stages and timetable involved in the preparation of the LDP as required under the provisions of the LDP Regulations⁹ and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A detailed timetable is set out in Appendix 1.

Table 2 – Timetable - Key Stages

| Stage in Plan Preparation | Regulation Number | Timescale |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| DEFINITIVE | | |
| Key Stage 1 - Delivery Agreement | 5-10 | February 2018 to July 2018 |
| Key Stage 2 - Pre-Deposit – Preparation and Participation | 14 | February 2018 – February 2020 |
| Key Stage 3 - Pre-Deposit – Public Consultation | 15,16, 16A | May 2018 – May 2019 |
| Key Stage 4 - Deposit LDP (including Focused Changes) | 17-21 | January 2019 – April 2021 |
| | | |
| Key Stage 5 - Submission of LDP to WG for Examination | 22 | May 2021 |
| Key Stage 6 - Independent Examination | 23 | July – December 2021 |
| Key Stage 7 - Receipt and Publication of Inspector's Report | 24 | May 2022 |
| Key Stage 8 - Adoption | 25, 25A | July - August 2022 |
| Key Stage 9 - Monitoring and Review | 37 | Continued following adoption |

2.1.2 The stages identified in Table 2 are definitive as it is where the Council has direct control over the timetable. Those identified as indicative are where factors outside the Council's control may impact upon the process. The Council was however expected to define the indicative timetable within three months of the close of the formal six-week Deposit period and following consultation with the Planning Inspectorate. However, the impact of the Pandemic on the timetable and the preparation of this Revised DA has resulted in a delay to the adoption of the Plan of 7 months. This Revised DA will represent the opportunity to seek to establish the availability of an Inspector and to allow a check on the adequacy of the timetable in relation to the examination period.

2.2 Decision Making

Reporting

2.2.1 The approval of the County Council will be required for those stages of the LDP's preparatory process where consideration is to be given to representations received during formal consultation exercises, such as the deposit and strategic options stages. It is however noted that in response to the impacts arising from Covid-19 this Revised DA makes provision for the undertaking of Focused Changes. These changes will be subject to full public consultation, however the responses received will be forwarded directly to the Inspector for consideration at the examination and not reported back to Council for

⁹ *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan)(Wales) Regulations (Edition 2)(August 2015)*

deliberation. In addition, Executive Board and/or County Council approval will normally be sought for those parts of the Plan’s preparatory process where it will be available as part of a formal public consultation exercise.

Advisory Panel

2.2.2 The preparation of the Plan has and will continue to be supported by the established LDP Advisory Panel with reports presented to the Panel and to the Executive Board and/or County Council as appropriate.

2.2.3 The Advisory Panel is made up of a mix of elected Members across all the Political Parties. In guiding the formulation of the LDP throughout its process, the Panel will ensure that the Plan and its preparatory process is accountable and undertaken in a manner consistent with statutory provisions and the content of this DA.

2.2.4 The purpose of the LDP Advisory Panel is to scrutinise and evaluate all input throughout the Plan making process. The Panel may also be required to arbitrate on any opposing viewpoints which may emerge with a view to reaching a consensus on key issues of policy and emerging Plan proposals.

2.2.5 The Panel’s role and remit will continue post-LDP adoption through its consideration of future monitoring outputs. This will ensure continued political ownership and engagement. The County Council’s elected Members will be kept informed through council reports and the use of seminars and briefings.

Corporate Fit

2.2.6 The Council is committed to the delivery of its corporate aims and objectives through its strategic and policy documents. The development of a corporate relationship between such documents is central to delivery, with the LDP being fundamental in conveying their land use aspirations. Developing on the LDP’s position as a key strategic council document provides an opportunity to adopt a joined up or co-ordinated approach as part of its preparation. This will further assist by providing greater clarity and ensuring that work undertaken is not unnecessarily repeated elsewhere. . The LDP also seeks to respond and reflect the Council’s Covid-19 Recovery Plan.

Resources

2.2.7 Whilst the Director of Environment will be responsible for the delivery of the LDP, the day to day aspects of its production and preparation through to adopted status rests with the Forward Planning Section of the Council’s Planning Services Division. A team of officers and support staff whose principal role is the preparation of the LDP will be the main staff resource. A breakdown of the team responsible for the preparation of the LDP and the percentage of time involved in the production of the Plan is as follows:

LDP Team

| | |
|---|-------|
| Head of Planning | (5%) |
| Forward Planning Manager | (50%) |
| Forward Planning Officer (x5) | (70%) |
| Sustainability and Ecology Support Officer (Policy) | (70%) |
| Monitoring and Implementation Officer | (10%) |
| Graphic Design and Technical Support Officer | (70%) |
| Technical Assistant | (60%) |
| Forward Planning Assistant | (70%) |
| Graduate Planner | (65%) |

2.2.8 Additional expertise and specialist support and input will where applicable be drawn from other service areas within the Authority.

2.2.9 It is also recognised that additional specialist assistance and services may be required. In this regard, the Authority may supplement its own staff resources through the commissioning of consultants.

2.2.10 It is anticipated that the budgetary requirements of preparing the Revised LDP through to adoption will be broadly similar to that incurred by the production of the current adopted LDP. The Council will commit sufficient funds to ensure the Revised LDP progresses in a manner consistent with the commitments set out within the DA. In addition, the Council may utilise reserve funds as appropriate to meet ongoing costs. General administration and staff costs associated with the production of the LDP may be accounted for through separate budgetary structures.

Managing Risk

2.2.11 In preparing the proposed timetable, regard has been given to identifiable potential risks associated with the Plan making process. The Authority remains mindful of the impact of risks on the deliverability of the agreed timetable and the Community Involvement Scheme. Consequently, Appendix 3 highlights the risks the Authority may face in meeting the provisions of this DA (excluding Covid-19).

2.2.12 It should be noted however that the impacts arising from the pandemic were of an unforeseeable nature. This Revised DA will see where possible to accommodate these unique risks in setting the framework for progressing the Plan to adoption.

2.2.13 In line with guidance, the ongoing timetable for Plan preparation contains built in tolerances to account for potential slippage (3 months). However, some risks may represent matters beyond such allowances, and as a consequence may result in slippage to the timetable. Proposed mitigation measures are included to address and minimise these potential risks.

3. Community Involvement Scheme

3.1 Background

3.1.1 This Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) sets out why it is important to involve the community. It identifies who should be involved and suggests how to get involved in the LDP process. It is vital in order to achieve a plan that has local ownership and legitimises the policies that will shape the future distribution of land uses and development within Carmarthenshire.

3.1.2 Carmarthenshire can be characterised as a county of contrasts with the agricultural economy and landscape of rural Carmarthenshire juxtaposed with the urban and industrial south-eastern area (see Appendix 4 for a County profile). The diversity in population (including distribution, age, employment and culture) presents a challenging task in involving the community in the LDP process.

3.2 Why Participate?

3.2.1 As a land use planning document, the benefits and impacts of the LDP are most keenly felt within the communities of the County. With this in mind, the Council remains keen to ensure that opportunities exist for all to participate in the preparation of the Revised LDP. This opportunity to participate and communicate their views to date has extended from understanding the issues faced through to the wording of detailed policies and site identification. This and future consultations provides an opportunity to develop on the existing adopted LDP in preparing a revised replacement Plan which is fit for our communities through to 2033.

3.3 Key Stakeholder Forum

3.3.1 The Key Stakeholder Forum was established to assist in the preparation of the Plan. Members of the Key Stakeholder Forum have an important role to play in the key stages of the preparation of the Plan, in particular in considering key evidence, and in the consideration and assessment of the vision, objectives and options. The Forum's role has to date been effected through formal meetings, consultation on specific matters and general discussion, however consideration will need to be given on the mechanisms used as a result of Covid-19 and the need to adhere to the latest Government advice and social distancing requirements..

3.3.2 The purpose of the Forum is to act as a sounding board throughout the preparation process and will require regular involvement.

3.3.3 The Key Stakeholder Forum consists of representatives from a range of groups and organisations including key partnerships, together with selected representatives from groups and forums such as Community and Town Councils, partners including members of the Public Service Board, as well as Council Officers. Members of the Panel consist of those with an interest directly affected by the LDP. A list of invitees is contained in Appendix 7. These may be subject to amendment as the preparation of the Plan progresses, however, it is considered vital that the Forum remains a manageable size in order to enable constructive discussion and progress.

3.3.4 Members of the Forum are required to meet the following expectations, in addition to the expectations set out under the general stakeholders:

- Commit to the process – attend meetings/seminars and contribute to the process.
- Members will be representing the interests of the parent body, and it would be beneficial to the process if LDP information would be disseminated to colleagues in order to facilitate extended consultation on the Plan using existing structures.

3.3.5 Specific thematic groups may emerge from, and or develop to supplement the Key Stakeholder Forum and the preparation of the LDP as appropriate.

3.4 Involvement in the LDP Process

3.4.1 The LDP will set out policies and proposals for future development and the use of land in the County. Therefore, anyone who lives, works, visits or has an interest in the future development of Carmarthenshire should get involved in the LDP process. Whilst it is recognised that it is not always possible or sometimes necessary, nor feasible to involve everyone in all stages of the process, the Council remains keen to ensure the opportunity is available for all to do so. This section identifies groups that may be involved and how they could be involved.

Elected Members

- Throughout the LDP process, the Forward Planning Team will report to the Advisory Panel and at significant stages, reports will be prepared for Executive Board and/or full Council as appropriate.
- Member Briefings, seminars and workshops will seek input and will advise on the process and how and when decisions and input will be required.
- The Executive Board Member with responsibility for strategic planning and the Chair of Planning Committee sit on the Key Stakeholder Forum.

Specific Consultation Bodies

- A list of Specific Consultation Bodies that the Council is required to consult with can be found in Appendix 5.
- Documents, or electronic links to these documents will be sent to these bodies at the identified stages (see Appendix 2) and a response will be expected within a reasonable timescale.

Environmental Consultation Bodies

- Organisations with a remit on environmental, social and/or economic matters and are able to provide advice on specialist issues.
- This will operate alongside the LDP process in ensuring that the LDP accords with sustainability criteria.

General Consultation Bodies & Other Consultees

- A list of general consultation bodies and other consultees that the Council is required to consult, and those which the Council consider should be involved as Consultees. These can be found in Appendix 5.
- These bodies will be advised by letter or e-mail at the identified stages. These can be found in Appendix 5.

Professional Officers

- Internal representation from Development Management Officers, County Ecologists and other elements of the planning service and other service areas, as well as where appropriate external partner organisations will feed in through

thematic groups (and other fora) which cover the broad spectrum of topics within the Revised LDP.

- Internal representation of other Council services is essential to ensure that the Plan is consistent with other Departments' strategies and plans.

Youth

- Young people are traditionally under-represented in the development plan process. The established Carmarthenshire Youth Council and other means of accessing young people such as Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Clubs, Council for Voluntary Youth Services and the National Association of Youth Clubs will be utilised in order seek the views of the youth as part of the process.

Developers & agents

- Developers and agents can request to be added to the Direct Mailing List (see below). They must, like the general public, accept responsibility to ensure that any representations to the statutory stages are submitted within the correct timescale and with the information requested.
- Developers, agents and any other persons were able to submit any sites that they wished to be put forward for consideration during the non-statutory stages ("Candidate Site" stage). Details of these sites are available for inspection on the Council's website.
- Submitted sites were assessed against the Site Assessment Methodology.

General public (direct mailing group)

- This group includes anyone with an interest in the future of Carmarthenshire, including individuals, businesses, organisations and groups.
- Members of the public, groups or organisations may on request be included on the direct mailing list to be kept informed of the progress of the Plan and how they can be involved. Notification will be in the form of e-mail, or in exceptional circumstances through the postal service. However, it is the general public's responsibility to ensure that any representations to the statutory stages are submitted within the correct timescale and with the appropriate information as requested. Representations during formal consultation periods are encouraged electronically and through the consultation portal. Where a postal service is used the Council will not be held responsible for the non-delivery of any item.
- All those who submit representations during statutory consultation periods will be automatically added to the mailing list unless they indicate otherwise.
- To register your interest please contact the Forward Planning Team by any of the following means:
 - ★ By e-mail: forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
 - ★ By mail: Forward Planning, Planning Services, Environment Department, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 1LQ
 - ★ By phone: 01267 228818
- All registered persons will be advised by e-mail (unless specified otherwise through the absence of an email address) at identified stages (see Appendix 2).

Developers, Agents and other proponents of sites

3.4.2 There have been a number of stages within the preparatory process of the Revised LDP where proponent will have had an opportunity to propose sites for inclusion within the LDP. Central amongst these were:

- The candidate site stage - an early opportunity as part of the Pre-Deposit LDP stage to submit a site for consideration. .
- If there has been a material change in circumstances affecting a previously rejected site, or a completely new site is put forward, it is the responsibility of the proponent to test the effects of their site using the LPA SA framework. The LPA will provide guidance on what would be required for a SA which the proponent would be expected to follow. The Authority does not however, give any assurance that such a change in circumstances would warrant or illicit a change which would be likely to see the site included within the Plan.
- There will be no vetting process to ensure that submissions are satisfactory in terms of SA: any vetting will take place as part of the examination before the Inspector. If a new, or alternative site has not been subject to any SA, it is unlikely that the Inspector will be in a position to recommend its inclusion in the LDP.
- The LPA will considered all representations submitted at the pre-deposit public consultation stage in accordance with LDP Regulation 16(2) before determining the content of the Deposit Revised LDP. Representations made at this pre-deposit stage do not constitute representations to be considered at the independent examination.
- Deposit Plan stage – it is the responsibility of those promoting changes to the Plan to show that the proper procedures have been undertaken and to provide the necessary evidence to demonstrate that the Plan would be sound if the site were to be included. This would include the site’s compatibility with the SA.
- All sites submitted are considered in accordance with the provisions of the site assessment methodology.

Seldom Heard Groups

3.4.3 This includes groups that have traditionally not taken part to any great extent in the plan process.

- Such groups will continue to be encouraged to participate through already established forums where possible. Throughout the process endeavours have been made to identify and involve these groups.
- These groups have and will continue to be informed of the different stages of the plan making process. Individual groups have been identified under General and Other Consultation Bodies (see Appendix 5).

3.4.4 The Forward Planning Team will also work with colleagues in other service areas to maximise consultation opportunities including gaining access to associations and forums.

3.4.5 Where petitions are submitted, one nominated person should be identified as a point of contact for involvement in the LDP process.

Town and Community Councils

3.4.6 In preparing the revised LDP, the Authority recognises the important role of Town and Community Councils within their respective communities acknowledging their capability to communicate information and encourage engagement. As a reflection of this role and status as specific consultees (Appendix 5), the Council will consult with them at appropriate stages (including representation at the Key Stakeholder Forum).

3.4.7 Town and Community Councils and individual Councillors can provide an invaluable link and means of communicating with their communities. Their ability to raise awareness is

clear as is their potential to feedback and convey views and comments back into the Plan making process.

3.4.8 There are 72 Town and Community Councils (135 seats) of varying sizes and budgets within the County. It is considered that attending the meetings of each of these Councils on an individual basis is impracticable due to resource issues. However, where practicable, the Authority will however identify other appropriate methods of engagement for the Sector. Such methods could include area-based meetings. There are also opportunities to utilise the Authority's established Town and Community Council Liaison Forum.

3.4.9 The Authority will, where appropriate, seek to utilise the ongoing liaison with those larger Town and Community Councils in the County in relation to the duties emerging from the Well-being of Future Generations Act. A community or town council is subject to these duties where its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the preceding three financial years. It is understood that at the time of writing, the Councils that meet this criterion are Llanelli Town, Llanelli Rural, Pembrey and Burry Port, Carmarthen Town, Llannon, Cwmamman and Llanedi. There are therefore opportunities to utilise this existing platform to engage with these larger Councils on the LDP.

3.4.10 The Authority will also seek to engage with Town and Community Councils in relation to the potential contribution that Place Plans (where under preparation) could make. In this regard, the Authority will monitor the release of any further guidance from the Welsh Government.

3.4.11 There are also a number of external organisations that could play an important role in supporting engagement with the Sector – including One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales. In relation to the former, reference is made to the well-established Area Committee structure, whilst Planning Aid Wales are established training providers for the sector and have assisted in running training as part of the LDP process.

3.5 Expectations of Stakeholders

3.5.1 It is important that all stakeholders and interested parties in the LDP process make every effort to meet the following expectations:

- (a) Respond to correspondence within an appropriate timescale – all correspondence and representations submitted will be replied to within a reasonable timescale and it is expected that stakeholders will reply to any correspondence within 21 days.
- (b) Stakeholders will only raise legitimate issues (LDP matters only).
- (c) Proponents of sites should identify any gaps in evidence or policies during the identified consultation periods. On site related matters, the Council is not obliged to consider, or forward any sites (or other representations) to the examination which have been submitted outside the defined consultation periods.
- (d) Respondents should undertake to provide the information requested as necessary to allow an appropriate assessment of any submission or representation.
- (e) Relevant guidelines and procedures must be followed at all times.
- (f) Information should be shared and provided if required.
- (g) Stakeholders should accept that the Inspector's Report is binding and that no appeal in respect of his/her decisions can be made.
- (h) A commitment by all to consensus building.

3.5.2 Delays may occur if these expectations are not met and may result in the plan not according to the principles of soundness.

3.6 Late Representations

3.6.1 The Council will only consider representations submitted in accordance with the advertised period of the consultation. Any representations received outside of these dates will not be considered as duly made, and the Council is not obliged to consider them. Only where the Council is satisfied that a genuine attempt in good faith to submit within the given timescales has been made, will a late representation be registered as duly made. Evidence of delivery, posting etc. will be required to support such claims. Such circumstances are expected to be exceptional and all respondents are encouraged to submit during the advertised periods. In this regard where related directly to the impacts of Covid-19 this has been considered an exceptional circumstance. Consequently, a pragmatic an understanding approach was adopted. This has been further supplemented by the addition of a further 3-week consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP.

3.6.2 To be registered as a duly made representation, they must supply the necessary information and specify the matters to which they relate. At Deposit stage representations should also specify the changes being sought, the grounds upon which the representation is made and where possible, the relevant test(s) of soundness.

3.6.3 Only those duly made representations at Deposit stage and the subsequent Focused Changes stage will be submitted to the Inspector for consideration at the examination. It should be noted that representations submitted during the Pre-Deposit Stage will not be submitted to the Inspector for consideration at the examination.

3.7 Methods of Involvement, Participation & Consultation

3.7.1 A range of methods were previously identified to facilitate community involvement throughout the plan process. These have been amended to reflect the impact of Covid-19 and the need to follow the latest Government guidance and to meet social distancing requirements including:

Documents published and regular updates provided on the Council's website:
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/planning

- The use of social media, including Twitter updates, and Facebook news items from the Council's Social Media accounts
- Newsletters, online diaries and blogs where available
- Direct mailing (preferably by e-mail, however by letter for those who seek this form of communication)
- Public Exhibitions
- Seminar / Workshops
- Documents made available at Customer Service Centres and Public Libraries
- Press releases / Public Notices
- Meetings

3.8 Bilingual Engagement and the Welsh Language

3.8.1 The preparation of the LDP will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Welsh language standards with bilingual engagement essential in ensuring equal opportunity

to engage in Plan preparation. In this respect, the Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and will seek to enable all consultations to be undertaken in either language. All forms, documents and correspondence will be bilingual, with the opportunity for bilingual meetings also to be offered, thus affording the opportunity for people to engage in the language of their choice.

3.9 Consensus Building

3.9.1 Better consultation and involvement may assist in a reduction of conflict in decision making. The consultation techniques proposed in this Scheme aim to reduce conflict and where possible seek consensus, by using structured engagement and active involvement of stakeholders, communities and interested parties. It is important that agreement is sought with the overall strategy of the LDP, particularly in the early stages of the process.

3.9.2 Where consensus cannot be achieved, it is imperative that the sources of information leading to a decision are explicit and respected by all parties. In those instances where consensus cannot be reached, other pertinent matters such as national policy, evidence etc will be considered in determining any outcome.

3.10 Document Availability / Feedback

3.10.1 All documents produced throughout the preparation of the LDP will be published on the Council's website and also subject to Covid-19 restrictions made available at the locations (locations may be subject to change in response to the latest Government guidance and social distancing measures):

- Customer Service Centres: 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen
The HUB, Llanelli Town Centre
The HUB, Ammanford
- Accessible and open Public Libraries (including mobile libraries) in Carmarthenshire (listed in Appendix 6)

3.10.2 Where appropriate/required, copies of documents may be sent to Specific Consultation bodies. Encouragement will however be given to the use of the Council online resource in accessing documents and materials in relation to the preparation of the Revised LDP.

3.11 Feedback Methods

3.11.1 The Council's website will be used to provide up-to-date information and news on the progress of the LDP.

3.11.2 At all significant stages, consultation responses (except for the Focused Changes) will be reported to the Advisory Panel, Full Council and/or the Council's Executive Board.

3.11.3 All representations received during the statutory consultation stages will be acknowledged, registered on a database and will be entered into the mailing list (unless requested to the contrary) and advised of the next steps in the process.

3.11.4 Updates will appear using Council based media sources as well as others.

3.12 Monitoring and Review

3.12.1 The Council will monitor and review the effectiveness of the DA throughout the preparation of the LDP. This will ensure that the objectives set out in the CIS are met in accordance with the proposed timetable.

3.12.2 Other instances in which the DA would need to be reviewed include:

- If there are significant changes in the resources available to the Council;
- If any significant changes are required to the CIS;
- If the LDP process falls significantly behind schedule, i.e. 3 months or more;
- If new European, UK or WG legislation, regulations or guidance should require new procedures or tasks to be undertaken; or,
- If there are any changes of circumstances that materially affect the delivery of the plan.

3.12.4 The LDP Regulations state that following Deposit, the timetable should be reviewed in consultation with the relevant consultees, and resubmitted to the WG as the Council enters into a service level agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. This should be carried out within 3 months of the close of the formal Deposit period.

3.12.5 Following adoption of the Revised LDP, an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be produced and published and submitted to the WG in accordance with regulations. The AMR will establish how effectively the policies and proposals of the Plan are performing and being implemented. It will assess whether the basic strategy remains sound and whether any policies need changing to reflect contextual changes, including those associated with legislation and national policy. The AMR will also specify the housing land requirement including the delivery against the trajectory set out within the Plan and the number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the Authority's area, and report on other LDP indicators.

3.12.6 The Authority will commence a full review of the revised LDP at least once every 4 years following adoption. A timetable will be submitted to WG within 6 months of the Authority's decision to review the Plan. The Review will include reconsideration of the SA and the soundness of the Plan. As with the AMR, the full review will also indicate whether alterations are needed to the Plan. Where a policy needs to be changed, or where additional policies are required, the process to be followed for plan revision will be the same as for plan preparation.

Glossary

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| Adopted Plan | This is the Final stage of LDP preparatory process - where the LDP becomes the statutory Development Plan, for the purposes of the Act. |
| Adopted | The final confirmation of the development plan as its land use planning policy by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). |
| Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) | This will assess the extent to which policies in the local development plan are being successfully implemented (Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005). |
| Baseline/Pre Change Baseline | A description of the present state of an area against which to measure change. |
| Candidate Site | Candidate Sites are those nominated by anyone for consideration by the LPA as allocations in an emerging LDP. |
| Candidate Sites Register | Register of candidate sites prepared following a call for candidate sites by the LPA. |
| Community | People living in a defined geographical area, or who share other interests and therefore form communities of interest. |
| Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) | Sets out the project plan and policies of the LPA for involving local communities, including businesses, in the preparation of local development plans. The CIS is submitted to the Welsh Government as part of the Delivery Agreement for agreement. |
| Consensus building | A process of early dialogue with targeted interest groups to understand relevant viewpoints and agree a course of action. |
| Consultation | A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or set of topics, or a draft document. |
| Contextual Indicator | An indicator used to monitor changes in the context within which the plan is being implemented or prepared. |
| Delivery Agreement (DA) | Document comprising the LPA's timetable for the preparation of the LDP together with its Community Involvement Scheme, submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement. |
| Deposit Documents | These include the deposit LDP, the Sustainability Appraisal report, the initial consultation report, the candidate sites register, the Review Report (if appropriate), any relevant supporting documents. |
| Development Limits | A line drawn in order to define the area of a settlement within which development is acceptable in principle subject to detailed consideration of environmental, amenity, access, public service provision and other considerations. Areas outside the limits are regarded as the open countryside. |
| Development management policies | A suite of criteria-based policies which will ensure that all development within the area meets the aims and objectives set out in the Strategy. |
| Engagement | A process which encourages substantive deliberation in a community. Proactive attempt to involve any given group of people/section of the community. |
| Evidence Base | Interpretation of Baseline or other information/data to provide the basis for plan policy |
| Focused Change | Changes proposed to the deposit LDP prior to submission that are extremely limited in number, that reflect key pieces of evidence, but do not go to the heart of the plan. |

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| Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) | <p>The screening and appropriate assessment of options required under Part 6 Chapter 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) - a recognised iterative process which helps determine the likely significant effect on a plan or programme and (where appropriate) assess adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site.</p> <p>The assessment is required to be undertaken by a competent authority in respect of plans or projects which are likely to have a significant effect (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) on a “European site” (see paragraph 5.1.2 of TAN 5), or as a matter of policy a proposed “European site” or Ramsar site, under the provisions of Article 6(3) of the EC Directive 92/43/ECC (the Habitats Directive), regulations 61 and 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010, and, regulation 25 of the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2007.</p> |
| Indicator | A measure of variables over time, often used to a measure achievement of objectives. |
| Integrated Community Strategy | Required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2: Sections 37-46) with the aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well-being of their areas. Also referred to as a “Single Integrated Plan”. |
| Local Development Plan (LDP) | The required statutory development plan for each local planning authority area in Wales under Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A land use plan that is subject to independent examination, which will form the statutory development plan for a local planning authority area for the purposes of the Act. It should include a vision, strategy, area-wide policies for development types, land allocations, and where necessary policies and proposals for key areas of change and protection. Policies and allocations must be shown geographically on the Proposals Map forming part of the plan. |
| Local Planning Authority (LPA) | A planning authority responsible for the preparation of an LDP. |
| Local Well-being Plan | Under The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Public Service Boards will be established for each local authority area; it is intended that each will prepare a Well-being Plan to replace the SIP by April 2018 (s.39). |
| Marine Plan | The Welsh National Marine Plan prepared under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. |
| Mitigation | Measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects. |
| National Development Framework (NDF) | Provision is made under Planning (Wales Act) 2015 for the preparation of an NDF. Prepared by the Welsh Government the NDF will set out a 20 year land use framework for Wales and will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan. |
| Objective/Strategic Objective | A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends. |
| Partners | Other local/NP authority departments and statutory bodies where the LDP will help to deliver some of the objectives of |

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| | their strategies. Partners may be expected to contribute to formulating relevant parts of the LDP. |
| Planning Obligation | A legal agreement between an applicant and the local planning authority to ensure a development is carried out in a certain way. Also referred to as a Section 106 Agreement. |
| Planning Policy Wales (PPW) | Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes. Procedural advice is provided through circulars and policy clarification letters. |
| Pre-deposit documents (LDP) | These include the vision, strategic options, preferred strategy, key policies, the Sustainability Appraisal report, the candidate sites register, Review Report (if appropriate). |
| Pre-deposit stage | The participation and consultation stages prior to deposit; the Manual refers to the Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy stage which relate to the full plan procedure; reduced requirements relate to the short form plan revision procedure. |
| RAMSAR | A wetland site of international importance for nature conservation. Designation is enabled by the Ramsar Convention 1971 whereby participating European Governments undertake to protect such areas. |
| Review Report | The required statutory report under S69 of the 2004 Act and/or Reg41; to conclude on the LDP revision procedure to be followed based on a clear assessment of what has been considered and what needs to change and why, based on evidence. |
| Short form revision procedure | May be appropriate for circumstances where the issues involved are not of sufficient significance to justify undertaking the full plan revision procedure. |
| Single Integrated Plan (SIP) | Discharges statutory duties identified by Welsh Government (“Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery”, WG 2012), including Community Strategies; prepared by a Local Service Board. See “Local Well-being Plans” which are to replace SIPs”. |
| Site specific allocations | Allocations of sites (proposals) for specific or mixed uses or development. Policies will identify any specific requirements for individual proposals with the allocations shown on the LDP’s proposals map. |
| Soundness | In order to be adopted, an LDP must be determined ‘sound’ by the examination Inspector (S64 of the 2004 Act). Tests of soundness tests and checks are identified in PPW. |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC) | Sites of international conservation importance designated by the Welsh Ministers under the European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna. In addition there are candidate SAC’s which should, as a matter of Government policy, be viewed as full SAC’s when examining land use impacts. |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | Special Protection Areas For Wild Birds under The E.C. Council Directive On the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/4C9/EEC) provides for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds. |
| Stakeholders | Interests directly affected by the LDP (and/or SEA) - involvement generally through representative bodies. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Statement of Common Ground (SocG) | The purpose of a SOCG is to establish the main areas of agreement between two or more parties on a particular issue. |
| Strategic Development Plan (SDP) | Provision is made under the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 for the preparation of SDP's at a regional level. SDP will have regard to the NDF and responding at a regional level to strategic issues. |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | Term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to plans and programmes. SEA process is derived from European legislation and defined at European level – Directive 2001/42/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) require a formal “environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use”. |
| Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) | Forms a supplementary document/information in respect of the policies in an LDP. SPG does not form part of the development plan and is not subject to independent examination but must be consistent with the Plan and with national planning policy. Can be developed to consider individual or thematic aspects of the Plan and site allocations including masterplans. |
| Sustainability Appraisal (SA) | Tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). Each LPA is required by S62(6) of the 2004 Act to undertake SA of the LDP. This form of SA fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. |
| Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report) | Document required to be produced as part of the SA process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing the LDP, which also meets the requirement for the Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations. S62(6) of the 2004 Act requires each LPA to prepare a report of the findings of the SA of the LDP. The SA Report is first produced at the Preferred Strategy stage (the Interim SA Report), expanded at the Deposit LDP stage and finalised alongside the Adoption Statement. |
| Technical Advice Notes (TAN) | A topic-based document published by the Welsh Assembly Government to supplement Planning Policy Wales. |
| Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) | A plan prepared and approved by the National Assembly for Wales under S60 of the 2004 Act, which sets out a strategic framework to guide future development and policy interventions, whether or not these relate to formal land use planning control. Under S62(5)(b) of the 2004 Act a local planning authority must have regard to the WSP in preparing an LDP. |

Appendix 2: Timetable and Community Involvement

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Key: | | | |
|  Council Website |  Seminars / Workshops |  Documents made available |  Direct Mailing |
|  Other Digital Media |  Press Releases |  Meetings |  Public Exhibitions |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Key Stage 1 - Delivery Agreement (Regulations 5 – 10) | | | | | |
| Publication of draft DA for consultation | To enable all stakeholders and interested parties to submit representations. | February 2018 – March 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team Council Officers LDP Advisory Panel Key Stakeholder Forum Specific Consultation bodies (see appendix 5) General & Other Consultation bodies (see appendix 5) |       | Comments will be considered & DA amended, if required. |
| Assessment and consideration of feedback and responses received | To allow consideration of representations received. | March 2018 – June 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel |   | A summary of the comments received and response will be reported to members. |
| Submission of DA to WG | To seek formal agreement on the content of the DA. | June 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government |  | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Publication of approved DA following WG approval | To inform stakeholders of the content and availability of the approved DA. | June - July 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Panel ▪ Key Stakeholder Forum ▪ Specific Consultation bodies ▪ General & Other Consultation bodies |      | Copies of agreed DA placed on Council's website and placed at Deposit locations. |
| Key Stage 2 - Pre-Deposit: Preparation and Participation (Regulation 14) | | | | | |
| Review and develop baseline information and evidence | To understand and develop the context for plan preparation, to review and to supplement data to identify issues and objectives to be addressed in the LDP. This will be ongoing throughout the LDP process. | February 2018 – February 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Panel ▪ Specific Consultation bodies ▪ General & Other Consultation bodies |     | Prepare evidence base through to the submission of the Deposit LDP. |
| Review and develop Strategic Options, Issues and Objectives | To develop a vision for the Plan area and the objectives for the LDP and influence the choice of a preferred option. | February 2018 – April 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ Council Officers ▪ LDP Advisory Panel ▪ Key Stakeholder Forum ▪ Council Members ▪ Town and Community Councils |   | Agreed vision & objectives published on Council's website as part of the preparation of Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. |
| SA Stage A: Setting the context & objectives, establishing the baseline & deciding on the scope (known as the SA Scoping Report) and commence consultation. | To focus engagement on environmental consultation bodies & relevant stakeholders to develop SA objectives and to provide a baseline to inform the next stage of option appraisal. | February 2018 – April 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental consultation bodies ▪ Council Officers ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Panel ▪ Specific Consultation bodies ▪ General & Other Consultation bodies |      | Report will be published on Council's website. |
| Assessment and consideration of representations received in respect of SA Scoping Report | To allow consideration of representations received. | June 2018 – July 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Panel |   | A summary of the comments received and response will be reported to members. |

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|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Candidate Site Register | An invitation for the submission of candidate sites. | February 2018 – August 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All interested parties |  | Candidate Site register |
| Publication of Candidate Site Register | To allow interested parties to view the candidate sites received | September 2018 - October 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All interested parties |  | Candidate Site register |
| Key Stage 3 - Pre-Deposit: Consultation (Regulations 15,16 & 16A) | | | | | |
| Preparation and Reporting of the Preferred Strategy and Options | To provide an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to contribute to the preparation of the Preferred Strategy and suggest modifications. | May 2018 – December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel Council Officers Key Stakeholder Forum |       | Published on the Council's website as appropriate. |
| SA Stage B: Developing & refining option & assessing effects (known as Initial / Interim SA report) | To ensure strategic options and sites are assessed against the proposed SA framework to inform and support the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. | July 2018 – December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental consultation bodies LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel Key Stakeholder Forum Specific Consultation bodies* General & Other Consultation bodies* <p>* consultation in conjunction with Pre-deposit preferred Strategy</p> |       | Report will be published in conjunction with the pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. |
| HRA Initial Screening Report | The main aim of this report is to complete the first part of the HRA process and provide a constraints plan to inform and support the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. | July 2018 – December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental consultation bodies LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel Key Stakeholder Forum Specific Consultation bodies* General & Other Consultation bodies* <p>* consultation in conjunction with Pre-deposit preferred Strategy</p> |       | Report will be published in conjunction with the pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy. |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Publication and Consultation of Preferred Strategy (Inc. Strategic Sites), initial / interim SA (SEA) Report and HRA Screening Report</p> | <p>To provide an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to contribute to the preparation of the preferred strategy, the initial / interim SA (SEA) Report and HRA Screening Report and suggest modifications.</p> | <p>December 2018 – March 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stakeholders & interested parties |  | <p>The documents will be published on Council's website and placed at Deposit locations.</p> |
| <p>Assessment and consideration of representations received on the Preferred Strategy, initial SA (SEA) and HRA Screening Report</p> | <p>To allow consideration of representations received.</p> | <p>March 2019 – March 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Group ▪ Key Stakeholder Forum |  | <p>A summary of the comments received, and response will be reported to members.</p> |
| <p>Publication of Initial Consultation Report</p> | <p>To identify the consultation methods undertaken as part of the Community Involvement Scheme</p> | <p>March 2019 - April 2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stakeholders and interested parties |  | <p>A summary of the consultations and publications undertaken as part of the pre-deposit preparation and participation.</p> |

| Key Stage 4 - Deposit LDP (Regulations 17 – 21) | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Prepare and report Deposit LDP, SA (SEA) Report (Stage C) and HRA Report (if needed). | Develop the Deposit LDP out of preceding LDP stages. | January 2019 – January 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Group Key Stakeholder Forum | | Report to Council to obtain their approval for consultation of Deposit LDP and supporting documents – SA/SEA and HRA (if needed). |
| Publication and consultation of Deposit LDP and associated documents (including HRA (if needed) and SA report (Stages C/D). | To enable all stakeholders and interested parties to submit representations to the LDP and supporting documents. | January 2020 – March 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders & interested parties | | Duly made representations acknowledged by e-mail/letter. |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | |
| COVID-19 Lockdown: estimated 7 month delay on the timetable for the Revised Deposit LDP | | March-August 2020 | | | Noting disruption caused by COVID-19 lockdown |
| 3 Week additional consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP. | To enable all stakeholders and interested parties who were affected by the Covid lockdown to submit representations to the LDP and supporting documents. | September – October 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel | | |
| Assessment and, consideration of representations received in respect of Deposit LDP and associated documents (including HRA and SA report (Stage D). | To allow consideration of representations received. | March 2020 – November 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Group | | |

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|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Reporting of representations received in respect of Deposit LDP and associated documents (including HRA and SA report (Stage D))</p> | | <p>November 2020 – January 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Group |  | <p>A summary of the representations received, and responses will be reported to members, published on the Council’s website and placed at Deposit locations.</p> |
| <p>Consultation of Focused Changes</p> | | <p>February – April 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ LDP Advisory Group |  | |
| <p>Key Stage 5 - Submission of LDP to the Welsh Government & the Planning Inspectorate for Examination (Regulation 22)</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Submission of LDP and associated documents (incl. SA Report) to Welsh Government & the Planning Inspectorate for examination</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To submit the LDP and associated documents to WG and the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. | <p>May 2021</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDP Team ▪ WG ▪ PINS |  | |

| Key Stage 6 - Independent Examination (Regulation 23) | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Publication of Notice of Independent Examination. | To ensure that stakeholders are advised that an independent examination of the LDP will be taking place. | <i>June 2021</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders and interested parties |    | |
| Pre-examination meeting | To allow the independent planning Inspector appointed by WG to advise on examination procedures & format. | <i>July 2021</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders and interested parties Planning Inspectorate LDP Team General and other Consultant bodies |      | |
| Examination of the Plan | To provide an impartial planning view on the soundness of the Plan and the representations submitted in respect of it. | <i>July 2021 – December 2021</i> | Round table sessions, informal hearings, representations and written submissions. |  | |
| Reporting Commences (22 weeks) | Inspector's deliberations | <i>January 2022</i> | Planning Inspectorate | | |
| Key Stage 7 - Receipt and Publication of the Inspector's Report (Regulation 24) | | | | | |
| Receipt of the Inspector's Report | <p>To receive the Inspector's report in respect of the examination into the LDP. The report will detail changes recommended; such changes are binding on the authority.</p> <p>The Inspector's Report will be checked for any factual inaccuracies.</p> | <i>May 2022</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team | | |
| Publication of the Inspector's Report | To inform all stakeholders, interested parties and respondents of the Inspector's decisions. | <i>May 2022</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders & interested parties |    | |

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|--|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | |  | |
| Key Stage 8 - Adoption (Regulations 25 & 25A) | | | | | |
| Formal adoption of the Carmarthenshire LDP Publication of adoption Statement and notification to WG | To inform all stakeholders, interested parties and respondents of the adoption of the LDP. | <i>July / August 2022</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders & interested parties |      | Publication of Adoption Statement and the Inspector's Report |
| Publication of SA Report (Stage D) | To inform all stakeholders, interested parties and respondents. | <i>July / August 2022</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders & interested parties |     | Publication of the final SA Report. |
| Key Stage 9 - Monitoring and Review (Regulation 37) | | | | | |
| Monitoring & Review | To ensure that the LDP is achieving its targets. Consider a partial or full review of the LDP if necessary (a full review will commence within 4 years) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team LDP Advisory Panel Council Members | Specialist surveys & data collection | Publication of the LDP's Annual Monitoring Report. Commencement of LDP Review, if necessary |
| SA Stage E: Monitoring significant effects | To review the performance of the Plan against the SA Monitoring Framework | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Team | Data collection | Publication of the LDP's Annual Monitoring Report |

Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment and Mitigation

The proposed timetable for plan preparation as set out within this DA is considered to be realistic and achievable, and having regard to the scope and programme of works the Authority believes to be involved, to existing Welsh Government regulations and guidance, and to the resources available to the Authority to commit to plan preparation.

While the Authority is committed to making every effort to avoid deviations from the proposed timetable, there are a number of potential risks which need to be considered. The following table outlines these risks along with their potential impacts and identified methods of mitigation.

| Risk | Potential Impacts | Mitigation |
|---|--|---|
| Covid-19 | Further delay to the Plan making process as a result of additional government restrictions. | Monitor issues and scope of any impact – keep under review. Note: Evidential changes and further unaccountable delays may require additional funding stream beyond current provisions. |
| Availability of adequate funding. | Programme slippage which could result in a delay in adoption of the revised LDP beyond the life of the current LDP (2021). Reference is made to the Ministers letter of the 24 th September 2020 on the issue of LDP drop dead dates. | Monitor and keep under review ensuring that as appropriate bids are submitted for any additional funding. |
| Staff resources | Programme slippage and potential difficulties and timing issues in replacing qualified and experienced planners. | Monitor and keep under review. |
| Council reporting structure and decision making. | Programme slippage. | Liaise closely with democratic services to ensure requirements are planned and programmed accordingly. Ensure documentation is prepared in a timely manner. |
| Application of the Welsh language standards and resultant translation requirements. | Programme slippage. | Liaise closely with translation services to ensure requirements are planned and programmed accordingly. Ensure documentation is prepared in a timely manner. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Printing and other production issues | Programme slippage. | Liaise closely with relevant provider and service areas to ensure requirements are planned and programmed accordingly. Ensure documentation is prepared in a timely manner. |
| Additional requirements arising from changes in legislation and national policy. | Requirement for additional work with resultant programme slippage. | Monitor emerging changes and respond early to changes where this is possible. |
| Changes in other Plans and strategies | Requirement for additional work with resultant programme slippage. | Maintain close liaison with other service areas and partners and monitor emerging changes and respond early to changes where this is possible. |
| Legal challenge | LDP quashed with resultant additional workload and resource requirements. | Ensure procedures, legislation and regulatory provisions are complied with. |
| Insufficient information available to ensure assessment of proposals | Programme slippage. | Identify expectations of respondents within this DA and through supporting guidance documents. |
| Significant objections from statutory bodies | Requirement for additional and potentially significant work. This may raise issues in terms of resources and timetabling of future stages. | Ensure the views of statutory bodies are sought and considered as early as possible with liaison throughout the Plan making process. Ensure implications are monitored and where necessary additional resources identified. |
| Failure to satisfy the tests of soundness | Adoption of the LDP would not be able to proceed without considerable additional work. Consequential substantive delay (in addition to that as result of Covid-19) will mean the existing LDP would cease at the end of 2021. Reference is made to the Ministers letter of the 24 th September 2020 on the issue of LDP drop dead dates. | Ensure revised LDP is sound, founded on a robust evidence base with SA. Maintain liaison with Welsh Government and other key consultees to ensure that any issues and early warnings on potential issues are recognised and responded to. |
| Planning Inspectorate unable to meet the timescale for examination & reporting | Examination and/or report delayed. Could result in a further delay in adoption of the Revised LDP. Reference is made to the Ministers | Ensure close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure any potential for delays are understood and accounted for. |

| | | |
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| | letter of the 24 th September 2020 on the issue of LDP drop dead dates. | |
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Appendix 4 –County Profile (to be reviewed)

Demographics

Population - Mid Year Population Estimates

Population estimates are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and take into account births, deaths, and an estimate of migration between the last census and the middle of the current year.

The population of Carmarthenshire is estimated to have been 185,610 in 2016, accounting for almost 6 per cent of the Welsh population. Of this, 90,835 (49%) are male and 94,775 (51%) are female. The age profile of the local population is shown in the table below.

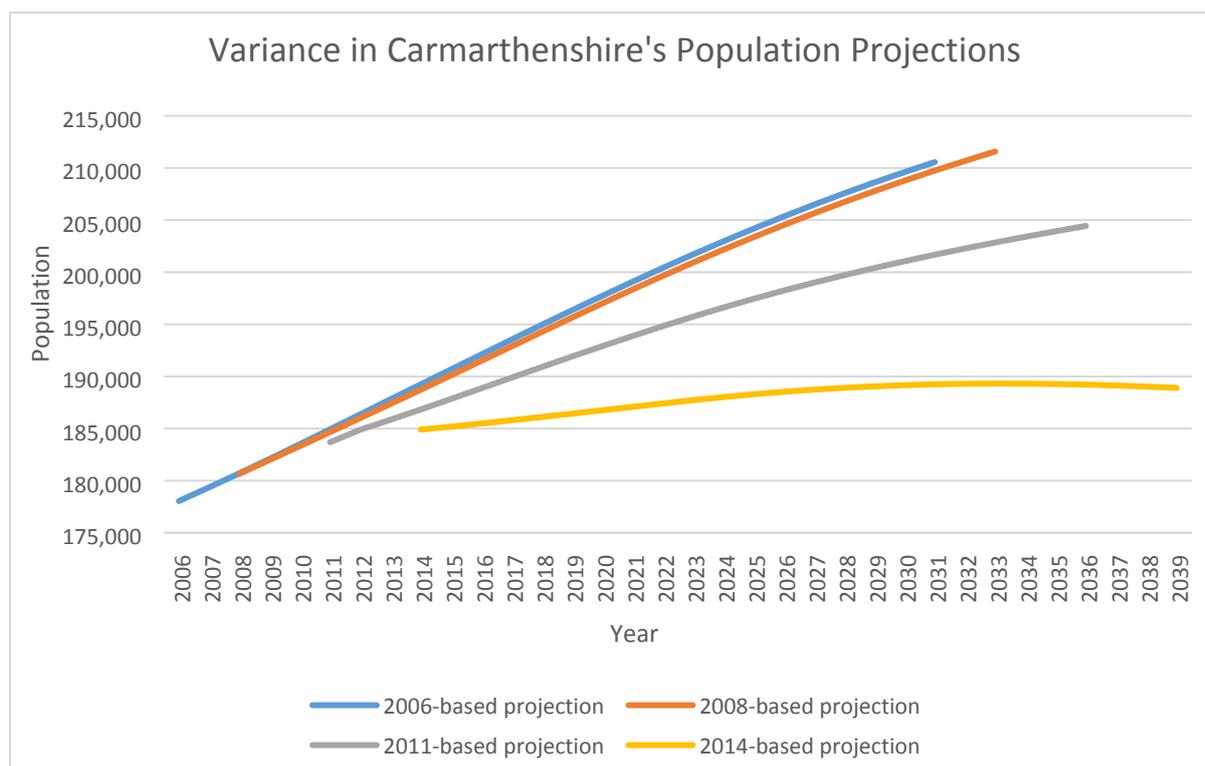
| 2016 – Mid Year Population Estimates | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Age Structure | Carms Population | Carms % | Wales Population | Wales % |
| Aged: 0-4 | 9,782 | 5.3 | 173,261 | 5.6 |
| 5-15 | 23,064 | 12.4 | 383,818 | 12.3 |
| 16-24 | 18,021 | 9.7 | 359,672 | 11.6 |
| 25-44 | 40,171 | 21.6 | 739,907 | 23.8 |
| 45-64 | 51,910 | 27.9 | 821,855 | 26.3 |
| 65-74 | 23,823 | 12.8 | 352,636 | 11.3 |
| 75+ | 18,839 | 10.1 | 282,001 | 9.0 |
| Total | 185,610 | 100 | 3,113,150 | 100 |

(Data taken from Stats Wales: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/nationallevelpopulationestimates-by-year-age-ukcountry>)

Population and Household Projections

The 2011 and 2014 based projections indicated a projected population of 193,874 and 187,079 respectively at 2021. This limited level of population change is projected to continue through the lifetime of the revised LDP with 2033 indicating a County population of 189,317. These projections indicate a downward trend in population growth compared to the previous 2006-based and 2008-based projections. This will be subject to further evidence gathering as part of the revised LDP.

(Data taken from Stats Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2014-based/populationprojectioncomponentsofchange-by-localauthority-year>).



Source: Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Review Report

In considering the Revised LDP period of 2018-2033, the principal projections within the 2014 based projection suggests an increase in the population of 3,207 persons. These projections will need to be given careful consideration and reflect other relevant factors which impact upon the future development and housing needs, not least the household projections for the County. The 2011-based and 2014-based household projections have indicated a significant reduction in household numbers from that projected within both the 2006 and 2008 based projections.

Population Density

Population density provides a measure of the number of people living in an area. This varies across the County with higher densities in the urban areas than the rural areas. However, the average density for Carmarthenshire as a whole is 78.3 persons per square kilometre, which makes it the fifth lowest in Wales. This is significantly lower than the Welsh average of 150.1 persons per kilometre square.

(Data taken from Stats Wales: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Density/populationdensity-by-localauthority-year>).

There are three major towns in Carmarthenshire which form a pivotal role at the centre of the LDP's Growth Areas. The three towns of Llanelli, Carmarthen and Ammanford are home to 25% of the County's population. 60% of the population live in rural areas, which form 53% of the County.

(Data taken from the Carmarthenshire Draft Wellbeing Plan: <http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales/media/8285/carms-well-being-plan-final-draft-051017-english.pdf>)

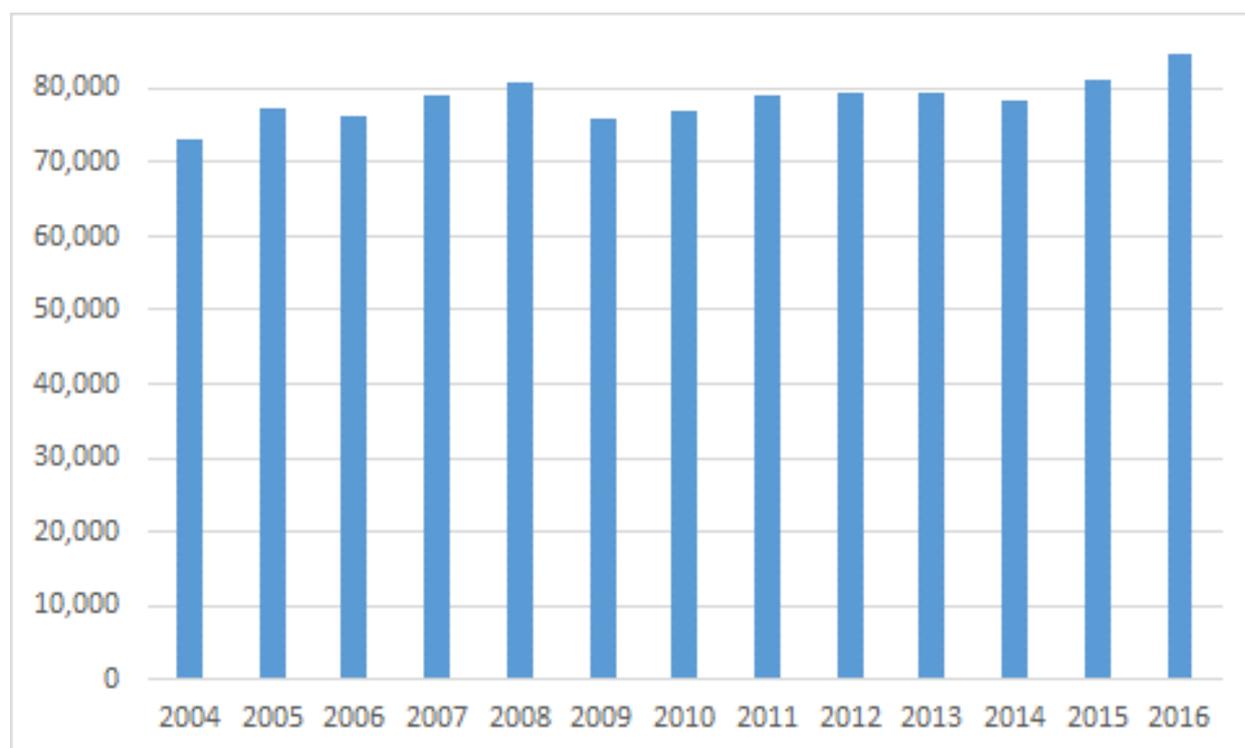
Welsh Language

The National Survey for Wales, 2014-15, contains information by local authority on Welsh language ability and usage. The survey estimated that 45% of Carmarthenshire’s population can speak Welsh which is significantly higher than the Welsh average of 20%. This has increased since the 2011 Census results which showed that 43.9% of the population speak Welsh. It also indicated that Carmarthenshire had the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales at 78,048.

Economy – Employee Jobs (2016)

In 2016, 84,700 people were employed in Carmarthenshire. This was the second year in succession where the total had risen by 4% compared to the previous year. The trend in total employment is shown below (Source: Carmarthenshire Employment Sectoral Study).

Employment Trends 2004 – 2015



The Office for National Statistics data for 2016 on employee jobs by industry for both Carmarthenshire and Wales is set out below.

| Employee Jobs by Industry – Carmarthenshire and Wales | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| | Carmarthenshire (%) | Wales (%) |
| B : Mining and quarrying | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| C : Manufacturing | 11.9 | 11.4 |
| D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| F : Construction | 6.0 | 5.5 |
| G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 16.4 | 15.1 |
| H : Transportation and storage | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| I : Accommodation and food service activities | 9.0 | 8.9 |
| J : Information and communication | 1.2 | 2.3 |
| K : Financial and insurance activities | 0.9 | 2.3 |
| L : Real estate activities | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| M : Professional, scientific and technical activities | 3.0 | 4.2 |
| N : Administrative and support service activities | 5.2 | 6.6 |
| O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 6.7 | 6.8 |
| P : Education | 10.4 | 10.1 |
| Q : Human health and social work activities | 19.4 | 16.1 |
| R : Arts, entertainment and recreation | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| S : Other service activities | 1.3 | 1.5 |

(Source: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157392/report.aspx>)

In 2016, over 30% of the total were employed in the public sector (e.g. in public administration, education, health and social services). 8,000 positions (11.9% of the total) were in the manufacturing sector and 11,000 (16.4% of the total) were employed in the wholesale and retail sector.

Self-employment also forms a high proportion of the total in Carmarthenshire with over 15,200 people categorised as self-employed in both 2015 and 2016. This trend towards small or 'micro' businesses is reflected in the ONS NOMIS data. The figure clearly shows that over 90% of private sector businesses / enterprise in the county have 9 or fewer employees. Statistics collated on the types of businesses in Carmarthenshire indicate that 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' still dominates with 28% of all businesses being in this category.

Community Population Totals

| Community Ward | Population (Census 2011) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Abergwili | 1,612 |
| Abernant | 297 |
| Ammanford | 5,411 |
| Betws | 2,175 |
| Bronwydd | 564 |
| Carmarthen | 14,185 |
| Cenarth | 1,030 |
| Cilycwm | 487 |
| Cilymaenllwyd | 742 |
| Cwmamman | 4,486 |
| Cynwyl Elfed | 1,044 |
| Cynwyl Gaeo | 940 |
| Dyffryn Cennen | 1,176 |
| Eglwyscummin | 432 |
| Gorslas | 4,066 |
| Henllanfallteg | 480 |
| Kidwelly | 3,523 |
| Laugharne Township | 1,222 |
| Llanarthne | 765 |
| Llanboidy | 1,061 |
| Llanddarog | 1,198 |
| Llanddeusant | 220 |
| Llanddowror | 851 |
| Llandeilo | 1,795 |
| Llandoverly | 2,056 |
| Llandybie | 10,994 |
| Llandyfaelog | 1,304 |
| Llanedi | 5,664 |
| Llanegwad | 1,473 |
| Llanelli | 25,168 |
| Llanelli Rural | 22,800 |
| Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn | 624 |
| Llanfihangel Aberbythych | 1,334 |
| Llanfihangel RhosyCorn | 468 |
| Llanfihangel-ar-Arth | 2,213 |
| Llanfynydd | 499 |

| Community Ward | Population (Census 2011) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Llangadog | 1,311 |
| Llangain | 573 |
| Llangathen | 507 |
| Llangeler | 3,427 |
| Llangennech | 4,964 |
| Llangunnor | 2,381 |
| Llangyndeyrn | 3,102 |
| Llangynin | 284 |
| Llangynog | 492 |
| Llanllawddog | 703 |
| Llanllwni | 638 |
| Llannon | 5,270 |
| Llanpumsaint | 734 |
| Llansadwrn | 517 |
| Llansawel | 438 |
| Llansteffan | 941 |
| Llanwinio | 448 |
| Llanwrda | 514 |
| Llanybydder | 1,638 |
| Llanycrwys | 235 |
| Manordeilo & Salem | 1,754 |
| Meidrim | 582 |
| Myddfai | 398 |
| Newcastle Emlyn | 1,184 |
| Newchurch & Merthyr | 676 |
| Pembrey & Burry Port | 8,547 |
| Pencarreg | 1,169 |
| Pendine | 346 |
| Pontyberem | 2,768 |
| Quarter Bach | 2,921 |
| St Clears | 2,995 |
| St Ishmael | 1,370 |
| Talley | 494 |
| Trelech | 745 |
| Trimsaran | 2,541 |
| Whitland | 1,792 |

Appendix 5: Consultation Bodies

Specific Consultation Bodies

Welsh Government
Natural Resources Wales
CADW
Department of Transport
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Network Rail
Carmarthenshire Public Service Board
The Planning Inspectorate
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Adjoining Local Authorities

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Ceredigion County Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Pembrokeshire County Council
Powys County Council
City & County of Swansea

Community & Town Councils (within Carmarthenshire)

Abergwili Community Council
Abernant Community Council
Ammanford Town Council
Betws Community Council
Bronwydd Community Council
Carmarthen Town Council
Cenarth Community Council
Cil-y-cwm Community Council
Cilymaenllwyd Community Council
Cwmamman Town Council
Cynwyl Elfed Community Council
Cynwyl Gaeo Community Council
Dyffryn Cennen Community Council
Eglwys Gymyn Community Council
Gors-las Community Council
Henllan Fallteg Community Council
Kidwelly Town Council
Laugharne Town Council

Llanarthne Community Council
Llanboidy Community Council
Llanddarog Community Council
Llanddowror Community Council
Llandeilo Town Council
Llandovery Town Council
Llandybie Community Council
Llandyfaelog Community Council
Llanedi Community Council
Llanegwad Community Council
Llanelli Rural Council
Llanelli Town Council
Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Community Council
Llanfihangel Aberbythych Community Council
Llanfihangel ar Arth Community Council
Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn Community Council
Llanfynydd Community Council
Llangadog Community Council
Llangain Community Council
Llangathen Community Council
Llangeler Community Council
Llangennech Community Council
Llangyndeyrn Community Council
Llangunnor Community Council
Llangynin Community Council
Llangynog Community Council
Llanllawddog Community Council
Llanllwni Community Council
Llannon Community Council
Llanpumsaint Community Council
Llansadwrn Community Council
Llansawel Community Council
Llansteffan Community Council
Llanwinio Community Council
Llanwrda Community Council
Llanybydder Community Council
Llanycrwys Community Council
Maordeilo & Salem Community Council
Meidrim Community Council
Myddfai Community Council
Newcastle Emlyn Town Council
Newchurch & Merthyr Community Council
Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council
Pencarreg Community Council
Pendine Community Council

Pontyberem Community Council
Quarter Bach Community Council
St Clears Town Council
St Ishmael Community Council
Talley Community Council
Trelech a'r Betws Community Council
Trimsaran Community Council
Whitland Town Council

Community & Town Councils adjoining Carmarthenshire that lie in the Brecon Beacons National Park:

Llanddeusant

that lie in Ceredigion:

Beulah
Lampeter
Llandyfriog
Llanddewi Brefi
Llandysul
Llanfair Clydogau
Llanwenog
Llanwnnen

that lie in Neath Port Talbot:

Cwmllynfell
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen
Pontardawe

that lie in Pembrokeshire:

Amroth
Clunderwen
Clydau
Crymych
Lampeter Velfrey
Llanddewi Velfrey
Manordeifi
Mynachlog-Ddu

that lie in Powys:

Llangammarch
Llanwrtyd Wells Town
Llywel
Maescar
Ystradgynlais Town

that lie in Swansea:

Gorseinon
Grovesend
Llwchwr
Mawr
Pontarddulais

Electronic Communications (where known)

BT plc
Openreach
3 (Three)
Tesco Mobile
O2 (UK) Ltd
OFCOM
EE
T-Mobile UK (UK) Ltd
Utilita
Virgin Media Ltd
Vodafone Ltd

Electricity and Gas Licensees

Celtic Energy
Ecotricity
EDF
Good Energy Ltd
National Grid Company plc.
NPower Ltd
Scottish Power
SSE
Western Power
United Utilities
Wales & West Utilities Ltd
British Gas
Transco

Other Bodies

Civil Aviation Authority
Coal Authority
HM Prison Service
Mobile Operators Association (Mono Consultants)

General Consultation Bodies

Age Concern
Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Service
Shelter Cymru
Youth Hostel Association

Advisory Council for the Education of Romany & other Travellers
Citizen's Advice Bureau
The Ethnic Minority Foundation
Travelling Ahead
National Association of Teachers of Travellers
Baptist Union of Wales
The Catholic Church in England and Wales
Church in Wales
Hindu Council UK
Jehovah's Witnesses
The Methodist Church in Wales
Muslim Council of Wales
The Presbyterian Church in Wales
Religious Society of Friends – Quakers
Wales Orthodox Mission
The Salvation Army
The Union of Welsh Independents
Royal National Institute for the Blind
Action on Hearing Loss
Spinal Injuries Association
Wales Council for the Blind
Wales Council for the Deaf
Wales Rural Forum
West Wales Rivers Trust
CBI Wales
Confederation of Business Industry
Community Legal Service
Environmental Services Association
Federation of Small Businesses
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg
Cymuned
Merched y Wawr
Mentrau Iaith

Other Consultation bodies
Action for Market Towns
ADAS Wales
Age Cymru
Airport Operators Association
Assembly Members – Carmarthen East & Dinefwr
Assembly Members – Mid & West Wales
Arts Council for Wales
British Aggregates Association
British Geological Survey
British Horse Society
The Conservation Volunteers
Canal and River Trust
Renewable UK
BTCV Cymru
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Cambrian Mountains Society
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Campaign for Real Ale
Carmarthen Civic Society
Hywel Dda Community Health Council
Carmarthenshire Fishermens Federation
Carmarthenshire Historic Buildings Preservation Trust
Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum
Carmarthenshire Tourist Association
Carnegie Trust Rural Community Development Programme
Carmarthenshire Youth Council
Carnegie Young People Initiative
Carmarthen Chamber of Commerce
Llanelli Chamber of Trade
Llandeilo Chamber of Trade
St Clears Chamber of Trade
Children in Wales
Play Wales
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Institute of Directors
Civic Trust Cymru
Civil Aviation Authority
Coal Authority
Coastguard Regional Office
Coed Cymru
Coleg Sir Gar
Commission for Racial Equality
Community Transport Association
Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services
Country Landowners and Business Association
Council for the Protection of Rural Wales
Crown Estate Office
Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association
Cymdeithas Tai Cantref
Design Commission for Wales
Disability Wales
Disability Rights Commission
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

| | |
|---|--|
| Communities first Carmarthenshire | Play Wales |
| Environmental Services Agency (Waste) | Dyfed Powys Police |
| Equal Opportunities Commission | Associated British Ports |
| European Council for the Village & Small Town | Post Office Property Holdings |
| Fire & Rescue Services - Mid & West Wales | Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales |
| Welsh Language Commissioner | Royal Town Planning Institute in Wales |
| Forestry Commission Wales | Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru |
| Freight Transport Association | Institution of Civil Engineers |
| Friends of the Earth Cymru | Chartered Institution of Waste Management |
| General Aviation Awareness Council | Royal Society of Architects in Wales |
| Groundwork Wales | Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments in Wales |
| Health and Safety Executive (HSE) | Quarry Products Association Wales |
| Bro Myrddin Housing Association | Rail Freight Group |
| Cymdeithas Tai Cantref | Carmarthen Ramblers Group |
| Family Housing Association | Dinefwr Ramblers Group |
| Pobl Housing Association | Llanelli Ramblers Group |
| Tai Cymdogaeth | Road Haulage Association |
| Farmers Union Wales | Road Safety Council of Wales |
| Federation of Small Businesses | Royal National Lifeboat Institution |
| The Home Builders Federation | RSPB Cymru |
| Menter Cwm Gwendraeth | South & West Wales Wildlife Trust |
| Menter a Busnes | Sports Council for Wales |
| Llanelli Civic Society | Sustrans Cymru |
| Llandovery Civic Trust | Tai Cymru Housing Association |
| MPs – Carmarthen East & Dinefwr | Transport 2000 |
| MPs – Mid & West Wales | University of Wales Trinity Saint David |
| Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) | Valuation Office – Mineral Valuer |
| First Cymru | Wales Council for Voluntary Action |
| National Express | Wales Environmental Compact |
| Veolia | Wales Environment Link |
| Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd | Wales Tourist Board |
| National Air Traffic Services Ltd | Wales Tourism Alliance |
| National Farmers Union for Wales | Welsh Association of Community & Town Councillors |
| National Museums & Galleries of Wales | Welsh Association of Youth Clubs |
| National Playing Fields Association | Welsh Historic Gardens Trust |
| National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardens Ltd | Welsh Local Government Association |
| National Trust | Welsh Environmental Services Association (representing waste industry) |
| National Youth Agency | Welsh Health Estates |
| Arriva Trains Wales | Wildlife Trust Wales |
| First Great Western Trains | The Woodland Trust Wales |
| Network Rail | Young Enterprise |
| Virgin Trains | Young Farmers (Wales) |
| One Voice Wales | Youth Access |
| Open Space Society | Carmarthenshire Youth Council |
| Planning Aid Wales | |

Carmarthenshire Strategy for Older People
Steering Group
Community Planning Partnerships
Voluntary Sector Forum
Health, Social Care & Well Being Partnerships
Services for Older People Planning Group
Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action
Healthy Schools Initiative
Homelessness Forum
Lifelong Learning Partnerships
Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership
Local Access Forum
South West Wales Community Rail Partnership
Safer Communities Partnerships
Community Safety Partnership
Domestic Abuse Forum
Carmarthenshire Volunteer Organisers' Network
Social Care Regional Partnership
South West Wales Economic Forum

Appendix 6: Public Libraries within Carmarthenshire

- Ammanford
- Bedol (Garnant)
- Brynaman
- Burry Port
- Carmarthen
- Kidwelly
- Llandeilo
- Llandovery
- Llanelli
- Llangennech
- Llwynhendy
- Newcastle Emlyn
- Pembrey
- Pontyates
- Pontyberem
- St Clears
- Whitland

Mobile Libraries (routes)

- Llangadog / Llanddeusant
- Farmers / Llansadwrn / Talley/ Brechfa
- Rhydcymerau
- Hendy
- Cwmann / Llanybydder / Llanllwni
- Login / Llanglydwen
- Trimsaran / Mynyddygarreg / Ferryside
- Cilycwm / Llanwrda
- Drefach Felindre / Tanglwst / Cynwyl Elfed
- Llannon / Drefach / Mynyddcerrig
- Llanfynydd / Nantgaredig / Capel Dewi
- Blaenwaun / Trelech / Meidrim
- Pendine / Llansadurnen / Laugharne
- Llanybri / Llansteffan / Llangain
- Peniel / Llanpumsaint / Pencader

Correct as of August 2017, please consult the Council's web site for an up-to-date list.

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/libraries-archives/find-a-library.aspx#.WYiGxE-ouUm>

Appendix 7: Key Stakeholder Forum

- Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)
- Coleg Sir Gar
- Carmarthenshire County Council – Corporate Policy and any other relevant representatives
- Dyfed Powys Police
- Natural Resources Wales – including Environmental Protection and Ecology
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David's
- Hywel Dda University Health Board – including Estates and Primary Care / Corporate policy.
- Arts Council of Wales
- Community & Town Councils (3 urban & 3 rural)
- Cadw
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust
- National Farmers Union
- Farmers Union Wales
- Young Farmers representative
- Youth representative (Youth Council)
- Advisory Panel representation
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
- Dyfed Powys Police – Police and Crime Commissioner
- Welsh Government - including representative from transport division
- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Welsh Language representatives (including Cymdeithas yr Iaith and Dyfodol)
- Tourism sector
- Developer sector
- Commercial sector
- Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce representative
- Utility providers
- Religious Groups representation.

Each organisation will normally be represented by a **single** nominated member with an expectation to attend and participate through the process to maintain continuity and consistency.

Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan
2018 – 2033

Covid-19 Assessment – Draft for Reporting

Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

Covid-19: Assessment of the Evidence Base, Strategy and Policies - Draft for Reporting

1. Background

1.1 In late January 2020 the Corona Virus outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) with its subsequent impact spreading across the world's societies and throughout our communities.

1.2 In response to the escalating pandemic on the 18th March 2020 Carmarthenshire County Council took the decision to suspend most democratic meetings, followed on the 19th March by the decision to close the Authority's administrative buildings.

1.3 On the 23rd March 2020 the UK Government introduced a full "lockdown" to halt the spread of the virus. The subsequent months has witnessed not only the tragic loss of life but also impacts to how our people, businesses, organisations, and communities behave and interact at an economic, social, and cultural level.

1.4 On the 7th July 2020 the Minister for Housing and Local Government in her letter to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives. In this letter the Minister reiterated the role of up to date agile development plans as the cornerstone of the planning system. In this regard the letter requires local planning authorities to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs under review or being implemented. Those LDPs currently undergoing review, which had not yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, should undertake an assessment of the evidence base, strategy, and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the pandemic.

1.5 It should be noted that at the time of writing the Revised Carmarthenshire LDP was one of those LDP's undergoing review and pending submission for examination.

1.6 The assessment should be submitted to the Welsh Government with requests to extend Delivery Agreements (DA).

Building Better Places, The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures, Placemaking and Covid-19

1.7 Following the ministers letter the Welsh Government published Building Better Places, The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures, Placemaking and Covid-19 recovery (July 2020). The document sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy priorities that will assist in taking action in the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

1.8 This document identifies development plans has having a central role in responding to Covid-19 in planning effectively for future crises and to take a long-term view to improve health and wellbeing for all. In so doing it restated the importance of having an up to date LDPs to give local effect to local development priorities and national planning policy.

1.9 The WG identify that in the immediate post Covid-19 phase there will be particular areas of policy which should be the focus of consideration and action, in order to act as a catalyst for a recovery across the pillars of sustainable development. These considerations fall in to one of three categories:

1. How we experienced the direct impacts of the Covid-19 lockdown period and the permanent positive changes we need to see in places and as part of new development.
2. The lessons we have learned over this time and how we can help to make places more resilient and adaptable to future pandemics, should they happen again.
3. Aiding the recovery after the pandemic has passed and restrictions are eased to ensure it benefits all parts of society and helps us to decarbonise, tackle climate change, reverse biodiversity decline and improve health and general well-being.

1.10 Within the document 8 key issues are identified which bring individual policy areas together to ensure that action is the most effective. The 8 issues are:

- Staying local: creating neighbourhoods
- Active travel: exercise and rediscovered transport methods
- Revitalising our town centres
- Digital places – the lockdown lifeline
- Changing working practices: our future need for employment land
- Reawakening Wales' tourism and cultural sectors
- Green infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience
- Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being

Purpose of this Paper

1.11 This paper sets out assessment of the implications arising from Covid-19 on the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan, its evidence base, policies, and Strategy. It identifies which areas of the LDPs evidence base might require updating or where new research is necessary. It also sets out those areas where policy changes are likely as a response to the impacts of the pandemic and summarises the potential effects on the overall LDP strategy.

1.12 This paper should be read in conjunction with the Authority's Revised Delivery Agreement (2020) and its amended timetable and community involvement scheme for the preparation of the Revised Carmarthenshire LDP.

Plan Making Stage

1.13 The County Council published its Deposit Revised LDP 2018 - 2033 and supporting documents (Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal) along with two draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for statutory 6-week public consultation commencing on the 29th January 2020. This period was subsequently extended by a further 2 weeks with the consultation closing on the 27th March 2020.

1.14 Whilst the initial 6 week statutory period was unaffected by Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown, the final two weeks (which formed the extended period of the consultation from 6 to 8 weeks) were impacted by the gradual move into lockdown with the closure of Councils administrative buildings (including public libraries and customer service centres).

1.15 It should be noted that all planned public engagement events and drop-in sessions had been completed. Consequently, there was no cancellation of events or disruption to planned engagement. However, access to documents at public buildings during that last 2 weeks was limited albeit access remained available through an extensive on-line resource.

1.16 As a result of the disruption experienced over the final days of the original consultation, the Council has undertaken a further 3-week consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP and its supporting documents (SA and HRA). This consultation opened on the 11th September and closes at 4:30 on the 2nd October 2020.

1.17 This consultation includes appointment base access to the Councils customer service Hwbs and the identified open public libraries, as well as mobile libraries. The availability of documents at these locations accords with the Council's process for re-opening public buildings as part of a responsible phased approach. This provides a reasonable response to the need to make documents available whilst recognising the overriding need to reflect Government advice, reflect social distancing requirements and protect public health and that of Council's employees.

1.18 The consultation on the Deposit LDP resulted in a significant level of interest and number of representations received. Invariably therefore, and as a response to emerging evidence (including that arising from Covid-19) we will be proposing changes to the Plan. Consequently, Focused Changes will be consulted upon. This stage has been included into the timetable set out within the Revised LDP along with a revised date for the submission to the Welsh Government.

2. IMPACT OF COVID-19

Economic Impact

2.1 The impacts of Covid-19 are not evenly distributed across the economy. Those sectors most notably impacted have been food/accommodation, non-mail order retail and arts/leisure sectors. In other sectors such as construction and manufacturing whilst impacts on workplace arrangements have an impact, the greater impact comes from the initial collapse in demand and it is restoring both demand and supply chains that is central to determining reopening. Those sectors that are least affected, in addition to critical sectors that have had to stay open, are those sectors where working from home is possible and demand is much less immediately impacted by lockdown such as the public sector and utilities.

2.2 At a UK level almost a quarter of workers have stopped working since the crisis started, the majority of which have been furloughed rather than lost their jobs. With the furloughing scheme coming to an end at the end of October there is great uncertainty around future employment rates and economic recovery. This uncertainty translates from the national to the County level.

2.3 To gain an informed understanding of the position in Carmarthenshire, an initial sweep of evidence has been gathered on the impact on businesses, unemployment and our rural / primary towns. Evidence has also been sought from developers and investors who have been active in Carmarthenshire to assess whether they are likely to continue to conduct business in the County in the future. The findings are set out below:

Business / Economy

2.4 A survey of businesses across the county has been undertaken to identify, going forward the assistance they most needed. A total of 574 businesses from across the county responded to the survey. The main findings and conclusions of the report are summarised below:

a) The negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been significant and wide reaching for Carmarthenshire's businesses. A wide-ranging spectrum of business types and corresponding industries have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. These effects mainly relate to a significant reduction in income, reduced access to customers, problems with supply chains and the possible cessation of trading.

b) Many of the businesses worst affected are within those sectors deemed of significant importance to Carmarthenshire in terms of employment and/or GVA. The visitor economy and food and beverage sectors alone are worth almost £169 million to Carmarthenshire's economy and are therefore sectors of great pertinence to the county. We have also heard first-hand through the survey the challenges being experienced by the Agricultural sector. With a location quotient of 5.64 (showing substantial strength) and a GVA of almost £63 million, adequate support should be offered to support this vitally important sector.

c) Many businesses (mainly those that are self-employed or freelance), have been unable to access any financial support. Analysis has shown that many businesses have faced barriers in accessing support, having been deemed ineligible for the current offer. It could be argued that should any further financial support mechanisms be developed then these businesses should be the first to benefit, especially if any of these businesses align to those sectors deemed high value.

d) Most businesses will not be able to operate longer than three months if the current situation continues. Support developed to date has been done quickly and with depleted resources in many instances.

e) The most sought-after type of support both in the short and longer term is financial in the form of grants, loans or payment deferrals/holidays. These findings present a challenge given that it is currently difficult to ascertain how much longer restrictions will be in place.

f) Some businesses would find promotion and advertising support from the Council beneficial. Businesses primarily operating within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality sectors indicated that they would find free advertising and promotion beneficial to their recovery.

g) There are areas of deprivation in the county where the effects of the pandemic could be felt more acutely.

h) Some businesses foresee that they will experience skills challenges as a result of the pandemic, with the majority stating that these skills deficits will relate to digital and IT skills.

i) The skills landscape will undoubtedly suffer as a result of the pandemic. The majority of job losses are likely to be at a lower skills level as these jobs tend to be part-time, low paid and more unstable.

Unemployment in Carmarthenshire

2.5 An analysis of the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in Wales shows that between March and April (first full month of lockdown) there were 104,869 claimants compared with 58,576 in March. This resulted in the claimant rate increasing from 3.9% to 6.8% which compares negatively with the UK average which sits at 5.8%.

2.6 The table below provides a breakdown of claimant levels in April 2020 compared with the same time last year. The trends are undeniable and are a stark indicator of the effects of the pandemic. Figures highlighted in the preceding paragraph allows confident deduction that the substantial increases seen in Carmarthenshire are primarily as a result of the pandemic.

| Area | Level | | Rate | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Apr 2019 | Apr 2020 | Apr 2019 | Apr 2020 |
| Carmarthenshire | 2,420 | 5,495 | 2.2 | 5.0 |
| Wales | 53,770 | 104,305 | 2.8 | 5.4 |
| UK | 1,106,610 | 2,117,360 | 2.7 | 5.1 |

2.7 Carmarthenshire's claimant rate appears to compare positively with the averages for Wales and the UK. However, further analysis indicates that Carmarthenshire has seen the greatest increase (2.8) in the claimant rate compared with increases of 2.6 and 2.4 for Wales and the UK respectively. The count of claimants has increased by 127% in Carmarthenshire which is substantially higher than the proportional increases seen at a Wales and UK level, (94% and 91% respectively).

2.8 There are several factors which could be attributable to these trends. Carmarthenshire's economy is characterised by a higher than average proportion of self-employed individuals (12.4% compared with 9.6% in Wales). Anecdotal evidence suggests that at a national level the package of support has been lesser and more difficult to access (owing to eligibility and timeliness) for these individuals and many have been forced to claim unemployment-related benefits. It is feasible that many of these additional claimants are therefore those that have been unable to access any other form of financial support.

2.9 Those sectors that have suffered 'shutdowns' as a result of the pandemic offer employment to approximately 25,000 people in Carmarthenshire (accounting for 37% of the total workforce). It is realistic therefore to suggest that whilst a proportion of those have been furloughed (with model-based estimates suggesting that 7,500 individuals are benefitting from the furlough scheme in Carmarthenshire) the shortfall of 17,500 people are likely to be those individuals accessing these benefits. The suggestion is that these figures are likely to rise significantly over the coming months.

Rural Towns

2.10 Prior to the current crisis we were working with consultants to develop plans to revitalise 10 of our rural towns – Llandovery, **St Clears, Whitland, Newcastle Emlyn, Laugharne**, Cwmamman, Llanybydder, Kidwelly, Llandeilo and Cross Hands - under the Council's moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Strategy. These growth plans were to look forward 10 years with new ideas and priorities agreed in partnership with businesses. The need for these plans has been brought into focus by the economic challenges brought about

by the pandemic. The anticipated economic impacts of Coronavirus on 5 of the 10 Towns (shown in bold). The initial key findings for these 5 towns include:

- Across the five towns, 35% of the workforce (2,330 people) are employed in occupations considered at most risk (administrative, leisure, customer service, elementary).
- If one in five (466) of the most at-risk workforce lost their jobs, unemployment would increase by 70%.
- Whitland (26%) and St Clears (27%) have the highest levels of managers and professionals which offer more capacity to work from home and are considered to be less risk occupations.
- 20% of employees across the five towns are in self-employment and are considered more vulnerable to abrupt and, in some cases, total loss of income.
- Over 40% of businesses in the five towns are in shut down sectors (restaurants, pubs, café, non-food retail etc).
- 50 food and drink businesses and 100 accommodation providers are likely to have closed across the five towns, with Laugharne suffering more significantly than others.
- Impacts on agriculture are likely to have a greater impact on the five towns because there are a higher proportion of people employed in agriculture

2.11 A review of the Covid-19 impact on the remaining 5 towns is currently being progressed with further information available shortly.

Town Centres

2.12 Currently, the economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis are highly uncertain which makes it difficult to draw a clear picture of immediate impact on our primary town centres, namely Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli. The retail sector is vulnerable with shop closures and changes in consumer patterns and demand. Intervention and clear direction from all stakeholders will be required to prioritise key strategies of support to ensure town centre recovery following the Covid-19 crisis.

2.13 Potential town centre issues include:

- Improve access/ social distancing measures to be implemented within town centres, including connections between out of town sites and the town's public transport link.
- Increasing footfall to all areas of the town.
- Reducing the number of empty premises in the town centre.
- Provide alternative trading for those businesses based within core town centres (i.e. deliveries, online sales).
- Public transport issues – avoiding congestion.
- Derelict sites / empty buildings.
- Consider community enterprise and third sector role in recovery of the town.
- Provide Business Support – chamber of trade, self-help initiatives such as town centre partnerships.
- Need for effective town branding and development of a marketing & tourism development strategy.
- Need for financial support for new and existing businesses. Strengthen Local procurement / Local supply chain.

2.14 The Centre for Towns, an independent organisation dedicated to providing research and analysis on a range of issues affecting our towns, has recently reviewed the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on towns and cities throughout the UK. The report findings identify Llanelli as being in the top 20 towns in the UK for absolute deprivation and therefore lacking in resilience with regards to COVID-19.

2.15 It is crucial that we help as many of our town centre businesses back operating safely as soon as possible. To achieve this, we need to create safe town centre environments and enable sensible movement throughout that will give users, residents and businesses confidence to resume activity and business.

Developer / Investor Confidence

2.16 Some 15 local, regional and national developers have been contacted in respect of their businesses and how they have been impacted by Covid 19. The discussion with developers revolved around 4 main themes (a summary of feedback is set out in Appendix 1):

- Short term impacts (current and in the next 6 months)
- Key constraints anticipated moving forward
- Key opportunities moving forward
- Key public and private sector interventions required

Environmental Impacts

2.17 Covid –19 has resulted in positive impacts on the environment particularly during the period of lockdown, notably around carbon emissions. S

2.18 Access to green space has become a more factor to people and communities as has the environmental context within which they live with the role of placemaking and green infrastructure becoming an increasingly prominent consideration. Reference is however made to the impact the pandemic has had on those from socially deprived areas.

3. Evidence Base - Covid-19 Implications

3.1 The following reflect the key areas of the authority's evidence base where the impacts of Covid-19 (in whole or in part) require a further reassessment or updating.

Employment and the Economy

3.2 A review of the current evidence base will be required in respect future economic activity arising from the outbreak and how this will impact on different sectors. This will include projected impacts from Covid. It is clear however, that there can be no clear certainty in measuring and understanding the impact from the Pandemic. In this respect, there is little data or information available to inform or establish a robust trend or indeed to predict the extent and length of the economic downturn. Reference is however made to the above which will feed into and inform the Councils Recovery Plan and the economic evidence underpinning the Plan.

3.3 The role of the tourism sector in the local economy is recognised. An understanding is needed of any changes in employment patterns and demands on the sector arising from the outbreak.

3.4 In developing this broader understanding of any impacts, regard will be had to the Council's Recovery Plan and any other national and regional interventions/strategies.

Retail and Town Centres

3.5 There is a need to understand and reflect that High Streets and retail activity continue to change. Whilst the effects of Covid-19 are still largely unknown, evidence will be required to look at the changing shape of the retail sector and the resultant impact on our town centres.

3.6 Regard will be had to 'Building Better Places, The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures, Placemaking and Covid-19 recovery' (July 2020).

3.7 In developing this broader understanding of any impacts, regard will be had to the Council's Recovery Plan and any other national and regional interventions/strategies.

Population and Housing

3.8 It should be noted that further evidence is scheduled to be prepared as part of the continual need to remain appraised and up to date in relation to population changes and resultant household requirements. The withdrawal by StatsWales of the original 2018 population and household projections, due to an error on migration patterns, and their subsequent and ongoing re-issuing will require further consideration.

3.9 In addition, evidence will need to reflect the impacts of Covid-19 in so far as it can be predicted at this stage. Consideration will be required on the potential impact of Covid-19 on the requirement for affordable homes particularly if there are economic challenges resulting in greater unemployment or employment instability. In addition, consideration may be required to establish any trend for additional in migration, particularly in rural areas arising from a response to lockdown.

3.10 The Deposit Revised LDP and its strategy seeks to ensure and enable access to a range and choice of homes as well as a target for the delivery of affordable homes – key in addressing affordability issues and to build sustainable and resilient communities. It is recognised that housing will have an important part to play in the economic recovery - evidence will be required to reflect the Council's recovery programme and the broader regeneration and strategic ambitions notably around maximising affordable housing provision, meeting housing need and providing opportunities to retain younger people and provide an attractive County for our younger people to return to.

Placemaking, Well-being and Green Infrastructure

3.11 Lockdown has emphasised the value and importance of place-making and of the provision of locally accessible open/green spaces for health and well-being and recreation. This is essential to our core purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities. The central role of placemaking was reinforced through the Minister's letter with the LDP as the key delivery mechanism.

Climate Change

3.12 The Deposit LDP places significant emphasis on the response to Climate Change with a proactive set of policies on a number of areas including electric charging points for vehicles as part of new developments.

3.13 There may be further scope to explore the relationship and compatibility with the Zero Carbon agenda. The potential for reduced car usage arising from home/agile working through a reduction in commuting patterns is noted with opportunities to build on active travel and integrated sustainable transport solutions already embedded in the Plan.

Infrastructure

3.14 Further consideration may be required around the increased emphasis on digital infrastructure due to the increase in agile/home working. If successful, the trial measures being drawn up to support our High Streets and enable social distancing might become permanent.

Housing Viability

3.15 Whilst the short, medium, and indeed long-term impacts of the pandemic on the house building industry is yet unknown, evidence on housing viability will be updated to reflect the most up to date information available. It should however be noted that the economic impact is uncertain particularly given the potential for further disruption because of a second spike in infections.

Evidence Base – Non Covid-19 Implications

3.16 The following aspects of the Plan's evidence base will require further consideration / updating includes the following. This list is not exhaustive and subject to change as the implications arising from representations and other evidence and contextual changes emerge.

Population and Housing

3.17 Update on the Demographic evidence in response to revised WG 2018 based population projections.

Renewable Energy Assessment

3.18 Revision to reflect the representations received and the progress in the preparation of the National Development Framework and its policies and provisions on Renewable Energy.

Highways Paper

3.19 Develop upon the current evidence and to take account of representations received.

Rural Task Force: Ten Towns Growth Plans

3.20 As part of the findings of the rural task force the Council has commenced the development of growth plans for Ten prominent towns within the context of rural Carmarthenshire. The publication of these documents will further supplement and evidence the Council's regeneration ambitions for our rural areas.

Landscape Capacity Study

3.21 To support the application and implementation of the Deposit Revised LDP's landscape policies.

3.22 The following sets out an assessment and commentary impacts of Covid-19 in relation to the current evidence base for the Revised LDP.

| Evidence/document | Sensitivity | Action |
|--|-------------|---|
| Consensus Building | | |
| Advisory Panel Minute Book Volumes 1 and 2 | None | No action required |
| Key Stakeholder Forum Meetings – Reports and Papers | None | No action required |
| Town and Community Council Workshop | None | No action required |
| Background Evidence | | |
| Demographic Forecasts (Addendum Sept 2019) | Sensitive | Update will be required to consider the latest WG sub national projections and to consider any evidential changes in respect of Covid-19, including changing migration patterns. |
| Democratic Forecasts (Oct 2018) | See above | See above |
| Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC – Revised SPG Evidence Papers | None | No action required |
| Two Counties Economic Study for Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire (October 2019) | Sensitive | Review of the current evidence base will be required in respect future economic activity arising from the outbreak and how this will impact on different sectors. This will include projected impacts from Covid. |
| Renewable Energy Assessment | None | No immediate action required. Note: Recognition of the role of renewables as part of the broader climate agenda in responding to Covid-19. |
| Carmarthenshire Gypsy Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (Nov 2019) | None | No action required |
| Carmarthenshire Rural Needs Study | None | No immediate action required. Further information may be necessary should evidence become available around immigration into rural communities. |
| Transport Background Paper 2020 | None | No immediate action required. Note: Recognition of the role of active travel as part of the creation of sustainable future and placemaking in responding to Covid-19. |
| Housing Market Summary for Carmarthenshire (Dec 2019) | None | No immediate action required. To be kept under review to pick up on consequential changes arising from |

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| | | amendments to other components of the evidence base. |
| Welsh Language Impact Assessment 2019 | None | No immediate action required. To be kept under review to pick up on consequential changes arising from amendments to other components of the evidence base. |
| Preliminary Report on Financial Viability (Nov 2019) | Sensitive | Evidence will need to respond to economic changes arising from the outbreak, notably impacts on the house building sector, supply line and land values. |
| Open Space Assessment | None | No immediate action required. Note: Recognition of the role of open space and Green Infrastructure as parts of the Placemaking agenda in responding to Covid-19. |
| Retail Study Update 2015 | Sensitive | The retail sector (notably comparison) has been hard hit by the pandemic with many non-essential outlets experiencing long closures during lockdown and a slow return of customers during the recovery stage. The leisure and cultural sector incl. pubs and restaurants have also been hit along with community and entertainment venues. The study requires updating to reflect the outcomes of Covid but also subsequent changes to floorspace evidence across the comparison and convenience sectors. Recognition of the focus on the role town centres as contained with PPW and as part of the WG post Covid recovery response. |
| Employment Land Reviews 2016 - 2018 | Sensitive | The ELR's are an annual monitoring mechanism – future reports will need to measure any post Covid impacts. |
| Green Infrastructure Assessment | None | No immediate action required. Note: Recognition of the role of open space and Green Infrastructure as parts of the Placemaking agenda in responding to Covid-19. |
| Topic Paper – Issues, Vision and Objectives (Dec 2019) | None | The Issues, Objectives and the Vision remain consistent and relevant post Covid. |
| Topic Paper – Waste (Oct 2019) | None | No action required |
| Topic Paper - Minerals (Oct 2019) | None | No action required |

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| Topic Paper - Welsh language (Aug 2019) | None | No immediate action required. To be kept under review to pick up on consequential changes arising from amendments to other components of the evidence base. |
| Topic Paper - Role and Function Update (Jan 2020) | Sensitive | No immediate action required. Review to pick up on consequential changes arising from amendments to other components of the evidence base. |
| Topic Paper – Spatial Framework and Housing Supply (Jan 2020) | Sensitive | No immediate action required Whilst not requiring a change in terms of the strategy and the spatial framework any update will need to consider the latest WG sub national projections and to consider any evidential changes in respect of Covid-19, including changing migration patterns |
| Topic Paper – Population and Household Projections (Sept 2019) | Sensitive | Update will be required to consider the latest WG sub national projections and to consider any evidential changes in respect of Covid-19, including changing migration patterns. |
| Topic Paper – Infrastructure Assessment (Jan 2020) | Sensitive | Evidence will need to consider the increased expectations and requirements arising from homeworking. Focus on highspeed and reliable broadband infrastructure. |
| Topic Paper – Development Limits (Dec 2019) | None | No immediate action required. Review to pick up on consequential changes arising from amendments to other components of the evidence base. |
| Topic Paper – Spatial Options | None | No action required. |
| Flooding Evidence | | |
| Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Stage 1 SFCA | None | No action required. |
| SFCA – Existing Allocations | None | No action required. |
| SFCA – Candidate Sites | None | No action required. |
| Stage 1b SFCA – Llanelli, Burry Port and surrounding areas | None | No action required. |
| Supporting Documents | | |

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| Delivery Agreement | Sensitive | An extension to the current timetable of 7 months is required. The Revised DA will be submitted for agreement to the WG. Additional amendments will be required to the community involvement scheme to reflect revised approaches to engagement and the availability of documents. |
| Sustainability Appraisal | Sensitive | A further assessment will be necessary to assess the nature (if any) of the impacts arising from Covid and the consequential amendments to the Revised LDP. |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment | Sensitive | A further assessment will be necessary to assess the nature (if any) of the impacts arising from Covid and the consequential amendments to the Revised LDP. |

4. Revised LDP Strategy

4.1 The strategic direction of the Revised LDP is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development, whilst reflecting the diversity of the County's environments, economies, and its communities. In this regard it has sought to respond to this diversity by providing opportunities for balanced and sustainable growth whilst reflecting the needs of its communities and the cultural, linguistic, built, and environmental qualities.

4.2 The Plan's preparation and that of its strategy is in accordance with national policy and legislation but also the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act and its goals as well as the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan: The Carmarthenshire We Want 2018 - 2023.

4.3 The Vision, Objectives and Strategy reflect the wider issues facing the area both within the urban and rural context. Whilst it is accepted that Covid-19 may exacerbate specific issues, such as a declining town centres they are all matters currently considered within the Plan. However, as above it is recognised that additional evidence may be required to further understand the implications, and where appropriate refine policy approaches. They do not sufficiently materially affect the Plan to warrant an amendment to its strategy.

4.4 As recognised by the Minister in her letter of the 7th July Covid-19 has also brought fresh focus on long held priorities such as the importance of green infrastructure. The value and role these spaces play is recognised within the Plan and the strategy. However, consideration will be given to augmenting evidence to add to our knowledge of the extent and location of Green Infrastructure, and through a GI strategy to turn the focus toward implementation. This will be undertaken without requiring any changes to the strategy.

4.5 Whilst the Deposit Revised LDP recognises the issues around climate change and the zero-carbon agenda and takes active steps to incorporate them within a land use document, the Plan will further iterate to reflect these priority themes. Whilst not requiring a change in the strategy they remain of integral importance to the land use planning system in moving forward as such further changes will be made as appropriate.

5. Policy Implications – Covid-19

5.1 The following list identifies specific policy areas where there may be amendments arising from, and in response to Covid-19. Please note the specific he amendments to the Plan are not detailed below but will form part of the Focused Changes and will be subject to public consultation ahead of submission for Examination. The list should not be viewed ad definitive and/or exhaustive:

| Policy | | Covid-19 Commentary |
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| Strategic Policy – SP1: Strategic Growth | | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| SG1: | Regeneration and Mixed-Use Sites | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| SG2: | Reserve Sites | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| SG3: | Pembrey Peninsula | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP2: Retail and Town Centres | | <p>Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. It is recognised that retail and notably town centres have been highlighted as an area impacted directly by the outbreak. Any changes to the policy will reflect evidence, contextual factors (changes in guidance) and the need to reflect recovery plans and proposals.</p> <p>Where appropriate further consideration to be given to the potential benefits on town centres and their attractiveness to consumers of Green Infrastructure etc.</p> |
| RTC1: | Carmarthen Town Centre | <p>Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. It is recognised that retail and notably town centres have been highlighted as an area impacted directly by the outbreak. Any changes to the policy will reflect evidence, contextual factors (changes in guidance) and the need to reflect recovery plans and proposals.</p> <p>Where appropriate further consideration to be given to the potential benefits on town centres and their attractiveness to consumers of Green Infrastructure etc.</p> |
| RTC2: | Protection of Local Shops and Facilities | <p>Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. It is recognised that retail and notably town centres have been highlighted as an area impacted directly by the outbreak. Any changes to the policy will reflect evidence, contextual factors (changes in guidance) and the need to reflect recovery plans and proposals.</p> <p>It is noted that the role of local retail and facilities make an important contribution to settlements and communities across the County, including those in a rural context. In this respect their role will be appropriately considered considering any evidence around a more local a convenience focused approach to accessing retail provision.</p> |

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| RTC3: | Retail in Rural Areas | <p>Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. It is recognised that retail and notably town centres have been highlighted as an area impacted directly by the outbreak. Any changes to the policy will reflect evidence, contextual factors (changes in guidance) and the need to reflect recovery plans and proposals.</p> <p>It is noted that the role of local retail and facilities make an important contribution to settlements and communities across the County, including those in a rural context. In this respect their role will be appropriately considered considering any evidence around a more local a convenience focused approach to accessing retail provision.</p> |
| Strategic Policy – SP3: A Sustainable Approach to Providing New Homes | | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration because of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| HOM1: | Housing Allocations | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM2: | Housing within Development Limits | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM3: | Homes in Rural Villages | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM4: | Homes in Non-Defined Rural Settlements | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM5: | Conversion or Subdivision of Existing Dwellings | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM6: | Specialist Housing | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM7: | Renovation of Derelict or Abandoned Dwellings | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM8: | Residential Caravans | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| HOM9: | Ancillary Residential Development | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP4: Affordable Homes Strategy | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| AHOM1: | Provision of Affordable Homes | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| AHOM2: | Affordable Homes- Exceptions Sites | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP5: Strategic Sites | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP6: Employment and the Economy | | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration because of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |

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| EME1: | Employment- Safeguarding of Employment Sites | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| EME2: | Employment- Extensions and Intensification | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| EME3: | Employment Proposals on Allocated Sites | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| EME4: | Employment Proposals on Non-Allocated Sites | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| EME5: | Home Working | Policy may require iteration to reflect issues arising from Covid-19 and the potential increase in home working. |
| Strategic Policy – SP7: Welsh Language and Culture | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. Note: reference should be had to any potential changes in demographic evidence and in migration. |
| WL1: | The Welsh Language and New Developments | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP8: Infrastructure | | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. |
| INF1: | Planning Obligations | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| INF2: | Healthy Communities | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. Reference is however had to the implications of Covid-19 on the more socially and economically challenged. |
| INF3: | Broadband and Telecommunications | Potential for amendment recognising the impacts arising from Covid-19 – the lockdown has seen an increase in home and remote working. This has further highlighted the importance of good and reliable broadband connections. The issue is particularly prevalent in our rural communities and is reflected in the Council's emerging recovery plans and proposals. |
| INF4: | Llanelli Waste Water Treatment Surface Water Disposal | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP9: Gypsy and Traveller Provision | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| GTP1: | Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |

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| Strategic Policy – SP10: The Visitor Economy | | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. The prominence in the immediate post lockdown of ‘staycations’ as an alternative to the disruption in foreign travel is noted. The short- or long-term nature of this trend will be considered as part of responding to the Council’s recovery plans and evidence. |
| VE1: | Visitor Attractions and Facilities | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. Refer to the comments in respect of SP10. |
| VE2: | Permanent Holiday Accommodation | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. Refer to the comments in respect of SP10. |
| VE3: | Touring Caravan, Camping and Glamping Sites | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. Refer to the comments in respect of SP10. |
| VE4: | Static Caravan and Chalet Sites | No specific changes identified. Policy may require iteration as a result of evidential review arising from Covid-19. Refer to the comments in respect of SP10. |
| Strategic Policy – SP11: Placemaking and Sustainable Places | | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. The policy includes provisions in relation to placemaking, Green Infrastructure and the impacts of climate change. However, a further review will be undertaken considering evidence and the Covid -19 and iterated accordingly. |
| PSD1: | Sustainable and High-Quality Design | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. The policy includes provisions in relation to placemaking and Green Infrastructure. However, a further review will be undertaken considering evidence and the Covid - 19 and iterated accordingly. |
| PSD2: | Masterplanning Principles – Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. |

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| | | The policy includes provisions in relation to placemaking, Green Infrastructure and the impacts of climate change. However, a further review will be undertaken considering evidence and the Covid -19 and iterated accordingly. |
| PSD3: | Green Infrastructure Network | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. The policy includes provisions in relation to placemaking and Green Infrastructure. However, a further review will be undertaken considering evidence and the Covid -19 and iterated accordingly. |
| PSD4: | Green Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. |
| PSD5: | Development and the Circular Economy | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| PSD6: | Community Facilities | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. The impact of Covid-19 on the most socially and economically challenged within communities is recognised. |
| PSD7: | Protection of Open Space | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. The impact of Covid-19 on the most socially and economically challenged within communities is recognised. |
| PSD8: | Provision of New Open Space | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. The impact of Covid-19 on the most socially and economically challenged within communities is recognised. |
| PSD9: | Advertisements | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| PSD10: | Extensions | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| PSD11: | Noise Pollution | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| PSD12: | Light and Air Pollution | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| PSD13: | Contaminated Land | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP12: Rural Development | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| RD1: | Replacement Dwelling in the Open Countryside | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| RD2: | Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Residential Use | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| RD3: | Farm Diversification | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| RD4: | Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings for Non-Residential Use | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| RD5: | Equestrian Facilities | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |

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| Strategic Policy – SP13: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| NE1: | Regional and Local Designations | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| NE2: | Biodiversity | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| NE3: | Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| NE4: | Development within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG Area | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| NE5: | Coastal Management | |
| NE6: | Coastal Development | |
| NE7: | Coastal Change Management Area | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| BHE1: | Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| BHE2: | Landscape Character | Limited potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. The policy includes provisions in relation to placemaking and Green Infrastructure. |
| Strategic Policy – SP15: Climate Change | | Potential for changes reflecting the impacts arising from Covid-19. Further scope to explore the relationship and compatibility with the Zero Carbon agenda. |
| CCH1: | Renewable Energy | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| CCH2: | Electric Vehicle Charging Points | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| CCH3: | Water Quality and Protection of Water Resources | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| CCH4: | Flood Risk Management and Avoidance | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| CCH5: | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| CCH6: | Climate Change – Forest, Woodland and Tree Planting | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP16: Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |

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| SD1: | Development Limits | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP17: Transport and Accessibility | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| TRA1: | Transport and Highways Infrastructural Improvements | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| TRA2: | Active Travel | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| TRA3: | Gwili Railway | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| TRA4: | Redundant Rail Corridors | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| TRA5: | Highways and Access Standards in Development | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP18: Mineral Resources | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| MR1: | Mineral Proposals | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| MR2: | Mineral Buffer Zones | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| MR3: | Mineral Safeguarding | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| Strategic Policy – SP19: Sustainable Waste Management | | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| WM1: | Sustainable Waste Management and New Development | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| WM2: | Landfill Proposals | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |
| WM3: | Agricultural Land – Disposal of Inert Waste | No Covid-19 related changes anticipated. |

Appendix 1

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| <p>Short Term Impact</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Generally, most developers were surprisingly positive and see the current crisis as a challenge but in some instances an opportunity. <input type="checkbox"/> Rent reduction / rent free windows being requested by a few tenants also some high-profile tenants not paying rent. <input type="checkbox"/> A few experiencing delays in incoming payments from tenants and clients. <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed response on availability and rates of bank finance. <input type="checkbox"/> Some construction materials difficult to get hold of such as plasterboard, plaster and concrete. <input type="checkbox"/> Material price rises inevitable in short term due to lack of supply and increasing demand. <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed response on anticipated values falling, some developers believe there will be no change others expecting problems with security / projected profit margins from expected devaluation. <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to plan for future as so many unknowns. <input type="checkbox"/> A number of projects have been delayed although several were looking to return to site shortly or had returned to site on a limited basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Delays being experienced with planning decisions (across Wales) and drainage responses etc. <input type="checkbox"/> HMRC furlough payments slow. <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciation of quick processing of business rates grant. <input type="checkbox"/> Utility companies only doing emergency work. <input type="checkbox"/> Current glut of available labour where previously in short supply |
| <p>Key Constraints</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planning process – needs to be more responsive. <input type="checkbox"/> Cost value GAP increasing low rentals higher costs. <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing costs. <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector too strong need to revitalise private sector. <input type="checkbox"/> WG withdrawal from Housing association bond scheme. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of reasonable bank and development bank financing at reasonable costs. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Gap funding schemes. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communication with local authority would be useful to have single point of contact. <input type="checkbox"/> Speculative development unlikely due to higher risk etc <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertainty on end values. <input type="checkbox"/> Lost income / lack of productivity |
| <p>Opportunities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demand still exists for high quality properties. <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities to market stock / development sites to companies in key cities across UK looking to lower costs and increase quality of life to employees. <input type="checkbox"/> Residential market strong plus relocations as above. <input type="checkbox"/> Cheap stock and land for acquisition. <input type="checkbox"/> Local and consistent procurement. <input type="checkbox"/> Remote working practices / IT. <input type="checkbox"/> Less competition. <input type="checkbox"/> Staycations. <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement villages vs care homes. <input type="checkbox"/> Live / work schemes. <input type="checkbox"/> Creative hubs. <input type="checkbox"/> Appetite for joint venture working with Council. <input type="checkbox"/> More efficient working practices, IT, home working, TEAMS, reduced travel costs etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for off-site working in construction sector. |
| <p>Public and Private Sector Interventions Required</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gap funding support scheme / Property Development Fund. <input type="checkbox"/> Higher intervention rates to assist with growing development gap figure. <input type="checkbox"/> Forum of developers. <input type="checkbox"/> Support to assist with deferring private sector tenants rent. <input type="checkbox"/> Rental guarantees from LA. <input type="checkbox"/> Joint venture projects potentially LA asset backed. <input type="checkbox"/> Seed funding for development of innovative / risky projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Low interest or zero interest/ fee commercial borrowing. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce / remove / freeze section 106 contributions. <input type="checkbox"/> Use section 106 funds for economic development. <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ordinated marketing of development / relocation site. |