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WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY 2021

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL MEETING** OF THE **COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD **AT 10.00 AM, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY, 2021** 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

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

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COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2021

PRESENT: Councillor I.W. Davies (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
 J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities
 P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
 R. Mullen, Director of Environment
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
 G. Williams, Team Leader
 R.M. Davies, Strategic Housing Delivery Manager
 G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
 M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
 E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer
 C.J. Warwick, Digital Support Engineer
 S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
 J. Corner, Technical Officer
 J. Hawker, Digital Support Officer
 E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer
 K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 2.40 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.A. Davies, P.E.M. Edwards, A, Fox and T.J. Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
S.J.G Gilasbey	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Family member works as a teacher in one of the schools mentioned in the report
S.J.G Gilasbey	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	LA Governor at Ysgol Gwenllian
S.J.G. Gilasbey	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member is a council tenant
K. Lloyd	5.4 – The Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-24	Owns shares in Carmarthenshire Energy Ltd
K. Madge	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Daughter works in Social Care
J. James	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family members are Council tenants
J. James	5.4 – The Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-24	Family members are Council tenants
H.A.L. Evans	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Sister is Chief Executive of a Housing Association
H.A.L. Evans	5.4 – The Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-24	Sister is Chief Executive of a Housing Association

B.A.L. Roberts	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Family member works in Social Care
B.A.L. Roberts	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	LA Governor at Pen Rhos and Coedcae Schools
S.L. Davies	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	LA Governor at Schools
S.L. Davies	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member owns property
D.C. Evans	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Wife works in the Council's Contact Centre
S. Najmi	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	LA Governor at Penygaer School
G.L. Davies	6 – Meeting of the Executive Board – 8 th February 2021	Minute 14 – Crown Precinct Building Llanelli
A.G. Morgan	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Tenant at Unit 4 Delta Lakes, Llanelli
T. Higgins	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Niece works in the Library Service
T. Higgins	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	LA Governor at Tycroes School
E. Dole	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Son works for the Authority
E. Dole	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	Son works for the Authority
S. Curry	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member is a council tenant
D. Price	5.3 – Housing Revenue	Family member is a

	Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	council tenant
R. James	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Partner works in the Library Service
R. James	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at Ysgol Dewi Sant
P.M. Hughes	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at St Clears School
P.M. Hughes	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member is a council tenant
D. Thomas	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	LA Governor at Blaenau School
D. Thomas	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family members own house rented out by the Council
A.D.T. Speake	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at Model School
J. James	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at schools in Burry Port
J. Edmunds	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Family member works for the Authority
J. Edmunds	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at two schools in Llanelli
A McPherson	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at two schools in Llanelli
D. Nicholas	5.1 – Revenue Budget	Daughter works in

	Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Planning
D. Nicholas	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at Llandybie school
B.D.J Phillips	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at Bro Brynach and Beca Schools
J.S. Phillips	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at Pwll School and Ysgol y Ffwrnes
J. Tremlett	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	L.A. Governor and Chair of Governors at at Laugharne VCP School
P.M. Hughes	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Daughter works for the Authority
L. Bowen	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Wife works for the Authority
A Vaughan Owen	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Wife works for the Authority
G. Jones	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Wife works for the Authority
G. Jones	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at two schools in Llanelli
R. Evans	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Family Member works for the Authority
R. Evans	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26	L.A. Governor at two schools in Llanelli

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair, on behalf of the Council, conveyed his condolences to Councillor Dole, and his family, following the passing of Councillor Dole's mother;
- Councillor Carys Jones addressed Council on Endometriosis Awareness Week 2021 running from the 1st to the 7th March 2021;
- Councillor Ken Lloyd extended his congratulations to Julia Ma from Carmarthen on winning the prestigious Richard & Judy "Search for a Best Seller" competition 2020 for her debut novel Happy Families.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY 2021

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 10th February, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

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

5.1. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2023/24

(NOTE:

1. The Monitoring Officer advised Councillors that if they had declared an earlier interest by virtue of being LA School Governor's they need not declare that interest again as the report related to the Council's general Revenue Budget
2. Councillors D. C Evans, E. Dole, T. Higgins, K. Madge, B.A.L Roberts, A.G. Morgan, and J. Edmunds, repeated their earlier declarations
3. Councillors L.R. Bowen, A. Vaughan Owen, G. Jones, P. Hughes and R. Evans declared an interest at the start of this item as they had family members employed by the Authority)

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd February 2020 (Minute 6 refers) had considered the Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 and made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the report of the Director of Corporate Services, for Council's consideration.

Council received a presentation by the Executive Board Member for Resources, on behalf of the Executive Board, in which he set out the background to the budget proposals being presented to the Council for consideration together with the responses received to the budget consultation.

The Executive Board Member for Resources informed Council that the report brought together the latest position on the Revenue Budget Strategy and detailed the Executive Board recommendations on concluding the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/22 to 2023/24. He added that the Welsh Government's budget process had been much later than normal for 2021/22 with the final settlement figures having been published the previous day (2nd March) and its final budget not being debating until the 9th March.

The Executive Board Member advised that the final settlement confirmed the Council's revenue and capital allocations had been unchanged in line with the provisional figures along with some changes to specific grants. The Welsh Government had also confirmed the sum of £206m for the Covid 19 Hardship Fund to support additional costs and loss of income relating to the pandemic for the first 6 months of the next financial year (2021/22).

The Executive Board Member advised that a review undertaken of the key components of the budget assumptions and allocations had provided some

increased budget headroom, when compared with the original budget proposal, resulting in some of the proposals being revisited and further options considered.

The Executive Board Member for Resources reported that full details of the provisional settlement were detailed within the report (which had been confirmed unchanged in the final settlement). The headline was on all Wales basis with the average funding for Local Government having increased by 3.8%, with Carmarthenshire also receiving 3.8%. Whilst this had enabled the authority to allocate funding in the budget for a significant amount of inflationary and unavoidable pressures, it still required savings to be made despite the welcomed funding increase, as the plan included a significant value of savings deferred into future years, due to the impact of covid. Whilst those changes had been accommodated within next year's budget, there would still be a need to deliver further significant savings over future years, which would need to recommence as the impact of covid hopefully receded.

He advised that, as detailed within the report, the Director of Corporate Services had made adjustments to some of the other figures within the strategy as part of the normal routine as clearer and more information became available and the current total validation added some £10.0m to the budget.

The Executive Board Member advised that whilst the report reduced the pay assumption from the allocated 2.75% in the draft budget to 2.5% for each year, that remained the most significant validation assumption. However, the pay offer did not apply to teachers who were covered by separate pay arrangements within the remit of Welsh Government. The September 2020 award equated to an increase of 3.1% and the part year effect of that was combined with a consistent assumption of 2.5% for any future awards, although it was also recognised as a key risk to the budget.

It was stated that the draft budget proposals, consulted upon in January 2021, assumed validation of confirmed pay and inflationary pressures to schools, and that remained the case for the final proposals. There were no savings allocated to schools next year, thereby enabling headteachers and all school staff to focus on helping Carmarthenshire's learners get back on track after a hugely disruptive year.

The Executive Board Member advised that, as stated earlier, changes to some of the key assumptions around future pay awards and the impact of delays in the capital programme had provided scope to make some changes to the Strategy. That had resulted in the sum of £958,000 being available to make some critical adjustments to the budget strategy and the Executive Board had made the following adjustments thereto, taking into account the outcome of the consultation process and responding to the feedback from both public and councillors:

- To remove both the gulley cleansing and road sweeping savings proposals;
- To reduce the highways surface dressing savings proposal from £300k down to just £100k.
- To provide additional funding of £75k for the TrueCall service
- To provide funding of £50k for increased Education department capacity to deliver improved financial and governance support as part of the department's responsibility for the overall schools' system

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised those changes had allowed the Executive Board to cap the council tax increase to 3.95% for 2021/22. However, as referred to earlier, the final settlement had only been received the previous day whereby clarity provided on the first six months funding of the Covid 19 Hardship Fund had eliminated significant financial risks within the budget. That had enabled the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and himself, in accordance with the Executive Boards agreement, to make any necessary adjustments to the strategy. As a consequence, it was therefore now being proposed that the Council tax increase be further reduced to 3.45%, which could be achieved through the utilisation of an element of the forecasted current year underspend as a one-off contribution to the capital programme thereby releasing £450k of revenue funding to support the economic stimulus package.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that should the Council adopt the budget proposals, with the council tax amendment, it allowed the Executive Board to present a fair, balanced, sustainable and viable budget to County Council.

The following amendment was proposed and seconded:

“We feel this Council can do more and reduce the Council Tax increase to 2.95% and remove cuts in services to our most vulnerable.

This will be funded by additional efficiency and reducing contingency funds down to £490,000

Efficiencies to Introduce:

£200,000 employee travel costs (Revenue saving)

£100,00 consultants' fees (Revenue Saving)

Cuts to remove:

Coroners - £19,000

Surface Dressing - £100,00

Domiciliary Care - £218,000

Day Care Services - £50,000

Supported Living (Reducing package of support) - £23,000

Cost of 1% Council Tax Cut £900,00

Current proposed contingency fund £1,500,000

Efficiency savings £300,000

Cost of removing cuts and lowering council tax £1,310,000

New contingency fund £490,000

The Proposer outlined the rationale for the amendment

The Director of Corporate Services, in response to a question confirmed that while the proposed amendments were legal, he considered them to be imprudent given current financial challenges and risks faced by the authority in the forthcoming years and the issue of reducing the proposed contingency fund.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the substantive Motion and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Motion be adopted and the following recommendations of the Executive Board, as amended to further reduce the council tax increase to 3.45%, be adopted:-

6.1 That the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

6.1.1 The Budget Strategy for 2021/22 (attached) be approved subject to the following amendments:

2021/22:-

The removal of the gully cleansing saving proposal of £70k;

The removal of the road sweeping saving proposal of £93k;

(The original efficiencies for these proposals would however still be implemented, leading to an overall increase in capacity in recognition of concerns over the impact of adverse weather events)

The reduction of the highways road surfacing saving proposal from £300k to £100k;

Funding of £75k to be provided to support wider rollout of the TrueCall service to vulnerable residents to prevent telephone fraudsters;

Funding of £50k to provide a new challenge advisor role to provide additional governance and finance support.

6.1.2 That the Band D Council Tax for 2021/22 be set at £1,361.97 (an increase of 3.45% for 2021/22);

6.1.3 That of the £958k recurrent funding available, £488k be used in full to support the proposed amendments in 6.1.1, with the remaining £470k being applied to reduce the increase in Council Tax in 6.1.2 above in conjunction with the further £450k released from the revenue funding of the capital programme and noted by the Executive Board Member for Resources in his presentation

6.1.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as the basis for future years planning”

5.2. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) - 2021/22 TO 2025/26

(NOTE:

1. Councillors S.J.G Gilasbey, R. James and E. Dole having earlier made declarations on this item repeated those declarations;
2. Councillor A.D.T. Speake in response to a statement made during the meeting to him having been thrown out of the Plaid Cymru Group clarified that was not the position and he had left on his own volition)

The Executive Board Member for Resources presented to the Council, on behalf of the Executive Board, the Five-Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/26, which took into account the consultation exercise undertaken and the Welsh Government settlement. The Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd February, 2020 [minute 7 refers] had considered the Programme and had made a number of recommendations for Council's consideration.

The Executive Board Member for Resources stated that the proposed capital programme which anticipated a spend of nearly £258m over the five years from 2021/22 to 2025/26, optimised funding opportunities and maximised funding from potential external sources. A combination of existing and new schemes would develop the local economy, create jobs and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

The detailed provisional capital programme had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February for consultation and no matters of concern were raised during that consultation. An extract from the relevant minute of the meeting was included in Appendix C to the report.

He advised that County Council funding available for the programme was estimated to be £122.5m and included borrowing; both supported and unsupported, capital receipts, reserves, and direct revenue funding, with a further £135m anticipated from external grant funding bodies. While the final settlement from the Welsh Government for 2021/22 was received on the 2nd March 2021, no additional general capital funding had been awarded to that set out in the provisional settlement - detailed in the main report. Furthermore, the Welsh Government had not provided any forward indicators in respect of general capital funding beyond 2021/22, and, therefore the proposed capital programme had been based on future years supported borrowing and general grant being at the same level as 2021/22.

The Executive Board Member for Resources further advised of additional currently unallocated funding capacity totalling £4m between years 4 and 5 of the programme which would remain unallocated for the time being and utilised as other costs and funding sources crystallised as time progressed.

The Executive Board Member advised while many of the investments in the report were familiar, including the 21st century schools programme, Highways, Regeneration and Housing, it had been possible to add investment to schemes considered to be important for the county to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those included:-

- Economic Regeneration – Targeted regeneration Investment (£1.2m); Commercial Property Development Fund (£1m); Rural Enterprise Fund (£500k) and £1m for the 'Ten Towns' growth plan enabling the authority to draw in considerable private sector investment to the county (Appendix B to

the report). Additionally, the £500k approved in 2020/21 for decarbonisation of the council's estate would be repurposed for Renewal Energy Initiative Grants to business to act as a catalyst for private investment in that area and reduce the county's carbon footprint;

- Infrastructure – Trebeddrod Reservoir (£1m), Morfa Bacas coastal path (£300k); public lighting column replacement (£400k p.a. from 2024/25) and a £300k commitment to invest in council owned farms for 2024/25;
- Community Services – ongoing commitment to supporting investment in culture at Oriol Myrddin and continued support for private sector housing in 2024/25 for Disabled Facilities Grants;
- Environment Department – continued support for Highways Improvements, Bridge Maintenance and Road safety schemes into 2025/26. Council funding on Highway maintenance would continue to be bolstered in 2021/22 via the Welsh Government Road Refurbishment Grant ;
- Council Estate – additional funding for essential works to County Hall (£500k) and health and safety works to Ty Elwyn (£700k) on top of the ongoing programme of capital maintenance across the wider estate;
- Education Department – although no new monies had been awarded at the present time, the Council's commitment to its 21st Century Schools investment programme was unwavering
- In addition to the recovery package in 2021/22, the Regeneration budget was supported with further additional investment in the Transformation Strategy Project Fund in 2025/26 which had the potential to attract significant external funding to match the council's investment

The Executive Board Member advised that comprehensive details of the proposed programme was set out in Appendix A to the report and officers would continue to monitor individual schemes and funding availability. Whilst both those factors would need to be closely managed to ensure the schemes were delivered in full, the current programme was fully funded for the five years and included potential for further investments in years 4 and 5, given the yet unallocated £4m of funds available for those years.

He advised that Appendix D to the report detailed the council's Capital Strategy document, which was required by the prudential code of capital finance and set out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions were made and gave due consideration to both risk and reward and the impact on achievement of priority outcomes.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that it was believed the proposed Capital Programme sought to maximise opportunities, was comprehensive and ambitious but above all, in these uncertain times, focussed on economic stimulation and recovery. He therefore, on behalf of Executive Board, commended the Capital Programme, as presented, for County Council for final approval.

Reference was made to the proposed fully funded capital programme and to the current unallocated sum of £4m for years 4 and 5 of the programme. The following amendment was therefore proposed, and seconded, that a proportion of that money be allocated as follows:-

- MEP school building programme - £2.5m
- Carbon Neutral Investment - Tree Planting on council land £200k and provision of electric vehicle charging points £250k
- Flood Defence works - £300k
- Changing places toilet provision - £100k

The Proposer outlined the rationale for the amendment

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported

DURATION OF MEETING

During the consideration of this item the Council's attention was drawn to Corporate Procedure Rule 9 – Duration of meeting and the fact the meeting had been underway for nearly three hours. It was therefore

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Corporate Procedure Rule 9 be suspended to enable the remaining items on the agenda to be considered.

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be accepted:-

- “7.1 The Five-Year Capital Programme and its funding detailed in Appendix A to the report with 2021/22 being a hard budget and 2022/23 to 2025/26 soft/indicative budgets be approved;**
7.2 The programme be reviewed, as usual, if anticipated external or County Council funding did not materialise;
7.3 The Capital Strategy, as detailed in Appendix D be approved.”

At 12.53 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a comfort break and reconvened at 1.00 p.m.

5.3. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021/22 TO 2023/24 AND HOUSING RENT SETTING FOR 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL

(NOTE: Councillors S. Curry, S.J.G. Gilasbey, H.A.L. Evans, P.M. Hughes, J. James, D. Thomas and D. Price having earlier declared an interest in this item, reiterated those declarations and left the meeting during its consideration)

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd February, 2021 [minute 8 refers] had considered the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 and had made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the Director of Corporate Services' report, for Council's consideration. It was noted that the report had also been considered, and endorsed, by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 2nd February 2021 as part of the budget consultation process.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that the report brought together the latest proposals for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Housing

Revenue Account 2021/24 and reflected the latest proposals contained within the 30 year Business Plan, being the primary financial planning tool for delivering the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard *Plus* (CHS+) for the future.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that capital investment in the region of £231m had delivered the Carmarthenshire Home Standard for tenants and, more recently, up to the end of the current financial year, a further £64m would have been spent in maintaining the CHS+ home standard for properties and tenants. Over the next 3 years it was expected that a further £56m would be spent on maintaining and upgrading the housing stock. The budget also provided funding of some £49m over the next 3 years to support the Affordable Homes Programme, which was on top of the £45m expenditure already incurred to the end of this current financial year. The Strategy would also see the increase in the supply of affordable housing throughout the County through various solutions including our new build programme (such as Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port and Dylan, Bynea) and the buyback scheme.

The Council was reminded that since 2015 the Authority had been required to adopt the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rent Harmonisation, meaning that the proposed rent increase was prescribed by Welsh Government guidance and provided an equitable distribution of the rents for the social sector tenants. While that policy ended in 2018/19, and an interim policy applied for 2019/20 the Welsh Government had subsequently developed a new policy for implementation in 2020/21 to apply for a period of 5 years from 2020/21 and contained some additional/amended requirements, as detailed within the report. The main elements of that policy allowed Local Authorities to uplift the total rent envelope by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) +1% for each of the five years to 2024/25. It also allowed for the level of rent for individual tenants to rise by up to an additional £2 over and above CPI +1% for rent harmonisation, on condition that total rental income collected by the social landlord increased by no more than CPI +1%.

The Executive Board Member advised that in order for the Authority to meet its previous commitment to tenants by implementing the harmonisation policy and establishing a fairer rent level for all tenants the Executive Board had made a number of recommendations as detailed within the report for Council's consideration.

Reference was made to the current economic climate resulting from Covid 19 and the following amendment was proposed and seconded

“that the Council freeze the proposed rent increases for 2021/22”

The proposer explained the rationale for the amendment

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the substantive Motion and it was:-

FURTHER RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

- “8.1 To increase the average housing rent as per the Welsh Government’s Social Housing Rents Policy i.e:-**
- a) Properties at target rents to increase by 1.27%**
 - b) Properties where rent was below target rent, rent to increase by 1.27% plus a maximum progression of £1.00**
 - c) Those rents above target rent be frozen until such time as they met the target**
 - d) This will produce an increase on the average housing rent of 1.5% or £1.35**

Thereby producing a sustainable Business Plan, maintain CHS+, resource our Affordable Homes programme and was supported by the CHS+ Steering Group.

- 8.2 To implement a maximum progression of £1.00 for rents below target, until target rents were achieved;**
- 8.3 To maintain garage rents at £9.00 per week and garage bases at £2.25 per week;**
- 8.4 To apply the service charge policy to ensure tenants who received the benefit from specific services paid for those services;**
- 8.5 To increase charges for using the Council’s sewerage treatment works in line with the rent increases;**
- 8.6 To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22 (2022/23 & 2023/24 being soft budgets) as set out in Appendix A to the report;**
- 8.7 To approve the proposed Capital Programme and applicable funding for 2021/22 and the indicative spends for 2022/23 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix B to the report”.**

5.4. THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD PLUS (CHS+) BUSINESS PLAN 2021-24

(NOTE:

1. Councillor H.A.L. Evans having earlier declared an interest in this item was not in attendance during its consideration ;
2. Councillor K. Lloyd having earlier declared an interest in this item repeated that declaration)

The Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd February 2021 (Minute 9 refers) had considered the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-2024, the purpose of which was to:-

- Explain the vision and detail of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus over the next three years, and what it means for tenants
- To show the income received from tenants and other funding sources afforded a capital programme of £107m over the next three years to:

- Build over 400 affordable homes;
- Improve and maintain the existing stock
- Develop new standards for energy efficiency and move towards carbon neutral homes
- To show how the housing investment programmes could help stimulate the economy and recovery from Covid-19
- Produce a business plan for the annual application to Welsh Government for Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) for 2021/22, equating to £6.2m.

The Executive Board Member for Housing presented the annual Business Plan for the CHS+ that detailed the plans, priorities and actions for developing new homes for the future and maintaining current stock for the next period, in consultation with the Council tenants. It also enabled the Council to submit its annual application to the Welsh Government for the Major Repairs Allowance grant, which for 2021/22 was in the sum of £6.2m.

The Executive Board Member for Housing advised that Page 6 of the report detailed what works had been undertaken during the last period together with a chart showing what the rent income contributed towards. The Plan allowed the Authority to keep developing its standards and looking at its agenda as it moved forward towards its decarbonisation programme. It also ensured it remained ambitious in building more new affordable homes throughout Carmarthenshire. Pages 7 and 8 detailed the Plan's principles, being the basis of the Plan and, with solid foundations in place, the path ahead should be smooth.

The Executive Board Member for Housing advised the Plan was divided into the following four key themes aimed at driving the business forward for the next three years and she outlined the work being undertaken under each theme:-

1. Theme 1 – Supporting Tenants and Residents;
2. Theme 2 – Investing in Homes and the Environment, including the development of a new Welsh Home Quality Standard, building on that already achieved through the CHS+, featuring an increased standard for energy efficiency in the Council's homes;
3. Theme 3 – Providing 500 more homes by investing £60m in the next four years together with the development of a new 10 year Affordable Housing and Regeneration Masterplan by Autumn 2021;
4. Theme 4 – Foundational economy, community benefits and procurement via the authority's response to Covid-19 by further developing the Council's approach to procurement to ensure it maximised its contribution to local economy prosperity and enhancing its focus on social value and community wealth

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

- “9.1 The vision of the CHS+, the Council's new build programme, the financial and delivery programmes over the next three years be confirmed;**
- 9.2 The 2021/22 Business Plan be submitted to the Welsh Government;**
- 9.3 The principles behind moving towards carbon neutral homes**

and developing a decarbonisation strategy to support that be noted;

- 9.4 The importance of the investment included in the plan and its role in simulating the local economy and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic be noted”.

5.5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2021-22

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on 22nd February, 2021 (minute 10 refers) had considered the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2021/22.

The Executive Board Member advised Council that in line with the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council must maintain a Treasury Management Policy detailing the policies and objectives of the Authority’s treasury management activities and also approve a Treasury Management Strategy annually before the start of the financial year to which it relates. In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003, the Council was required to approve the Treasury Management Indicators for the coming year.

In accordance with the above requirements, Council considered the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for the 2021/22 financial year.

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

- “10.1 The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2021-22 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
10.2 The Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein be approved”.

6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 8TH FEBRUARY 2021

(NOTE:

1. Councillor A.D.T. Speake having earlier declared an interest in this item, repeated that declaration and left the meeting during consideration of minute 3 within the report relating to Model School;
2. Councillor G. Davies having earlier declared an interest in minute 14 repeated that declaration but remained in the meeting as no discussion was undertaken thereon)

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 8th February 2021 be received.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no Notices of Motion had been received.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

8.1. QUESTION BY MR M. REED TO COUNCILLOR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Is Councillor Campbell happy with the progress that has been made by the Dyfed Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuels in accordance with the Council’s motion passed at the meeting on the 9th of October 2019 calling on the Fund to divest completely from fossil fuels within two years and to reinvest in local renewable energy projects?”

Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs:-

“Thank you Mr Reed for your question and, as you know the Council is the administering authority for the £3bn Dyfed Pension Fund and you will also probably know it involves over 60 organisation members and the decision made on investments has to have the approval of all the members not just Carmarthenshire County Council. So, the fund is a long-term investor responsible for looking after the interests of beneficiaries over many decades into the future. But climate risk and progressing to a low carbon environment is top of the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee’s agenda.

Whilst it is difficult to be specific on fossil fuel investments, about 2.9% of the Fund is currently invested in the energy sector. Now this has come down from about 4.5% in 2018 so the direction of travel is obviously moving in the right way

The Fund has, as I mentioned, made great strides forward on transferring investments into low carbon funds which started by investing £120m in the BlackRock UK Strategic Alternative Income Fund which includes investments in local renewable power.

The Dyfed Pension Fund Committee has recently approved an allocation of 10% (which works out to be £300m) of the Fund’s assets to a BlackRock “Reduced Fossil Fuels” passive global equity strategy and this will further reduce the total investments in fossil fuels and this will be recalculated at a later date.

And, finally, the establishment of the Wales Pension Partnership, which is an investment pool for all 8 Welsh Local Government Pension Scheme. In 2017 it provided the opportunity to the Dyfed Pension Fund to increase by 5% (about £150m) of its allocation to the Wales Pension Partnership Global Growth Fund which includes an investment in a Paris Agreement Aligned Fund.

So, as you can see, from what I’ve just mentioned the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee has a strategy in place to further increase in low carbon fund investments over the next 12 months which will continue the measured and responsible journey. So, although the fund has made great strides, there is, I acknowledge, some distance to travel again before we reach our goal. I hope that answers your question Mr Reed.

Mr Reed asked the following supplementary question:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council are one of the main contributors of the fund and what more can be done to move maybe to a different pension provider, bearing in mind that the Dyfed Pension Fund lost £63m last year because of the falling value of fossil fuel shares. So, what’s your view on that?”

Councillor Campbell responded as follows:-

“Okay, so thank you for the supplementary. My view would obviously be an objective view in this instance. I don’t sit on the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee so, I have no direct influence on their investment strategy. But certainly, they have heard me talk many times about the need to disinvest. So, they are very much aware of that and as we all have investments, personal investments, they do fluctuate as we know and they can go up in value and then they can reduce in value. So that is the risk that we all take in making investments. But, I can certainly assure you Mr Reed that they in terms of the direction of travel are very much aware of the political pressure that I, and others, are putting on them to divest away from fossil fuels and, as I’ve mentioned, evidence has quite clearly shown that we’ve gone a long way to achieve that but I also acknowledge there’s quite a way to go yet and I will keep on putting pressure on the fund committee to divest even more.

8.2. QUESTION BY MS. J MANSFIELD TO COUNCILLOR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

“Please could you itemise what progress has been made this year towards the goal of Carbon Neutrality for the Authority by 2030 and also indicate what progress is in the pipeline for the coming year towards the carbon neutral goal?”

Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs:-

“Thank you very much Jane for the question. As you will be aware, two years ago we declared a climate emergency and a year ago, as promised, we drew up a net zero carbon plan and it’s our intention to report on progress made against the actions and targets in that plan annually. So, the action plan on this first year is going before the Environmental and Public protection Scrutiny Committee this coming Friday. The report and the details around progress is now in the public domain. If you want to look at those details, they are available on Carmarthenshire County Council’s website or, alternatively, one of the admin staff can send you a link to that particular report at the end of this meeting if you so wish. But just to give a little bit of detail around the report, let me just put this in context first of all. Let me say this last year, as we all know, has been unprecedented as Covid 19 has presented many challenges for us a Council. And, as a result, many of our staff have been redeployed to help the county’s response to the pandemic. So, it means the people who would have normally been working on the net zero carbon plan were pulled away from that work for obvious reasons to deal with the urgency of the pandemic. But, nevertheless, considerable progress has been made on several initiatives. Now, I could list you a whole range of actions that we have done work on but, I’m just going to pull up maybe one or two but the rest of the detail is in the plan on our website

I think the first thing I need to say is that the headline figure for 2019/20 is that our overall carbon footprint reduced by 2.9% compared to 2018/19. And, it won't come as a surprise to you although, this isn't in the report that early figures and data that we've had for this last calendar year has seen a marked reduction in carbon emissions in Carmarthenshire and also an increase in air quality. Now this obviously has come about because of the pandemic and fewer people travelling by car and so on. But this will be reported in next year's action plan report.

Very briefly, If I can mention a few other projects in order to fulfil our net zero carbon ambition. We've delivered on the Re:fit Cymru project to achieve Energy and carbon savings. Although, work was delayed due to Covid, work recommenced last September and now most Phase 1 projects on the 30 sites will be completed by the end of this month. So, this will result in overall carbon savings of about 675 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year and, added to that we've added additional LED lighting into some of the sites as well.

We've also got some outstanding works to be completed by September of this year on LED lighting in two care homes facilities plus two solar PV schemes – one at a care home, and the other large one, potentially, at Parc Dewi Sant and we are, finally, working on the Re-Fit Cymru Scheme on new build developments and we currently have 5 new build schemes which will provide 114 homes, with a further 21 developments in the pipeline. In these homes we are putting in high levels of insulation in place using the 'Passivhaus' principles and also will include modern technologies such as Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery, electrical vehicle charging points, plus solar panels and battery storage.

So, Jane, I could go on, but I think that gives you a sense of what we've managed to achieve in a very very challenging year. I hope that answers your question

There was no supplementary question

8.3. QUESTION BY MR P. HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR C CAMPBELL, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"I was so pleased to see Carmarthenshire County Council declare a Climate Emergency in 2019.

As part of the budget debate I would like to ask how much has been invested in renewable energy generation by the Council since the declaration of the Climate Emergency of 20/2/19?"

Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs:-

"Thank you for the question Mr Hughes. I think I need to start off by saying due to the historical development of Carmarthenshire County Council and the nature of the buildings that we have we will never be able to reach a point where we are completely carbon free because of the residual output relating to some of our old, very old buildings which is why we emphasise that we aim to be net zero carbon by 2030. Now the net zero is an important element of our declaration because we

aim to primarily compensate or, off set, our residual carbon footprint by increasing the amount of renewable energy we generate on the Council's estate.

However, we do face a problem and this was raised earlier on in our budget debate this morning by Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen. We have a problem with our Distribution Network Operator - Western Power – We have a blockage, we have a lack of capacity on the national grid which hinders our ambition to create more renewable energy projects. There is very little additional capacity available on the electricity distribution network as I mentioned for large-scale renewable energy installations. Which is what we ideally need in terms of solar panels and wind turbines and even hydro. I was talking about large scale renewal energy projects that we absolutely need in order to provide that offsetting exercise. So we are in discussions with Western Power, we are in discussions as well on a regional basis with other local authorities to see whether we can put some influence on the distribution network to allow us more capacity. But, unfortunately, this is beyond our control because obviously Western Power and Welsh Government need to get involved and it is some thing we are giving priority to.

However, despite the blockages and the challenges we face in getting large scale projects on board, we have achieved some positive outcomes with much smaller projects and some of them I'll just quickly refer to. We put solar pv panels on 10 sites in our Re-fit Cymru project and this equated to about an installed capacity of **460 kW**. And also in in our new build programmes, which I was referring to in an earlier question. So, it is frustrating for us but we can do small scale projects, which we have been doing, on our properties, but it's only going to scratch the surface until we grasp the major hurdle or cross that major hurdle we have in getting more capacity in the national grid network. So, I hope that explains our frustration Mr Hughes but also giving you an insight to the small projects that we are undertaking.

Mr Hughes, before asking a supplementary question asked if his first question could be answered first which 'how much has been invested in renewable energy not, what are the issues and the frustrations you've got. The question I asked was how much has been invested.

Cllr Campbell in response stated "Okay, as I explained, what we have done is invested in the retro-fit programme on the new development sites and also on some Council homes that we own and this as I mentioned has increased our total installed capacity by 460kw to 1.65mw. I think that's quite a good increase and I fully understand we need to do more but, we will never reach our net zero target unless we sort out the problem with the national grid capacity issue. I can't really over-estimate how important it is to us to achieve that

Mr Hughes – So can you answer my question Councillor Campbell which is how much has been invested?

Councillor Campbell – Sorry do you mean in terms of the financial investment. I haven't got those figures at hand, I was wondering whether your question was around the actual outcomes of the investment in terms of carbon reduction which I guess would have been of more interest to you than the actual financial investment but, I'm happy to send on the data and the details around the financial investment we've made after today's meeting if that's okay with you?

Mr Hughes asked the following supplementary question:-

“I’m in the process of fitting solar panels, pv panels, to my house which to me seems a very simple way of generating renewable energy at home here. Can you tell me how many of the Council’s domestic homes are due to have solar panels fitted say, in the next year?”

Councillor Campbell responded as follows:-

“As I mentioned, all of our new developments are going to have the Re-fit scheme which includes solar panels, battery charging, insulation and so on. We’ve also got a scheme in Glanmor Terrace which includes I think about 18 homes where we are retro fitting with solar panels and other schemes as well and Councillor Linda Evans referred to this in an earlier presentation she made around our council housing stock is that we are using the rent on that housing stock to reinvest in decarbonisation. It is one of our major priorities and decarbonisation of our current stock of council homes is a priority and we are using some of that council rent revenue to make that investment.

**8.4. QUESTION BY MR G. PARKER TO COUNCILLOR C CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL
AFFAIRS**

“The Budget Digest 2020/21 published 1/2/21, made no mention of new renewable energy installations in the 5 year budget, which could help the Council meet its Net Zero Carbon Plan by 2030.

The entire energy requirements of the Council, 20GWh electricity and 44GWh heating per year, could be provided renewably by investing in solar panels with battery backup installed on buildings and car parks where the energy is used, for self-consumption only, at a cost of around £41m, fully funded by interest free Government Salix loans, at no cost to Carmarthenshire’s Council Tax payers.

The Salix loans would be paid back over 8 years through energy savings. Then all energy would be free of charge to the Council, saving £4.8m / year, which could be used to provide better services to the community.

Details and calculations have been given in the web page in your agenda pack

Why is the Council not taking advantage of this ideal opportunity to become self-sufficient in renewable energy?”

**Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for
Communities and Rural Affairs:-**

“Thank you Mr Parker for your question. A part of your question relates to again our ability to create renewable energy as a local authority and in my answer to a previous question, we are hindered by the lack of capacity on the local distribution network and that does cause us a great frustration as I mentioned earlier on because we have schemes on our brownfield land that we own as a local authority. We have schemes for solar panels and wind turbines but, unfortunately, we can’t proceed with those schemes at the moment. Hopefully, within the next

two years we can lobby Western Power and Welsh Government to provide the resources to enable us to do that, then we can move forward extremely quickly.

So, in terms of the Salix work that you refer to specifically, we have made great strides in reducing the carbon footprint in our non-domestic buildings and in particular with the interest free Salix invest to save programme, we have invested as a local authority in that particular scheme over £2m in some 200 energy efficiency projects. Now this investment is projected to save over 41,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over the lifetime of the installed technology. This investment, coupled with the Council's on-going property rationalisation, which I mentioned regarding the council homes for example, the agile working that we are currently discussing and maintenance programmes as well is producing financial and carbon savings in times of increasing utility prices.

One final point, we are reducing our carbon footprint as well in terms of our street lighting. We recently completed the conversion of over 80% of our 20,000 street lighting lanterns to low energy light-emitting diode (LED lighting) with interest-free funding from Welsh Government's Programme. So, the remaining street lighting already use low energy dimming lanterns but these will be changed to LED at end of life. And, finally, we also maintain approximately 4,300 community Street Lights on behalf of the 72 town and community councils. These again are being converted to LED with energy efficient dimmable lanterns put in place as well.

So, despite our frustrations around the lack of capacity on the national grid, I can vouch that we are still managing to achieve a large number of energy savings. So, I hope that answers your question.

Mr Parker asked the following supplementary question:-

"There's a bit of a misunderstanding I think in my question. I had asked about installation of solar power and battery back up on local installations which do not need any export to the national grid, so there's no limitation by national power or Western Power. So, there's no reason not to go ahead with this today. It's very simple you just call up a solar installer and they install. You mentioned some spending with Salix which I understand was done quite a few years ago but that shows it is quite possible but, as an example you quoted £2m. Now, for the full investment to make the full energy for the council properties you need £41m. That's 5% invested over the last five years but, we only have nine years left for your 2030 deadline to be net carbon zero. So, I don't see how at that rate it can possibly happen. How can you speed these things up?"

Councillor Campbell responded as follows:-

"I'll take the last point first and then I'll go back to your opening statement in your second question.

I think you probably do understand that this last year, which is the first year of our action plan has been unprecedented as I mentioned earlier on. We've had to down tools on many of these developments in order to respond to the urgency of the pandemic and, as I've mentioned we've had staff who'd normally be working on this and on projects to decarbonise even further our housing stock and our non-domestic buildings, we've had them put on projects that have had a direct bearing

on tackling the pandemic. So, I hope you can excuse us, I'm not making excuses, but these are factual reasons why perhaps we haven't made the progress many of us were hoping to achieve during that first year. So, I hope you can understand the situation that many of our officers were faced with during this first year of working on the action plan. But, hopefully, if the health of the nation allows over the next nine year's we can certainly speed up our work on achieving our net carbon target.

So, specifically around battery storage, we are exploring opportunities as we speak with our new build housing development in Glanmor Terrace, which I referenced earlier on, which incorporates solar pv and, as I mentioned battery storage. Now, we're also looking at investing battery storage in our council housing stock as well, which I also mentioned earlier on. So, we're in the first year, we are feeling our way in what has been a challenging year for everyone. But, I'm hoping if you come back with a similar question next year about this time we will have achieved far more, the pandemic allowing of course. I hope that answers your second question.

**8.5. QUESTION BY MS. C. STRANGE TO COUNCILLOR C. CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL
AFFAIRS**

“Has Council considered using the "Climate Action Plan for Councils" published by Friends of the Earth as an aid to the Covid recovery programme? The guide aims to create a green, fair, equitable recovery whilst also taking into account the Climate and Ecological Emergency. It contains 46 recommendations relevant to Wales.

please see:-

<https://climate.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/files/climate/documents/2020-06/Climate%20Action%20Plan%20for%20councils%20June%202020.pdf>”

**Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for
Communities and Rural Affairs:-**

“Thank you Celia for your question and yes, absolutely, we are aware of the Friends of the Earth document which you refer to in your question and we are already giving this consideration but, we are also looking at other approaches as well outlined in other documents, in our own Net Zero carbon document and the COVID-19 recovery programme that we are working on at the moment and we are about to publish in the next week or two. There is another document as well which doubtless you are aware of which is the ‘Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Route Map’ which is currently being developed by the Local Government Decarbonisation Strategy Panel as a high-level thematic framework. Now, where possible, we propose to use this Route Map to help guide our approach. It should be noted that some of the Targets in this Route Map are particularly challenging for us and other local authorities as well, and appropriate Actions are currently being discussed with the relevant Lead Officers for incorporation into our Net Zero Carbon Plan.

So what we have is an array of documents, all with different route maps and ideas and what we hope to do is pick and choose some of the ideas and recommendations in there that are most appropriate to Carmarthenshire. In particular, given that we are facing huge economic challenges moving forward,

social challenges, environmental challenges as well as a result of Covid, the Council are, as I mentioned about to publish a draft economic recovery and delivery plan which identifies some 30 actions to support the Carmarthenshire economy and that addresses the impacts of COVID and Brexit as well I may add. It sets out our priorities for supporting Business, People and Place. At the heart of it you will obviously understand that we are looking to create a more equal, greener, healthier, and more sustainable community within Carmarthenshire.

So that, I hope answers your question. Yes, we are aware of the document but, we're also aware of other relevant documents as well.

Ms Strange asked the following supplementary question:-

“As suggested in my question about 46 of the 50 Friends of the Earth recommendations are relevant to Wales and I've picked up just two of these and combined them. Will the Council produce a Nature and Eco system restoration plan to reverse and restore habitat species and eco system quality and function to include management of council owned land and road verges?”

Councillor Campbell responded as follows:-

“Yes, we are doing a lot of work on conservation and biodiversity. We have a team of officers that are doing this work on a daily basis. So, all of that which you mention is clearly important to us because having that balance between development and Biodiversity and protecting the environment is so crucial for us moving forward. There's one thing the pandemic has highlighted is we need to look local, we need to look at the challenges that are within a close proximity of where we all live because we can all do more. So, absolutely, we are doing that already and we will be ramping that work up as we move forward.

**8.6. QUESTION BY DR T. LAXTON TO COUNCILLOR C. CAMPBELL,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND RURAL
AFFAIRS**

“I have been dismayed by the apparent backsliding on the commitment for the Pension Fund to divest from investment in fossil fuels:

Can you please tell me how much has been invested in the Councils' fleet of vehicles since the declaration of the Climate Emergency and how much of this has been for electric or other non-fossil fuel vehicles? Can you reassure me that with Council vehicles at least, great progress has been made and we are not being left behind other Councils such as Swansea, and also, much of Europe.”

**Response by Councillor Cefin Campbell, Executive Board Member for
Communities and Rural Affairs:-**

“Thank you Dr Laxton for your question. I'm not quite sure whether I agree fully with the opening comment about backsliding on the commitment of the pension fund. I've already given a comprehensive answer on that which shows that we are moving in the right direction and have made great strides over the last three years in divesting away from fossil fuels. But, I do acknowledge there's a way to go again.

So, in terms of fleet replacement, we have a rolling five-year programme and by the end of this month the authority will have purchased an additional four ultra-low emission vehicles which, basically are electric pool cars. By the end of 2021/22 we will also conclude a review of the Fleet Replacement strategy which will include an assessment of the supply market for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. In addition to this, we've included an action in the Transport business plan to update the Council's Fleet Strategy in order to reduce the level of Carbon and Nitrogen Dioxide emissions from our transport operations over the next five years. The way we're hoping to achieve this is by reducing fossil fuel use by introducing alternative powered ULEV vehicles and also procure more vehicles and plant using whole of life costings for procurement. I have a long list here that I can add to but, I'm aware of the time so what I could do is send you this whole list of the Actions in the Transport Business Plan that we are currently looking at. So, hopefully, we can invest more on ELV vehicles as we move forward and you will remember that we were the first local authority in Wales to introduce electric pool cars back in 2012 and, just as an additional bit of information over the last 6 years we've reduced the number of miles travelled by our staff in private vehicles by over 1.3 million miles per annum. So, that's quite an achievement but, again, I'm not complacent we have a long way to go. I hope that answers your question.

Dr Laxton asked the following supplementary question:-

"I am very re-assured to see that much is being done and I was pleased to see the installation of solar panels for example on the leisure centre roof down in Johnstown. I'm sure that you are aware that electric vehicles are not the only game in town when it comes to vehicles and can you tell me if the council is looking at not just electric vehicles but other low carbon vehicles such as for example hydrogen power for buses and such like"

Councillor Campbell responded as follows:-

"Yes, absolutely, is the straight answer to that. Electric vehicles are starting to become some developments in the past as we're moving on quickly to hydrogen powered vehicles. But, certainly, the challenge for us is in terms of our fleet and the nature of the fleet vehicles that we have. I'll just use the refuse vehicles that collect our bins every week as an example. The challenge we have is the rurality and the geographical size of Carmarthenshire. If we were to fit for example one of our refuse lorries with a battery instalment, that poses a challenge especially if going out to rural communities to collect bins in terms of how far or how long that battery can last. So, we need to do many things. We need to invest in more battery powered vehicles and hydrogen powered vehicles but, we also need to increase the number of battery charging points as well so these refuse lorries can go out into rural communities recharge their batteries and then move onto the next piece of work. So, all of this is in the early stages. We would have done more as I've mentioned already if it weren't for the pandemic. But we are hoping now that the worst of that is behind us and we can move forward with confidence in looking at new ways of using our fleet and also investing in decarbonisation programmes.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED)

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

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

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda 10.1 – 10.7 were available for information on the Council website.

CHAIR

DATE

WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2021

PRESENT: Councillor I.W. Davies (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
R. Mullen, Director of Environment
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
G. Morgan, Democratic Services Manager
A. Wood, People Services Manager
E. Jones, Licensing Lead
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
J. Corner, Technical Officer
J. Hawker, Digital Support Officer
C.J. Warwick, Digital Support Engineer
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting: 10.00 am - 12.55 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. M. Edwards, A.L. Fox, A. James, T.J. Jones and A.G. Morgan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
S.J.G. Gilasbey	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Family member works for Education Department;
S.J.G. Gilasbey	7- Review of Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)	Secretary to Kidwelly RFC;
S.J.G. Gilasbey	8 – Executive Board Minutes 22 nd February 2021 [Minutes 3,7 and 8 thereof]	Minutes 3 - appertains to 2 schools within ward; Minute 7 – no reference to particular nature of interest]; Minute 8 – Family member is a tenant;
K. Lloyd	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Family members participate in Carmarthenshire’s Shared Lives Scheme and are carers;
K. Lloyd	9 - Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Rob James	Has shares in Carmarthenshire Energy Ltd.;
T.A.J. Davies	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Sister in law is a Head of Service with the Council;
K. Madge	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Daughter works for Social Care;
R. James	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Partner works for Llanelli Library;
T.M. Higgins	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Niece works for Library service;
E. Dole	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Son works for the Council;
D.M. Cundy	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Relative works for the Council;
C.A. Davies	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Sister works for the Education Department;
S.L. Davies	8 – Executive Board Minutes 22 nd February 2021 [Minute 8 thereof]	Family member owns a property which they rent out;
P.M. Hughes	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Family member works for the Council;
D. Nicholas	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Daughter works for Council’s Planning Section;
D.C. Evans	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Wife works for the Council;
R.E. Evans	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Daughter works for Library service;
J.S. Edmunds	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Two family members work for the Council;
L.R. Bowen	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Wife works for the Council’s Translation Section;

G.R. Jones	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Wife works for the Education Department;
J.D. James	8 – Executive Board Minutes 22 nd February 2021 [Minute 9 thereof]	Specific nature of interest not specified;
B.A.L. Roberts	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Son in law works for the Council;
G.H. John	6 - Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Daughter works for the Housing Division.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair reminded Members that donations were still welcome for the walking challenge he was currently undertaking to raise funds for his two chosen charities namely Prostate Cancer UK and St. Peters Church, Llanybydder. To date he had walked 44 miles and a few donations had already been received with the promise of further donations from Councillors and some town councils. He added that he had also placed items for sale in aid of the charities on the buy and sell forum on the Council's intranet and thanked everyone for their support;
- Councillor Gary Jones referred to the recent re-opening of the Llangennech railway line and paid tribute to all who had been involved in the initial response to the accident and the subsequent reconstruction of the line. In particular he thanked the two train drivers whose quick action in uncoupling the wagons had saved the village and surrounding area from a greater disaster adding that possibly this could be recognised in some way by the Council;
- Councillor Tyssul Evans paid tribute to the actions of the local fire service following a recent house fire in Ffoslas. He also thanked Jonathan Willis and Jonathan Morgan of the Council's Communities Department for ensuring that the family were given temporary accommodation and Cllrs Linda Evans and Kim Broom for their assistance;
- The Leader referred to the fact that it would shortly be a year since the country entered its first lock-down due to the Covid 19 pandemic and he reflected on the excellent response by staff, council partners, and the public over that period to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. He added that in due course there would be a review of the way the pandemic had, and was being, dealt with and that evidence would be presented along with assessments of decisions taken. An assurance was given that the Council was working as hard as ever to ensure the safety of communities in Carmarthenshire. In terms of the reopening of schools he emphasised that whilst this would be an important step in the recovery process everyone should adhere to guidance issued. He also spoke of the successful roll-out of the vaccination programme in Wales and thanked everyone involved in ensuring it remained on track including staff on the front-line, the teams who ensured that the mass vaccination centres were ready and operational in a very short time. He also thanked the GP practices who had paid a key part in the roll-out of the programme;

- The Leader referred to the fact that businesses in Llanelli had voted overwhelmingly to continue the Ymlaen Llanelli Business Improvement District [BID] for a further 5 years and the Council looked forward to continuing to work with the BID team in arranging events as successful as those held over the previous 5 years which contributed to a vibrant town centre;
- The Leader endorsed the sentiments expressed earlier by Cllr. Gary Jones in regard to the reopening of the railway at Llangennech.

4. RE-APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Leader presented a report recommending the re-appointment of Mrs Mary Dodd as a co-opted member of the Standards Committee following the expiration of her current term of office on the 14th April 2021. Mrs Dodd was one of the most experienced co-opted members of the Standards Committee and currently served as its vice-chair. Two of the more experienced members of the Committee were due to retire in December 2021 making the retention of Mrs Dodd's expertise particularly important.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Mrs Mary Dodd be appointed for a further 4-year term of office as a co-opted member of the Standards Committee from 14th April 2021.

5. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

The Executive Board Member for Resources presented a report setting out the financial details relevant to the setting of the Council Tax for the 2021/2022 financial year together with the Council Tax amounts in respect of the different Council Tax Valuation Bands, as applicable to each of the individual Community and Town Council areas.

It was noted that the recommendations contained within the report brought together the authority's budget requirement and the precepts for the Police Authority and the Town and Community Councils into the consolidated Council Tax amounts in respect of the individual Council Tax Valuation bands.

RESOLVED, in order for the Council to comply with legislative requirements, that the report and recommendations of the Director of Corporate Services on the setting of the Council Tax for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.

6. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

[NOTE:

1. Councillors L.R. Bowen, D.M. Cundy, T.A.J. Davies, C.A. Davies, E. Dole, D.C. Evans, J.S. Edmunds, R. Evans, S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, P.M. Hughes, G. John, G.R. Jones, R. James, K. Lloyd, K. Madge, D. Nicholas and B.A.L. Roberts had earlier declared interests in this item and, apart from Cllrs. K. Lloyd, T.A.J. Davies and G. John, left the meeting;
2. All officers in attendance were deemed to have a personal interest in this item and left the meeting prior to its consideration with the exception of the Assistant Chief Executive (People Management and Performance) and Lead Business Partner (HR) who remained in the meeting to respond to any

questions arising on the report and officers who were facilitating the webcasting of the meeting.].

The Deputy Leader presented the report which outlined that, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 all Local Authorities were required to prepare a Pay Policy Statement which must be agreed and published by 1st April every year. The Statement required the approval of full Council and had to set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its Chief Officers, its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and its employees who were not Chief Officers.

The politically balanced Pay Policy Advisory Panel had had input into the formulation of the Pay Policy Statement and its recommendations had been incorporated into final document for approval by County Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 be approved in compliance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM:-

7.1. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (LICENSING ACT 2003)

[NOTE: Councillor S.J.G. Gilasbey had earlier declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting].

The Executive Board Member for Public Protection informed Council that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 1st March, 2021 (minute 5 thereof refers) had considered a report on the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy. The current Licensing Policy had been adopted by the Authority in January 2019 following a consultation regarding the adoption of a Cumulative Impact Assessment in respect of Llamas Street, Carmarthen. Legislation currently required the Licensing Policy to be reviewed at least every five years to ensure that it reflected feedback from the local community that the statutory objectives were being met. A full review had last been undertaken in 2015.

The Licensing Section had reviewed the policy document, in conjunction with the Council's legal department, in light of the responses from an extensive consultation exercise, revised government guidance, amendments to the Licensing Act and recent case law.

The Licensing division was thanked for its work in undertaking the review.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted

7.1.1 "that the amended Statement of Licensing Policy be approved";

7.1.2 "that the existing Cumulative Impact Assessment be retained for Station Road, Llanelli and Llamas Street, Carmarthen, as detailed in Section 10 of the policy."

8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

[NOTE: Councillors S.L. Davies and S.J.G. Gilasbey had earlier declared interests in this item but remained in the meeting. Cllr. H.A.L. Evans reiterated the declarations she had made as detailed in the Executive Board minutes but remained in the meeting as the issues were not discussed].

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 22nd February 2021 be received.

9. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION:-

9.1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES

[NOTE: Councillor K. Lloyd had earlier declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting].

Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Rob James:-

“Two years ago, Carmarthenshire Council unanimously passed a motion declaring a climate emergency and supported this authority becoming a net zero carbon authority in the next nine years. We feel every effort is not being made to ensure that as an authority we meet this target and note these serious concerns that are echoed by the residents of Carmarthenshire.

This Council:

- Concerned at the slowness in our authority in addressing the climate emergency is having a devastating impact on communities.
- Believes that unless significant resources are dedicated towards investing in electric or non-fossil fuel vehicles for our fleet, including recycling vehicles, retrofitting our buildings, a large scale tree planting scheme across Carmarthenshire, and local energy generating, we will not meet our target. The Council's capital project does not go far enough to meet this challenge currently.
- Fears that continuing to develop on green fields harms the environment and poses a great threat to communities from flooding.
- Notes that Carmarthenshire Council, despite public demand and political pressure, remains the only local authority in Wales not to collect glass on the kerbside to support our recycling efforts.
- Welcomes the news that Dyfed Pension Fund have agreed to move 24% of its share holdings into “reduced fossil fuel free” funds, yet believes they must go further as soon as possible.”

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer and seconder of the Motion were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

A number of statements were made both in support of and against the Motion and following a vote it was

RESOLVED that the Motion be not supported.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

11. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:-

11.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR EDWARD THOMAS TO COUNCILLOR HAZEL EVANS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

“The Welsh Government recently announced funding of £55m for active travel, which I understand is designed to encourage local authorities to be ambitious and encourage cycling and walk to work routes. Do you think that Carmarthenshire plan for a cycle path between Llandeilo and Carmarthen is both ambitious and innovative to qualify for this pot of money or will the Deputy Minister of Transport and Local AS Lee Waters throw another spoke in the wheel?”

Response by Councillor Hazel Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment:-

“The Tywi Valley Cycle Path is a great opportunity to showcase the best of Carmarthenshire. The project is ambitious and will bring great economical, environmental and social benefits to the area. From an economic perspective studies have shown it would deliver between £800k to £2.4m per annum to the area generating between 17 and 47 jobs at a time of great need for the tourism sector. From an active travel perspective the path links 5 communities, not including Carmarthen and Llandeilo, to each other along the Towy Valle, y as well as to employment, hospitals, education and the retail sector. It will provide communities and visitors with a safe and attractive alternative to the A4 trunk road which has a high number of personal injury accidents. A review of available casualty data for the Towy Valley study area shows that 17 accidents were recorded along the A40 in the 5 years prior to 2018 – this included 2 fatal collisions. From an environment perspective the path would provide a huge opportunity for people to travel sustainably whilst enjoying the benefit of our great county. The walking and cycling paths travel through an area with an abundance of biodiversity. I appreciate the need to decarbonise, the need to promote active travel, the need to improve the wellbeing of our nation and the need to exploit opportunities arising from the visitor economy as society comes out of the covid pandemic. The Deputy Minister has encouraged authorities to be ambitious. He stressed in a meeting last week that if a section of, for example a disused railway line provided it linked communities, it could qualify for grant funding. We have active travel masterplans for each of our major towns and settlements. We also include the Towy Valley path which is an outstanding project that will help our communities recover from the catastrophic effects of the last 12 months and deliver benefits for all including help. We have submitted a grant bid again this year via the Local Transport Fund Grant Programme to support our work to deliver the path. We can only hope that the Deputy Minister will support our ambition to see this project delivered for our communities, provide a first class attraction for tourists and deliver on the potential annual economic benefits to the county, particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors that have been so badly hit during the last 12 months. Our ambition is to see this path completed.”

12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

In accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 2(2)(n) the following nomination had been received from the Labour Group and it was:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the nomination of Councillor D.M. Cundy to replace Councillor P.M. Edwards as one of the Labour Group's representatives on the Planning Committee be approved.

13. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda 13.1 were available for information on the Council website.

CHAIR

DATE

COUNTY COUNCIL

12th MAY 2021

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018/23 - UPDATE APRIL 2021

Purpose:

To update our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION: -

That the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives adopted in June, 2018 be adjusted, as reported, to reflect developing priorities, the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Brexit and climate change.

Reasons:

- It is good practice to ensure our Corporate Strategy is up to date to ensure resources are allocated to priorities.
- Legally we must publish our Improvement Objectives annually under both the Local Government (Wales Measure 2009) and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

All relevant scrutiny committee's were consulted:

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	25 th Feb
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee	2 nd March
Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	5 th March
Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	11 th March
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	17 th March

Exec. Board Decision Required: YES - 22nd March

Council Decision Required: YES - 12th May

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER

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

Directorate: Chief Executive's Head of Service: Noelwyn Daniel Report Author: Robert James	Designations: Head of ICT & Corporate Policy Improvement Planning Officer	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses: 01267 246270 ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224486 rnjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

12TH MAY 2021

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018/23 - UPDATE APRIL 2021

- Statutory requirements.** The Corporate Strategy published in June 2018 consolidated statutory planning obligations and brought together a duty to publish Improvement Objectives and Well-being Objectives. By updating the Corporate Strategy, we meet our duty to:
 - publish our Improvement Objectives by the 30th June
 - review our Well-being Objectives to ensure they are still valid and current.
- Good Practice.** Its good practice to ensure that our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives are kept up to date. We last refreshed the Corporate Strategy in June 2019, but it was not appropriate to revise it in June 2020 because of the impact of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty it caused.
- Review of Well-being Objectives.** Previously we had 15 Well-being Objectives and we have taken the opportunity to merge some to reduce the number to 13.

Old		New	
WbO	Well-being Objectives 2018-21	New WbO number	<i>Mergers</i> Well-being Objectives Merged for 2021-22
3	Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners	3	<i>Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners</i>
4	Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)		

10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years	9	<i>Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years</i>
11	A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire		

4. **Specific focus for 2021/22.** Delivery will be embedded into the Well-being Objectives.

- Tackling poverty
- Community/social cohesion
- Tackling inequality
- Support for small business as part of wider economic recovery
- Local housing crisis
- Bilingual county
- Net zero carbon
- Rural regeneration
- Delivery of Pentre Awel
- Climate change with a focus on flooding
- Children and young people's welfare and achievement

5. **Renaming.** To reflect the focus of the well-being objective it has been renamed as below:

WbO	Well-being Objective 2018-21	New WbO number	Re-titled for 2021-22
9	Supporting good connections with friends and family and safer communities.	8	<i>Supporting Community Cohesion, Resilience and Safety</i>

6. We have consulted on the Well-being Objectives as part of budget consultation.

7. Departmental and Service business plans will be aligned to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives. Key actions and targets will be identified, and their delivery monitored quarterly.

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	YES	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Our key strategic policies are addressed throughout our Well-being Objectives.

2. Legal

The law states that:-

- a) 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.’
- b) We must demonstrate use of the 5 ways of working:

Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- c) 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.
 1. A prosperous Wales
 2. A resilient Wales
 3. A healthier Wales
 4. A more equal Wales
 5. A Wales of cohesive communities
 6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
 7. A globally responsible Wales

3. Finance

Appendix 3 – ‘Financing the Well-being Objectives’ shows the financial implications of the Corporate Strategy.

4. ICT

ICT implications are being taken forward within our Digital Transformation Strategy and feature within *Well-being Objective 13*.

5. Risk Management Issues

Our key strategic risks are identified and addressed within Service Business Plans that underpin our Well-being Objectives.

6. Physical Assets

The Strategic Asset Management Plan incorporates our Well-being Objectives, Capital prioritisation takes into account the Objectives.

7. Staffing Implications

People Management Strategy issues are identified in Well-being Objective 13.

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. Scrutiny Committee

		Outcomes
Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	25 th Feb	No key amendments to the Strategy were identified. There were some minor text changes and points to follow up in Business Plans that support this Strategy.
Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee	2 nd March	
Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	5 th March	
Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	11 th March	
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	17 th March	

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council

Consultation on the Well-being Objectives was included in budget consultation.

4. Relevant Partners

Consultation on the Well-being Objectives was included in budget consultation.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Consultation on the Well-being Objectives was included in budget consultation.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**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
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		The Essentials Guide
Shared purpose: shared future Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		SPSF 1 Core guidance SPSF 2 Individual Role (public bodies)
Local Government Measure (2009)		Local Government Measure (2009)
Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years		Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years
Corporate Risk Register		Risk-with score 16+ (October 2020)
Budget Consultation on Well-being Objectives		Consultation Top 5
Community Impact Assessment -Coronavirus Covid-19 October 2020		COVID 19 Community Impact Summary Full Report
The Auditor General for Wales - 4 challenges to public sector 2020-25		Audit Wales
Future Generations Commissioner Post COVID-19 – 5 recommendations to public bodies		Post COVID-19 –5 recommendations
8 Welsh Government Reconstruction Priorities		Full document

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

Updated April 2021



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

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Update News in Brief....

1. We last published an update in June 2019
2. We published an Annual Report on 2019/20 in October 2020
3. We published a Community Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in September 2020 and this has informed our approach
4. We have reviewed the Well-being Objectives and have consulted upon them as part of budget consultation
5. We have amalgamated some Well-being Objectives and tweaked the names of some - *Appendix 1*

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years

In January 2018, Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board presented its key aspirations for the next 5 years – *'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years'*.

Given this direction, the Council published a Corporate Strategy that consolidated and aligned our plans and we have kept this strategy up to date over the last few years. This document is a refresh of the previous update of July 2019. It is important to keep our plans updated and it is a statutory requirement.

Further Challenges Facing the Council

The impact of COVID-19, Brexit uncertainty and climate change are all unprecedented challenges that we now face in addition to other pressures. Our strategic plans must take account of the challenges that we face most of which are driven by factors outside of the Council's control. However, they are factors that we have to consider as we develop and, in some instances, change the way that we work and do things. Below is an outline of key challenges.

1. The impact and recovery of the Coronavirus pandemic
2. Developing a dynamic economy in the context of Brexit
3. Addressing a climate emergency
4. Acting 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 (WbFG principle)
5. Increasing demand and complexity for services
6. Increasing expectations of provision at the same time as managing tightening budgets
7. Challenging economic position and support for local economy
8. Increasing need to strengthen the digital infrastructure and support digital inclusion for individual residents as well as public, private and third sector organisations looking to develop economic prosperity.
9. To understand our ways of working and how customer expectations have changed
10. Changing demographic profile of the county and in particular its ageing population
11. Increasing risks to ensure children and young people are protected from harm
12. Increasing deprivation and poverty with growing inequities between communities
13. Increasing legislation and regulation from Welsh Government
14. Managing the workforce risks associated with the pace of change required by the organisation.
15. New requirements as a result of the Local Government and Elections Act.
16. Welsh Government priorities may change as a result of Senedd elections

The impact of COVID-19

In September 2020 we published a [Community Impact Assessment of COVID-19](#).

This initial period of response 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. The Pandemic continues and we are still adapting to ensure continued provision of services. This will be an on-going challenge and although there is now hope with the vaccine being rolled-out that the end is in sight for the initial crisis the challenges and need to find new ways of working for the longer-term will continue.

To make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities, we have been 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". This learning will shape and reset our Well-being Objectives.

The Council's Core Values

In delivering this strategy it is important that we maintain our core values in everything we do:-



Equality and Diversity

Carmarthenshire County Council has developed a [Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24](#).

This strategic plan sets out the principles of our commitment to equality and diversity as well as outlining our objectives and how we intend to fulfil our responsibilities and ensure that we follow our principles through into practice. These objectives focus on:

1. Being a leading employer
2. The needs and rights of people with Protected Characteristics shaping the design of services
3. Safe and Cohesive communities that are resilient, fair and equal
4. Improving access to our services and access to our environment.

We will fulfil these objectives ensuring we fully take account of our duty under the Equality Act 2010 to the following **protected characteristics**:

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Disability
- Religion and belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity

Bringing Plans together

This Corporate Strategy consolidates the following requirements and plans into one document:

1. It incorporates our Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government Measure 2009 (See *Appendix 2*)
2. It includes our Well-being Objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Our Well-being Objectives are set to maximise our contribution to the shared vision and set of national goals that all public bodies work towards (See *Appendix 2*)
3. It includes Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board key projects and programmes for the next 5 years as set out in '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years*'.

Delivering on our Plans

We have set out the steps we will take to *deliver* each objective. These steps, and the way we work will be supported by actions and targets set out in Service Business Plans.

The '*delivery plans*' behind each Well-being Objective will be monitored quarterly and scrutinised. We will report annually on progress.

We have set out how we will measure our success against our Well-being Objectives in *Appendix 5*.

The Council's Vision can be summed up as follows.....

'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. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learner.

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

5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.

6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity).

8. Support community cohesion, resilience & safety.

9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years.

10. Look after the environment now and for the future.

11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

12. Promote Welsh language and culture.

13. Better Governance and Use of Resources

Start Well



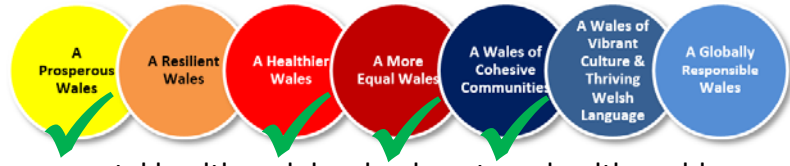


Well-being Objective 1

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

So why is this important?

- Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course.
- Children who experience stressful and poor-quality childhoods are more likely to experience poor mental health and develop long term health problems as they move into adulthood.
- 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.
- There is a growing recognition of the detrimental impact which exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences in childhood, particularly multiple ACEs, can have upon physical and mental health and well-being, relationships with others, educational attainment and prosperity outcomes into adulthood.
- Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to high rates of **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACE's) associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care.



Why this should concern us?

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have harmful impacts on health and well-being across the life course. For every 100 adults in Wales, 47 have suffered at least one ACE during their childhood and 14 have suffered 4 or more. Children who experience stressful and poor-quality childhoods are more likely to adopt health harming behaviours. (*National Survey of ACE's in Wales*)
- Children in workless households are more likely to experience ACE's. 8.7% of children in Carmarthenshire are living in workless households, this is lower than the 2017 figure of 10.2% and is currently below Wales (12.6%) and the UK (10.5%).
- In Carmarthenshire there are currently 70 children on the Child Protection Register, 148 Looked After Children and 839 children in receipt of care and support (@ 14/12/20).

What do we need to do?

- We need to give every child the best start in life and ensure development throughout early childhood.
- We need to build resilience against adverse experiences.
- We will ensure that children with complex needs and disabilities and their families get the right support to enable them to participate as fully as possible in their communities.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will support families by:**
- a. working together to reduce the number of children who suffer ACEs.
 - b. working together to reduce the number of children who need to be in the care of the Local Authority.
 - c. promoting bonding and attachments to support positive good parent-child relationships.
 - d. better equipping parents and care-givers with the necessary skills to avoid ACEs arising within the home environment and encourage development of social and emotional well-being and resilience in the child.
 - e. identifying and intervening where children may already be victims of abuse, neglect or living in an adverse environment.
 - f. continuing to provide attachment awareness training in schools to ensure they become *attachment awareness schools* and are able to meet the emotional well-being needs of vulnerable children.
- B. We will ensure that every child with identified **additional learning needs (ALN)** in all Carmarthenshire schools will have access to appropriate integrated support services – e.g. Educational and Child Psychology, Sensory Impairment Service support, Specialist Advisory Teacher and Teaching Assistant support, Behaviour Support Community Team and access to family support through Family Liaison Officers.**



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies

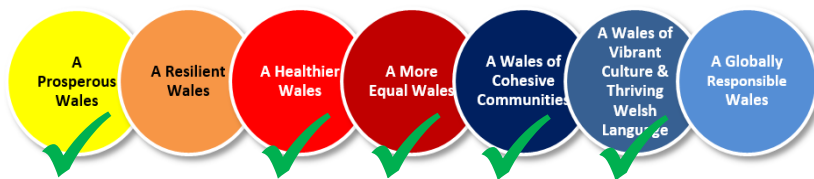


Well-being Objective 2

Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

So why is this important?

- Projections suggest an increase in trends for childhood obesity with figures showing males between the ages of 2 – 15 being at greatest risk.
- Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for positive well-being of children aged 6 – 11, after connections with family and friends.
- 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.



Why this should concern us?

- Carmarthenshire has the 12th highest levels of childhood obesity in Wales with 26.6% (492) of 4-5 year olds being overweight or obese, just above the Welsh average of 26.4%. *Child Measurement Programme for Wales 2017/18*
- Engagement with primary schools identified a strong link between physical activity and opportunities to play in outside spaces, and to feel safe in that environment.
- Mental health disorders in children and young people are equally as prevalent, with 1 in 10 children and young people aged five to sixteen suffering from a diagnosable mental health disorder. Between the ages of one to twelve, 1 in 15 young people deliberately self-harm.

Source: - *Our Health Our Future, Hywel Dda Interim Integrated Medium Term Plan 2016/17 - 2018/19 (page 56)*

What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure children across Carmarthenshire: eat healthily, are physically active and maintain good mental health.
- We will address the Wales Audit Office recommendations following their review of this Well-being Objective under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.
- We need to measure activity through schools.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will increase the range of **physical activity** opportunities available for children, and target those at higher risk of inactivity.
- B. We will **address mental health** including reducing exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
- C. We will **promote eating healthy**, including through school meals, the *Healthy Schools scheme* and the *School Holiday Enrichment Programme*.
- D. We will **increase awareness** of healthy lifestyles through the Healthy Schools scheme.
- E. We will continue to develop, promote and deliver the **Flying Start Programme**.
- F. We will work with partners to deliver the Early Years Transformation Programme.
- G. We will develop a multi-agency strategy and delivery plan to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glyn Davies

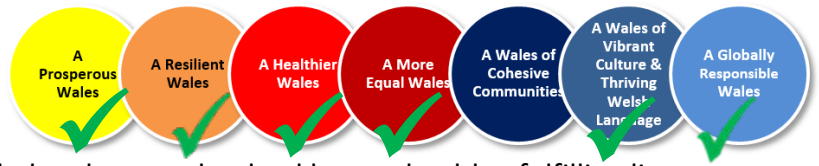


Well-being Objective 3

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

So why is this 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.](#)'



Why this should concern us?

- There is currently a gap nationally (including Carmarthenshire) between the performance of vulnerable pupils including those eligible for free school meals (eFSM) and those who are not. This aspect of our end of key stage performance and achievement continues to challenge and concern us.
- We have a number of schools that have identified key areas of improvement through the means of their annual self-evaluation processes.
- Outcomes of international comparison activities continue to show Wales adrift from the rest of the UK.
- OECD Reports monitoring the Welsh Government's curriculum review programme acknowledges that whilst substantial progress has been achieved there are aspects to address in [specific areas](#)

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that all children and young people in Carmarthenshire have the best possible opportunities to study, train and gain worthwhile employment locally, regionally or nationally.
- We will ensure that all vulnerable learners including those with a disability or additional learning needs are fully included in all learning programmes.
- We will continue to further improve progress, well-being and outcomes for all learners with a focus on those who are vulnerable including those entitled to eFSM and - see also *Tackling Poverty Well-being Objective 4*.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will ensure a relentless emphasis on **improvement in pupil progress, well-being and outcomes** for all children and young people across all learning phases (focusing on vulnerable and eFSM learners) in line with the vision and aims of '*Education in Wales: Our National Mission.*'
- B. We will continue to **address low school attendance** and learner well-being.
- C. We will provide **an excellent school in the right place**.
- D. We will continue **workforce development and succession planning**.
- E. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual.
- F. As part of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum development, we will focus on skills demands and employability of new and existing labour market entrants to ensure that local and regional demands are met.
- G. We will implement the **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework** to support vulnerable learners.
- H. We will ensure continuation of planning and delivery for **externally funded projects**.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies

Live Well



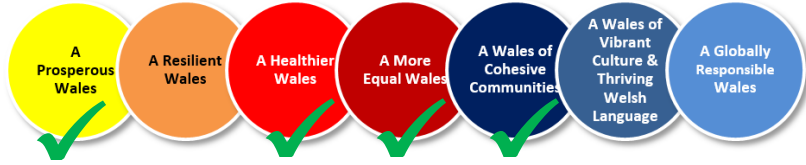


Well-being Objective 4

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

So why is this important?

- Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects across all aspects of well-being. It limits the opportunities and prospects for children and young people, damages the quality of life for families and 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.



Why this should concern us?

- 33.8% (27,691) of households in Carmarthenshire can be defined as **living in poverty**, 13th highest in Wales (Welsh average 32.9%). *Welsh Government defines poverty as when "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income". This means a household where income is less than £19,967 a year (2020 - 60% of £33,278).*
- We have a new statutory Socio-Economic Duty to reduce inequalities of socio-economic disadvantage.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic may have impacted more significantly on the most deprived communities.

What do we need to do?

- We need to better understand the challenges facing our county and develop a focused plan to respond accordingly. We will need to look at this in the round across the spectrum of Council and partner services with a focus on key geographical areas (akin to the current programme of work in Tyisha) and population groups who face particular disadvantages. (See also [Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward](#))
- We need to **prevent poverty** – there is a strong correlation between being born poor and experiencing a lifetime of poverty and many of the triggers of poverty experienced in childhood and later life are preventable if identified and addressed in a timely manner. Providing early, targeted, and holistic interventions can therefore help reduce the likelihood of poverty occurring in our communities.
- We need to **help people into work** - work is one of the most fundamental and effective means of tackling poverty in all its forms. Work provides income and opportunities for improved health and well-being.
- We need to **improve the lives of people living in poverty** by supporting those in poverty and improving access to help to maintain basic standards of living (including *transport* and *digital access*).

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will undertake a fundamental review of our approach to Tackling Poverty and prepare a cross-departmental Council action plan to respond to key issues relating to poverty, rural poverty and child poverty. We will discuss this further with relevant stakeholders and Carmarthenshire PSB members
- B. Our children and education services will work to **prevent poverty** through delivering key early intervention programmes such as flying start and team around the family (TAF), and ensure that financial literacy is on the school curriculum. In addition, services such as housing will take a more proactive, preventative approach to addressing key triggers of poverty to prevent escalation of issues such as homelessness and fuel poverty.
- C. We will **help people into work** by building their confidence and skills through the dedicated Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes and targeted support for those who are furthest from the labour market e.g. those who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). We will continue to extend the Hwb model as a one stop shop for employment advice and support.
- D. We will **improve the lives of those living in poverty** through promoting and supporting greater financial literacy via services such as trading standards and housing benefits. We will also deliver initiatives to support key vulnerable groups including the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP), Toy Box & Hamper appeal (**Rural Poverty** – see also Well-being objective 5c)



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Cefin Campbell

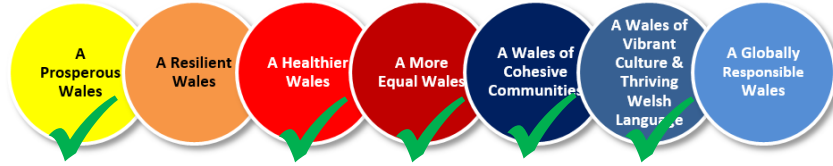


Well-being Objective 5

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

So why is this important?

- Providing secure and well-paid jobs for local people is central to everything we are seeking to achieve.
- Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.



Why this should concern us?

- As at March 2020, of the 71.5% of Carmarthenshire's workforce, 60.7% were employed in the professional/technical/skilled trade occupations - well *below* the Welsh average of 63.8%, whilst 39.2% were employed in the caring/leisure/customer service/machine operative occupations – well *above* the 35.8% Welsh average.
- We must tackle a GVA (gross value added) gap that is widening between UK GVA and Wales GVA; Total GVA in Carmarthenshire represents 4.8% of Wales total GVA, which is a relatively high share. However, GVA per job is low (£44,833), ranking 18th out of 22 authorities, indicating low productivity. *GVA is the measure of the value of the wages and profits from goods and services produced in an area.*
- The economy of Carmarthenshire has been badly affected by COVID-19 in 2020, and the employment impacts are likely to get worse in 2021. We will develop and implement a business and economy recovery plan that will enable the authority and our key partners to co-ordinate and target available resources to contain the scale of the likely economic downturn and to stimulate demand and confidence during the recovery, ensuring that Carmarthenshire's economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive, more equal, greener, and with healthier and more sustainable communities.
- We must also strengthen the foundational economy with a particular emphasis upon developing a progressive procurement principle and supporting businesses to become more productive and able to pay higher wages.

What do we need to do?

- We need to build a knowledge-rich, creative economy by maximising employment and training places for local people through creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities, in order to have an on-going skilled and competent workforce to face the future
- We need to evolve Carmarthenshire's position in the Swansea Bay City Region (Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot) into a confident, ambitious and connected county.
- We need to continue to invest in our local rural infrastructure, including transportation to attract businesses, tourism/leisure to the county to promote economic growth and activity by building better connections and generating a strong tourism industry (*see Improving highway & transport infrastructure & connectivity WBO13*)
- We need to continue to invest in the strategic regeneration of our 3 principal towns, 10 rural market towns, key strategic employment sites and continue to support business growth.
- We need to support Welsh Government's - [Prosperity for All-the National Strategy: Economic Action Plan](#)
- Monitor the impact of Brexit on the economy of Carmarthenshire, so we can mitigate any problems and embrace all opportunities which may arise
- We need to address the issues facing rural communities as identified in the [Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward](#) report
- We will support those everyday businesses that are all around us and are the foundation of our economy.
- We will look to support and upscale our grounded businesses as part of our COVID-19 recovery plan, through strengthening local procurement and supply chains, supporting business diversification, upskilling and the development of fit for purpose premises for businesses to grow and flourish.

- A.** Regionally, by co-ordinating and delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal and specifically the Carmarthenshire based project of Pentre Awel
- B.** Locally, by delivering the 6 Transformational Strategy Area Plans targeting urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire
- C.** To develop the rural economy of Carmarthenshire in line with the emerging Rural Vision for Wales and the Council's Rural Action Plan. There will be a particular focus on the 10 Towns Initiative
- D.** To strengthen the foundational economy and community resilience. There will be a particular emphasis upon developing a progressive procurement principle and supporting businesses to become more productive and able to pay higher wages
- E.** By developing learning, skills, employability and encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship throughout the county to support new businesses in the county (Regional Learning & Skills Partnership)
- F.** By ensuring clear business support plans in order to support any implications from Brexit
- G.** By supporting local and digital economic growth
- H.** Continue the Council's own recruitment of graduates and apprentices.



**Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader)**



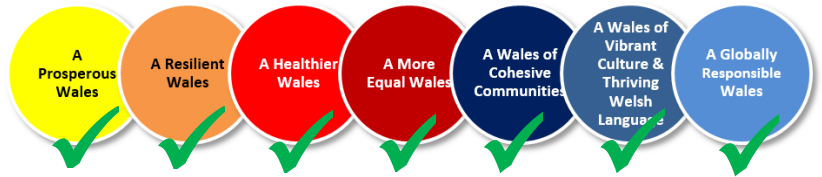


Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

So why is this 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. This is true for rural and urban areas.
- 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.



Why this should concern us?

- People told us during our consultation on affordable Housing in 2015 that we need to:
 - Target help where the need is highest, in both urban and rural areas, by delivering more affordable homes for rent and buy.
 - Be more flexible - whether by bringing wasted homes back into use, buying existing homes or building new ones.
 - Do whatever it takes by developing innovative and creative ways to deliver more homes.
 - Use our resources in the best possible way to ensure as many new homes as possible.
 - Use the expertise, skills and resources of those we work with.

What do we need to do?

- We need to provide additional affordable homes to meet the needs of residents in Carmarthenshire.
- We need to build new council homes across the County.
- We need to actively work with private landlords to encourage them to make their properties available at affordable rental levels, including bringing more private sector homes into the management of our in-house 'Simple Lettings Agency'.
- We need to work in partnership with Housing Associations in Carmarthenshire to maximize the supply of new build affordable homes.
- We need to actively work with property owners to bring empty homes back into use.
- We need to purchase homes from the private sector and increase the Council Social Housing stock.
- We need to maximize the number of affordable homes delivered through developer contributions from the planning system.
- We need to maximize all funding opportunities for both the Council and Housing Associations.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will deliver all of the above through our [Affordable Homes Delivery Plan](#) and the Council's new build programme. Our plans to increase the supply of affordable homes to buy and rent will have a huge impact on the health, economic, social and cultural well-being of the County. We will also continue to bring empty homes back into use to increase choice and provide the right type of home in the right areas.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Linda Evans

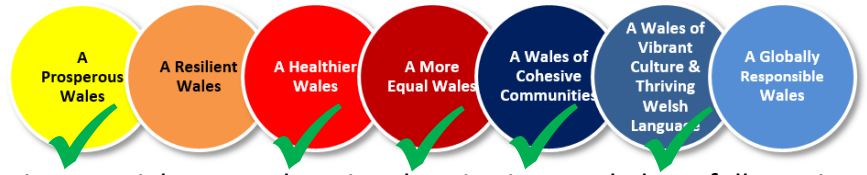


Well-being Objective 7

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

So why is this important?

- Our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- The challenge is to prevent ill health.
- Living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- Many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.
- Playing a part in providing accessible, inclusive, exciting, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure.



Why this should concern us?

- There is a significant gap in life expectancy and a healthy life expectancy. In Carmarthenshire:
 - Life expectancy for males is 77.8 years (2016-18) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 65 years (2010-14)
 - Life expectancy for females is 82.3 years (2016-18) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 66 years (2010-14)
 - Healthy life expectancy of both males and females are below the Welsh average of 65.3 and 66.7 years.
- 16.2% of adults are still smoking in Carmarthenshire and 63.6% of adults are overweight or obese (Welsh Average of 59.9%) National Survey for Wales 2018/19 & 2019/20
- Referrals to substance misuse services have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and we are seeing an increase in associated issues such as Alcohol Related Brain Damage.
- The comorbidity of mental health and substance misuse is also a matter of concern.

What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure people across Carmarthenshire:
 - Eat and breathe healthily
 - Are physically active; and
 - Maintain good mental health.
- We need to remove inequalities around opportunities for people to address these areas

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- Eat and breathe healthily:** We will provide healthy food and drink options at our Culture, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation facilities, whilst making more and more of these services available online as well. We will ensure that our outdoor recreation facilities i.e. Country Parks, open spaces and Rights of Way networks are maintained and can be accessed safely and enjoyed by everyone.
- Physical Activity:** We will continue investment in the new state of the art Pentre Awel (Wellness Village) in Llanelli; work in partnership with schools and the voluntary and health sectors to get “more people more active more often”; and, enable employers to support Workplace Health initiatives.
- Mental Health:** We will continue to work with health and third sector partners to transform mental health services and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population in Carmarthenshire. We will collaborate to improve access to information, advice, preventive and crisis services. We will aim for people to experience the positive health benefits of taking inspiration from our Cultural collections to promote creativity, mindfulness and self-confidence.
- Substance Misuse:** We will collaborate with partners to raise public awareness of Substance Misuse and develop a range of collaborative interventions to improve outcomes in this area.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths

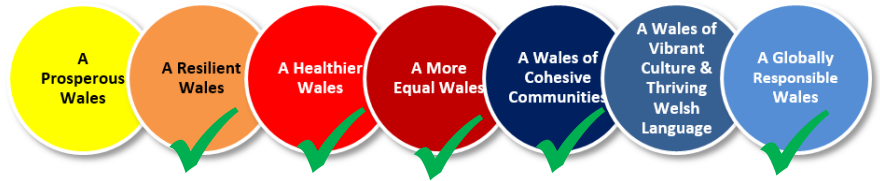


Well-being Objective 8

Live Well/Age Well - Support community cohesion, resilience & safety

So why is this important?

- Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being and more people now appreciate the value of kindness and being part of a community.
- Public bodies have clear obligations to create and support cohesive communities in Wales. Cohesive Communities is one of the National Goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. A cohesive community is an area where those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in their neighbourhood, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values.
- **Community Resilience** is also essential to enable communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. The COVID-19 crisis has shown what can be achieved when communities work together.



Why this should concern us?

- Only half (51.5%) of Carmarthenshire residents feel they live in cohesive communities, where people treat each other with respect and consideration, that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and feel they belong to their local area. Five years ago, the figure was 73% and we had the 5th best result in Wales whereas now we are ranked 14th out of the 22 local authority areas (National Survey for Wales, 2018/19).
- Feeling safe at home and in the local community impacts on everyone's sense of well-being. In particular, the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population is significant.

What do we need to do? [See FG Report May 2020 – A Wales of Cohesive Communities](#)

- We need to continue to build greater community cohesion and to support and empower communities to address their safety, collective well-being, and the well-being of those within the community.
- We will collaborate with partners to ensure a multi-agency response to mental health and well-being.
- We need to ensure services provide proactive information, advice, access, and assistance fairly to all.
- We need to work with partners to help communities feel safer. This includes road safety, public protection, tackling anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people including victims of domestic abuse.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our [Departmental and Service Business Plans](#)

- A. We will continue to develop and implement how we provide information, advice, and assistance.
- B. For greater community cohesion we will:
 - Increase understanding of our communities by engaging and communicating key issues
 - Ensure individuals whose safety is at risk understand the support available
 - Encourage communities to improve their circumstances
 - Support a culture of tolerance and raise awareness of minority communities' experiences
- C. We will encourage resilience and develop an early intervention and community resilience strategy to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population.
- D. We will continue to work with partners to help our residents feel safe, building on the partnership and regeneration work taking place in Tyisha.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Cefin Campbell

Age Well



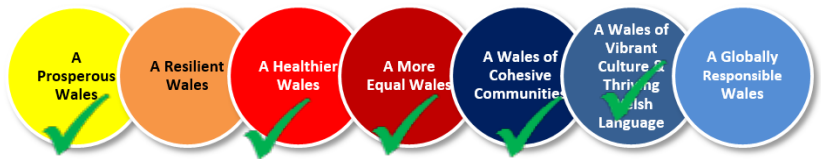


Well-being Objective 9

Age Well - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

So why is this important?

- Carmarthenshire has a high proportion of residents over 65 who are a vital and vibrant part of the community. We want the county to be a place to age well.
- Consultations have demonstrated that 'what matters' to older people is to be able to be as independent and as well as possible for as long as possible.
'Being respected as an older person and not being seen as a burden on the local health and social care system'
- Research shows that a vital factor of healthy ageing is for older people is social participation, respect and inclusion.
- Older people contribute to the economy in Carmarthenshire by caring for their grandchildren or other family members.
- 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 Council has determined to make Carmarthenshire a dementia friendly County along the lines of the [Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Community Programme](#).
- The impact of COVID-19 on our care homes



Why this should concern us?

- Current projections suggest that the population of people over 65 living in Carmarthenshire is growing and by 2030 this will increase by 60%. There has been, and continues to be, a significant increase in the 'oldest of the old' with the greatest rise represented in the over 85 age group: with a predicted growth of 116%.
- Older people are statistically more likely to have a life limiting health condition with 55% of the over 65 population reporting having a long-term illness or disability. Demand for hospital and community services by those aged 75 and over is in general more than three times greater than from those aged between 30 and 40.
- Whilst the people of Carmarthenshire are living longer there is not a similar trend in increased years of being well. This is defined as healthy and disability-free life expectancy and it is rising more slowly than life expectancy. In simple terms this means that people are living longer with illness and disabilities. For males in the area, life expectancy is 77.4, with disability free life estimated at 59.4 and healthy life at 64. For females, it is 82, with 61.2 disability free years and 65.7 healthy ones.
- 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.
- Older people are a significant asset to Wales, worth over £1bn to the Welsh economy annually. We must take forward an asset-based approach which, rather than focusing on the costs of providing services for older people, considers instead the cost of not investing in older people.
- When surveyed older people have told us that they want as much support as possible to help them do the things they enjoy and to be able to manage day to day.

What do we need to do?

- The introduction of vaccine centres is a way out of the COVID-19 pandemic
- We need to continue to integrate health and social care at population health level to address the complex needs associated with age related multiple conditions and frailty.
- We need to work with individuals and communities together with the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop and promote Age-friendly Communities in Carmarthenshire across the domains of civic participation, communication and information social participation, outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, respect and social inclusion, housing and community support and health services.

- We need a ‘joined-up’ approach across all Council departments to support independent living and to help older people live in their communities. Making sure that the impact of all service changes on elderly people are carefully thought through.
- We need to involve older people who are often ‘*experts by experience*’ and know the services they need to remain active and independent in their communities.
- We need to work with Public Services Board (PSB) to achieve the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales’ targets for inclusion in the PSBs *Well-Being Plan*.
- We need to reflect on research undertaken by the Older People’s Commissioner’s Office ‘Leave no-one behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery’ and respond to the Welsh Government’s Strategy for an Ageing Society: age friendly Wales, as we transition from the pandemic
- We need to focus on outcome-based approaches to draw out the changes and improvements seen in an individual’s life – we need to build services around the outcomes that older people need.

Our steps to improve this  Actions to deliver these are in our [Departmental and Service Business Plans](#)

The Welsh Government commissioned a Parliamentary Review of the Long-Term Future of Health and Social Care: ‘*A Healthier Wales*’ is the Welsh Government’s response to that Review. The report adopts a ‘*Quadruple Aim*’. They are to continually work towards:

- A.** Improved population health and well-being;
- B.** Better quality and more accessible health and social care services;
- C.** Higher value health and social care; and
- D.** A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.

In response, we have developed our approach in partnership to delivering ‘*A Healthier Carmarthenshire*’, and in doing this we have looked at how we will improve outcomes for older people in the County. In doing this, the Council will also take account of the *Older People’s Commissioner’s* priorities, Welsh Government *Strategy for an ageing society: age friendly Wales*, and the *World Health Organisation’s* age friendly priorities for action.



Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment



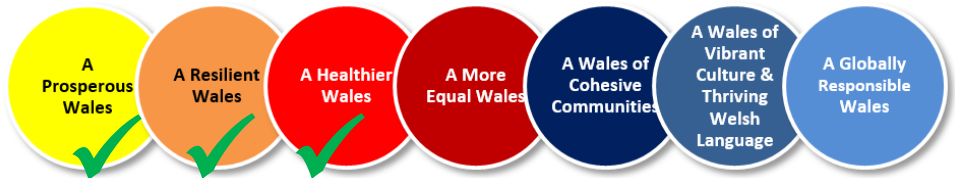


Well-being Objective 10

Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

Why is this 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 & 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.
- The *conservation and enhancement of biodiversity* is vital in our response to climate change and key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination, clean air and water.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic showed the strong relationship between *residents’ well-being and their surrounding natural environment* from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.
- We have declared a *climate emergency* as a Council and were the first in Wales to have published our [Route Towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030](#). In July 2020 public services across Wales [pledged to ensuring decarbonisation](#).



Why this should concern us?

- The environment contributes £8.8 billion of goods and services annually to the Welsh economy, 9% of Welsh GDP and 1 in 6 Welsh jobs; with the environment being relatively more important to the Welsh economy than is the case for the other UK nations.
- Annual budget consultation results show that ‘Looking after the environment now and for the future’ is the second most important Well-being Objective to citizens.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience, as well as our health and well-being. Ash Dieback will see significant tree loss.
- The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increased appreciation of the benefits of access to the natural environment and air quality, and concerns about fly-tipping, littering and recycling.
- Rising sea levels are likely to impact not only the 6,388 properties in Carmarthenshire already at risk of tidal and rising river level flooding, but additional properties along our coastal and river communities as a result of increased frequency and intensity of storm events such as storms Callum and Dennis. A biodiverse natural environment will be more resilient to both climate change, and changes in sea level.

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that in delivering all our strategies, plans, projects and programmes for development, the road to economic growth and the attraction of inward investment, we deliver our Environment (Wales) Act duties and actively maintain and protect biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.
- We need to sustain and enhance natural & built spaces to encourage healthy living for residents & visitors.
- We need to support ecological resilience within our rural and urban communities.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our [Departmental and Service Business Plans](#)

- A. We will work to improve the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and comply with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and play our role in ensuring nature recovery.
- B. We will plan, design, and build sustainable communities and infrastructure for the future to address long term challenges and ensure well-being and embrace the spirit of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.
- C. We will implement the Route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 and support the Carmarthenshire Global Goalkeepers Climate Action 8-point Manifesto.
- D. We will mitigate the effects of flooding and damage caused by rising sea levels and increased frequency of storms as far as is reasonably practicable with respect to our natural and built environment, including properties, through delivering our obligations under the Flood and Water Management Act; we will address the lessons learnt from storms Callum and Dennis. We will manage our coastline assets in accordance with the Shoreline Management Plan.
- E. We will deliver actions from the ‘Towards Zero Waste strategy’, to become a high recycling nation by 2025 and a zero-waste nation by 2050.



Lead Executive Board Members:
Cllr Phillip Hughes, Cllr Cefin Campbell
& Cllr Hazel Evans



Well-being Objective 11

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

Why is this important?

- Transportation & highways play a key role in sustaining our community and deliver 'Prosperity for All.' 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 and shopping.
- *United and connected* is one of the four Welsh Government 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 will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community e.g. that includes walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.



Why this should concern us?

- Our highway network is the second largest in Wales covering 3,545 Kilometres, more than double the Welsh average of 1,566 Kilometres; covering 16 million square metres of carriageway.
- The condition of our roads was ranked 17th out of 22 across Wales in 2017/18.
- 18.8% of residents do not have access to a car or van. However, 43.5% of households have one car per household, which may indicate reduced accessibility in areas not well served by public transport.
- Only 55% aged 80 or over have access to a car/van therefore public transport and community based services are important to enable people to continue to live within their communities; it can mean the difference between a person staying independent at home or entering residential care.
- Air quality is a concern in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli. [Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on Air Quality](#).

What do we need to do? [The FG Commissioners May 2020 Report - Transport](#)

- We need to improve connectivity and support access to services.
- We need to develop a transportation system that will enable businesses to grow and flourish in line with our economic ambitions as an authority
- We need to sustain investment into our public and community transport systems and facilitate travel to and from schools to support our Modernising Education Programme.
- We need to also invest in infrastructure to support more sustainable journeys and Active Travel. For example, through cycle ways, footpaths and public transport infrastructure.
- We need to continue to sustain investment in our existing highway infrastructure to improve connectivity.
- We need to ensure our fleet of vehicles are safe, modern and efficient, and design our replacement strategy to adapt to changes in vehicle technology.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will develop the highway infrastructure to meet the priorities of our Regeneration Plan and Swansea Bay City Deal. We will continue to develop a new highway at Cross Hands and develop strategic schemes to connect communities to promote 'Active Travel' and tourism.
- B. We will continue the successful integrated public transport network such as Bwcabus/LINC and Traws Cymru, develop a Metro for South West Wales to integrate Active Travel, bus and rail stations and work with regional colleagues to improve rail connectivity and journey times to West Wales.
- C. We will plan to redesign our school transport network to support the Modernising Education Programme.
- D. We will continue to support community and rural transport (see Well-being Objective 5, Step C)
- E. We will meet our objectives set out in our Road Safety Strategy.
- F. We will continue to modernise our vehicle fleet to improve efficiency and reduce emissions and support the development of electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Hazel Evans



Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

So why is this important?

- Carmarthenshire is a stronghold for the Welsh language and is considered to be of high strategic importance in its future.
- Bilingualism is beneficial to both the economy and individuals through cognitive and social benefits.
- It is a unique selling point. Tourist and hospitality industries throughout Europe are now realising the importance of offering unique experiences. Having two languages and a sense of Welsh history and culture places Carmarthenshire in a strong position.
- Engaging in cultural activity has demonstrable positive impact on starting well, living well and ageing well.



Why this should concern us?

- According to the results of the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales **37.4%** of people in Carmarthenshire said that they spoke Welsh. *(Based on a sample of 12,400 in Wales)*
- The 2011 Census showed that the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire had reduced to **43.9%** compared to 50.1% in 2001.
- The Welsh Government’s ambition, through the [Cymraeg 2050 - Welsh language Strategy](#), is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a **million by 2050**.
- The Welsh Government’s [Light Springs through the Dark: A Vision for Culture in Wales](#) is reinforcing the importance of culture as a priority.

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language Standards](#)
- We need to continue to implement and promote the ‘WESP’ [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) in partnership with school leaders for the benefit of all Carmarthenshire learners. *(Also see WBO3)*
- We need to promote the use of the Welsh Language in our communities working with partners such as Mentrau Iaith, Urdd and Mudiad Meithrin to realise the vision set out in our [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#)
- We need to promote ourselves as a bilingual employer & explore the possibilities of doing so in cooperation with other public sector organisations in the County, with a key focus on our apprenticeships programme
- We need to develop the language skills of our staff and the use of the Welsh Language in the workplace and ensure that we take advantage of technological developments to this aim
- We need to ensure that economic development and prosperity of the Welsh language happen side by side by regenerating rural economies and communities
- We need to increase the number of people participating in cultural activity
- We need to ensure that our County’s heritage assets are protected and accessible for future generations.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will implement and monitor the **Welsh Language Standards** under the Welsh Language Measures 2011.
- B. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our Education services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide.
- C. We will assess the impact of **Language Promotion Strategy**, which will facilitate the use of Welsh in everything we do across all communities and start revising the strategy with key partners
- D. We will promote our **Welsh Culture & Heritage**
- E. We will continue to support our Annual Cultural awards, whilst working with local communities to promote the annual village and town of Culture.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths

Better Governance & Use of Resources



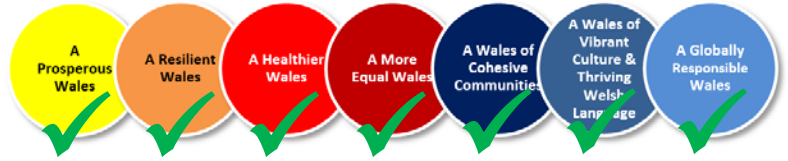


Well-being Objective 13

Better Governance and use of Resources

So why is this important?

- The general purpose of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015*, 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. To make this work there are key areas of corporate change that are required by the Act.
- 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'*.
- The way we work needs to focus on the long term, working in partnership and collaboration, involving people more, preventing problems before they materialise and ensuring we work in an integrated way to maximise our resources and reduce duplication; one of the ways we do this is through the Public Services Board (PSB).



Why this should concern us?

- There are further financial pressures as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Brexit.
- The Pandemic has shown the importance of digital connectivity and new ways of working.

What do we need to do?

- Our Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) approach will make sure that we take the opportunity to learn the lessons of the COVID-19 Pandemic and build on the of the new ways of working that were successful.
- We will comply with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act on the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance, and performance.
- We will apply the new Socio-Economic Duty to reduce inequalities due to socio-economic disadvantage.
- We will invest in regeneration through the council's capital programme by developing and building employment space for businesses and providing financial support to the private sector for development.
- We will make better use of our resources which will help to minimise the impact on services primarily by making smarter use of our buildings, our people, and our spending.
- We need to embed tackling inequality across all Services. [See A More Equal Wales](#)

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our [Departmental and Service Business Plans](#)

A. By transforming innovating and changing the way we work and deliver services.

Our *Transform, Innovate and Change* (TIC) programme is aimed at thinking differently, acting differently and therefore delivering differently.

B. We shall follow the 7 Principles of Good Governance set out Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE):

- B1. Integrity and Values** (*Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law*)
- B2. Openness and engagement** (*Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement*)
- B3. Making a difference** (*Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, & environmental benefits*)
- B4. Making sure we achieve what we set out to do** (*Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes*)
- B5. Valuing our people; engaging, leading and supporting** (*Developing capacity and the capability of leadership and individuals*)
- B6. Managing risks, performance and finance** (*Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management*)
- B7. Good transparency and accountability** (*good practices, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability*)



Lead Executive Board Members
Cllr David Jenkins &
Cllr Mair Stephens

APPENDICES



Well-being Objective - Mergers and rewording

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

	OLD		NEW		
	No.	Well-being Objective's 2018-21	No.	Well-being Objective 2021-22	Specific focus for 2021/22
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences	1	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Flying Start under the auspices of the Early years transformation programme
	2	Help children live healthy lifestyles (Childhood Obesity)	2	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling children's mental health issues – possibly resulting from lockdown measures
	3	Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners	3	Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure learners are supported to re-engage in learning and regain any learning lost due to COVID Ensure that those in examination group are well supported in order that they can follow their chosen pathway
	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, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty	4	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling Poverty
	6	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	5	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SME & foundational economy Rural regeneration Pentre Awel
	7	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	6	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local housing crisis - escalating costs and second homes
	8	Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and Adult obesity)	7	Continue	
	9	Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities	8	Support community cohesion, resilience, and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Cohesion
Age Well	10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years	9	Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age Friendly Communities
	11	A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire			
In a healthy and safe environment	12	Look after the environment now and for the future	10	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change with particular focus on flooding Net Zero Carbon
	13	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	11	Continue	
	14	Promoting Welsh Language and Culture	12	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting national target of a million Welsh speakers
Corporate Governance	15	Building a better Council Making Better use of Resources	13	Better Governance and use of Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed tackling inequality across all of the Council's objectives

Statutory Requirements

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are separate but interconnected legal obligations and the requirements of both are fully aligned and combined in this Corporate Strategy.

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

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, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The 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 use of the 5 ways of working:
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- 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.

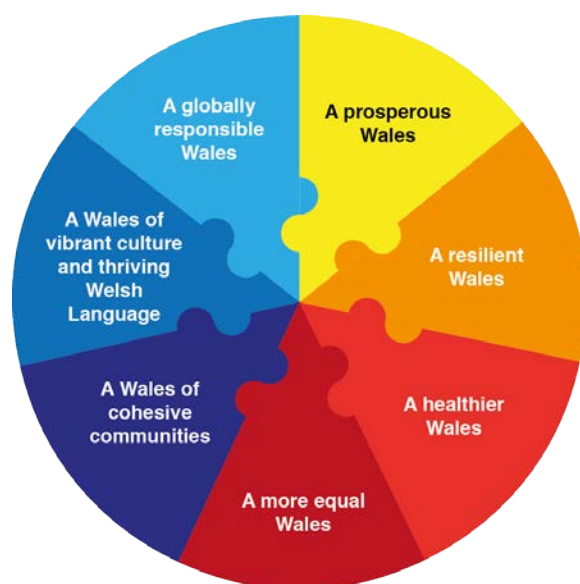
For the first time in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we are required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximise our Contribution to the Well-being Goals.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance, and performance. The Act will replace the current improvement duty for principal councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. We will report on 2021-22 under the terms of the new Act.

Socio-economic duty

From 31st March 2021, this duty will require councils, when taking strategic decisions such as ‘deciding priorities and setting objectives’, to consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.



Financing the Council's Well-being Objectives

The financial position faced by local authorities has had a consistent theme over the last decade, with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions, which means that we have less money to invest in services now than we have in the past. Over the last decade, we have had to manage a budget gap of around £120m, 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.



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

To achieve this objective we need to ensure appropriate investment in the early years and through our community resources such as Integrated Children's Centres and Family Centres.

The Children & Communities Grant helps to improve and integrate service delivery to better support vulnerable families and people across Wales. This grant incorporates the Flying Start and Families First grants which has Welsh Government Revenue funding of £5.1m in 2021/22. We will also continue to invest the childcare care offer capital grant of £3m we were initially awarded in 2019/20, in addition to the annual award of £67k for 2021/22 to facilitate the provision of up to 30 hours of high-quality childcare for children of working parents across the county.



2. Help children live healthy lifestyles

In order to deliver against this objective the key points above also apply.

School meals in Carmarthenshire follow healthy eating legislation, for which annual core funding is £3m. This includes the cost of the Primary School Free Breakfast initiative. Healthy activities for younger people are supported by existing sports development, and leisure facility programming budgets, supplemented by the Local Authority Partnership Agreement (LAPA) Grant of £465k which we access from the Welsh Government via Sport Wales. This helps pay for activities such as Free Swimming and the Active Young People Programme.



3. Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners

This key objective requires comprehensive support and resourcing from across our services.

Carmarthenshire is committed to ensuring a detailed and forward-thinking programme in support of improved attainment for all our children and young people. Schools receive £122m of delegated funding as well as approximately £19m through Welsh Government grants.

In addition, we are progressing our *Modernising Education/21st Century Schools Programme* to deliver the second tranche of priority projects (Band B), with a projected cost of £129m, with at least 65% coming from the Welsh Government. To ensure ongoing comprehensive support and challenge for our schools, we require some £6.5m to resource our School Improvement and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Teams and their valuable provision. A further £3.3m is needed to continue to provide wider learning and achievement experiences and resources such as museum, gallery and archive services.

The Youth Support Service has a lead role in delivering this work in school and community settings. Annual core funding for this service is £527k. The service depends on annual external grants including the Welsh Government Youth Support Service (YSS) Grant (£543k in 21/22) and Families First (£611k in 2021/22). Securing further funding from the Children & Communities grant will be essential for this well-being target to be met.

In addition to these funding sources, the ongoing regional *Cynnydd* project which seeks to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET in the county is part funded through £3.1m European Social Fund grant (ESF) with CCC match funding of £1.3m.

4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty



It is difficult to estimate the resource implications for delivering initiatives to tackle poverty as this work is delivered across a wide spectrum of services. Some of this work is our core business for example homelessness support (£1m), and other targeted elements are grant funded such as previously mentioned *Children's & Communities Grant*, along with the *Pupil Deprivation Grant* (£5.2m in 2020-21). In addition, as a result of the diverse nature of poverty and the many different influences that can result in someone experiencing poverty, many of the councils services contribute towards tackling poverty indirectly. For these services tackling poverty is not the ultimate goal but is a result of the work they do to support individuals and communities.

The ongoing regional project *Workways Plus* which increases the employability of the economically inactive and the long term unemployed, is part funded through £3m European Social Fund grant (ESF) with CCC match funding of £0.6m. Also, the regional *Workways Plus Short Term Unemployed (STU)* project which supports the short term unemployed into employment is part funded through £723k European Social Fund grant (ESF) with CCC match funding of £240k. The *Communities for Work* project, funded through £1m European Social Fund grant (ESF), supports those aged 16-24 who are NEET, as well as increasing the employability of economically inactive and long term unemployed with complex barriers to employment.

5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county



Carmarthenshire's spend per head of the population on economic development surpasses the average in Wales. Our 15-year regeneration plan will create over 5,000 jobs and exceed £250 million in investment over the next five years, including contributions from private sector partners. Regeneration of communities to stimulate the economy and create high-value jobs is the number one priority of the Council and will be a pivotal part of the county's economic recovery plans.

As part of the Swansea Bay City Deal, we are the delivery lead for two high-profile projects in Carmarthenshire:-

- Yr Egin – Phase one of the digital and creative hub based at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Carmarthen campus has been delivered, with phase two currently in design. With a total cost of £25m (including £5m City Deal grant; £18.5m of public sector investment through the University, public agencies and Government grants; and £1.5m investment from private sector tenants), this will contribute to creating in excess of 200+ jobs over the next 15 years.
- Pentre Awel – The Pentre Awel project will feature new business, research, education and health facilities, along with a state-of-the-art new leisure centre and swimming pool. Proposed for an 83-acre site in South Llanelli, Pentre Awel will be the first development of its scope and size in Wales. With a total project cost of £200m (including £40m City Deal grant, £51m of public sector investment through the Authority and £109m investment from private sector institutions), Pentre Awel will create 1800+ jobs over the next 15 years.
- Additionally, we are the lead authority for the pan-region Digital Infrastructure and Skills and Talent projects. Together with the three other constituent Local Authorities within the Swansea Bay City Region, these projects will look to stimulate the economy and job creation by upgrading urban digital infrastructure and improving rural connectivity, as well as upskilling and increasing educational opportunities for those within the region.

6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes



Our original Affordable Homes Delivery Plan aimed to deliver over 1000 homes between 2016 and 2021, but we have already delivered over 1150 homes by the end of 2020. Our ambitions for the next 10 years are to deliver over 900 new homes with an investment of over £150m, with over 400 being delivered in the next 3 years with an investment of £49m.



7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

This objective will bring together a lot of work done by services and in some cases it is difficult to isolate expenditure under this heading. However, Capital expenditure over the next 5 years will be:

- £18.5m on a new Llanelli leisure centre
- £1m on enhancements to Amman Valley leisure centre.
- £630k on access to the countryside including Rights of Ways, Byways and improvements to the coastal path at Morfa Bacas.
- £580k for the Tywi Valley cycle way and £3.8m on active travel walking and cycling linkages, and
- £486k on safer routes in communities.

In Revenue expenditure for 2021/22 we will be investing:

- £1.575m on children getting 60 minutes of exercise 5 times a week and the exercise referral scheme
- £6.363m running leisure, sports and swimming facilities
- £4.31m on outdoor, countryside and coastal park
- In ensuring cultural well-being across facilities we will be spending £7.043m on delivering services
- For Learning Disability Services £42m and Mental Health services £10.5m and Support Services including Safeguarding and Transport £7.5m
- To support the physically disabled we will be spending £8.6m and £2.1m on supported employment
- We ensure Public Health Services (Food Safety, Air and Water Quality etc.) £2.9m
- Provision of Trading Standards £1m

8. Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities



When we ask people *what things in life matter to you?* They tell us that loved ones, family, friends, neighbours and community matter to them. In Children's Services our range of family support services contribute to this objective and it is difficult to break down the costs of this from some of our other objectives on helping children get the best start in life and improving early life experiences. In total nearly £24m is spent across the Children's Services Division.

Services to support carers and home support services help people to continue to live at home, with their families and in their communities – Also see Objective 10

We are also working to ensure broader community cohesion with a range of initiatives - Link to Objective 13

9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity & independence in their later years



In terms of Capital expenditure, we will be spending £11.2m on disabled facility grants over the next five years. We will also be delivering the new Pentre Awel Wellness Project in Llanelli as part of our City Deal investment.

We will be spending nearly £68m of our revenue budget in 2021/22 on Older People Services. This will include:

- £4m on Commissioning, £9m on Local Authority (LA) Residential homes, £27m on Private Sector Residential Homes and £799k on extra care
- On Homecare Services £8.4m LA provision and £9.1m on Private provision
- £1.9m on Information, Assistance and Advice and telecare services, £2.1m on enablement and £1.8m on Community Support & Day Services

It is difficult to estimate the level of investment in this objective because it cuts across diverse services. This is about making sure that in everything we do, we think about supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.

Put simply, older people are net contributors to the economy rather than beneficiaries with their contributions to the employment market, volunteering, mentoring and caring sectors. The work Council services deliver to help people live independent lives reduces the need for expensive health and social care interventions.

10. Look after the environment now and for the future



With regard to delivery of actions relating to the *Towards Zero Waste Strategy, Flood & Waste Management Plan and Shoreline Management Plan*, these actions are already covered by the relevant budgets. The Waste & Environmental Services division's revenue budget of £23m (21/22) aims to fund the collection and disposal of waste which incorporates numerous recycling initiatives, street cleansing, environmental enforcement, grounds and parks maintenance, flood and coastal defence as well as maintaining public conveniences ensuring that we look after the environment now and in the future.

In addition, CCC receives a Welsh Government grant *Sustainable Waste Management revenue grant* (£1.1m in 2021/22)

11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity



Carmarthenshire's *Local Transport Plan* sets out our priorities for infrastructure investment. The priorities are aligned to our corporate objectives and set within the objectives of the Swansea Bay City Region. Our current approved capital programme includes over £19m for investment into highway infrastructure, £10m of which is reliant on external grant funding, and includes £254k on new electronic vehicle charging points and £800k for street lighting.

The Highways and Transport division's revenue budget of £32m includes a sum of £8m for the highways infrastructure as well as funding for school and public transport, car park maintenance and administration, the upkeep of public lighting for the county and the development of transport strategies to maintain the connectivity of the highways infrastructure for Carmarthenshire.

Transformation projects such as those included within the City Deal and integrated transport projects, supported through external funding, will provide opportunities for investment into the infrastructure and transportation services to support the safe movement of people and goods.

12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture



This priority can be addressed without the need for large additional investment. We will mainly focus on achieving this objective through the existing work we do within Regeneration & Policy, Leisure & Culture and Education & Children's Services, advising and educating colleagues with regard to how our existing services can be further improved and how we can promote a vibrant culture and ensure the Welsh language is thriving.

13. Better Governance and use of Resources



Addressing this priority cuts across all service areas and is both about investment as well as efficiency savings. The Council is committed to financially sustainable delivery models - there are many examples of this across different departments, such as increased Extra Care provision where it better meets service user needs, looking at how covid will lead to new ways of working, potentially reducing the Council's estate costs in the future.

Over a sustained period of budget reductions, the council has sought to maximise the proportion of managerial savings, thus minimising the impact on frontline services. The Council's medium term financial plan includes £9.2 million of "managerial" proposals, or over 80% of total budget reduction proposals put forward.

The council has committed to improving ways of working through the work of the "Transformation, Innovation & Change" programme (TIC), which is underpinned by the TIC team (£227k)

Statements of Intent

Well-being Statement

We welcome our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We have already addressed much of the new Act's requirements but recognise that we can do more.

1. We feel that our Well-being Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals. Our Well-being Objectives relate to different aspects of life's course and address well-being in a systematic way.
2. These Well-being Objectives have been selected with considerable consultation feedback and a basket of different sources of information on need, performance data and regulatory feedback. In developing action plans to achieve these objectives we will involve people (in all their diversity) with an interest in achieving them.
3. The steps we take to achieve the Well-being Objectives (our action plans) will look to ensure that long term, preventative, integrated, collaborative and involvement approaches are fully embraced.
4. An Executive Board member has a specific responsibility for the overall Act. In addition, each Executive Board portfolio holder/s will have responsibility for the relevant Well-being Objectives.
5. To ensure that we take these action plan steps we will use our in house developed Performance Information Monitoring System dashboard. All the action plans will be monitored and reported on quarterly to Department Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and Executive Board. In addition, progress will be reported to Scrutiny Committees. The Council will prepare an Annual Report on its Well-being Objectives and revise the objectives if required.
6. The content of action plans to achieve the Well-being Objectives are adequately resourced and embedded in service business plans (see financial breakdown Appendix 3). To achieve these objectives services will 'join-up' and work together, work with partners and fully involve citizens in all their diversity.
7. Our Objectives are long term, but our action plans will include milestones that will enable monitoring and assurance of progress.
8. To ensure that our Well-being Objectives are deliverable and that the expectations of the Act are embraced we will adapt financial planning, asset management, risk assessment, performance management and scrutiny arrangements.
9. In May 2020 the Future Generations Commissioner published the Future Generations Report 2020 and made recommendations for public bodies that we will consider for 2021/22 in Service Business Plans.

How we measure the success of our Well-being Objectives

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

Well-being Objectives		Success measures
Start Well	WBO 1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year
	WBO 2 - Help children live healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children overweight or obese
	WBO 3 - Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average Capped 9 points score for pupils Primary & Secondary School attendance rates Satisfaction with child's primary school Year 11 & 13 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
Live Well	WBO 4 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap in average Capped 9 points score for those eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not eligible Households successfully prevented from becoming homeless Households in material deprivation Households Living in Poverty
	WBO 5 - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment figures Jobs created with Regeneration assistance Average Gross weekly pay Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above People moderately or very satisfied with jobs
	WBO 6 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of affordable homes in the County
	WBO 7 - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good Adults who say they have a longstanding illness Adult mental well-being score Adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours
	WBO 8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People that have a sense of community People feeling safe

Well-being Objectives		Key success measure
Age Well	WBO 9 - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care • People agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area • Number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant • People who are lonely
In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	WBO 10 - Look after the environment now and for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy generated • Waste reused, recycled or composted
	WBO 11 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road conditions • Road casualties
	WBO 12 - Promote Welsh Language and Culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can speak Welsh • People attended arts events in Wales • People visited historic places in Wales • People visited museums in Wales
	WBO 13 - Better Governance and use of Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Do it online' payments • People can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to • People know how to find what services the Council provides • People have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services • Staff sickness absence levels • Organisational 'running costs' • We ask for people's views before setting the budget

Outcome Measures

The Well-being of 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.

How Services 'Join-up' to deliver Well-being Objectives

Dec 2020

Lead Officer		✓													
Supporting Officer		✓	WBO 1	WBO 2	WBO 3	WBO 4	WBO 5	WBO 6	WBO 7	WBO 8	WBO 9	WBO 10	WBO 11	WBO 12	WBO 13
CEX	Admin & Law	Linda Rees Jones													✓
	People Mgt	Paul Thomas				✓	✓		✓						✓
	Regeneration	Jason Jones				✓	✓						✓		✓
	ICT & Corp Policy	Noelwyn Daniel			✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓
CS	Financial Services	Randal Hemingway													✓
	Revenues & Financial Compliance	Helen Pugh				✓									✓
Communities	Head of Adult Social Care	Avril Bracey			✓				✓	✓	✓				
	Regional Collaboration	Martyn Palfreman		✓						✓	✓				
	Integrated Services	Alex Williams							✓	✓	✓				
	Homes & Safer Comm.	Jonathan Morgan				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Leisure	Ian Jones		✓					✓			✓		✓	
E&CS	Edu & Inclusion	Aneurin Thomas	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
	Curr & Wellbeing	Aeron Rees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
	Access to Education	Simon Davies	✓	✓	✓		✓								
	Children	Stefan Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
ENV	Property	Jonathan Fearn			✓		✓	✓				✓			✓
	Planning	Llinos Quelch		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
	Trans.& Highways	Stephen Pilliner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Waste & Env.	Ainsley Williams		✓							✓	✓			✓

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COUNTY COUNCIL

12TH MAY 2021

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL HEOL GOFFA TO A NEW SITE AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FROM 75 TO 120

Recommendations / key decisions required:

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS: -

That the Council approve, on the basis that;

- there are no other related proposals;
- the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report;
- no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice;
- that the proposals to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa and increase its capacity from 75 to 120, as laid out in the Statutory Notice, be implemented.

Reasons:

To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted: YES 17/03/21

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee unanimously resolved:

- To recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa to a new site and increase its capacity from 75 to 120 as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Executive Board Decision Required: YES 12/04/21

Council Decision Required: YES 12/05/21

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Simon Davies</p> <p>Report Author: Sara Griffiths</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Access to Education</p> <p>Modernisation Team Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246618 SMGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

12TH MAY 2021

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL HEOL GOFFA TO A NEW SITE AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FROM 75 TO 120

Background

Ysgol Heol Goffa is a special school located in Llanelli and is maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council. The school caters for 75 pupils between the ages of 3-19 years old who have severe learning difficulties (SLD) or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). All pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Ysgol Heol Goffa is currently over-subscribed and this trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. There is increased demand for places which is putting significant pressure on the Local Authority to place pupils. The current capacity of Ysgol Heol Goffa is 75 with 101 pupils on roll as at January 2020 PLASC.

As a result, the Local Authority are currently developing a scheme to increase the capacity of Ysgol Heol Goffa to 120 places for pupils aged 3-19 who have severe learning difficulties (SLD) or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) by providing a new school with facilities fit for the 21st Century on a new site. The proposed new site is located next to the recently completed Ysgol Pen Rhos.

The Proposal

The proposal is to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa to a new site and increase its capacity from 75 to 120.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions on the 18th November 2019 (link to the consultation document and report provided) a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 21 September 2020 to 1 November 2020. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the Consultation Report (link provided) and were presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for consideration and determination on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice.

On the 21 December 2020 approval was granted by the Executive Board for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (link provided) was published on 11 January 2021. The notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council which ended on the 7 February 2021. No objections were received to the Statutory Notice therefore there is no Objection Report.

The full suite of documents which include: Consultation Document, Consultation Report, the Statutory Notice will be presented to the Executive Board and ultimately will be presented to the County Council for their determination.

This provides the ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the County Council whether or not to implement the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Should the County Council agree to implement the proposal, the capacity of Ysgol Heol Goffa will increase from 75 to 120 once the school re-locates to its new school site from September 2023.

Recommendation

Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice recommend to the County Council the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

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:  Head of Access to Education

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation was initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures and School Organisation Code 2018.

3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management Issues

Continuing with the current capacity of the school would not address the capacity issues. The statutory consultation is required to relocate and increase the capacity of the school.

6. Staffing Implications

Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

7. Physical Assets

As a result of the scheme to provide Ysgol Heol Goffa with a new school building, the school will re-locate to a new building with a capacity of 120 places.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:  Head of Access to Education

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – The Scrutiny Committee were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.
2. **Local Member(s)** – The local members were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. No formal objections were received to the Statutory Notice.
3. **Community / Town Council** – The Community and Town Council were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. No formal objections were received to the Statutory Notice.
4. **Relevant Partners** – All relevant partners were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Staff side representatives and other organisation were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information	
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	
Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Stage 3 (Permission to Implement) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report	ECS Scrutiny Report 17 March 2021
Stage 2 (Permission to Notice) – Executive Board	Executive Board Report 21 December 2020
Stage 2 (Permission to Notice) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report	ECS Scrutiny Report 23 November 2020
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – Executive Board Report	Executive Board Report 18 November 2019
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report	ECS Scrutiny Report 15 October 2019
Consultation Document / Consultation Report / Statutory Notice	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/special-school/ysgol-heol-goffa/
School Organisation Code 2018	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/
21 st Century Schools Website	www.21stcenturyschools.org
MEP Biennial Review	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board 20 th June 2016

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COUNTY COUNCIL

12TH MAY 2021

DYFED PENSION FUND PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose:

To seek agreement the Terms of Reference of the Pension Board to be revised with a view to it being incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION: -

That the Terms of Reference of the Dyfed Pension Fund Pension Board be revised as stated in the report and incorporated into the council's constitution.

Reasons:

The Pension Board was created in 2015 and following discussions with Board members, the Terms of Reference has been revised to reflect current practices.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA

Exec. Board Decision Required YES 26th April 2021

Council Decision Required YES 12th May 2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- NA

Directorate: Corporate
Services

Name of Director:

Chris Moore

Report Author:
Chris Moore

Anthony Parnell

Designations:

Director of Corporate
Services

Director of Corporate
Services

Treasury & Pension
Investments Manager

Tel:

Email addresses:

01267 224120
CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224120
CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224180
AParnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL 12TH APRIL 2021

DYFED PENSION FUND PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board sits alongside the Pension Fund Committee and assists the Administering Authority with securing compliance with regulations and requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator and assisting in ensuring effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.

The Terms of Reference was initially approved by Executive Board on 19 January 2015 when the Pension Board was established. Following discussions with Board members, the Terms of Reference has been revised to reflect current practises.

The proposed revisions are:

- A provision that the Board may agree to submit reports to the Pension Committee where appropriate.
- Previously, term dates for Board members could be extended by 3 months due to exceptional circumstances. This has been revised by up to a year.
- Previously, there was a provision that the Board Chair could attend Committee meetings as an observer, however, the Terms of Reference has been updated to allow the Chair to formally report to the Committee on Board matters.
- Previously, there was a provision that the Committee Chair could attend Board meetings as an observer, however, this has been updated to allow the Chair of the Committee to formally report to the Board where necessary.
- There are 7 members of the Board, with the Chair not previously having a voting right. There is currently no provision for a tied vote, and it is now included that the Chair will have a vote only in a scenario of a tied vote.

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: C Moore

Director of Corporate Services

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

2. Legal

Changes to the constitution relating to the Terms of Reference of the Dyfed Pension Fund Pension Board.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: C Moore

Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee - NA

2. Local Member(s) -NA

3. Community / Town Council - NA

4. Relevant Partners -

The revisions to the Terms of Reference have been discussed by the Pension Board.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - NA

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED

N/A

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

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 22 February 2021

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:

Councillor R. James, J.S. Edmunds and D.M. Cundy

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

R. Mullen, Director of Environment

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

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

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

J. Jones, Head of Regeneration

J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities

D. Hockenull, Marketing and Media Manager

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

J. Corner, Technical Officer

M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer

L Morris, Senior Press Officer

D. Phillips, Press and Communications Officer

K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 - 11.30 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

The Leader of the Council referred to the severe adverse weather experienced across Carmarthenshire over the previous weekend with heavy rainfall causing flooding to homes, businesses and highways. He commented on the plans put in place by the Council, and partner agencies, in anticipation of the disruption and praised all council and agency staff for their efforts in responding to the flooding. He also referred to the increasing frequency of such events arising from climate change and on the need to have national policies in place to address these issues and that the Executive Board was making representations to the Welsh Government in that regard.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

Councillor / Officer	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
H. Evans	3 – Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 th February – Proposal to change the nature of provision at Model VA Primary School	Is a member of the Executive Board for the St David's Diocese Board of Finance
H. Evans	8 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22	Sister is the Chief Executive of a Housing Association
H. Evans	9 – The Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-24	Sister is the Chief Executive of a Housing Association

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 8TH FEBRUARY, 2021

(NOTE Cllr H Evans declared an interest during the meeting on the discussion relating to Model VA School and left the meeting during its consideration)

Councillor H Evans referred to her declaration of interest recorded in minute 2 and requested that it be amended to read “ Is a member of the Executive Board for St David's Diocese Board of Finance”

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 8th February, 2021 be signed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

Having approved the minutes of the meeting on the 8th February, subject to the above amendment, the Leader of the Council advised that two issues had subsequently arisen which the Executive Board may wish to reflect upon as matters of urgency.

The first related to Minute 6 of the meeting on the proposal to change the nature of provision at the Model VA school and to correspondence received from the school's governing body advising the Authority that, as governors, they had not been made fully aware of the proposal.

The Executive Board Member for Education and Children advised that while the proposal had been discussed with the Chair of the school's Governing Body and the Headteacher, it appeared the wider membership of the Governing Body and wider school staff were not fully aware of the proposal. In view of that position, he expressed an opinion the authority may not wish to proceed with the consultation where the majority of the Governing Body or staff complement were not aware of the proposal. He therefore proposed, in the interests of fairness, that the Council

discontinue the proposal (meant to commence that day - 22nd February, 2021) to allow time to engage fully with the Governing Body and Staff.

The Leader advised that the Second item related to the Notice of Motion considered by Council on the 10th February 2021 on the appropriateness of conducting consultations on matters such as education provision during a pandemic which had been referred to the Executive Board for its consideration.

The Executive Board Member for Education and Children advised that while that Notice of Motion was to be considered by the Executive Board on the 1st March 2021, the Welsh Government on the afternoon of the 10th February, following the Council meeting, had extended the temporary changes to certain requirements of the School Organisation Code for a further period so as to enable consultations to continue despite the pandemic. Subsequently, on the 15th February, the Welsh Government had issued revised Guidance on “Consultation on School Organisation Proposals During a Pandemic” and the Executive Board would need to take those intervening documents into account when it debated the Notice of Motion. As the Council had some consultations which technically expired on the 21st February, and in view of the imminent debate on the Notice of Motion, he suggested the Board may consider it unfair to close those consultations whilst there was a live issue to be debated. He therefore proposed, as a matter of urgency, that the period for making representations on those consultations be extended until the Executive Board had debated the Notice of Motion on the 1st March 2021.

FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 1. That the proposal adopted in minute 6 of the Executive Board held on the 8th February 2021 to change the nature of provision at the Model VA school be discontinued to allow time to engage fully with the schools Governing Body and staff;**
- 2. That the period for making representations on Council consultations be extended until the Executive Board had debated the Notice of Motion on consultations at its meeting on the 1st March 2021.**

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

5. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

6. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2023/24

The Executive Board considered a report which brought together the latest proposals for the Revenue Budget 2021/2022, provided indicative figures for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years and summarised the latest budgetary position giving an update on the budget validation, spending pressures, the Welsh Government provisional settlement and responses received to the budget consultation.

The Executive Board Member for Resources outlined to the Board a number of factors influencing the budget, including the fact the final settlement from the Welsh Government would not be received until the 2nd March 2021. Whilst having regard to the late announcement of the final settlement, he advised that key components of the budget assumptions and allocations had been reviewed and had provided some increased headroom to enable the authority to revisit some of the original budget proposals.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that full details of the provisional settlement, included within the report, detailed that Local Government funding on an all Wales basis had increased by an average of 3.8% on the 2020/21 settlement, with Carmarthenshire's allocation being 3.8% (£10.466m). Although that settlement had enabled the authority to allocate funding in its budget for a significant amount of inflationary and unavoidable pressures, it still required savings to be made and while the initial draft budget had included a significant value of savings to be deferred for future years, due to the impact of covid, it had accommodated the changes within the 2021/22 budget, but there would still be a need to continue to deliver further significant changes over future years

The Executive Board Member referred to the final settlement from Welsh government, due to be announced on the 2nd March 2021, and advised that the report sought authority for the Director of Corporate Services in liaison with the Leader, Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Resources to make any necessary adjustments to the Budget Strategy prior to County Council on the 3rd March 2020. The Director of Corporate Services had however, made some adjustments to some of the other figures within the report, as part of the normal routine as clearer information became available, with current total validation adding some £10m to the budget. The most significant validation related to pay, which had allowed for 2.5% each year. That, however, did not apply to teachers, which were covered by separate pay arrangements within the Welsh Government's remit with the 2020 award representing a 3.1% increase, with the part year effect being a consistent assumption of 2.5% for any future awards, which was recognised as a key risk to the budget

The Executive Board Member reminded the Board that based on the provisional budget settlement, changes to some of the key assumptions around future pay awards and the impact of delays in the capital programme there was some scope to make changes to the strategy, and it had previously agreed to reduce the Council tax increase for 2021/22 to 4.48%, thereby providing a sum of £958k to respond to the budget consultation. He therefore proposed the following changes to the budget strategy:-

- To remove both the gully cleansing and road sweeping proposals;
- To reduce the highways surface dressing proposal from £300k to £100k;
- Provide funding of £75k for the TrueCall service;
- Provide £50k to provide increased education department capacity to deliver improved financial and governance support as part of the department's responsibility for the overall schools system.

The Executive Board Member advised that having proposed the above changes, sufficient funding was available to further cap the council tax increase to 3.95% for

2021-22. Those proposals, if adopted, would present a fair and balanced budget to the Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:-

- 6.1 That the Budget Strategy for 2021/22, be approved;**
- 6.2 That the Band D Council Tax for 2021/22 be set at £1,368.55 (an increase of 3.95% for 2021/22);**
- 6.3 That the £958k recurrent funding available balance be allocated, as detailed above;**
- 6.4 That the provisional Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a basis for future years financial planning**
- 6.5 That the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Executive Board Member for Resources, be delegated authority to make any amendment necessary as a consequence of the Welsh Government final settlement due on the 2nd March 2021.**

7. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) - 2021/22 TO 2025/26

The Executive Board considered a report which brought together the latest proposals for the Five-Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2021/22 to 2025/2026, taking into account the consultation exercise undertaken and the revenue implications arising from the capital programme.

The Board noted that the capital programme proposed gross expenditure of £258m over the five year period with projected funding of £122.5m from the County Council's own resources through the use of borrowing, capital receipts, reserves and general capital grant and the balance of £135m coming from external sources. A sum of £4m between years 4 and 5 remained unallocated for the present time and would be utilised as other cost and funding crystallised as time progressed .

The Executive Board Member advised that Appendix A to the report detailed the full programme, which was fully funded for the five years, and provided potential for further investment in years 4 and five given the yet, unallocated, £4m funds for those years

The Executive Board Member advised while many of the investments in the report were familiar including, the 21st century schools programme, Highways, Regeneration and Housing, it had been possible to add investment to schemes considered to be important for the county to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those included:-

- Economic Regeneration – Targeted regeneration Investment (£1.2m); Commercial Property Development Fund (£1m); Rural Enterprise Fund (£500k) and £1m for the 'Ten Towns' growth plan enabling the authority to draw in considerable private sector investment to the county. Additionally, the £500k approved in 2020/21 for decarbonisation of the council's estate would be repurposed for Renewal Energy Initiative Grants to business to act as a catalyst for private investment in that area and reducing the county's carbon footprint;

- Infrastructure – Trebeddrod Reservoir (£1m), Morfa Bacas coastal path (£300k); public lighting column replacement (£400k p.a. from 2024/25) and a £300k commitment to invest in council owned farms for 2024/24;
- Community Services – ongoing commitment to supporting investment in culture at Oriel Myrddin and continued support for private sector housing in 2024/25 for Disabled Facilities Grants;
- Environment Department – continued support for Highways Improvements, Bridge Maintenance and Road safety schemes into 2025/26. Council funding on Highway maintenance would continue to be bolstered in 2021/22 via the Welsh Government Road Refurbishment Grant ;
- Council Estate – additional funding for essential works to County Hall (£500k) and health and safety works to Ty Elwyn (£700k)
- In addition to the recovery package in 2021/22, the Regeneration budget was supported with further additional investment in the Transformation Strategy Project Fund in 2025/26 which had the potential to attract significant external funding to match the council's investment

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 7.1 The Five-Year Capital Programme and its funding detailed in Appendix A to the report with 2021/22 being a hard budget and 2022/23 to 2025/26 soft/indicative budgets be approved;**
- 7.2 The programme be reviewed, as usual, if anticipated external or County Council funding did not materialise;**
- 7.3 The Capital Strategy, as detailed in Appendix D be approved;**
- 7.4 The Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Executive Board Member for Resources be delegated authority to make any adjustments necessary as a consequence of the Welsh Governments final settlement due on the 2nd March 2021.**

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021/22 TO 2023/24 AND HOUSING RENT SETTING FOR 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL

(NOTE: Councillor H Evans having earlier declared an interest in this item left the meeting during its consideration)

The Executive Board considered a report prepared by the Director of Corporate Services, in conjunction with officers from the Communities Department, that brought together the latest proposals for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Housing Revenue Account 2021/22 to 2023/24. It was noted the report had been considered, and endorsed, by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 2nd February 2021 as part of the budget consultation process.

The report had been prepared reflecting the latest proposals contained in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, being the primary financial planning tool for delivering the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard *Plus* (CHS+) for the future. It was noted the proposed investment within the current business plan had delivered the CHS by 2015 (to those homes where tenants had agreed to have the work undertaken) provided investment to maintain the CHS+ and continued investment for the Council's Affordable Housing Commitment.

The Executive Board Member for Resources advised that capital investment in the region of £231m had delivered the Carmarthenshire Home Standard for tenants and, more recently, up to the end of the current financial year, a further £64m would have been spent in maintaining the CHS+ home standard for properties and tenants. Over the next 3 years it was expected that a further £56m would be spent on maintaining and upgrading the housing stock. The budget also provided funding of some £49m over the next 3 years to support the Affordable Homes Programme, which was on top of the £45m expenditure already incurred to the end of this current financial year. The Strategy would also see the increase in the supply of affordable housing throughout the County through various solutions including our new build programme (such as Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port and Dylan, Bynea) and the buyback scheme.

The Executive Board was reminded that since 2015 the Authority had been required to adopt the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rent Harmonisation, meaning that the proposed rent increase was prescribed by Welsh Government guidance and provided an equitable distribution of the rents for the social sector tenants. While that policy ended in 2018/19, and an interim policy applied for 2019/20 the Welsh Government had subsequently developed a new policy for implementation in 2020/21 to apply for a period of 5 years from 2020/21 and contained some additional/amended requirements, as detailed within the report. The main elements of that policy allowed Local Authorities to uplift the total rent envelope by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) +1% for each of the five years to 2024/25. It also allowed for the level of rent for individual tenants to rise by up to an additional £2 over and above CPI +1% for rent harmonisation, on condition that total rental income collected by the social landlord increased by no more than CPI +1%.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:

- 8.1 To increase the average housing rent as per the Welsh Government's Social Housing Rents Policy i.e:-**
- a) Properties at target rents to increase by 1.27%**
 - b) Properties where rent was below target rent, rent to increase by 1.27% plus a maximum progression of £1.00**
 - c) Those rents above target rent be frozen until such time as they met the target**
 - d) This will produce an increase on the average housing rent of 1.5% or £1.35**

Thereby producing a sustainable Business Plan, maintain CHS+, resource our Affordable Homes programme and was supported by the CHS+ Steering Group.

- 8.2 To implement a maximum progression of £1.00 for rents below target, until target rents were achieved;**
- 8.3 To maintain garage rents at £9.00 per week and garage bases at £2.25 per week;**
- 8.4 To apply the service charge policy to ensure tenants who received the benefit from specific services paid for those services;**

- 8.5 To increase charges for using the Council's sewerage treatment works in line with the rent increases;
- 8.6 To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22 (2022/23 & 2023/24 being soft budgets) as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- 8.7 To approve the proposed Capital Programme and applicable funding for 2021/22 and the indicative spends for 2022/23 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

9. THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD PLUS (CHS+) BUSINESS PLAN 2021-24

(NOTE: Councillor H Evans having earlier declared an interest in this item left the meeting during its consideration)

The Executive Board considered the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-2024 plan the purpose of which was to:

- Explain the vision and detail of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus over the next three years, and what it means for tenants
- To show the income received from tenants and other funding sources afforded a capital programme of £107m over the next three years to:
 - Build over 400 affordable homes;
 - Improve and maintain the existing stock
 - Develop new standards for energy efficiency and move towards carbon neutral homes
- To show how the housing investment programmes could help stimulate the economy and recovery from Covid-19
- Produce a business plan for the annual application to Welsh Government for Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) for 2021/22, equating to £6.2m.

The Executive Board Member for Housing advised the report was divided into the following four key themes aimed at driving the business forward for the next three years:-

1. Theme 1 – Supporting Tenants and Residents;
2. Theme 2 – Investing in Homes and the Environment, including the development of a new Welsh Home Quality Standard, building on that already achieved through the CHS+, featuring an increased standard for energy efficiency in the Council's homes;
3. Theme 3 – Providing 500 more homes by investing £60m in the next four years together with the development of a new 10 year Affordable Housing and Regeneration Masterplan by Autumn 2021;
4. Theme 4 – Foundational economy, community benefits and procurement via the authority's response to Covid-19 by further developing the Council's approach to procurement to ensure it maximised its contribution to local economy prosperity and enhancing its focus on social value and community wealth

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 9.1 The vision of the CHS+, the Council's new build programme,

- the financial and delivery programmes over the next three years be confirmed;
- 9.2 The 2021/22 Business Plan be submitted to the Welsh Government;
- 9.3 The principles behind moving towards carbon neutral homes and developing a decarbonisation strategy to support that be noted;
- 9.4 The importance of the investment included in the plan and its role in stimulating the local economy and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic be noted.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2021-22

The Executive Board was reminded that as part of the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council had agreed to maintain a Treasury Management Policy detailing the policies and objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities and to also approve a Treasury Management Strategy annually before the start of the financial year to which it related. In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003, the Council was required to approve the Treasury Management Indicators for the coming year.

In accordance with the above requirements, the Executive Board considered the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for the 2021-22 financial year prior to its formal submission to the Council for final adoption.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:-

- 10.1 The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2021-22 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.
- 10.2 The Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein be approved.

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. BUSINESS TENANTS - RENT CONCESSION

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 11 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 public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as disclosure would harm the businesses to which the report applied, undermining their position in the market place and potentially put jobs at risk and cause harm to the local economy.

Further to minute of the meeting held on the 13th July 2020, the Executive Board considered an update report on the rent concession granted to its business tenants as a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic and on whether that scheme should be extended.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council's business tenants be offered a 50% rental concession for the quarter period December 2020 to March 2021, to be assessed on hardship, and granted to the most needed and that qualifying businesses be required to apply for the concession by a specific date and confirm any grant assistance already received.

CHAIR

DATE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

22 MARCH 2021

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:

Councillor D.M. Cundy;
Councillor J.S. Edmunds;
Councillor R. James.

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
J. Jones, Head of Regeneration;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
G. Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager;
D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager;
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
K. Davies, Sustainable Development Manager;
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer;
R.M. Davies, Strategic Housing Delivery Manager;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
J. Corner, Technical Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting – 10:00am - 11:40am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

The Leader of the Council reminded all present that as of today the pre-election period had commenced.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE:-

3.1. 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 22nd February, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

3.2 1ST MARCH 2021

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 1st March, 2021 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. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE COMPLAINTS POLICY

The Executive Board considered a report which provided detailed the reasons for the requirement to develop a new corporate complaints policy, which if approved would replace the current complaints and compliments procedure.

The report outlined that on 30th September 2020, the Public Services Ombudsman (PSOW) for Wales and its Complaints Standards Authority (CSA) formally launched a new Model Concerns and Complaints Policy and had been given Local Authorities 6 months to implement a new Policy and submit an updated document to the PSOW.

Whilst the model policy did not represent a significant departure from the Council's existing Complaints and Compliments Procedure and complaints handling processes the report highlighted the key changes.

In addition, arrangements to address the key changes were being progressed and complaints reporting would be included in quarterly performance management reports from April 2021 onwards.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the new Complaints Policy be approved to replace the previous Complaints and Compliments Procedure.

7. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018/23 - UPDATE APRIL 2021

The Executive Board received a report which provided which provided information on the adjustments that had been made to the Corporate Strategy 2018-23 and the Well-being Objectives which were adopted in June 2018. The adjustments were made to reflect the developing priorities, the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Brexit and climate change.

To underpin the Corporate Strategy, it was reported that the Departmental and Service business plans would be aligned to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives. Key actions and targets would be identified with the delivery being monitored on a quarterly basis.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives adopted in June, 2018 be adjusted, as reported, to reflect developing priorities, the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Brexit and climate change.

8. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Executive Board received the Annual Report 2019-20 for the Strategic Equality Plan. The report provided the Board with an opportunity to review, monitor and reflect the ongoing activity around meeting the general and specific duties of the Equality Act 2010. In addition, the annual report included information in relation to employment, training and pay.

The Board noted that Strategic Equality Plans set out how public bodies consider the needs of groups with 'protected characteristics', as outlined in the Equality Act 2010, to ensure that all individuals receive just and equitable treatment in respect of service delivery and strategy/policy formulation.

It was reported that throughout 2020 the Strategic Equality Plan had been revised after having worked partnership with the Local Authorities across Dyfed Powys, both Health Boards, Dyfed Powys Police, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, Wales Ambulance Services NHS Trust, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire Coastal National Park Authority and the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, to undertake a detailed engagement and consultation exercise.

It was noted that a Diversity and Equality Promotion Calendar and a Flag and illumination protocol had been developed. It was acknowledged that whilst this was an excellent method to raise awareness, it was equally important to continue to promote equality and diversity all year round.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2019-20 be approved.

9. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE 2019-20

The Executive Board, in accordance with the Welsh Language Commissioner's monitoring arrangements, received the Annual Report on the Welsh Language which outlined the implementation work in 2019-20. The report focused on the fourth year of implementing the Welsh Language Standard.

The report provided detailed statistical information in relation to the actions of the Strategy, which included Welsh Language skills audit of the workforce and data in relation to recruitment.

Board members noted during 2019/20 a new impetus had been given to the implementation of the standards within the Council, due to significant progress being made on internal work as well as building on partnerships with other organisations in order to promote the Welsh language across Carmarthenshire. It was acknowledged that an increase of 43% staff undertook a Learning and Development Opportunity to learn or improve their Welsh during 2019/20.

It was reported that the Council had won the 'Employer of the Year' category in the Gwobrau Dysgu Cymraeg 2020 Learn Welsh Awards, an accolade which demonstrated the Council's commitment to the Welsh Language.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the annual report in relation to the Welsh language and compliance with the Welsh Language Standards during 2019-2020 be received.

10. FUTURE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Executive Board considered a report which provided information regarding the regional school improvement arrangements.

Due to delays with developing and establishing a replacement partnership model for regional school improvement service (ERW), the report requested that the Executive Board defer withdrawal from ERW from 31st March 2021 to 31st August 2021.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

10.1 to note that since serving notice to withdraw from ERW, the work around a new footprint and model for regional school improvement had not been progressed to enable a smooth transition to a new model by 31st March 2021.

10.2 to note that any new model for school improvement was likely to need legal changes to governance arrangements which would not be in place by 31st March 2021.

10.3 to agree to withdraw the notice to withdraw and remain in ERW until 31st August 2021 or until such time as new arrangements are in place.

10.4 to delegate to the Director of Education and Children's Services and Head of Legal Services authority to enter into any Deed of Variation necessary to ensure any change to withdrawal arrangements or any other necessary amendments approved by the Joint Committee.

11. NET ZERO CARBON PLAN - UPDATE REPORT

The Executive Board received an update report on the Net Zero Carbon Plan which was developed following the approval of the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan by County Council on 12th February 2020. The draft Net Zero Carbon Plan update was developed in accordance with Action NZC-28 of the Plan that required performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.

The report comprised of detailed information within following sections:-

- High Level Summary including Progress against Actions
- COVID-19 and Climate Change
- Progress Update
- Future Actions
- Wider Response to Climate Emergency (Appendix 1)

In addition to the report, the Board noted that at its meeting on 5th March 2021, the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee had resolved to write a letter to the Welsh Government to convey its concern regarding the limited capacity of the local electricity distribution network and to request that Welsh Government work with Local Authorities, and others, to develop a clear plan to address this issue. In addition, in its letter, convey its disappointment that the Wales Carbon Reporting Guidance has not been published to date.

The Board, after considering the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's request that the Executive Board, in a separate letter to the Welsh Government echo and support the Committee's comment, acknowledged the importance of this in order to be able proceed and continue working towards being a Net Zero organisation by 2023 and agreed to honour the request.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

11.1 the Net Zero Carbon Plan - Update Report be approved;

11.2 a letter be written to Welsh Government to echo the concerns raised by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5th March 2021;

11.3 delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan - Update Report.

12. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided the latest budgetary position as at 31st December 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 Covid19 pandemic and the support provided by Welsh Government

Overall, the monitoring report forecasted an end of year underspend of £1,325k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an underspend at departmental level of £232k.

The Executive Board noted that whilst reports earlier in the year, have indicated a significant overspend due to the impact of Covid-19, the current projected position had now significantly improved, with the additional Covid-19 related costs and lost income being largely refunded from the Welsh Government hardship scheme.

It was further noted that whilst the overall position is indicated to be far more favourable than previously reported there were some departments still showing significant pressures. In particular both Communities and Environment still indicated an overspend of approximately £500K each. Departments were still challenged by the pressures and response required to Covid-19 and it was expected that this unprecedented position would continue into next financial year.

Commentaries against specific budget variances where assumptions had been made where shown within Appendix A appended to the report.

Executive Board Members noted that the report stated that Council Tax collection remained an area of significant concern. However, in response to a query in relation to future Council tax payments the Executive Board Member for Resources stated that if Council tax was not paid this year then it would be recovered wherever possible next year. The Director of Corporate Services added that this was an area of challenge and that the substantial deferrals made early in the financial year at the start of the pandemic were currently being managed and collected and that Council Taxpayers who were finding it difficult to pay would be a position to apply for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, he clarified that the that teams were working closely together to ensure help is provided wherever possible.

Carmarthenshire experienced a marked reduction in payments during the first quarter, which was unlikely to fully recover during the year, however initially collection of this debt will continue into next year, but it is anticipated that some will become bad debt and will need to be written off. Welsh Government have provided some funding to support Local Authorities in respect this issue.

The Housing Revenue Account quantified a prediction of underspend by £2,937k for 2020/21. A list of main variances was appended to the report at Appendix B.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 12.1 The Budget Monitoring report be received, and consideration given to the budgetary position and appropriate corrective action.**
- 12.2 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.**

13. 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 31st December, 2020.

Executive Board Members noted that £38m of the -£63,153k variance reported in the October capital monitoring report had been built into future years' budgets as part of the 2021/22 to 2025/26 five-year capital programme. Budgets had been amended to reflect this slippage to future years and was also presented in this report.

Appendix A appended to the report showed a forecasted net spend of £44,717k was forecasted compared with a working net budget of £76,284k giving a -£31,567k variance. The Executive Board Member for Resources reported that the significant variance projected at this time continued to be largely attributed to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and the delay in the start of the City Deal projects.

The report detailed additional Schemes to the Capital Programme which sought Executive Board approval.

The Board considered the main variances detailed within each department appended to the report at Appendix B.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 13.1 the capital programme update report be received;**
- 13.2 the additional projects detailed in the report be approved.**

14. 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 Leader of the Council took the opportunity to raise awareness that tomorrow was National Day of Reflection [Tuesday, 23rd March 2021] which would be marked by way of illuminating County Hall in order to reflect and remember those who had lost their lives during the pandemic.

The Leader announced that after having received a request to consider an urgent report on 'Affordable housing assisted Living Property Acquisitions', agreed to include it on today's agenda as the matter required an Executive Board decision prior to the deadline of 31/3/2021. The report pursuant to paragraph 14 of part 4 of schedule to 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 would be considered in camera.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

16. POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE "CALL IN" OF EXECUTIVE DECISION -LAND AT PENPRYS, LLANELLI

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 15 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 public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as disclosure would put the authority at a material disadvantage in any subsequent negotiations with third parties and potentially harm the public purse.

The Executive Board received a report requesting consideration of a decision that had been made by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 8th March 2021; to refer an Executive Decision made by the Executive Board on Land at Penprys Llanelli back to the Executive Board with specific regard to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and the implications for Llanelli Crematorium.

The Executive Board Members, after having re-considered its decision made on 8th February 2021:-

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to uphold the decision and approve that authority be delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Board Member, to negotiate terms and enter into an option agreement with the adjoining landowner at Penprys, Llanelli.”

17. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHRT/LLANELLY HOUSE

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 15 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 public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as the report contained sensitive financial information relating to the Trust and the project. Although the public would normally favour transparency and openness, this was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in this case because of the need to protect the project's sustainability.

The Executive Board considered a report on the current financial situation of Llanelly House, noting the importance of Llanelly House to Llanelli Town Centre regeneration.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a support package as stated in the report for a further 2 years be approved.

18. AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSISTED LIVING PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS.

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 15 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 public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as disclosure would put the authority at a material disadvantage in any subsequent negotiations with third parties and potentially harm the public purse.

The Executive Board considered a report which sought permission to purchase affordable homes that would secure nineteen units of accommodation for individuals with learning disabilities or mental health that require support.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 18.1** that the purchase of five properties as stated within the report as part of the affordable housing buying private sector homes programme, on the terms as detailed in the report, be agreed.
- 18.2** that the funding of this acquisition by the WG 2020/21 Integrated Care Fund programme and the 2020/21 HRA capital programme, on terms as detailed in the report, be agreed.

CHAIR

DATE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 12 April 2021

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
 R. Mullen, Director of Environment;
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
 P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
 S. Davies, Head of Access to Education;
 D. Hockenull, Marketing and Media Manager;
 S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
 L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;
 J. Corner, Technical Officer;
 E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer;
 R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer;
 M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting: 10.00 am - 10.35 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / PERSONAL MATTERS

There were no apologies for absence.

The Leader paid tribute to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh following his recent death adding that the Chair of Council had written to Her Majesty The Queen expressing deepest sympathies to the Royal Family. Flags had been lowered to half-mast at County Hall, Llanelli Town Hall and Ammanford Town Hall. The Deputy Leader, speaking on behalf of the Independent Group, also paid tribute to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, referring to his many visits to the County of Carmarthenshire. She added that the success of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards for young people, in particular, would be his lasting legacy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
L.M. Stephens	8 - Business Rates - Retail, leisure and hospitality rates relief scheme 2021/22;	A family member has a business which qualified for the scheme;
P.M. Hughes	8 - Business Rates - Retail, leisure and hospitality rates relief scheme 2021/22;	Lives on a business premises;
L. D. Evans	6 - Modernising Education Programme proposal to	A relative works at the school;

	relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa to a new site and increase its capacity from 75 to 120;	
E. Dole	8 - Business Rates - Retail, leisure and hospitality rates relief scheme 2021/22;	Wife has a business which falls within the scheme's remit.

3. MINUTES - 22ND MARCH, 2021

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 22nd March, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Leader advised that Councillor Rob James had withdrawn his four questions on notice.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5.1. QUESTION BY MR IAN KYLE TO COUNCILLOR HAZEL EVANS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER - ENVIRONMENT

“Could we please have acknowledgement of our request for support and arrange a consultation as soon as possible to discuss the merits of this proposal? As a summary of the proposal, you may be aware that Carmarthen Street has been closed for over a year now due to building work taking place at the Shire Hall. During this time the local businesses and residents in the area have noticed the positive effects of closing the road to through traffic and a petition was set up in September 2020 requesting that the road remained closed permanently. This was signed by just under 300 people with many comments citing safety concerns especially for children and less abled people due to the narrowness of the road / pavement.

Also, there have been many positive comments from local businesses needing to increase footfall especially after this dreadful Covid period, notably how the road closure had made the town much more pleasant for residents and attractive to tourists. With the redevelopment of the old Market Hall at the top of Carmarthen Street, it really does make sense to look at changing the vehicle access use along the road.

We (the residents of Carmarthen Street) have been lobbying local County Councilor Edward Thomas and the highways department since October 2020 in trying to arrange a consultation with us on how we can move this proposal forward and to date we have made very little progress.

We feel let down by the Council in the lack of acknowledgement and support for this proposal put forward by the residents and businesses in the town and ask that as the executive board member responsible for Highways you provide us with an answer to the above question.”

Response by Councillor Hazel Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment:-

“Thank you Mr. Kyle for your question I have noted your comments and concerns. I have visited the site and considered the issues you have raised.

I am given to understand that the lower section of Carmarthen Street dates back to medieval times and has, as you mention, narrow road and footways. In this context I can understand the rationale behind your suggestion of permanently

closing the road to traffic and this does align with the County Council's wider transport objectives of encouraging more walking and cycling in towns. However, it is also important to understand that Carmarthen Street is part of a wider highway network and there needs to be an appreciation that interventions on one part of the network have implications elsewhere, so a balanced and holistic view needs to be taken.

I have discussed these implications with officers and I share a number of concerns including:

- The lack of adequate and safe turning facilities at the upper end of Carmarthen Street;
- The extended route local traffic would have to use;
- The additional pressures of diverting traffic on the New Road / A483 / Crescent Road crossroads;
- The impact on businesses on the upper section of Carmarthen Street;
- How a prohibition of driving would be enforced given the need to maintain access to service the buildings along Carmarthen Street and impact of this traffic to pedestrians;
- The impact a closure would have when traffic is diverted off Rhosmaen Street.

If you include the option of a by-pass this would also affect choices.

All of these issues need to be assessed and considered in relation to the benefits a prohibition of driving would bring and Cllr. Edward Thomas will be included as the local member. All proposals need to be evaluated and modelled and only then would we be able to go out to consultation when there are workable options. I have asked Officers to investigate these issues in more detail and to prepare a report of their findings together with any appropriate recommendations for consideration and discussions. I will ask Officers to make a copy of the report available to you when it is completed."

There was no supplementary question.

6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL HEOL GOFFA TO A NEW SITE AND INCREASE ITS CAPACITY FROM 75 TO 120

[NOTE: Councillor L.D. Evans had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Executive Board considered a report reiterating, following consultation, proposals to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa by September 2023 to a new site next to the recently completed Ysgol Pen Rhos. and increase its capacity from 75 to 120.

The Board, at its meeting on the 21st December 2020 [minute 7 thereof refers], had approved the publication of the required Statutory Notice. The Notice, published on 11th January 2021, had provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. No objections had, however, been received and as such there was no Objection Report.

The Board was advised that a letter in support of the proposals had been received from the Chair of the Governors of Ysgol Heol Goffa who also praised the Council on its investment in the new school and its commitment to work with other schools in the county to support learners and staff.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL, on the basis that

- **there are no other related proposals;**
 - **the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report;**
 - **no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice;**
- that the proposals to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa and increase its capacity from 75 to 120, as laid out in the Statutory Notice, be implemented.**

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The Executive Board considered an update report on the treasury management activities and the prudential indicators for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020.

Tribute was paid to the work undertaken by officers during this exceptional time in ensuring the Prudential Indicators remained within the limits set by the Budget 2020-2021 and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2020-2021.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020 be received.

8. BUSINESS RATES - RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2021/22

[NOTE: Councillors E. Dole, P.M. Hughes and L.M. Stephens, having earlier declared their interest in this item, withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor D.M. Jenkins chaired the remainder of the meeting.]

The Executive Board considered a report detailing Welsh Government's proposal to extend the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme Rate Relief scheme to 2021/22. As this was a temporary measure in response to the Coronavirus emergency Welsh Government was not making any legislative changes but instead would allow billing authorities to grant relief under the general discretionary relief powers available under section 47 of the Local Government (Finance) Act 1988. Being a discretionary power, however, each Local Authority was required to formally adopt the scheme which would be fully funded at no cost to the authority provided relief was granted in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines.

The scheme, which aimed to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 100% on the non-domestic rates bill for a property, to all eligible premises, would apply to all eligible ratepayers with a rateable value of £500,000 or less.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the 2021/22 Retail Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme outlined in the report be adopted.

9. 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.

CHAIR

DATE

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