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**MONDAY, 28 JUNE 2021**

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

**I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT 10.00 AM ON FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2021 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.**

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Janine Owen</b>
<b>Telephone (Direct Line):</b>	<b>01267 224030</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b>JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</b>

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

# **ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **14 MEMBERS**

### **PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 7 MEMBERS**

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

### **LABOUR GROUP – 3 MEMBERS**

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

### **INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS**

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

### **NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP – 1 MEMBER**

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

# AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.
3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 5 - 30
5. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22 31 - 46
6. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK & FINISH GROUP 2021/22 - DRAFT PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT 47 - 54
7. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/2021 55 - 144
8. AIR QUALITY DELIVERY PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT 145 - 180
9. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 181 - 202
10. COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 203 - 208
11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 209 - 214
12. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 215 - 216
13. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 19 APRIL 2021 217 - 224

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21		
<b>To consider and comment on the following issues:</b>  That members consider and approve the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's annual report for the 2020/21 municipal year.		
<b>Reasons:</b>  The Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to report annually on their work.		
<b>To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision:</b> NO		
<b>Chair of Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny: Councillor J. James</b>		
<b>Directorate</b> Chief Executives  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Janine Owen	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law   Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos / E Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224027 <a href="mailto:kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

#### ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The attached report has been prepared in order to comply with Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution which states that a scrutiny committee must:

*“Prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committee's activities over the previous year.”*

The report provides an overview of the workings of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2020/21 municipal year.

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:** Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.**

**2. Legal – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.**

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed:** Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

**1. Local Member(s) - N/A**

**2. Community / Town Council – N/A**

**3. Relevant Partners - N/A**

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

N/A

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

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

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:-**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes		<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1</a>

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# Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

## Annual Report

2020 - 2021

**Scrutiny**  
in Carmarthenshire



[carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**  
**Carmarthenshire**  
County Council



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## Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee which provides an overview of the work undertaken during the period between May 2020 to April 2021.

I would like to start by stating that there is no doubt that 2020/21 was a significantly challenging time for everyone. My condolences to those families who have lost loved ones and those persons and businesses who are struggling from the impact of Covid-19.



I am proud to say that during the pandemic, this Council had an overwhelming focus to protect its residents and continue to operate its key functions.

Together, we have learnt to scrutinise remotely, maintain a flexible approach to our forward work programme and adapt rapidly to changing priorities. Whilst working closely with officers, the Committee was able to continue to undertake a robust and member led approach.

This report includes evidence that, by managing the forward work programme this scrutiny committee can produce good quality scrutiny at pace. The new virtual way of working has taught us that we can maintain quality scrutiny whilst being flexible and agile.

This year was a much shorter Municipal Year than normal due to the pandemic related suspension of scrutiny April to November.

From November, we were able to resume our activity with a revised, carefully managed forward work programme which included the emerging issues such as Covid-19 related reports as well as the traditional scrutiny reports. The Committee was alert not to place any undue burden on officers who were involved in the Covid response and recovery process.

In addition, the change in the format of Scrutiny Committees to include Executive Board Members to present the reports placed on the Forward Work Programme by the Committee, has strengthened the decision-making process. This, I feel has been extremely beneficial and I express my thanks as Chair, to the Executive Board Members who have presented reports during this year.

I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen, for his invaluable support and officers for their hard work both in facilitating the Scrutiny process and for providing opportunities to enhance our collective resilience, enabling us to focus on key issues for the benefit of the communities that we serve.

Lastly, but not in the least, I am grateful to all the Committee Members who have been well prepared and focused for all meetings, thus allowing the Committee, through discussion and debate, raise pertinent questions/comments and implement informed decisions.

**Councillor John James**

**Chair of Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee**

## 1. Introduction

The scrutiny function is a key element of the County Council's governance arrangements and decision-making process. Although not a decision-making body, Scrutiny is at its most effective when it grasps the potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Council and partner bodies affecting the County.

Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution requires all scrutiny committees to "prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committees activities over the previous year."

This report provides an overview of the work of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the reduced six-month committee cycle for 2020/21 municipal year. It aims to highlight the work of the Committee and reflect on the achievements identifying what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny. In addition, this report may aid to facilitate discussions on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by the Councillor John James and is made up of 14 Elected Members. Support is provided to the Panel by the Democratic Services Team and other Council officers as and when required.

The Committee helps deliver a number of key outcome measures within the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23:

- **Wellbeing objective 8 –**  
Live Well-Help people live healthy lives
- **Wellbeing objective 9 –**  
Live Well/Age Well – Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities
- **Wellbeing objective 12 –**  
Healthy and Safety Environment – Look after the environment now and in the future
- **Wellbeing objective 13 –**  
  
Healthy and Safe Environment – Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Some of the measures and actions within Wellbeing objective 12 overlap with Community Scrutiny, however the necessary information was also be provided to this Committee.



## 2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2020/21

### 2.1 Number of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 5 meetings during the 2020/21 municipal year.

Scrutiny meetings in Carmarthenshire was suspended during April and October 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The meetings recommenced in November following Welsh Government passing temporary emergency regulations to relax some of the rules relating to the conduct of council business.

The joint meeting with the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee was also cancelled due to Health Board resourcing constraints during the pandemic.

### 2.2 The Role of the Executive Board Member

The Council, at its meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020 agreed a number of changes to its Scrutiny Procedure Rules and remits. The principal change was that the Executive Board Members would be expected to attend, present the reports placed on the Forward Work Programme by the Committee and answer questions raised by Scrutiny Members thus holding the Executive Board to account. Relevant Officers can be called upon to provide additional information on operational issues.

#### **Environment –**

The Committee has responsibility for monitoring the work of the Environment Department which includes the work of the Waste and Environmental, Highways and Transport, Property Services and Policy & Performance divisions.

**Executive Board Member for Environment** is responsible for:

Refuse	Caretaking
Street Cleansing	Building Cleaning
Highways and Transport Services	Emergency Planning
Grounds Maintenance	Flooding
Building Services	Public Rights of Way

#### **Public Protection –**

The Committee has responsibility for monitoring the work of the Public Protection / Trading Standards Services, which are part of the Housing & Public Protection Division.

**Executive Board Member for Public Protection** is responsible for

Trading Standards;	Unlicensed Waste
Environmental Health	Parking Services;
Environmental Enforcement;	Biodiversity
Planning enforcement	

## **Community Safety / Crime & Disorder –**

One of the key roles of the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee is its capacity as the Council's Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee. The Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has specific additional Terms of Reference whereby it has exercise of powers relating to crime and disorder ([6.4 within the Constitution](#)).

**Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs** is responsible for

Rural Affairs and Community Engagement	Community Safety; Police
Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015	Tackling Poverty;
Third Sector Liaison	Wellbeing of Future Generations
Climate Change Strategy.	Equalities

In addition, the Executive Board Member for Resources attends the meetings to present finance related reports including the budget monitoring reports.

### **2.3 The Forward Work Programme**

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee develops its Forward Work Programme with matters that fall within remit which covers:-

- **Waste and Environmental Services including:-**
  - Refuse Collection,
  - Street Cleaning,
  - Grounds Maintenance,
  - Building Cleaning (including Schools, where relevant),
  - Public Toilets
- **Transport and Streetscene including:-**
  - Highways, Street Lighting,
  - Bridges,
  - Traffic Management,
  - Parking Services,
  - Cycle paths and Rights of Way;
- **Environmental Enforcement including:-**
  - Litter, Dog Fouling;
  - Abandoned Vehicles etc;
  - Planning Enforcement;
  - Trading Standards;

- **Community Safety issues including:-**
  - Crime and Disorder Referrals  
(to include a power to make a report or recommendations to the County Council and/or the Council's Executive Board);
- **Environmental and Public Health Pest Control:-**
  - Social Inclusion;
  - the Community;
  - Biodiversity;
  - Zero Carbon.

Whilst the Committee has the option to co-opt non-voting employees, officers or members of Responsible Authorities or co-operating persons or bodies in respect of its crime and disorder functions, [subject to the provisions of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009] did not do so during the 2020/21 municipal year.

In March 2020, the Committee at its annual Forward Work Programme development session developed its own Forward Work Programme (FWP) by identifying and prioritising agenda items for consideration during the next municipal year.

In addition to the standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports as well as action plans and monitoring reports the Committee identified pre-decision reports from the Executive Board Forward Work Programme 2020/21.

Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 pandemic the Committee's scrutiny meetings were suspended from April 2020 therefore did not have the opportunity to ratify the developed FWP. However, in line with regulations and member training the Committee was able to resume its meetings from November 2020. In preparation, the Committee met informally to review and reprioritise its Forward Work Programme for the remainder of 2020/21 commencing in November 2020.

The Committee continued with other scrutiny activities, which included a task and finish review and Members development sessions.

The following sections provide a snapshot of the Committee's work over the last year.

## 2.4 Performance Management

**Performance Monitoring Reports** - One of the principal roles of a scrutiny committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. However, in order that the performance monitoring reports are provided to Scrutiny Committees a review on the current performance monitoring cycle was being undertaken to ensure that they were being presented in more-timely manner. Therefore, whilst the review was taking place, all standard performance monitoring reports and business plans had been removed from the forward work programme and would be re-introduced upon completion of the review.

In addition, the pandemic had resulted in the Departmental Action Plans not being presented to Scrutiny Committees, in order to allow services to concentrate on dealing with emergencies. The Committee did however receive a Covid pandemic Impact Assessment at its meeting in November 2020 (see section 2.6. Impact of Covid 19 on services covered by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee).

**Half year Performance Report 2020/21 (1st April to 30th September 2020)** - was considered by the Committee at its meeting in February 2021, detailed the progress made against the performance measures contained in the Corporate Strategy 2020/21. During the meeting, reference was made to the fact that some measures were listed as having no target, the committee noted that the absence of targets was due to the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic any information collected may not be informative during this period.

**Corporate Strategy 2018/23 – Update April 2021** - As part of its performance monitoring role, the Committee received relevant information from the Council's key strategies and plans. One of the key areas relating to the Council's management is the monitoring of progress achieved against the Council's well-being objectives detailed within the 2018/23 Corporate Strategy. With that in mind, the Committee, in March 2021, considered an update on the Strategy, as at April 2021.

The report detailed the progress being achieved against the Council's Well Being objectives, adopted in June 2018, as amended, to reflect developing priorities and the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, Brexit and climate change. The Committee noted that while it was considered good practice to ensure the Corporate Strategy was up to date and resources allocated to priorities, the Improvement Objectives must be published annually in accordance with both the Local Government (Wales Measure 2009) and The Well-being of Future Generations Act.

<b>Outcome:</b>
The Executive Board at its meeting in March 2021 recommended to Council that the Corporate Strategy and Well-being objectives adopted in June 2018 be adjusted to reflect developing priorities, the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Brexit and climate change. Council approved the update report at its meeting in May 2021

**Departmental Business Plans (within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee) -**

The following Departmental Business plans were presented by the respective Executive Board Members to Committee Members in March 2021:-

- Environment Departmental Business Plan 2021/22
- Chief Executives Departmental Business Plan 2021/22
- Department for Communities Departmental Business Plan 2021/22

During the consideration, Members raised several comments and concerns regarding the actions and associated measures presented in the departmental plan and after discussion, the Committee unanimously resolved that further information be included in the actions and measures and that the above-mentioned Departmental Business Plans 2021/22 be submitted to the next meeting for consideration [April 2021].

Following consultation with the Chair, the meeting in April was cancelled in order to provide departments with extra time to work on the departmental Business Plans. Each of the plans would be placed on to the Committees Forward Work Programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.

## 2.5 Revenue and Capital Budgets

**Budget Monitoring Reports** - The Committee meeting having resumed in November 2020 continued to receive the budget monitoring reports on a quarterly basis the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets. These reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in any capital works.

**Consultation - Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24** - In February 2020, the Committee as a statutory consultee received the Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 for consideration and comment. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 together with the indicative figures for the 2022/23 and 2023/2024 financial years.

It was reported that Covid-19 had led not just to unprecedented additional costs but also to the collapse of important income, particularly during the lockdown periods. Taken together, it was anticipated that the combination of additional expenditure and income loss would have a £30 million impact on Carmarthenshire's current year budgets. Authorities submitted monthly claims, which were assessed and to a significant extent was fully refunded by Welsh Government.

During consideration of this report, reference was made to a number of areas of concern including:-

- the increase in telephone scams targeting the elderly and vulnerable during lockdown,
- the reduction in the road sweeping budget
- reduction in funding for winter gritting

In addition to the above, the Committee resolved to recommend to Executive Board that the possibility of allocating additional funding for the Truecall service be explored.

<b>Outcome:</b>
<p>The Executive Board at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 unanimously recommended to Council to approve the budget strategy for 2021/22 which included the following proposals within the environment remit:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To remove both the gulley cleansing and road sweeping proposals;</li><li>• To reduce the highways surface dressing proposal from £300k to £100k;</li><li>• Provide funding of £75k for the TrueCall service;</li></ul>

The Council at its meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, considered the Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 which included the abovementioned Executive Board recommended adjustments. The Council resolved that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

2021/22:-

- The removal of the gulley 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;

## 2.6 Impact of Covid 19 on services covered by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

### 2.6.1 Impact of Covid-19 on the Environment Department's Services –

In November, the Committee received a report which provided a summary of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had on the Environmental department falling within the Committee's remit.

The Committee considered the areas presented by the Executive Board Member for Environment which covered:-

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



The Committee also considered the areas of the same report presented by the Executive Board Member for Public Protection presented the report for Public Protection which covered:-

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

The following main points were raised which the Executive Board Member for Environment supported by officers responded:

- observation was made in relation to the recycling performance which was predicted to exceed the statutory target of 64%.



- In response to a query regarding the kerbside collection and if there had been any extra provision made during the pandemic.
- In reference to the online booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), it was asked if this would continue into the future and what the costs were?
- As a result of the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres in the initial stages of the pandemic, it was asked if there was any evidence of an increase in fly-tipping.
- Queries were raised in relation to enforcement matters during the pandemic.

The Committee acknowledged the dedication, commitment, flexibility, and personal resilience shown and applied by staff, and commended their aptitude and contribution which was invaluable in ensuring the continuation of a service to the Communities within Carmarthenshire

## 2.6.2 Impact of Covid-19 on Homes and Safer Communities –

The Committee received a report presented by the Executive Board Member for Public Protection which provided a summary of how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the Public Protection services.

The Committee raised a number of queries/observations in relation to the report where the Executive Board Members with the support of Officers responded accordingly. The main points raised were as follows:-

- Was there been any problems in receiving the correct information from the public?
- Concern was raised that vital information which helps contact tracing was being withheld by the public.
- Concerns were raised in relation the infectious period of Covid-19 and if this information was being properly broadcasted.
- Commented that the NHS track and trace app was only downloadable on newer smartphones and therefore concern was raised that there were members of the public may be being overlooked as they were not able to partake in the track and trace.
- In acknowledgement to the additional workload that had been placed upon the Trading Standards department, it was asked if there was scope to employ additional members to cope with the demand?



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

The Committee unanimously received both reports presented.

## 2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny

### 2.7.1 Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update – December 2020

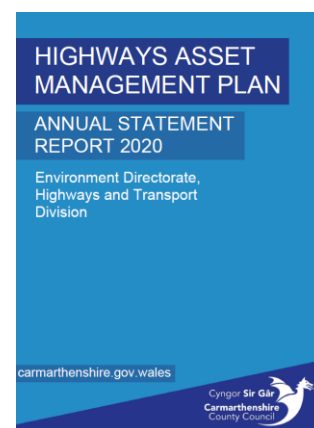
The Executive Board Member for Environment presented the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2020 to the Committee at its meeting in December 2020. The Committee considered information on the highway network and provided detail on the following three key highway asset areas:

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

Each of the above asset categories which detailed the conditions, how conditions had changed since the last report and the future changes based on funding scenarios were considered.

The Executive Board Member for Environment supported by officers responded to number of queries raised including the following:

- Future Welsh Government funding.
- Completion of the LED conversion programme.
- Road services - the impact of extreme weather on road surfaces, it was asked what role climate change had in the future scenario of how long conditions will remain acceptable and was this factored into condition reports.
- Concerns in relation to the lack of future investments on 'C' Class roads
- Clarification sought on the Strengthening/Replacement of bridges identified and classed as substandard.



#### Outcome:

The Committee resolved to note the Highway Asset Management Plan – Annual Statement Report 2020.



## 2.7.2 Net Zero Carbon Action Plan – March 2021

The Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs - Councillor Cefin Campbell presented the draft Net Zero Carbon Action Plan to the Committee at its meeting in March 2021 which 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.

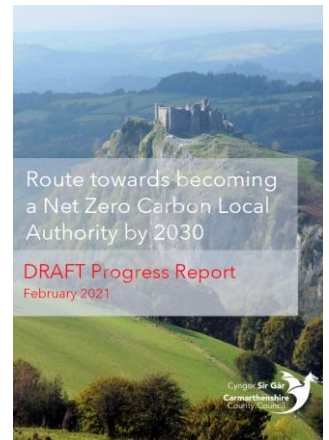
Following the presentation of the report, Committee members raised a number of queries where the Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs, supported by Officers, responded accordingly. The queries raised included:-

- How was the Council going to work with the farming unions?
- Requested for more information on the installation of an electric vehicle superfast charging hub at Crosshands.
- Should electric vehicle charging points be included as a planning condition for large developments e.g., supermarkets?
- Western Power Distribution and its plans to improve the capacity of the local electricity distribution network system (Grid).
- Were there any other partners on the Public Services Board who had declared a climate emergency and committed to Net Zero Carbon?

In addition to the above queries, disappointment was expressed that after two years since the Council initially declared a climate emergency in March 2019, the Welsh Government had not yet distributed its reporting guidance to Local Authorities.

Following discussion, in relation to the limited capacity of the local electricity distribution network (Grid), it was proposed that the Committee 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, the Committee in its letter, convey its disappointment that the Wales Carbon Reporting Guidance has not been published to date.

In addition, it was proposed that the Committee request that the Executive Board, in a separate letter to the Welsh Government echo and support the Committee's comments.



### Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee write to the Welsh Government to convey the comments raised and recommended to the Executive Board that the Executive Board write a letter to the Welsh Government in support of and to reaffirm the Committee's comments.

The Executive Board at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, considered the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's request that the Executive Board, acknowledged the importance of this matter and in order to be able proceed and continue working towards being a Net Zero organisation by 2023 and agreed to honour the request by unanimously resolving that:-  
**a letter be written to Welsh Government to echo the concerns raised by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

### 2.7.3 Waste Service Review – April 2021

This report was considered by the Committee at its meeting held in April 2021. The Executive Board Member for Environment – Councillor Hazel Evans presented the report which provided information in relation to the considerations, measures, strategy options and sought the Committee's opinions and views on proposed changes to services.

In addition to the detailed report the Committee, received a supporting presentation on 'Shaping the Future of Waste Collections in Carmarthenshire'.

The Executive Board Member and officers responded to a number of queries/concerns raised:-

- Concern raised in relation to the change in frequency from weekly to fortnightly collection of nappies and incontinence waste.
- A concern was raised that boxes of glass left at the kerbside would encourage vandalism.
- Queries were raised in relation to the size of the Blueprint Kerbsort collection vehicle – seeking its suitability for rural areas.
- The capacity of the independent compartments located within the Blueprint Kerbsort Collection vehicle used to keep materials separated and what would happen should one compartment reach its maximum capacity before the others?
- Concern was raised that should the collection of black bags be reduced to one a week this could encourage an increase in contamination.
- It was commented that the collection boxes could present an issue regarding space on the kerbside particularly at locations where the properties were in close proximity.
- Concern raised regarding reduction of black bag collections.
- Concern was raised regarding the probability of the County experiencing an increase in fly-tipping due to the reduction in black bag collections.

- A comment regarding the placement of and the length of time dog/cat waste within black bags prior to collection

**Outcome:**

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that the Executive Board continue to develop and consult on appropriate delivery options to meet the statutory targets and address challenges as contained within the report.

The Executive Board and full Council will consider the report in the course of 2021/22.

## 2.8 Additional Reports

### Covid 19 and the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS) – March 2021

The Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, conducting a review of the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme, proposed that this report be presented to fellow members of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee.

At the consent of the Chair the report was added to the Forward Work Programme and was presented to the Committee by the Executive Board Member for Public Protection supported by the Officers. During the Covid -19 pandemic, the Trading Standards services developed a strategy in preparation to address financial exploitation issues that was likely to arise as a result of the pandemic. Enabling enquiries and concerns raised by vulnerable citizens or their advocates to be followed up in a timely manner. As a result, various initiatives were employed to achieve these aims.

Committee Members were grateful to receive a very informative report which provided the work of the Trading Standards Service during the pandemic and expressed their gratitude for their excellent work.

**Outcome:**

The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the Covid-19 and the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme report.



## 2.9 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions

Listening to and giving the public a voice is key to scrutiny's effectiveness. To grant the people of Carmarthenshire (and beyond) an opportunity to shape the scrutiny Forward Work Programme through active involvement is important. Therefore, ahead of the Committee developing this year's programme, throughout January 2020 the Communications department carried out a social media campaign to encourage and increase public participation whilst seeking subject topics for scrutiny.



In respect of complying with Legislation regarding promoting public awareness at Scrutiny, in April 2018, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Forum agreed to send correspondence to Town and Community Councils which would contain information to encourage an increase in public attendance at Scrutiny Committees and also seek suggestions for future topics for consideration.

In response to this, Environment and Public Protection have received a letter from Llanycrwys Community Council requesting that the Committee draw special attention to the conditions of the roads within Carmarthenshire.

The Committee, during the formulation of its Forward Work Programme considered the request from Llanycrwys Community Council at its meeting in March. Committee Members acknowledged that the condition of the roads, particularly the rural roads was important and agreed that it would have an opportunity to scrutinise the current conditions of the roads when it received the Highways and Asset Management Plan which was on the Forward Work Programme. (see section 2.7 [Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update – December 2020](#))

### 3. Scrutiny Committee Activity

#### 3.1 Scrutiny Investigations (Task and Finish)

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Committee, after considering the Planning and Scoping document approved and commissioned to undertake a review into the Carmarthenshire County Council Trading Standards initiative – The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS).

Accordingly, the Committee agreed on a politically balanced Membership of six Councillors.

The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS), a multi-agency initiative created and developed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards works to detect and prevent the financial exploitation of vulnerable people by carers, family members, doorstep criminals, mail fraud, telephone and email scams.

In accordance with the initial Planning and Scoping document, it was hoped that the Group would be in a position to present a final report to the Committee in April 2020. However, early March saw further work on the review being suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Group resumed its meetings in a virtual capacity from September 2020 where the Group was able to continue to develop its final report and formulate its recommendations, presenting the report to all Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee members in April 2021.

Outcome:
RESOLVED that the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for its consideration. <i>The Executive Board will be considering the report and its recommendations during the 2021/22 municipal year.</i>

Furthermore, following its meeting held on 15th November 2019 where a report on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire was received, the Committee unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2020. However, the Committee having acknowledged the increase of work-load with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic agreed to defer this project to 2021.

### 3.2 Member Development

In October 2020, Members attended a virtual Scrutiny Training session provided by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Other all member development sessions or sessions specifically for scrutiny committee members, were held virtually.

The following all-member development sessions /seminars were held during 2020/21, to which Committee members were invited:-

- Microsoft Teams Training for online meetings – numerous sessions - June 2020
- Zoom Training for online meetings – December /January
- Mod.Gov New App training (Delivered by Civica) – October
- Scrutiny Training (Delivered by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) - October
- Online Scrutiny (Delivered by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) - November
- Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings – February
- Covid Vaccination Briefing (Hywel Dda University Health Board) – February
- Introduction to Ash Dieback Disease and the County Council's Roles and Responsibilities – March
- Growing Carmarthenshire: Progressive Procurement, food supply chains and Future Opportunities – March
- Rural Enterprise Dwellings – March
- One Planet Developments - April

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and the five year capital programme.

Due to the restrictions associated with the Pandemic the Committee was unable to carry out site visits during 2020/21.



## 4. Challenges

The past year has been a challenging period for both the Authority and the Committee but has continued to undertake a constructive role in scrutinising performance and contributing to policies and decisions. The Committee recognise that departments have been subjected to significant pressure during the Coronavirus pandemic, but everyone involved performed over and above expectations to ensure the continuation of business as usual. Many resources were also re-deployed to support the other services in support of the management of the pandemic.

Committee members, after a period of hiatus have adapted well to the virtual way of undertaking their scrutiny role. In addition, from November the Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire was for the first time webcasted to the public. Members have welcomed this and has embraced this as a way of open and transparent scrutiny.

## 5. Committee's Future Work

There is no doubt that the Committee has continued to make progress during what has been a very challenging year for all involved. Looking forward to the next year, the Committee will continue to concentrate on topics where Member's input will result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement.

It is important to ensure that the best use is being made of Scrutiny meeting time, therefore with the benefit of pre-meetings, the Committee is keen to continue to work together as a team encouraging an effective scrutiny process.

The future work of the Committee will be considered regularly as part of the Forward Work Programme and will continue to be monitored during the course of the year. As part of the development of the forward work programme, the Committee will aim to ensure it plans to enable focused Scrutiny to take place ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of reports, that the statutory responsibilities is focussed and are properly aligned with the council's strategic priorities.

In order to enhance Scrutiny, Members will continue to attend development sessions, seek officer's advice where appropriate and make use of informal pre-meeting discussions.

The Committee will continue to seek topics for discussion from Town and Community Councils annually more information on how to submit a topic for consideration and ask questions at a Scrutiny meeting is available on our Scrutiny webpage:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny/#.Xp7Am6aQxMs>

## 6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department.

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- Providing support and constitutional advice to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and to members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actioned;
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to executive and non-executive members of the Council and its officers;
- Managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire through engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum, and the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Executive Board Forum;
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as guidance is published;
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny members;
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the operation of scrutiny task and finish groups, authoring reports in conjunction with the groups, and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews;
- Managing the Scrutiny member development programme;
- Despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting.

For more information on Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including forward work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny)

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail [scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)



## 7. Committee Member Attendance

A total of **5** meetings were held between May 2020 and April 2021. The scheduled meetings in May, June and September 2020 were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendance by members of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2020/21 year is shown in the table below.

<b>Scrutiny Committee Member</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>	<b>%</b>
Cllr. Mansel Charles	5	100
Cllr. Arwel Davies	5	100
Cllr. Joseph Davies	5	100
Cllr. Karen Davies	5	100
Cllr. Penny Edwards	2	40
Cllr. Jeanette Gilasbey	5	100
Cllr. Tina Higgins	5	100
Cllr. John James	5	100
Cllr. Eryl Morgan	5	100
Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen	5	100
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	5	100
Cllr. Susan Phillips	4	80
Cllr. Alan Speake	5	100
Cllr. Dai Thomas	4	80
<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>	
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	1	
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1	
Cllr. Ken Lloyd	1	
<b>Executive Board Member</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>	
Cllr. H.A.L. Evans (Environment)	5	
Cllr. P. Hughes (Public Protection)	4	
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	3	
Cllr David Jenkins	2	

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## ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Committee confirms and notes its Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 and formally agrees its arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews in 2021/2022-2023.

#### Reasons:

The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE**

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Janine Owen	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224030 <a href="mailto:JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that: *"Each scrutiny committee is required to develop and publish an annual forward work programme, identifying issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year"*.

##### The Forward Work Programme:

- Provides an opportunity for members to determine the priority issues to be considered by their scrutiny committee over the course of the next year.
- Provides the Committee opportunities to scrutinise both budget and performance monitoring reports.
- Provides a focus for both officers and members, and is a vehicle for communicating the work of the Committee to the public. The programme (see attached report) will be published on the council's website and will be updated on a quarterly basis – [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny). It will also be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Ensures agreement of provisional agendas for scheduled scrutiny meetings within the council diary. The Programme is a flexible document that can be amended to reflect additional meetings and agenda items during the course of the year.

Members will recall that the Committee held an informal Forward Work Programme development session on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 to begin the process of formulating the forward work programme for 2021/22. This afforded Members the opportunity to develop the Committee's Forward Work Programme within the remit of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee.

The outcome of this meeting is now presented to the Committee in the Forward Work Programme for confirmation.

### **Task and Finish Review – Arrangements for 2021/2022-23**

The Committee, at its Forward Work Programme development session, considered a scrutiny topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council regarding the issues of fly-tipping. Members recognised that fly tipping was a significant problem in Carmarthenshire which was on the increase and that the consequence of fly tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities. Following initial discussions with officers, the Committee was in agreement that a review on this subject would be beneficial.

The Committee agreed in principle that due to the short review period, the Task and Finish review on the fly-tipping subject would be undertaken prior to the Dog Breeding Task and Finish. This arrangement would supersede the Committee's decision at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, where it was unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2021.

To manage its workload and resources available, the Committee is to only carry out one Task and Finish review at any one time. The Committee will be aware that the report on the Task and Finish review on FESS is due to be presented to the Executive Board, therefore the commencement of a new Task and Finish review would only take place following a full completion and sign off.

The Committee are asked to formally endorse its arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews in 2021/2022-2023.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**E&PP Forward Work Programme 2021/22  
Executive Board Forward Work Programme 2021/22**

# IMPLICATIONS

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

**Signed:** Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council's Constitution.

**2. Legal** – In line with requirements of the County Council's Constitution.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed:** Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/  
CONSULTED**

**N/A**  
The Forward Work Programme, will be forwarded to relevant Executive Board Members following Committee consideration

**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
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	<p><b>Meetings held up to July 2015:</b>  <a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/agendas-minutes-(archive)/">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/agendas-minutes-(archive)/</a></p> <p><b>Meetings from September 2015 onwards:</b>  <a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=134">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=134</a></p>
Executive Board Forward Work Programme	<p><b>Executive Board Forward Work Programme 2021/22</b>  <a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s49708/EXECUTIVEBOARDFWPMarch2021forpublication.pdf">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s49708/EXECUTIVEBOARDFWPMarch2021forpublication.pdf</a></p>

## Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2021/22

18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 <b>CANCELLED</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021	January 2022 Date to be confirmed	February 2022 Date to be confirmed	March 2022 Date to be confirmed	April 2022 Date to be confirmed
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2021/22 <i>Forwarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> July</i>	E&PP Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report	Electrical Vehicle Strategy	Environment Act Forward Plan Update	3-year Revenue Budget Consultation		Net Zero Carbon Action Plan	
Departmental Business Plans x 3 - <i>Forwarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> July</i>	Carmarthenshire Council Annual Report 2020/21	Highways Maintenance Manual		Public Conveniences Report	Revenue and Capital Budget Strategy			
	Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on Fly- Tipping	Flood Response						
	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) - Future Delivery Plan	E&PP Scrutiny Committee Actions Update report.						

### Reports to be scrutinised by Scrutiny Committee Members outside of the formal Committee process – to be circulated by e-mail

Budget Monitoring [April 2020 to February 2021]	Environment Act Forward Plan Update	Equestrian Strategy	Budget Monitoring [April to August 2021]		Budget Monitoring [April to October 2021]	Budget Monitoring	Budget Monitoring	
		Local Environment Quality						
		Graffiti Policy						
Page 35		Budget Monitoring [April to June 2021] & End of Year 2020/21						
		Public Rights of Way Network Hierarchy						

## OTHER REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED:

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

- Dog Breeders Licence Update (Change of Policy / Legislation – awaiting WG confirmation)
- Update on WG Speed Limit Review (20mph) – *dependant on WG publishing their review report*
- Carmarthenshire Pollinator Strategy and Action Plan – date to be confirmed
- Referral from P&R Scrutiny Committee (27/1/2020), Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales –  
**Delayed until 2021/22 or 2022/23 [Update at the E&PP Scrutiny meeting on 14/12/2020, minute 5 refers].**

## SCRUTINY FOCUS SESSION (Informal) - ITEMS FOR SC&H and E&PP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S – Date to be confirmed

Informal Scrutiny Committee meeting with Social Care and Health– (to be confirmed):

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

## TASK & FINISH REVIEW:

The Committee at its FWP Development Session held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, considered a topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council suggesting that the Committee consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.

Committee Members recognised that fly tipping was an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire and that the consequence of fly-tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities. Following initial discussions with officers, the Committee agreed in principle to undertake a short, focussed Task and Finish review on the internal processes and operational issues of fly-tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.

The Committee agreed that due to the short review period, the Task and Finish review on the fly-tipping subject would be undertaken prior to the \*Dog Breeding Task and Finish and following the completion of the current Task and Finish review on FESS. The Committee will consider its Task and Finish arrangements for 2021/22-23 at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

*\*This decision would supersede the Committee's decision made at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2021.*



**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

**Introduction**

This plan is published to encourage and enable greater understanding between the Executive, all Councillors, the public and other stakeholders. It assists the Scrutiny Committees in planning their contribution to policy development and holding the executive to account.

The plan gives the public and stakeholders a chance to see the forthcoming major decisions to be made by the Executive Board over the next 12 months. It is reviewed and published quarterly to take account of changes and additional key decisions.

WORKING DRAFT

**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVES</b>				
<b>Subject area and brief description of nature of report</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Executive Portfolio</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee to be consulted</b>	<b>Date of expected decision by Executive Board</b>
INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COVER SHEET	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive/Gwyneth Ayres	Deputy Leader	No	May 2021
ANNUAL REPORT	Noelwyn Daniel -Head of ICT & Corporate Policy	Deputy Leader	VARIOUS IN JULY	27/09/21
WELLBEING OBJECTIVES	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Communities and Rural Affairs		
WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Deputy Leader	If applicable	If applicable
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES & ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive	Resources		As and when required
REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION (LEGISLATION CHANGES) - CRWG	Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law	N/A CRWG - FEB	N/A	As And When Required
CITY DEAL UPDATE (INCLUDING PENTRE AWEL)	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Leader		As & When Required
CARMARTHEN WEST RESIDENTIAL	Jason Jones Head of Regeneration	Regeneration / Property	Not applicable	26/04/21
BURRY PORT RELEASE OF LAND	Jason Jones Head of Regeneration	Regeneration / Property	Not applicable	26/04/21
8/12 VAUGHAN STREET, LLANELLI	Jason Jones Head of Regeneration	Regeneration / Property	Not applicable	26/04/21
WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORT	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive/Gwyneth Ayres	Culture, Sport & Tourism	Yes	March 2022
CORPORATE STRATEGY	Noelwyn Daniel -Head of ICT & Corporate Policy	Deputy Leader	Yes	March 2022
STRATEGIC EQUALITY REPORT	Noelwyn Daniel -Head of ICT & Corporate Policy	Deputy Leader	Yes	March 2022
NET ZERO ACTION PLAN - REVIEW	Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration	Communities and Rural Affairs	Date to be confirmed	March 2022

**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>				
<b>Subject area and brief description of nature of report</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Executive Portfolio</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee to be consulted</b>	<b>Date of expected decision by Executive Board</b>
<b>DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TENANT TYPE CHALLENGE PANEL</b>	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and SCr/Les James	Housing		24 <sup>TH</sup> May 2021
<b>UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND RENTS UPDATE RENT ARREARS POSITION STATEMENT</b>	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Jonathan Willis	Housing		26 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY</b>	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities /Les James / Sue Watts/Robert David Williams	Culture, Sports & Tourism	E&PP Scrutiny 18/05/2021	07/06/21
<b>CHS+ DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS BUSINESS PLAN</b>	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Rachel Davies/ Gareth Williams	Housing	January 2022	February 2022 (Budget)
<b>DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20</b>	Jake Morgan – Director of Communities/Silvana Sauro	Social Care & Health		TBC
<b>DOG BREEDERS LICENCE UPDATE (Change of Policy / Legislation – awaiting WG confirmation)</b>	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Roger Edmunds	Public Protection		TBC

**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
BI-MONTHLY REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	SEPT NOV JAN MARCH
QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	SEPT/OCT JAN APR
ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT & PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	JULY
5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	ALL JAN/ FEB	JAN
COUNCIL TAX BASE	Chris Moore / Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	DEC
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Chris Moore / Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	FEB
BUDGET STRATEGY (Revenue and Capital)	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	ALL JAN/ FEB	JAN
HIGH STREET RATE RELIEF	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services /Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	March
CORPORATE RISK REGISTER	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services / Helen Pugh	Resources	– Audit Committee March & SEPT	
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
FINAL BUDGET Revenue & Capital	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENT SETTING REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	HOUSING	FEBRUARY BUDGET MEETING
BUDGET OUTLOOK	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	NOV

**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

<b>EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN</b>				
<b>Subject area and brief description of nature of report</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Executive Portfolio</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee to be consulted</b>	<b>Date of expected decision by Executive Board</b>
PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL HEOL GOFFA AND TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY (STAGE 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	17/03/21 (stage 3)	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL GYNRADD BLAENAU AND TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL GYNRADD LLANDYBIE (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	N/A	TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL RHYDYGORS (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	N/A	TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE AT YSGOL SWISS VALLEY (TBC) (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	N/A	TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL GYNRADD MYNYDD Y GARREG (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	N/A	TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y FELIN (STAGE 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children		TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT MODEL VA PRIMARY SCHOOL (STAGE 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children		TBC (Stage 2) TBC (Stage 3)
SCHOOL UPDATE REPORT- COVID 19, SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN AND FINANCE	Gareth Morgans – Director of Education and Children	Education & Children	N/A	
LA EDUCATION SERVICES SELF EVALUATION	Aneirin Thomas – Head of Education and Inclusion	Education & Children	tbc	TBC
POST 16 EDUCATION	Aeron Rees – Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	Education & Children	tbc	TBC
RESULTS OF 2021 EXAMINATIONS”	Aneirin Thomas – Head of Education and Inclusion	Education & Children	tbc	N/A
CHILDREN’S SERVICES PAPER- TBC	Stefan Smith - Head of Children’s Services	Education & Children	N/A	tbc
CARMARTHENSHIRE 10 YEAR STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION	Gareth Morgans – Director of Education and Children	Education & Children	tbc	TBC
NEW 10 YEAR WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGY	Aeron Rees – Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	Education & Children	tbc	TBC

**EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21**  
**–as at 23/03/2021** (For the period March 21 – February 22)

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
PUBLIC REALM	Steve Pilliner / Richard waters	Environment		26/4/21
LDO	Llinos Quelch / Ian R Llewellyn	Environment		10/5/21
BUS REFORM	Steve Pilliner	Environment		24/5/21
PACE MAKING CHARTER	Llinos Quelch / Ian R Llewellyn	Environment		24/5/21
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE MANUAL	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways/ Chris Nelson/ Richard Waters	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways/ Caroline Ferguson	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
GRAFFITI POLICY	Ainsley Williams	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
FLOOD RESPONSE	Ainsley Williams	Environment	4/10/21	25/10/21
LEQ	Ainsley Williams	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY	Steve Pilliner / Simon Charles	Environment	EPP 12/11/21	6/12/21
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	Ainsley Williams. Head of Waste & Environmental Services Rhys Davies	Environment	EPP 16/12/21	January 22

## ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK & FINISH GROUP 2021/22 PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT

#### To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To consider and endorse the aims and scope of the work of the Task & Finish Group.
- To agree on the Membership of the Task and Finish Group.

#### Reasons:

- To enable the Committee to consider the aims and scope of the work of the Task & Finish Group and agree on the Membership of the Task and Finish Group.
- The Task & Finish Group is required to report the progress of its work to the main scrutiny committee.

#### To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

#### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Councillor P. M. Hughes (Public Protection)

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Janine Owen	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224030 <a href="mailto:JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK & FINISH GROUP 2021/22 PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT**

#### **To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire**

The Committee at its informal Forward Work Programme Development Session held on the 9th April 2021, considered a scrutiny topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council regarding the concerning issues of fly-tipping.

Members recognised that fly tipping was a significant problem in Carmarthenshire which was on the increase and that the consequence of fly tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities. The Committee, following initial discussions with officers, the Committee was in agreement that a review on this subject would be beneficial.

The key aims and objectives for this task and finish review have been captured and developed into the appended Draft Planning and Scoping document which Members of the Committee are asked to consider and agree.

Furthermore, the Committee are required to agree on which Members will form the Task and Finish Group, which will consist of up to 6 Members and be politically balanced.

The Task and Finish Group will commence its meetings in accordance with the Committee's decision on the Task and Finish Review arrangements for 2021/2022-23.

The first meeting will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership. Officers from within Public Protection and Democratic Services will support the work of the Task & Finish Group.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES  
Draft Planning and Scoping document**



## IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – If required, representatives from partner organisations will be consulted as part of the Task & Finish Group's review.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Officers from the Trading Standards Department have contributed to the development of the Planning and Scoping Document and will continue to support the work of the Task & Finish Group.

**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
Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives from the County Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214849/corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214849/corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf</a>

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# Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group 2021

## To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire

### Draft Planning & Scoping Document

<b>Task &amp; Finish Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review the current internal processes and operational issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.</li> </ul>
<b>Context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Environmental &amp; Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit.</li> <li>Fly tipping is an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire. The consequence of fly tipping has a detrimental effect on the environment and communities.</li> <li>Fly tipping issues have major impacts on resources in various departments within the Council from Environmental Health and Planning through to Members and Democratic Services.</li> <li>Remediation is costly, sometimes difficult and has implications of criminal activity.</li> <li>The Environmental &amp; Public Protection Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review into the current internal processes and operational issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire</li> <li>It is recognised that there is a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities of various teams within Carmarthenshire and Natural Resources Wales and implications of duplication resulting in a lack of efficient use of resources.</li> <li>It is recognised that the authority are utilising resources on responding to complaints and that there is a lack of resources within the Authority to carry out investigations (which can be complex and time consuming requiring specific skills) in order to prevent issues from occurring.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected Members have raised this as a concern for residents throughout the County.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership</b>	<p><b><u>Elected Members x 6</u></b></p> <p>A politically balanced membership of up to 6 Councillors to be agreed at the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.</p> <p><b><u>Advisors / Support Officers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ainsley Williams (Head of Waste and Environmental Services)</li> <li>Sue Watts (Environmental Protection Manager)</li> <li>Robert Williams (Public health Lead)</li> <li>Hugh Towns (Regional Mineral and Waste Planning Manager)</li> <li>Stephen Thomas, Senior Enforcement and Monitoring Officer</li> <li>Edwin Thomas (Assistant Manager (Grounds and Cleansing))</li> <li>Steven Raymond (Environmental Enforcement Officer)</li> <li>Paul Morris (Environmental Enforcement Manager)</li> <li>Janine Owen (Democratic Services Officer)</li> </ul>
<b>The main aims of the review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the definition ‘fly-tipping’</li> <li>Review the current provision for receiving and investigating fly tipping service requests.</li> <li>Understanding the ‘drivers’ for fly tipping</li> <li>Understanding and establishment of roles and responsibilities of different teams and agencies</li> <li>Exploring how the sharing of information between sections and other agencies is currently undertaken</li> <li><a href="#">To review the Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Authority and partner Agencies.</a></li> <li>Developing better working arrangements with partner agencies</li> <li>Exploring investigation methods, such as social media to carry out investigation</li> <li>Review current prevention and enforcement strategies and the levels of support <a href="#">resources (including staffing and financial)</a> required</li> <li>Consider the <a href="#">socio, economic, environmental and cultural impact</a> <del>environmental impact</del> including biodiversity, <a href="#">public health, public and environmental safety etc</a></li> <li>Formulate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of the review</b>	<p>This review will focus on the current internal processes and operational issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire</p>

<p><b>How it will contribute to achieving corporate / community objectives and well-being objectives</b></p>	<p>Undertaking this review will coincide with the Council's Vision:- <b><i>'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment'</i></b></p> <p>The review will contribute to the following Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives from the County Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23 (<a href="http://intranet/media/654960/corporate-strategy-18-23.pdf">http://intranet/media/654960/corporate-strategy-18-23.pdf</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Live Well</b> <p><b>Wellbeing Objective 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour &amp; obesity)</li> </ul> <p><b>Wellbeing Objective 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Environment</b> <p><b>Wellbeing Objective 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking after the environment now and for the future</li> </ul> <p><b>Wellbeing Objective 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>List of key stakeholders</b> [not exhaustive]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Officers</li> <li>• Environmental Health Officers</li> <li>• Planning Officers</li> <li>• Customer Services Officers</li> <li>• Democratic Services (information on how often reported from Elected Members)</li> <li>• Police (Incidents recorded, feedback)</li> <li>• Community Councils (Do they or would they assist with awareness/education).</li> <li>• Natural Resource Wales (NRW)</li> <li>• Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>• National Farmers Union (NFU)</li> <li>• Farmers Union Wales (FUW)</li> <li>• Neighbouring Authorities – Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Pembrokeshire &amp; Ceredigion</li> <li>• Fly tipping Action Wales</li> <li>• Keep Wales Tidy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Land contacts</li> <li>• Brecon Beacons National Parks</li> <li>• Wales Tourist Board</li> <li>• Carmarthenshire Tourism Association</li> <li>• CADW</li> <li>• Other as identified</li> </ul>
<b>What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study?</b> [not exhaustive]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current data on number and types of fly tipping service requests</li> <li>• All Wales fly tipping matrix</li> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Corporate Enforcement Policy</li> <li>• Corporate Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Timescale for completion of the review</b>	<p>Commencement date is subject to agreement by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.</p> <p>Task and Finish subject will be a short, focused review period. It is intended that the review will be completed within a period not exceeding 3 months.</p>

## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 JULY 2021

### CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/2021

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

The Council's draft Annual Report

**Reasons:**

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

**To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision**

Executive Board: YES (27<sup>TH</sup> Sept) / County Council: YES (13<sup>th</sup> Oct)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

**Corporate Overview:**

Cllr. Ann Davies (Communities and Rural Affairs)

**Well-being Objective Portfolio Holders:**

Cllr. Hazel Evans (Environment)

Cllr. Philip Hughes (Public Protection)

Cllr. Ann Davies (Communities and Rural Affairs)

**Directorates:**

Communities / Environment

**Names of Heads of Service:**

Jonathan Morgan

Steve Pilliner

Noelwyn Daniel

Ainsley Williams

Jason Jones

**Report Author:**

Rob James

Jackie Edwards

Silvana Sauro

**Designations:**

Head of Homes and  
Safer Communities  
Head of Highways &  
Transport  
Acting Head of Planning

Head of Waste &  
Environmental Service

Head of Regenerations

Performance Planning  
& Business Officer  
Business Improvement  
Manager  
Performance Analysis &  
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# ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 JULY 2021

## CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The following sections within the document are **relevant to Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny**:

- Introduction
- **WBO 8.** Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
- **WBO 9.** Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities
- **WBO 12.** Looking after the present and future cultural and natural conditions of the environment
- **WBO 13.** Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
- Appendices

2020/21 was a year like no other due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The vast majority of the Council's services had to adapt and change, with many being shut down completely for long periods of the year. For this reason, it is not possible for the 2020-21 Annual Report to act as a progress report on previous performance or as a comparator with other local authorities. This year was like no other and much of the report reflects the actions the Council had to take to support its residents, communities and businesses through the pandemic. With many staff being redeployed to assist in the pandemic response and many set to work to aid recovery the Council's priorities had to shift significantly to face the challenges presented by the pandemic.

For these reasons, the Annual Report for 2020-21 has a different focus and approach to previous reports.

- Many of the actions and targets we set for 2020/21 were blindsided by the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and we had to deal with the emergency in hand. An initial COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment was published in September 2020 and individual services reported their responses to Scrutiny Committees in the November / December 2020 cycle of meetings. We will when appropriate update the Community Impact Assessment on COVID-19 within Carmarthenshire.
- The Annual Report starts with an overview of our COVID-19 Year and outlines some key responses and impacts.
- The Annual Report then looks in turn at each of our 15 Well-being Objectives and assesses the progress and adaptations that have been made during this difficult year.

### **COVID-19**

We have a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report for 2020-21 by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. There has been no relaxation on this statutory duty despite the pandemic. It is not possible to provide as much in-depth analysis and evaluation as we have done in previous years due to the gathering some performance information not being gathered nationally as services focused on pandemic response. There are also some gaps in information that we would usually provide. For instance, Welsh Government has confirmed that comparative out-turn data will not be published for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 period.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES



# IMPLICATIONS

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

**Signed:**

Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes & Safer Communities
Steve Pilliner	Head of Highways & Transport
Noelwyn Daniel	Head of IT and Corporate Policy
Ainsley Williams	Head of Waste & Environmental Services

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set and publish well-being objectives</li> <li>Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives</li> <li>Publish a statement about well-being objectives</li> </ul>	Corporate Strategy update published – June 2019, and further updated in May 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish an annual report of progress</li> </ul>	This will be accomplished by the enclosed Annual Report

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

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

## 2. Legal

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

This is the last year that we will be reporting under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as this is being replaced by the duties of Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in future years

## 3. Finance

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

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:

Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes & Safer Communities
Steve Pilliner	Head of Highways & Transport
Noelwyn Daniel	Acting Head of Planning
Ainsley Williams	Head of Waste & Environmental Services

## 1. Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Committee	Date	Outcomes
Community and Regeneration	1 <sup>st</sup> July	
Policy & Resources	2nd July	
Environment and Public Protection	7 <sup>th</sup> July	
Social Care and Health	8 <sup>th</sup> July	
Education and Children's Services	21 <sup>st</sup> July	

2. Local Member(s) -N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
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## 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
Shared purpose: shared future Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		<a href="#">SPSF 2 Individual Role (public bodies)</a>
Local Government Measure (2009)		<a href="#">Local Government Measure (2009)</a>
June 2019 - Corporate Strategy		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1219049/corporate-strategy-revised-2019-20.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1219049/corporate-strategy-revised-2019-20.pdf</a>

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

# ANNUAL REPORT for 2020/2021

on the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

**October 2021**

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**  
**Carmarthenshire**  
County Council



Page 59

## Welcome from the Leader of the Council

This time last year I wrote here about the stark contrast between where we started the year and how it ended, and we find ourselves in the same position this year. At the start of this year, we were in the middle of a lockdown, and almost at the first peak of cases. Headlines were filled with mortality figures, the creation of emergency Field Hospitals and communities across the county had already pulled together to start supporting each other in ways we could not previously have imagined. I think we can agree that over the last year, we have witnessed some heroic efforts, sometimes overwhelming challenges, and some of our darkest times.



Writing this introduction has given me an opportunity to reflect on the last year, to view the year from start to finish. The report serves as a reminder of all we achieved. In a matter of weeks schools closed and childcare hubs were set up to support key workers. Leisure Centres and sporting venues were converted into Field Hospitals with hundreds of hospital beds. Thousands of food parcels were delivered to those who were shielding, and help and advice given to over 4,000 small businesses. As you read this report you will see in numbers and statistics what we have achieved, and it is a testament to the hard work and commitment of officers, members, frontline workers, and communities across Carmarthenshire. What we achieved was done by your efforts, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for working hard to bring us through this year.

The pandemic has brought localism to the front and centre of our focus on Economic Recovery. Our Economic Recovery Plan is in tune with the needs of businesses and communities across Carmarthenshire, taking advantage of opportunities to accelerate change to enable success in the economy of the future. The plan identifies actions to support the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. It sets out our priorities for supporting business, people, and place. With this support Carmarthenshire's economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before, more equal, greener, healthier, and with more sustainable communities.

This report also highlights our vision to significantly increase local procurement spend. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided greater impetus and focus on this area of work, and our plans to review local food procurement have been extended from just food to cover all the Council's procured spend. This work is very closely aligned with the Council's economic recovery plan with progressive procurement being a key theme of that plan.

In 2019 we were one of the first local authorities in Wales to declare a climate emergency and early last year became the first to publish a climate change action plan detailing how we plan to become net zero carbon by 2030. There is a lot to be done, but already a lot underway with our initial focus on our measurable carbon footprint. We've reduced carbon emissions from our buildings and our fleet significantly already, and this work will continue; we are investing in electric car charging points to support sustainable travel and in cycle facilities to encourage active travel; we are looking at ways to develop renewable energy sources, enhancing our biodiversity and looking at nature-based solutions – and this is only a small part of what we are doing. We will continue to protect and enhance Carmarthenshire so that it continues to grow and flourish for the benefit of our communities and our future. And in preparing for our future generations there are other foundations that must be laid, and it is these foundations that may be the most important of all - ensuring that the people of Carmarthenshire can live well and thrive.

I hope as you read this report that it gives you a clear view of the last year, and as we have seen, we can be innovative and forward thinking even under the most difficult of circumstances. We know that we have a challenging time ahead, but we're ready to grasp each opportunity, we're prepared, and we are ambitious.

*Thank you.*

*Councillor Emlyn Dole*

**Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council**

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

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# OUR COVID-19 YEAR



**Childcare Hubs** were set up to support key workers and vulnerable children



Help and advice given to over **4,000** small businesses



**100's of businesses** helped to ensure robust processes in place to protect customers

Providing up to date information, with a **45% increase** in user sessions on the Council website



Supported over **2,000** staff working from home



...rising to support for over **3,000** remote connections on our network

## **TTP - Test, Trace, Protect**



A dedicated team was set up to support the National **TTP** Programme

Assisted NHS with the setup of **4 field hospitals** with hundreds of temporary hospital beds



**Over 8,000** Food Parcels distributed to help support those Shielding

## HOW COVID-19 HAS CHANGED CARMARTHENSHIRE

Many of the actions and targets we set for 2020/21 were blindsided by the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and we had to deal with the emergency in hand. We accounted for this period in a [COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment](#). Furthermore, Services reported their responses to Scrutiny Committees in the November / December 2020 meetings. We will when appropriate update the Community Impact Assessment on COVID-19 within Carmarthenshire.

Below are some key impacts during 2020 and our thanks must go to the Council staff from across a range of services, in many cases working with other partners, for their significant efforts and commitment in responding to previously unknown situations.

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

### START WELL



#### CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Following the outbreak of the pandemic schools, nurseries and childcare provision all closed. As part of the response Carmarthenshire established 24 *childcare hubs* to provide much needed childcare for the children of key workers whilst 4 *specialist settings* remained open. Flying Start re-purposed childcare hubs to provide care for vulnerable and pre-school critical worker children and supported private settings to re-open. Summer holiday clubs remained open to fee paying parents throughout the summer.

In order to minimise the impact on pupils learning, a *Continuation of Learning Plan* was rapidly put in place. In support of this plan, devices including laptops, Chromebooks and 4G MiFi dongles were supplied to support families with remote learning across Carmarthenshire.

For schools to re-open the Department for Education and Children's Services coordinated a significant corporate response to make arrangements for schools to be COVID safe environments. This included producing Risk Assessments, checked and signed off, for every school site, signage, handwash basins and additional cleaning. This was to ensure that all staff and pupils felt safe in returning to school.

*Children's Services* continued throughout the pandemic by adapting working practices, using PPE, social distancing, etc. to maintain a full provision. The Inclusion team (Additional Learning Needs) and Behaviour teams also provided a full service throughout the pandemic with some Specialist settings remaining open while all offered remote support. Specialist staff from across the Department also worked in the Hubs with identified vulnerable learners. Support both academically and for emotional wellbeing was provided where necessary. Home Tutored pupils were offered remote support and wellbeing calls throughout the pandemic.

*Free School Meals (FSM)* – pupils entitled to FSM were supported promptly from the start of the pandemic. They were initially provided with food packs collected from schools before BACS payments were implemented, with some families continuing to receive food packs delivered throughout the county. The number of applications for FSM (and payments) has increased over the past 15 months due to families facing financial challenges and hardship.

The *Pupil Development Grant (PDG – Access)* offers financial assistance to families eligible for FSM to purchase school uniform and other resources. Take up of this funding has also increased as a result of the pandemic.

## LIVE WELL



### ECONOMY

At the start of the pandemic, the scale of the outbreak had already led businesses to change their working practice, such as sending staff to work from home. With the imposed lockdown, and banning all 'non-essential' travel, the resulting impact on businesses, jobs and the economy was severe. Businesses in Carmarthenshire are typically smaller (up to 9 employees) than businesses throughout Wales and the UK, and the sad reality of the pandemic is that many businesses will fail, and others will take a significant length of time to get back to where they were.

*We helped over 4,000 businesses to receive Welsh Government's business rates grant payments of between £10,000 and £25,000 with a total amount of over £46 million.*

There have been economic challenges for Carmarthenshire, the effects of which will be evident long after the pandemic ends. It may take many months for household income to recover to pre-pandemic levels resulting in lower levels of disposable income which feeds the local economy. So, we promoted a 'buy local' message, helping to stimulate growth at a local level, resulting in a steadier economic future for local businesses and their staff. Through acting together with our partners, we can take action to restore consumer and business confidence to stimulate investment in our economies, which will create employment and help the unemployed find new jobs. Planning for economic recovery started early on in the pandemic and will be a priority for the Council going forward.

There are currently 16 Food Banks in the County and we have been directly providing funding in supporting many of these during COVID-19.

### HOMELESS

The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on homelessness provision. In order to safeguard homeless people Welsh Government changed the law around priority need. This meant Local Authorities were required to prioritise all homeless people (previously local authorities prioritised families and vulnerable single people). This has increased demand significantly resulting in large numbers (up to 150) of homeless households being temporarily accommodated. Our priorities have been to tackle this new demand over the last 12 months.

## AGE WELL



### SOCIAL CARE

We tried as far as possible during the pandemic to maintain business as usual. This included continued support to people who need our help in the community and need support to be discharged from hospital. We have continued to offer Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) and carried out social care assessments where required.

The most significant area of risk and greatest impact of COVID-19 has been in relation to the Care Home Sector and Carmarthenshire has experienced a number of outbreaks and the sector, which includes our in-house and commissioned provision, has faced huge challenges to care for those who were very frail, and for some, sadly at the end of their life. Staff went above and beyond to protect residents following stringent infection control procedures using PPE in line with national guidance. They demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment and continued to deliver care to our most vulnerable residents throughout the pandemic.



## HEALTHY, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS ENVIRONMENT



During lockdown people rediscovered the *environment*. More than ever before we have realised that our natural environment is vital for our well-being. More people used *footpaths and cycleways*.

*Cleaners* were retrained, and additional cleaners employed to develop an enhanced standard of cleaning across all settings. This helped to keep our school hubs, schools, food distribution centres, depots, critical offices and sheltered housing open. These enhanced cleaning standards were essential to reduce transmission of the virus and to build confidence and reassurance that the work environment is as safe as we can make it.

As a consequence of lockdown there was an improvement in *Air Quality* during the year because of reduction of road vehicle movements. The main pollutant of concern for Carmarthenshire is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>).

Waste and recycling collections were crucial to public and environmental health during the COVID-19 crisis, and waste workers were deemed 'key workers' by the Government and continued to carry out essential services during the epidemic. The full range of waste collection services at the kerbside continued throughout the pandemic, despite some of the logistical and resource challenges brought about by COVID-19 at times; this was testimony to the commitment and determination of all the teams involved in ensuring these important services continued. This was clearly appreciated by our residents.

## GOVERNANCE



After a brief pause, democratic government and scrutiny were sustained by the introduction of virtual democratic meetings. Scrutiny was a possibility via Executive Board Meetings and group leader meetings. We were the first Council in Wales to hold a virtual Annual General Meeting. This required securing an on-line meetings software system and a method of providing Welsh translation facilities both for members and for the public.

### Information Technology

The Authority's decision, before the pandemic, to spend £1.9m of investment in agile working initiatives, including providing staff with the right equipment to allow them to work in a more agile and flexible way, together with improvements to the resilience of the IT network, has helped support an almost seamless move to homeworking. Having the right equipment in place meant that staff could be operational from home immediately with no disruption to customers.

The use of technology, and especially the use of Microsoft Teams, has been a vital component of the Council's response to the pandemic, and is helping to support the adoption of a far more dynamic and productive way of working. It has facilitated improved communication and team working at a local, regional, and national level.

We currently have over 40 transactional council services available to the public online, many of these have been developed extremely quickly.

## Workforce

Staff stepped up and showed caring, conscientious commitment in ‘*doing their bit*’ and showed bravery when called for. Many went the extra mile and kept going.

We diverted resources from the outset to ensure UK and Welsh Government legislation and guidance was quickly interpreted and disseminated to managers and head teachers. We quickly adapted our existing policies and developed new guidance such as Temporary Homeworking, Annual Leave and Furloughing of Staff. We also undertook a range of risk assessments and put in place safe systems of work to make sure critical services continued to be delivered, which, for example, allowed critical workers to access the Learning Hubs in our schools so that they could go to work.

The health and wellbeing of all our people has been a key priority for us and in response, we have dedicated significant resources to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all our employees. We have been keen to normalise discussions about mental health and as part of Mental Health Awareness Week we launched the Time to Talk initiative, which we will continue to build on as we move forward.

***We will not be going back and doing everything the same as before the pandemic – some new ways of working, developed due the pandemic, proved so successful that we will continue with them.***

Some of the alternative ways of working that were rolled out during the pandemic has seen service areas have their “*light bulb*” moment and realise that it is a better way of delivering the service to the customer and will be adopted as the “*new norm*”.

## Partnership

During the pandemic working in partnership with other Public Service Board partners and wider community has been essential. Trust and relationships developed through partnership working over a number of years came to the fore as partners supported each other at our time of greatest need. From establishing field hospitals in a matter of weeks to ensuring food parcels were delivered to those shielding and vulnerable, the collaboration and co-operation between partners and stakeholders has been immense and will be something to build on for future developments.

We quickly developed a *Test, Trace and Protect (TTP)* service working collaboratively with Public Health Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board and the Police to advise contact cases, identify hotspots, enforce if needed to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Incident Management Teams (IMTs) across services were set up and they have strategically driven the COVID response in the County. This work is certainly something we will look as a blueprint in the future as really good examples of partnership working.

Police and Public Protection services have also worked in collaboration undertaking site visits at licensed premises ensuring that COVID rules were being followed. This close working has resulted in only a limited number of enforcement notices being needed to be issued to date.

**Lyndsay McNicholl**, a Carmarthenshire County Council residential care manger, was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to care during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Major Challenges

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- We have the first **Net Zero Carbon Action Plan** in Wales  
(See Well-being Objective 12)

### RECOVERY

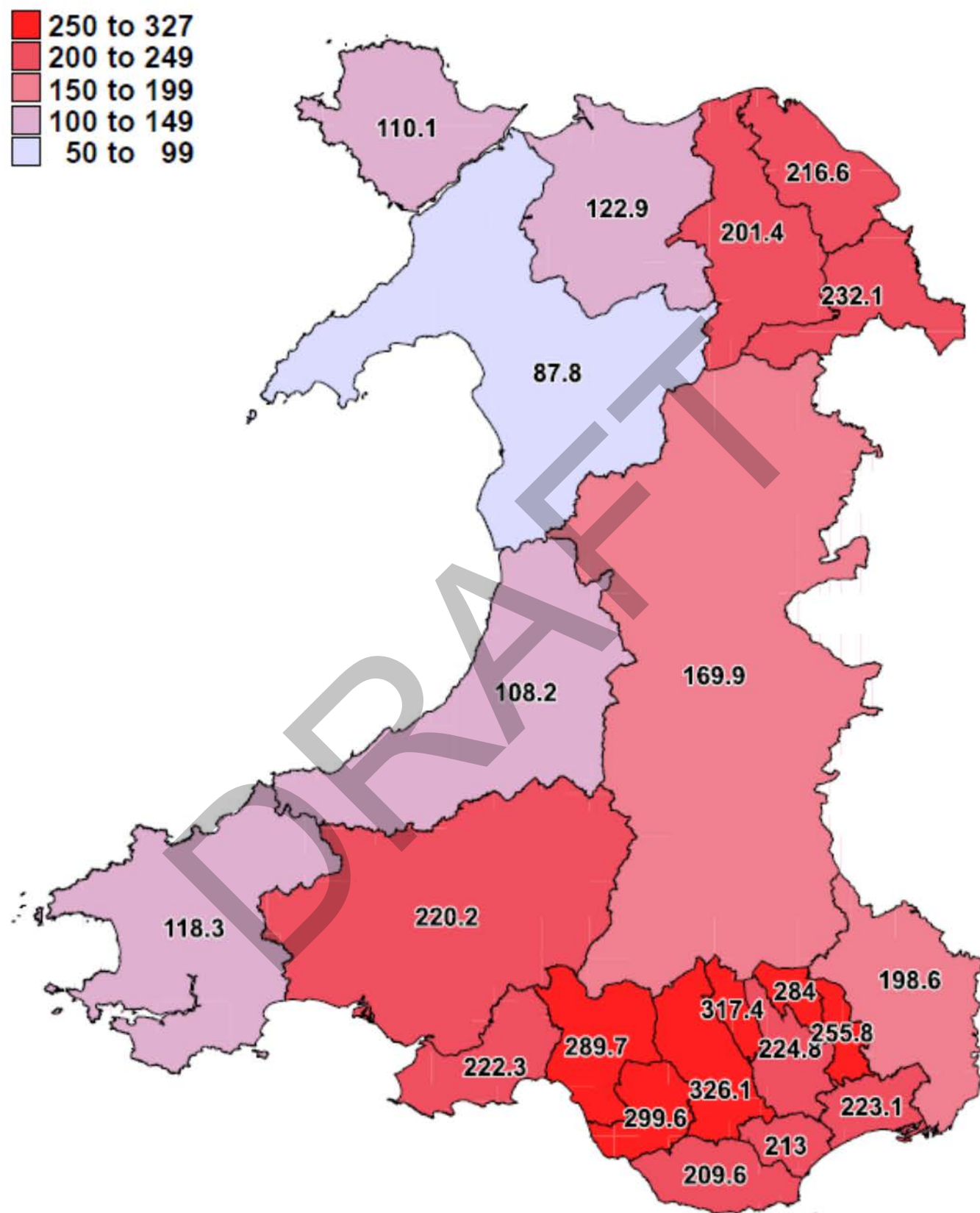
- We are one of the first in Wales to prepare an **Economic Recovery Plan** (See Well-being Objective 6)

### COVID-19

- **Community Impact Assessment of COVID-19**  
To learn from how we responded to the pandemic we are identifying transformational new ways of working  
(See Well-being Objective 15)

## Wales COVID-19 death rates

Deaths per 100,000 people - occurring up to end March 2021

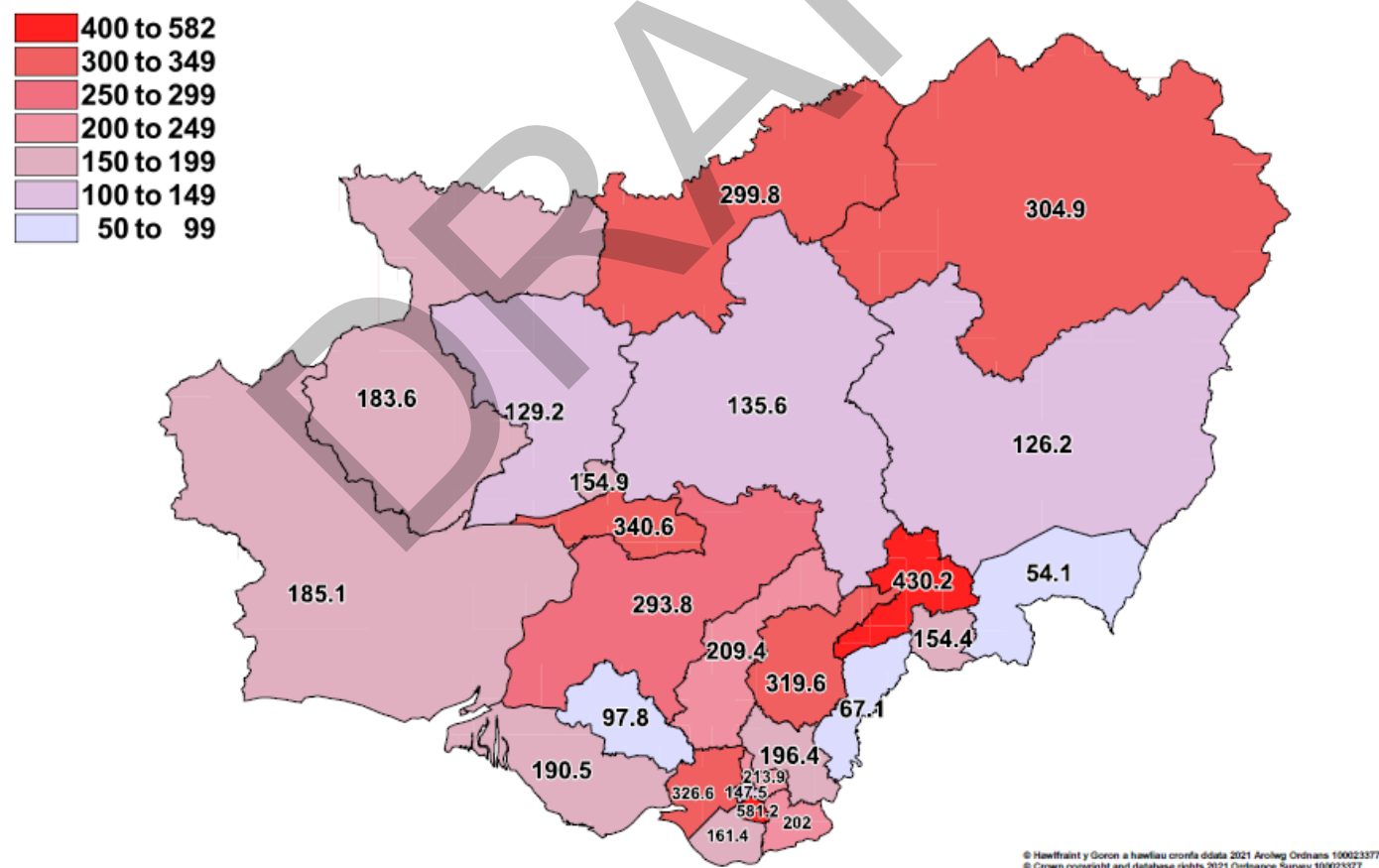


## COVID-19 Deaths in Carmarthenshire to end of March 2021

Carmarthenshire Middle Layer Super Output Areas	Deaths per 100,000 people	Carmarthenshire Middle Layer Super Output Areas	Deaths per 100,000 people
Brynaman, Y Garnant & Glanamman	54.1	Swiss Valley & Llangennech	196.4
Yr Hendy & Tŷ-croes	67.1	Bynea & Llwynhendy	202.0
Cydweli & Trimsaran	97.8	Glyn & Pontyberem	209.4
Llandeilo, Llangadog & Maenordeilo	126.2	Dafen & Felin-foel	213.9
Carmarthen West & Cynwyl Elfed	129.2	Llanddarog, Llangyndeyrn & Ferryside	293.8
Abergwili, Llanegwad & Carmel	135.6	Llandovery, Cil-y-cwm & Cynwyl Gaeo	304.9
Llanelli North	147.5	Llanfihangel-ar-arth & Llanybydder	317.5
Ammanford & Betws	154.4	Llan-non, Cross Hands & Pen-y-groes	319.6
Carmarthen North	154.9	Llanelli West	326.6
Llanelli South	161.4	Carmarthen South & Llangynnwyr	340.6
Tre-lech, Cenarth & Llangelor	183.6	Llandybie & Saron	430.2
Whitland, Laugharne & Llansteffan	185.1	Llanelli Bigyn	581.2
Pembrey & Burry Port	190.5		

The area with the lowest number of deaths per 100,000 population in Carmarthenshire is *Brynaman, Y Garnant & Glanamman* and the highest was *Llanelli Bigyn*.

### Carmarthenshire COVID-19 death rates per Middle Layer Super Output Areas Deaths per 100,000 people - occurring up to end March 2021





# INTRODUCTION TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

At the time of preparing this report, Council resources remain committed to dealing with the crisis/recovery. There are some gaps in the information available, for instance, due to the pressures of dealing with the crisis Welsh Government has agreed that comparative *Out turn data* will not be published for 2020-21. We would usually compare our results to other Councils results. In past years we have also reported the results of the National Survey for Wales but much of this is unavailable.

This Annual Report is produced by the Council because we believe we should provide comprehensive and balanced information to the public about our services, so that they can see how we are performing and the challenges we are facing. It is also a statutory duty under the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (*See Appendix 1*). In addition, establishing the baselines will be useful to assess recovery.

## Working with Partners

As a Council we are not alone in working to improve the lives of Carmarthenshire's citizens. We are collaborating with other public bodies. We have set up a *Public Services Board* (PSB) and this partnership has published a [Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan](#). All the separate public bodies in the partnership publish their own Well-being Objectives and we will be working to meet many common objectives. The PSB has also published an [Annual Report for 2020/21- To be linked when published](#)

## Consultation undertaken by the Council

- ⦿ During the pandemic we undertook a *Parental Survey* conducted with parents, carers and guardians of pupils, with 4,433 responses and asked what they think is having the biggest impact on their child(ren)'s well-being and mental health. An overwhelming majority of respondents noted that the issue which is causing the biggest impact on their child(ren)'s well-being is that they are unable to be with their friends and peers
- ⦿ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we consulted with *Carmarthenshire businesses* to gather their views on the impact of the pandemic on their business. In total, 574 businesses responded to the online survey in May. The responses to this engagement have helped shape our support toward these businesses.
- ⦿ In May, 2,543 (32%) of our *staff* across all departments took part in a survey on the new way of working following the COVID-19 outbreak, the results will help shape the future way of working.
- ⦿ Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, we undertook a *digital and virtual budget consultation* for the 2021/22. In response to the public feedback, the council reduced the increase of Council Tax based on the consultation results.
- ⦿ We have consulted on a number of *school projects* throughout the year. These included: consulting on the changing provision in primary schools, changing entry ages at schools, increasing capacity in schools and improving school buildings.
- ⦿ We have also assisted with a number of services on numerous consultations. These included but are not limited to: Proposals to change The Miners' theatre name, Public Services Protection orders, the use of historical monuments within the County, Active travel and Public realm safety improvements in response to the pandemic.

## Equality and Diversity

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

During the year, we have continued to develop our Integrated Impact Assessment process, which ensures due regard and diligence when the Authority makes key decisions. This process includes our responsibilities in terms of the **Equality Act 2010** and the **Socio-economic Duty**, which came into force on 31 March 2021. The key aim of the Socio-Economic Duty is to encourage better decision making and ultimately deliver better outcomes for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged.

The duty should be used to ensure that reducing inequalities of outcome now and for future generations is a central factor in decision-making. Organisations should consider current inequalities and future trends when deciding how they can have the most impact. And organisations must be guided by the voices of socio-economically disadvantaged people in doing this.

A cross-party **Equality and Diversity (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic) Task and Finish Group** was set up in response to two detailed debates in the Council chamber, with the purpose of engaging residents and gathering feedback to help break down barriers and support Carmarthenshire's BAME communities.

As part of their work, the group launched a public survey in response to commentary about historic monuments across the county. The survey encouraged people to give their views on whether the council needed to take any steps in response to public discussion, and what these steps should be.

The Task and Finish Group recommended erecting prominently placed information boards near the Picton Monument and within its grounds with reference to Sir Thomas Picton encompassing his military career as well as his known links with slavery, as well as reference to the local history of the area. The group also recommended a further information board placed in the vicinity of the Court Room at the Guildhall, where a portrait of Sir Thomas Picton is displayed.

As part of our duty to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not, we have developed a **Diversity Calendar**, which aims to establish a consistent and fair timetable across all characteristics. We will review and progress our calendar and ensure that it links in with the work promoted by Welsh Government through the Community Cohesion

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

We are continuing to implement the **Welsh Language Standards** across the Council with significant internal communication work undertaken during 2020-21. Messages about the Standards were conveyed to staff through presentations by the Policy Team, through the communication streams maintained by Marketing and Media and through the Departmental Language Leaders.

The **Welsh Language County Strategic Forum**, which continues to be led by the Council and includes representation from the county's language promotion organisations, as well as public bodies with language officers, has also continued with its role of developing a programme of promoting the Welsh language in the county and instigated much joint planning for the implementation of the Carmarthenshire Promotion Action Plan, which is in line with the Promotion standards. The forum met four times and specific attention was given to apprenticeships and post-16 education, the Language in our communities, priority areas and the Local Development Plan.

# How we measure the success of our Well-being Objectives

## Success Measures

The Well-being Future Generations Act promotes a shift in focus from service productivity, to all public bodies working together to progress outcomes that improves the quality of life of citizens and communities, both now and in the future. We have a suite of indicators we use to measure the success of our Well-being Objectives; a list of these measures can be seen in *Appendix 2*.

## Public Accountability Measures

There is also a National suite of measures that all Councils in Wales normally have to collect, a list of these measures can be seen in *Appendix 3*. Due to COVID-19, Welsh Government decided not to collect and publish results from authorities for 2019/20 or 2020/21.

This has been a year like no other, with our own results for some of these measures not available or not comparable to previous year due to the effects of COVID-19.

## Other Assessment Information

### Citizen Satisfaction



#### National Survey for Wales

We usually include National Survey for Wales data that's available at Local Authority level in our Annual Report. Due to the pandemic, much of the data is not available for 2020/21 as Welsh Government had to make changes to how they conduct the survey. Therefore, only a few of the 2020/21 survey results have been included in this report due to lower participation as well as lack of continuity of the questions to previous years surveys.



[Link to 2020 National Survey for Wales - quarterly and monthly results](#)

## Regulatory Verdict

During the year our Regulators issued a number of reports on and these are listed in **Appendix 4**.



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



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



<https://careinspectorate.wales/>



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 and achievement for all learners

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

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

**6.** Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county.

**7.** Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

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

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

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

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

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

**13.** Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

**14.** Promoting Welsh language and culture.

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

## Executive Board Members and the Well-being Objectives



**Cllr. Emlyn Dole**  
Leader

**WBO6 - Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county**



**Cllr. Mair Stephens**  
Deputy Leader

**WBO12 – Environment**

**WBO15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources**



**Cllr. Cefin Campbell**

**WBO5 - Tackling poverty**

**WBO9 - Good connections and safer communities**

**WBO12 - Environment**



**Cllr. Jane Tremlett**

**WBO9 - Good connections and safer communities**

**WBO10 - Older people**

**WBO11 – Ageing Well**



**Cllr. David Jenkins**

**WBO15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources**



**Cllr. Linda Evans**

**WBO7 - Affordable Homes**

**WBO9 - Good connections and safer communities**

**WBO11 - Ageing Well**



**Cllr. Glynog Davies**

**WBO1 - Child best start**

**WBO2 - Healthy Children**

**WBO3 - Education**

**WBO4 - Young people**



**Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths**

**WBO2 - Healthy Children**

**WBO8- Healthy lives Adults**

**WBO14 – Welsh Language & Culture**



**Cllr. Hazel Evans**

**WBO12 - Environment**

**WBO13 - Transport and Highways**



**Cllr. Phillip Hughes**

**WBO12 - Environment**

**WBO8- Healthy lives Adults**

# Start Well







## Well-being Objective 1

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

### The number of Children Looked After has significantly reduced

A systemic approach to delivering social work practice alongside our continued focus on preventative work, has seen the number of looked after children continuing to reduce year on year with more and more families being supported to stay together. This has been despite the increased challenges faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Why it is important

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

#### Success Measure

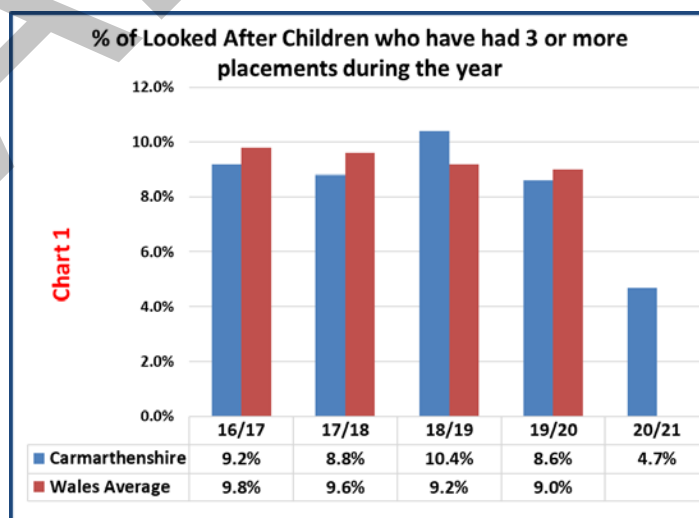
The % of children in care who had to move 3 or more times has reduced to **4.7%**



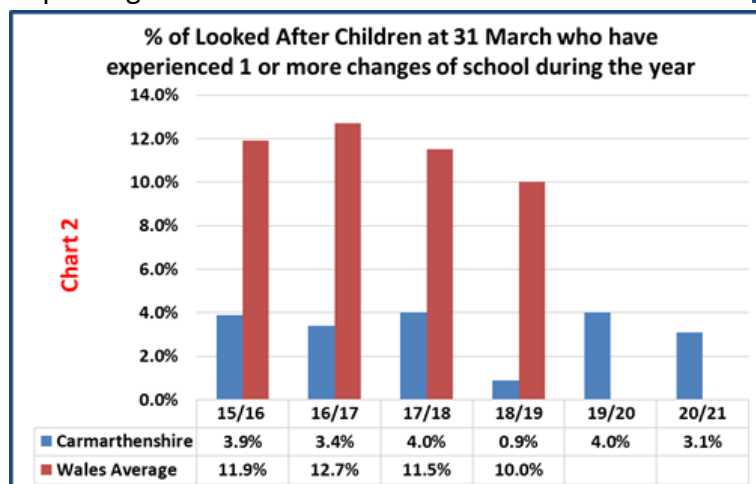
#### Explaining the Results

We are pleased to have seen an *improvement* in placement stability with a *reduction* in the number of children having moved 3 or more times during 2020/21, with 4.7% (7 out of 148) compared to 8.6% (14 out of 163) in 2019/20 and better than the Welsh Average of 9%. (See Chart 1)

Stability of looked after children has been excellent despite COVID-19. COVID and strict WG guidelines impacted on the opening of schools. We consistently perform well in maintaining looked after children in the same school, which is also an important factor in improving outcomes.



During 2020/21, 3 out of 96 children changed schools (See Chart 2). A summer programme of support was also put in place which was well received. Our **long-term** primary focus is on **prevention** and maintaining children at home with their families and out of the care system wherever possible, as well as providing extra resources for foster carers to support the children in their care to maintain placement stability and avoid the need to move wherever possible.



## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

### Supporting Families

- ⦿ Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic both registered childcare settings, play providers, families and communities have continued to receive advice, support and guidance in ensuring that children and young people have access to play opportunities during times of lockdown and restrictions.
- ⦿ The *Childcare Assistance Scheme* enabled providers of childcare to remain open to ensure critical services continued to run. Between April to August 2020, 732 children of critical workers were supported by the scheme.
- ⦿ The number of enquiries to the *Family Information Service* has seen a 62% increase this year with 30,197 users and 89,923 pageviews.
- ⦿ *Flying Start Carmarthenshire* became the **first Flying Start in Wales to use a mobile App** to help keep in touch with families. The team developed the App as a way to increase engagement, and to signpost families to important information and promote events in the local areas. The App continues to be pivotal in delivering services, key messages and providing information to all of our families.
- ⦿ *Team Around the Family* (TAF) are continuing to re-shape the service to meet future need and have begun to develop partnership work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector alongside co-production, community development and use of volunteers. TAF continue working alongside schools and the *Attendance and Safeguarding Team* and *Early Help* team to provide a seamless service to education.
- ⦿ Each of the childcare teams have continued to use a systemic approach to delivering social work services. 30 members of staff including managers are about to complete the qualification Foundation year of Systemic Social Work Practice and in addition social workers from across the service undertook a 3-day Introduction to Systemic Practice. The training has helped increase confidence as well as ensuring consistency of approach across the teams. A recent Assurance check by [Care Inspectorate Wales](#) (CIW) remarked on the benefits of 'pod' working which '*clearly promoted a holistic and strengths-based approach to working with families. Records that clearly articulated outcome focused planning. Plans outlined clear achievable goals to safeguarded children and improve their well-being through the provision of a range of services best suited to their needs*'.



### Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

- ⦿ The *Inclusion* section has continued to deliver all service areas throughout the pandemic to ALN and all vulnerable pupils. Methods of delivery have been modified following consultation with stakeholders such as families, schools, ECPS and Health thus ensuring all best endeavours are undertaken to continue to deliver statutory processes and support services.
- ⦿ ALN Transformation is reaching a point of implementation and as such the primary focus for improvement is on transitioning into the new mechanism for upholding the statutory duties for children and young adults with ALN from 0-25 as set out by the new act and statutory code of practice.

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



## Well-being Objective 2

### Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

#### Obesity in children increases in Carmarthenshire

The 2018/19 Child Measurement Programme data published in March 2021 shows that **over 30%** of children aged 4 to 5 in Carmarthenshire are overweight or obese, the **5<sup>th</sup> highest** figure in Wales.

#### Why it is important

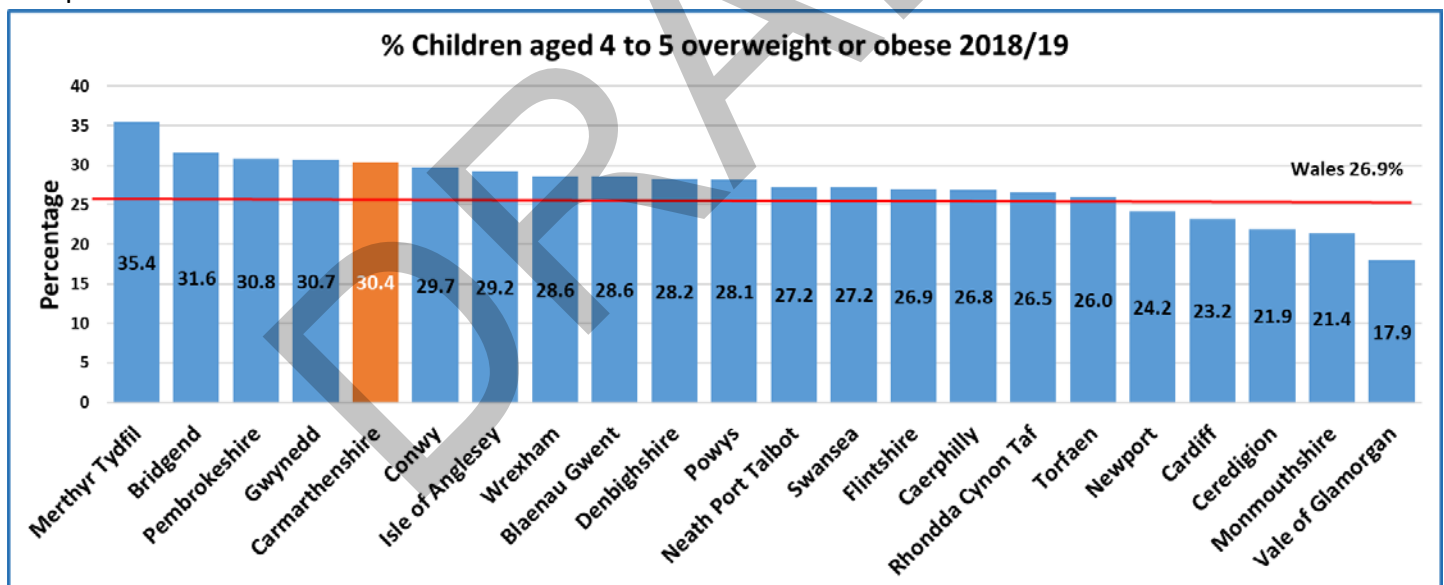
- ⊙ The Play Sufficiency Assessment identified playing outside as the most popular setting for children but also found that 32% of parents worried about their child's safety.
- ⊙ Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active as an important factor for the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

#### Success Measure

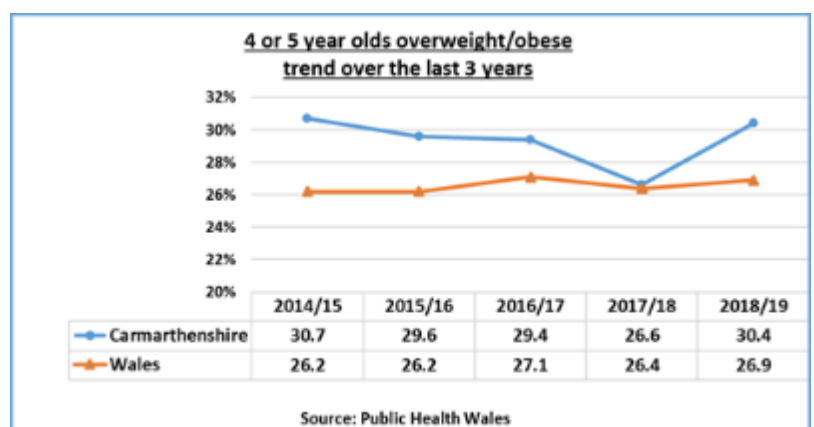
**30.4%** of children are overweight or obese (2018/19)

(This is an increase on the previous year of 26.6% 2017/18)

The programme of child measurements is carried out by [Public Health Wales](#) with children attending reception class in schools in Wales.



There had been a downward trend in recent years from having 3<sup>rd</sup> highest figures in Wales in 2014/15 to just above the Welsh average in 2017/18. Unfortunately, 2018/19 data (published March 2021) shows an increase in the **% overweight or obese to 30.2%**, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales and just below our 2014/15 result of 30.7%. Obesity in childhood often persists into adult life, leading to related health problems like type 2 diabetes, liver disease, higher rates of heart disease, and some cancers.





## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

### Physical Activity

- ⊙ Leisure Services successfully secured an All Wales Play Opportunity Grant of £25K and matched funded £52k in order to completely re-develop Llansteffan Beach Playground.
- ⊙ Work related to utilising school grounds outside of teaching hours remains paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Welsh Government allocated two funding streams during quarter three via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant to be utilised by the 31st March 2021. Carmarthenshire have been allocated £31,000 in revenue funding to be allocated to providing staffed play provision for vulnerable children during school holidays up until and including the Easter Holidays 2021. A total of £184,092 has been allocated to Carmarthenshire in the form of a capital grant. Advice, guidance and support has been given to Whitland Town Council in relation to developing a playground for Whitland town in line with the Section 106 Contributions regulations. Advice, guidance and support has been given to the Playworker staff within the Integrated Children's Centres in delivering virtual Play Sessions to families as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- ⊙ The Healthy Schools Team worked in partnership with Active Carmarthenshire in promoting the 'Million Minutes' Campaign via our Network and Cluster Meetings and utilised our Termly Cluster meetings to inform schools of the latest guidance published by Public Health Wales regarding Physical Activity Promotion during COVID-19 times and also signposted them to PE Guidance published by the Youth Sport Trust in relation to the delivery of PE lessons and Physical Activity Promotion.



### Healthy Eating

- ⊙ The Healthy Schools team produced a Healthy Packed Lunch Toolkit for Families.
- ⊙ The Local Authority committed to providing free school meals throughout the pandemic providing food bags, vouchers and direct payments as appropriate. Free School Meal food bags were always as nutritional as we could make them taking into account food safety (dependent how long they would be taking to transport). We also offered ideas of what to make with the items, e.g. tuna pasta salad.

### Mental Health

- ⊙ The Healthy Schools Scheme has undertaken the following work to address Mental Health:
  - Organised and funded 6 x 'Strategies to Support an Anxious Young Person' Courses;
  - Organised and funded 2 x Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Courses;
  - Organised and Co-ordinated 2 x Secondary School Personal and Social Education (PSE) - Professional Learning Community (PLC) activities which had Mental & Emotional Health & Well-being as a focal area;
  - Contributed to the Consultation regarding the Whole School Approach to Mental Health by providing suggestions on how to improve the Whole School Approach to Mental Health Assessment Tool for schools;
  - Played an instrumental role in establishing a Task and Finish Group for the production and publication of a Transgender Toolkit for Schools.

### Raise Awareness

- ⊙ The Healthy Schools Scheme has created and updated several Directories of resources which promote Physical Health, Mental and Emotional Health, Healthy Eating and an increased awareness of Healthy Lifestyles, uploaded onto the Healthy Schools Network on Hwb, Sharepoint and Council website. The resources were designed for use by pupils of all ages and their families, to be utilised by the School Hubs, families with pupils learning from home and for blended learning by schools during the second lockdown.



- ⦿ The Team also placed emphasis on the importance of Outdoor Learning / Provision and have informed schools of relevant training being delivered and excellent websites that can support them in increasing Outdoor Learning provision. As a result, a number of teachers attended training that was delivered by Natural Resources Wales and have signed up to the SOUL Website (Outdoor Learning Website) which provides free resources for schools.
- ⦿ The Health and Wellbeing area of learning is a key focus area as we prepare for the new Welsh curriculum. A cross-disciplinary strategic group is focussing on supporting schools to undertake purposeful activity within the area of learning, as exemplified by the health and happiness programme, which was developed to assist schools over the course of the pandemic. Physical literacy is an important consideration, with further opportunities to learn in the outdoors e.g. via our Learning through Landscapes project.

## The way we work

### Million Actif Minutes

With the news that schools across Wales would not be opening their doors for some time in the new year due to another lockdown, the Actif Communities team set a fun and engaging challenge for schools that would capture the attention of the County.

The Million Actif Minutes Challenge aimed to engage and motivate children and young people to get active through these difficult times. Schools promoted physical activity, PE, resources available from Actif Communities and activities from National Governing Bodies across Wales in a bid to get children moving more.

The aim of the challenge was for all schools to collectively achieve 1,000,000 active minutes across the County with each school receiving their own specific target which was based on the number of pupils in the school. The schools were challenged to reach their targets in order to be included in a live draw with a chance of winning £500 worth of sports equipment.

The challenge started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and a whopping 76 schools registered to be part of this countywide challenge. The challenge itself was initially aimed at school pupils but due to the influx of emails from staff who wanted to take part, it was decided that they the challenge would also include staff members too!

Within the first 2 weeks an amazing 580,000 active minutes were recorded, with 880,115 by the third week and then a final figure of **2,033,874**



## Outdoor Learning in Carmarthenshire Schools

Schools across Carmarthenshire are embracing the great outdoors for learning.

With a strong focus on supporting the health and well-being of learners and staff, Local Authority teams have been highlighting the physical, emotional and educational benefits of outdoor learning. Schools have been supported through a range of training opportunities, resources and projects, resulting in some wonderful developments across the county.

Many schools have constructed outdoor classrooms, and most are keenly developing their garden areas and outdoor spaces. During *Outdoor Learning Week in April*, a fantastic range of cross-curricular learning was captured and shared on school websites.



Pupils have been seen out and about in the local area looking for signs of spring. This term they are planting fruit, vegetables and learning about healthy eating. Many are helping to improve biodiversity by creating 'wild' areas in the locality.

Several projects have been initiated to support the outdoor learning agenda, including: *Walk The Global Walk, The Lightbringers and Lost Words Projects*, which all promote connection to nature and awareness of sustainability issues. Supported by the Incredible Edibles team, pupils are creating 'peace gardens', which will provide places for children to relax, reflect and learn.

Two Erasmus projects, 'Utopia' and 'Growing Together For Successful Futures', are also underway to enable our teachers to learn from best practice in countries such as Sweden and Greece.

The *Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools* (CODS) programme has been established to support and guide schools in their quest to be healthier, happier places for all.

**Video: Outdoor learning at Johnstown Primary School**

<https://www.i2e.com/johnstown-primary-school/Mr+C/Outdoor+Learning+Autumn+2020/>

### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 3

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

### Support for progress, achievement and well-being has continued in difficult circumstances

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the situation at the moment, we do not have end of key stage data for the summer term 2020 for Foundation Phase, Key Stage (KS) 2 and KS3. Schools are currently re-assessing pupils and gaining a new baseline for individuals following the lockdown period. KS4 and KS5 pupils were awarded their predicted grades. *We do not have access to this data centrally as a county therefore comparison to previous years cannot be made.*

#### Why it is important

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

#### Success Measures

##### *Average score for Year 11 pupils - based on Teacher assessment rather than examinations due to COVID-19*

- ⊙ The last published average score based on the **best 9 exam results** for Year 11 pupils during 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) is 367.2 where girls had an average score of 378.5 and boys 356.4. This is an improvement on the previous year and well above the Welsh average of 354.4.

##### *Attendance at Primary and Secondary Schools - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

- ⊙ Due to the pandemic, the disruption to Schools and the need for home learning for most of the year, **attendance data has not been recorded in the same way and therefore not reported**. The last published data was for 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year), this showed that Secondary schools had declined further to 93.5% with Primary school attendance staying the same at 93.9%.

##### *Satisfaction with Child's Primary Schools - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

- ⊙ Due to COVID-19, there is no updated data available for the National Survey for Wales measure of satisfaction with child's primary school. The most recent data of 2019/20 showed that 95% of participants were satisfied with their child's primary school in Carmarthenshire, this had increased from the previous year of 84% and above the Welsh average. This can be volatile dependant on the households questioned during the year.



## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- ⦿ Officers from the Education and Children's services department provided support in line with local and national priorities providing schools with a bespoke range of support in line with the priority areas for individual schools and the current COVID Pandemic context. Educational support advisers, Inclusion officers, Educational Psychologists Behavioural support officers and Social Services work closely alongside our schools and settings, supporting evaluative processes and ensuring that the support provided and facilitated by the local authority, partner schools and the region is impacting positively on the learning experiences of the pupils, their progress and their well-being.
- ⦿ Investment in Schools continues as part of the Modernising Education Programme:



**New £4.3m school for children and staff at Ysgol Rhys Prichard**



**Children in Five Roads move into new £4.5m school**



**£4.5m investment transforms Ysgol Llangadog for staff and pupils**

- ⦿ The current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) document is now in its penultimate year. We will continue to ensure that the key messages are adhered to and that specific changes in school provision continue to progress. Due to COVID-19, interaction with school leaders regarding moving along the language continuum has been delayed. However, dialogue on the WESP continues with the focus on language progress.
- ⦿ The past twelve months has proved challenging for school governors. We have worked with them to develop their digital skills to facilitate on-line meetings. We continue to encourage and promote participation in the governorship of schools.
- ⦿ Following a review of our specialist behaviour support services, the new Four Phase Model has been implemented; in Phase 1 increasing the provision in schools; Phase 2 more robust packages of support from central team to be delivered on site; and improving provision in Phase 3 and 4 which are the off-site Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and long term Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties (ESBD) settings. The Behaviour Support Community Team is in development to increase capacity working directly with whole school processes for training and advice to support and upskill staff to work with individuals with the long-term aim of upskilling schools to work with complex pupils reducing the number of pupils requiring long term specialist provision and working more in line with a short-term intervention model.

## The way we work

### The Health and Happiness Programme

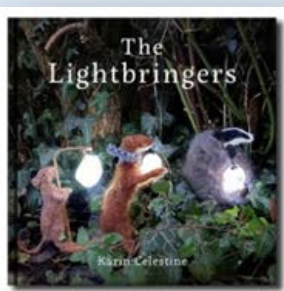
In the spirit of hopefulness, the school improvement team created an approach to classroom routines and activities that can be used to support staff and their pupils return to school in a safe and joyful way. All age groups and varied levels of need were considered. The psychological approaches and principles presented in the *Health and Happiness Programme* can be applied flexibly by schools and can be interpreted to suit the school's context. Research has identified five key principles that support recovery following a serious incident or event: *A sense of safety; a sense of calm; a sense of self and collective efficacy; social connectedness and the promoting of hope.*

For many pupils, returning to school is a welcome return. However, for others, it is a time of worry and anxiety. Some pupils may be carrying a large emotional burden and school might be their only place to talk about this. Adults in school who listen with empathy perform an important therapeutic function, without being therapists. Activities set out in the programme allow time and opportunities for pupils to talk about their experiences and emotions.

The Health and Happiness Programme is divided into 3 main areas:

- a sense of place, a sense of belonging
- looking after our bodies and minds
- our learning journey

An inclusive activity page is presented for each school phase for each of the 3 main areas. All activities are colour coded demonstrating their relevance to the 5 ways to good well-being. The programme also includes extended literacy and numeracy activities and a wealth of suggestions and activities promoting the Power of Story. The programme is interactive with hyperlinks to additional resources and materials. It also includes live links to supportive websites and apps.



### The Lightbringers' Project

The Lightbringers' Project was inspired by the book *The Lightbringers/Y Lanternwyr*, created by Karin Celestine, 'a story of hope... that the light will always return, even in the darkest of days.'

The project was launched in January 2021 to offer support and educational inspiration to school communities during the darkest days of the pandemic building upon the principles of the *Health and Happiness Programme*. All Carmarthenshire schools received bilingual copies of the book, along with a bank of practical ideas and resources to support health, well-being and a collaborative approach to the Curriculum for Wales. Although much of the project has had to be delivered online, it supports a holistic approach to 'blended learning', providing a range of cross-curricular ideas for schools and families to connect with nature and be creative. As part of the project, pupils have enjoyed working with the author, Karin Celestine; Rufus Mufasa, Poet for Future Generations; art specialists and well-being experts.

The first unit, 'Shine A Light', culminated with the Lantern Challenge, when windows across Carmarthenshire were illuminated with beautiful lanterns, shining out positive messages of friendship and solidarity.

The Lightbringers' Project has provided opportunities for families to enjoy learning together, whilst promoting strategies to support positive mental health across the wider school community. The positive impact of this work has been recognised by headteachers and has recently received recognition in the Senedd: [https://twitter.com/senedd\\_hmj/status/1359578890419789825?s=12](https://twitter.com/senedd_hmj/status/1359578890419789825?s=12).



### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 will show this Well-being Objective 3 combined with Well-being Objective 4 to become -

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



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 4

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

### Work towards ensuring EET continues

The number of Year 11 NEET young people in Carmarthenshire, has remained constant compared to two years ago. However, we have seen a decrease in Year 13 NEET young people in 2021. The results are obtained from Careers Wales Destination Survey which was not concluded in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, therefore we cannot compare to the previous year. Despite COVID-19 we have worked closely with schools to support pupils at risk of NEET, delivering qualifications, ensuring successful transition to college and improving engagement with additional activities and support.

### Why it is important

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

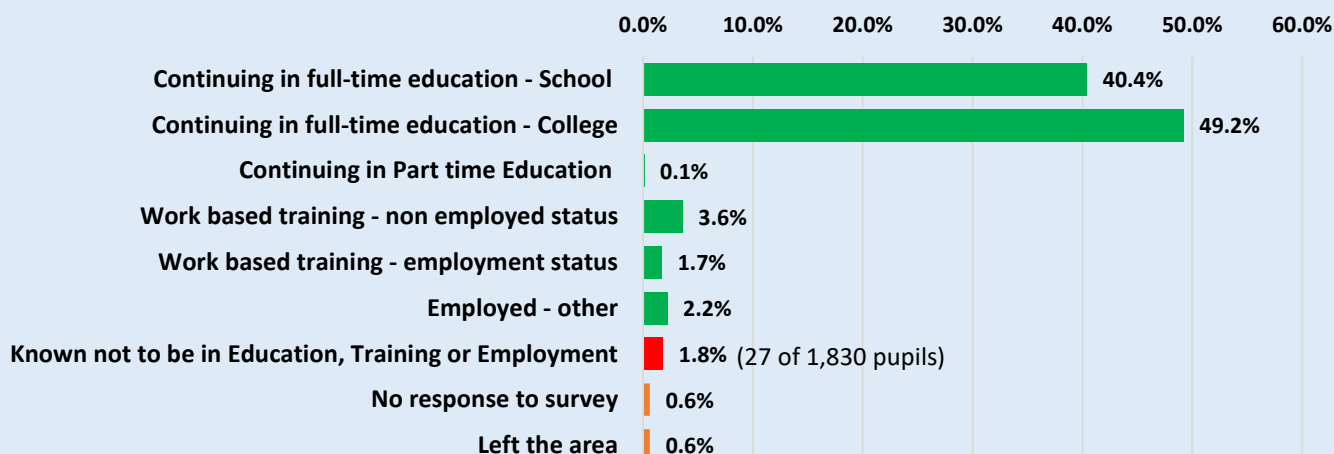
### Success Measures



### Explaining the Results

- 1.8%, or 32 of **Year 11** pupils becoming NEET in 2020/21 (2019/20 Academic Year), this equates to 96.1%, or 1,765 pupils remaining in Education, Employment or Training. A small number of pupils (22), either did not respond to contact or were known to have left Carmarthenshire. The result ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in Wales and above the Welsh average of 1.7%.

#### Destination data for Carmarthenshire Y11 pupils (Academic Year 2019-20)



- 3.5%, or 23 out of 652, **Year 13** pupils were known to become NEET, with 15 pupils either not responding to contact or being known to have left the area. The result ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Wales and was equal to the Welsh average. Factors previously affecting the result include the rising cost of higher education, young people's awareness of training and employment opportunities and limited identification of this group of young people by schools following the A Level results. We will seek qualitative data to improve on this situation.

### Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- Since the *Cynydd* project began four years ago 141 young people have been referred to the team, with only 15 (11%) of those young people not being in education or training. Although the pandemic saw a decline in referrals, there were 32 young people referred and 75% of them went on to further education, a traineeship or work.
- Post 16 staff have maintained contact with the children and young people they support. If any child/young person is deemed to be vulnerable/at risk, permission has been sought from the Head of Service as to being able to conduct face to face visits. When and where possible, detached youth work has taken the place of youth club delivery, and Streets and Bwlch Youth Centres have been permitted to re-open via Silver/Gold Command. The centres are being utilised for appointment only drop-ins for vulnerable children and young people. The same applies to Dr Mz Youth Centre under partnership arrangements.
- A post 16 learning review has been initiated, which will encompass the appropriateness of learning pathways at Key Stage 4 into post compulsory education, world of work and training. This will also involve liaising closely with our local Further Education provider.
- During the past year the Community Learning Service has developed new and innovative blended learning opportunities for Essential Skills and ESOL learners. Staff have undertaken training in Digital Pedagogy and supported learners in their digital learning as well as their literacy, numeracy and language learning. Learners have remained engaged and achieved outcomes where possible.
- The Youth Support Service has signed up to the Participation Charter in the final quarter of this year, following on from discussions with Children in Wales, and resulting from work linked to the last self-assessment that was completed by the service. This means that each team within the service will undertake a self-assessment against the National Participation Standards from March 2021 onwards in terms of more effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET.
- YEPF delivery has continued throughout the year. Use has been made of MS Teams to hold Support into Employment, Education and Training Meetings, as well as Vulnerability Assessment Profile Meetings. Liaison has continued with Careers Wales. Youth Support Workers have provided one to one support to children and young people.
- The Local Authority and Regional Consortia are developing a Professional learning offer for Curriculum for Wales aligning with inclusion team. Ensuring good pedagogy meets individual pupil needs at all levels. All Carmarthenshire schools have started the Journey to curriculum for Wales planning. The engagement and progress to end goal varies due to different circumstances schools find themselves in. 88 schools have engaged with ERW's offer last year and 105 have now engaged with ERW's training opportunities this year. Science and Technology project supported by ERW saw 42 Schools engaged using the small and rural schools' grant. A Task and Finish group is being initiated to address key areas of need e.g. Assessment informing curriculum design (Cross departmental work).
- We have identified several areas for service development: Well-being and Music Therapy, Music for All Initiative (Music for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Learners) and Year 6 Transition (Performing Arts). These have been identified through pilot initiatives and suggestions / proposals from Head Teachers.



- ⦿ We have extended and developed the Seren Programme for More Able and Talented (MAT) pupils to pre-16 learners. We have merged with Ceredigion to help provision for pre-16 learners in three counties (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion). We have provided Brilliant club, a non-profit organisation that aims to widen access to university for students from underrepresented groups, to all 30 schools in the 3 counties. We pioneered a partnership with Aberystwyth's new vet school with events for years 8 and 9 and 10-12 and piloted a humanities project around the theme of the holocaust with University of Wales Trinity St David's for students from all schools. We also ran masterclasses in specialist subjects; philosophy; physics; literature and writing; Humanities and Mandarin.

## The way we work

### Council offers a step on the career ladder with successful apprenticeship programme

**Appropriate picture to be added**

Over 160 apprentices are working with Carmarthenshire County Council, supporting the authority in a variety of roles whilst progressing their career. The council runs a long and successful apprenticeship programme and is recognising the contribution apprentices make during National Apprenticeship Week (February 8-14). Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for people to develop practical skills and get ready for the world of work. The programmes provide a mix of workplace and academic modules leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Many apprentices go on to full-time employment with their apprenticeship employer or move on to the next stage of their career with another employer.

Over recent years Carmarthenshire County Council has worked with many apprentices to complete a wide range of qualifications. Currently, the authority has 166 apprentices undertaking many different roles, working towards several different qualifications. Over the last year, despite being in the midst of a pandemic, 10 new apprentices have joined the council's team.

They include Alaw Roberts and Eve Bryan who are *MakerSpace* apprentices based with Carmarthen and Ammanford libraries; Alex Caswell, Evan Davies and Ben Cooke who joined the council as *Next Steps* apprentices, working on property maintenance.

And Finn Quick, Elliot Lewis, Rhydian Jones, Tomos Williams and Elliot Brice who are undertaking Chartered Institute of Building higher apprenticeships in construction management.

Council apprenticeships are also flexible - Poppy Evans started her apprenticeship with the council as a business support assistant but has recently progressed into the Children and Family Services team helping to engage and recruit new foster parents.

Poppy, who is taking her apprenticeship through the medium of Welsh, is one of 10 apprenticeship ambassadors for Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's 2020/2021 academic year and runs a successful vlog about her apprenticeship experience.

## Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 will show this Well-being Objective 4 combined with Well-being Objective 3 and become-

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



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



# Live Well



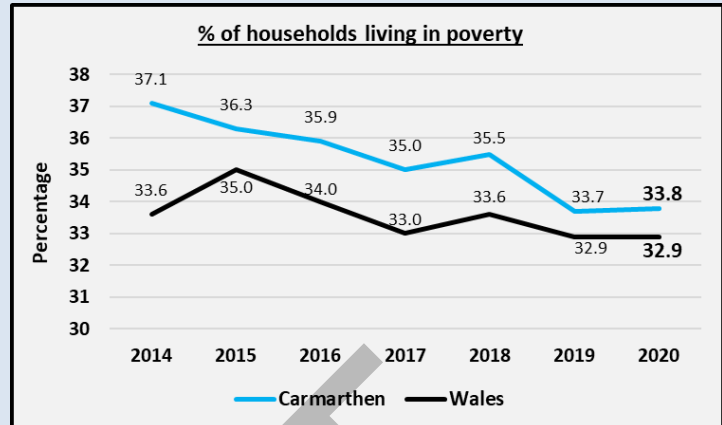


## Well-being Objective 5

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

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

During 2020, **27,691** households in Carmarthenshire were classed as living in poverty, this is a slight increase on the previous year of 27,576.



Poverty is defined as when a "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income" (in 2020 less than £19,967)

### Why it is 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,
- ⊙ Two Carmarthenshire wards (Tyisha and Glanymor) were in the top 20 worst wards for childhood poverty in Wales (both at 41.3%) *Source: End Child Poverty, Loughborough University, 2019*

### Success Measures / Explaining the Results

**Households Living in Poverty** - see comment and chart above.

### Homelessness Prevention

**46.4%** of households threatened with homelessness were successfully prevented from becoming homeless

*The same as the previous year (46.4% 193/416 x100)*



- ⊙ Of the 377 households **threatened with homelessness** during 2020/21, **175 were successfully prevented from becoming homeless - 46.4%**, the same % result as 2019/20 but a reduced number of households threatened with homelessness. As a result of COVID-19, Welsh Government changed the law around homelessness in that all single homeless people regardless of their previous history were deemed a priority and local authorities were required to provide both temporary and permanent accommodation. This new demand resulted in a new cohort of people presenting themselves to us (rough sleeping and sofa surfers) Their circumstances made it difficult for us to undertake prevention work. Regardless of these increased new demands, overall, we were able to maintain our homeless prevention work compared to last year.

### Gap in exam results for pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who do not - updated data is unavailable

- ⊙ The last published data on the **gap** between **exam results** for pupils receiving **Free School Meals (FSM)** and **those who do not (Non-FSM)** was for the period 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) at **17.9%**, this had reduced by 1.8 percentage points from the previous year and continued to be the 7<sup>th</sup> smallest gap in Wales.

### **Living in material deprivation - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19**

- ⊙ The 2019/20 National Survey for Wales showed that **11.3%** of participating households in Carmarthenshire were classed as **living in material deprivation**, this is below the Welsh average of 12.9% and a reduction on the previous year of 13.5%. Due to COVID-19, there is no updated data available for the measure.
- ⊙ According to the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) which is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales, Carmarthenshire has 3 areas within the 100 most deprived areas in Wales. These are Tyisha<sup>area2</sup> ranked as 17<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in Wales, followed by Glanymor<sup>area4</sup> in 68<sup>th</sup> and Bigyn<sup>area4</sup> in 84<sup>th</sup> position.

## **Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19**

### **Preventing poverty**

- ⊙ Flying Start is the Welsh Government targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years of age in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. It aims to mitigate the impact of deprivation and poverty on families through the delivery of services in the first 1000 days of a child's life. During 2019, *Flying Start Carmarthenshire* became the **first Flying Start in Wales to use a mobile App** to help keep in touch with families. See Well-being Objective 2.
- ⊙ As an *employer*:
  - We are committed to guaranteeing the equivalent of the **"real living wage"** as set by the Living Wage Foundation by paying a supplement to those workers whose total hourly pay falls below the living wage. We are now paying the Living Wage supplement to only 115 employees therefore ensuring that our whole workforce is paid at least the real living wage.
  - Signposting information is available to financial advisory services for staff and our occupational health service will also provide support and signposting where necessary.
  - The Council has also adopted the **'ethical employment in supply chains'** code of practice which asks our suppliers to consider paying the Living Wage as a minimum. This is incorporated into our procurement and tendering processes.
- ⊙ In *Revenues and Benefits*:
  - We provide benefit maximisation advice, help to service users to identify how expenditure can be reduced, referral to specialist support, help to apply for grants and benefits and the issue of foodbank vouchers.
  - Whilst processing claims, Housing Benefit staff are often able to identify if people need to be referred for more detailed benefit maximisation advice, personal budgeting or debt advice. In addition, they provide support in completing applications for benefits.
  - Our Council Tax recovery team also identifies when individuals could be claiming Council Tax reduction or benefit from budgeting or debt advice.
  - We administer a number of benefits payment schemes accessed by our residents needing support to pay their rent or council tax bills:
    - Housing benefit helps people on low incomes to pay their rent. It can cover rent to a private landlord, to a Housing Association, or if you pay rent to Carmarthenshire County Council; 9600 claimants received Housing Benefit in 2020/21.
    - Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) is a short-term payment which can be applied for by those claiming Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (with Housing costs) but are finding it difficult to pay their rent and 816 claimants received DHP in 2020/21.
    - The Council Tax Reduction scheme supported 16,541 households in Carmarthenshire in 2020/21 in paying council tax bills for people on a low income who claim benefits or Universal Credit.
  - Staff at the Council's Hwbs provide advice and assistance to residents on several Council services face to face, with customers able to return their benefit application forms to the Hwbs where staff check that all supporting evidence is included.

## Helping people into work

	2019/20			2020/21		
	Participants	Qualifications	Got a job	Participants	Qualifications	Got a job
Workways+	184	155	70	111	30	55
Volunteering	84			29		
Communities for work	53	33	28	111	16	7
Communities for work+	101	180	45	154	79	58

The impact of the Pandemic had a significant impact on the above figures and some teams were redeployed.

## Improving the lives of those living in poverty

- ⊙ In 2019/20, Carmarthenshire had 17.4% of children (4,771 pupils) who are eligible for **free school meals** in Wales (18%). However, as of 27th January 2021, there was a 16% increase with an additional 766 pupils eligible pupils in Carmarthenshire since January 2020.
- ⊙ **Free breakfast in primary schools** - This service, which is provided at 95 schools in the county (89 in the month of March with the others coming back slowly), was greatly disrupted during the last year by the pandemic. When schools first re-opened in some schools Breakfast 'bags' were served just before the start of the school day. Clubs are now offering limited numbers/spaces due to social distancing rules, with an average daily number of 1,898 children being fed between during March 2021.
- ⊙ **Pupil Development Grant** - This Welsh Government funded grant is available to families on low incomes for the purchase of school uniform, sports kit and equipment. Funding is available to pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals entering certain years in primary and secondary school and also to all looked after children. Funding of up to £125 is available to each eligible learner, with those in Year 7 being entitled to a maximum of £200. The grant is administered by the Council and the total allocation to Carmarthenshire for 2020/21 is £5,221,000.
- ⊙ Providing housing advice is one of the main functions of the **Advice and Tenancy Support team**. The team have a co-ordinating role in terms of ensuring clients in difficulties get welfare benefits advice and support. Staff also support council tenants to claim the correct benefits, including assistance with completion of forms, complete applications to reduce the cost of water rates, signpost to energy efficiency help and advise on eligibility for free school meals and uniform grants
- ⊙ During the pandemic we have prioritised all **homeless** people resulting in 193 households prevented from being homeless. Previously we prioritised families and vulnerable single people, but the pandemic resulted in a new cohort of people presenting themselves to us.
- ⊙ Since January 2019, eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year-olds in Carmarthenshire have been able to access 30 hours a week of Welsh Government funded early education and childcare. The childcare offer was suspended by Welsh Government in March due to COVID 19 but was reinstated in September 2020. The Childcare Offer fully resumed during the last quarter of the year with various promotional methods
- ⊙ There are currently **16 Food Banks** in the County and the Council has been directly providing funding in supporting many of these during COVID-19.
- ⊙ The Tyisha project is continuing to deliver a bold and transformational plan to create vibrancy, cohesion, and sustainability for the community. In turn this will provide the residents and future generations with ambition, aspirations and investment for their future.
  - We are working to deliver new homes, better green space, improve waste issues, tackle crime, reduce poverty and deprivation by working closely with partners.



- We are being proactive both, in developing a sense of place for the longer term but also on an operational daily basis. We now have a dedicated team of community wardens, development officers, housing officers to tackle the core issues at Tyisha which the residents are telling us.



We have committed to 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 during 2021-22.

## The way we work

### Council recognised for help to food banks



We have been recognised nationally after gifting over £42,000 in food vouchers to foodbanks during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Egni Sir Gâr Cyfyngedig** won a community award in the British Renewable Energy (REA) Awards 2020 after distributing the vouchers to 14 food banks across the county out of income generated from rooftop solar panels.

*The REA judging panel said: "They have responded very generously compared to their income stream. What a remarkable and impactful immediate response to a crisis. If only other organisations followed their lead."*

The donation represents a value of approximately £70,000 for every mega-watt of solar installed, which is the highest single payment per megawatt of installed solar for any community benefit society, commercial solar farm or portfolio in the UK.

The Council's Executive Board Member for Resources and Director of Egni Sir Gâr, Cllr David Jenkins, said: *"The last year more than ever before people are having to use the foodbanks to put food on their table so we didn't hesitate to repurpose these funds when they became available to help more families that are struggling and cannot afford the essentials of life."*

Egni Sir Gâr Cyfyngedig is an energy community benefit society established by Carmarthenshire County Council in 2015. Since then, it has installed 16 rooftop solar on council owned buildings. With a total capacity installed of 636 kWp (kilowatt peak), the electricity generated by these sites over the last 12 months equates to the equivalent of over 290 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e offset which contributes towards the council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

If you are struggling and cannot afford food, then please contact your local food bank.

## Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 6

### Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

**Median Gross Weekly Pay has increased by 7% in Carmarthenshire** (from £536.2 to £572.1)  
Carmarthenshire has gone up from 8<sup>th</sup> in 2019 to 3<sup>rd</sup> highest wage in Wales for 2020.  
*This is now above the Welsh average of £541.7*

#### Why it is 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.

#### Success Measures / Explaining the Results

**Median Gross Weekly Pay** - See updated data above

#### Employment

**Employment figure is TBC%**  
(April 20 – March 21)  
(Previously 71.5%)  
**TBC**th highest in Wales  
*Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey*



**Employment figures** in Carmarthenshire at the end of March 2020 is **71.5%**, this is slightly down from 71.6% the previous year. This is below both the Welsh (73.7%) and UK average (75.9%), both of which have increased. We have also moved from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in Wales.

Although employment rates are not purely the Council's responsibility, these figures are disappointing. However, we have continued to put a number of funding initiatives in place again during 2019/20 to stimulate jobs and growth in the county in the form of Property Development Fund, Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund and Business Grants and created 393 jobs. The employment figures for 2020/21 are expected to drop in Carmarthenshire as in many parts of the UK due to effect of COVID-19. **Employment figures April 2020-March 2021 due to be published July 2021**

#### Qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above



**40.7%**  
**Qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above**  
@ December 2020  
(previously 41.4% December 2019)  
*Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey*

**40.7%** of working age adults living in Carmarthenshire are **qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above** @ December 2020, this is a slight decline on 41.4% the previous year and falls just below the Welsh average of 41.4%. This result moves us from 5<sup>th</sup> **highest figure** in Wales the previous year down to 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Satisfied with jobs - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19

- ⊙ The 2019/20 National Survey for Wales showed that **78.9%** of those participated were moderately or very **satisfied with their jobs**, this is below the previous result of 82.5% and we have moved down from 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> position in Wales. Due to COVID-19, there is no updated data available for the measure.

## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

### Pentre Awel

- ⊙ Pentre Awel will deliver significant benefits in respect of employment, recruitment and training, supply chain and community engagement. A cross-departmental team has worked extensively to prepare the highest value tender to be placed by the Authority at circa £70m. The development of quality criteria, greater quality vs. price apportionment (a departure from the default position) and emphasis on community benefits aims to maximise local social and economic impact. Reflecting on the year, important milestones have been achieved which will set the project up well moving forward. These include:
- City Deal Business Case approval by UK and Welsh Governments on 17th March 2021;
  - Pre-Application Consultation undertaken for the Hotel site in January;
  - Completion of RIBA Stage 3 design;
  - COVID-19 service planning to ensure Pentre Awel is responsive to new ways of working;
  - Ecology work (protected species surveys, translocation) for planning conditions;
  - MoUs with education, health and research partners.
- ⊙ We provided additional support to help and advise Carmarthenshire businesses and residents when the pandemic struck. A dedicated help line was established and was available seven days a week initially. Council officers were on hand to provide guidance on financial support and other help for businesses tackling the effect of the pandemic. Plus, a *dedicated business team* was established to speak to businesses directly.
- ⊙ **We helped over 4,000 businesses to receive Welsh Government's business rates grant payments of between £10,000 and £25,000 with a total amount of over £46 million.**
- ⊙ Lack of footfall in town centres had an impact on trade in our *market halls*, we offered our tenants free rent between April and June 2020 during the first national lockdown, and offered a 25 per cent concession on rent from July to September to traders who demonstrated that their turnover was affected. Traders were also supported by a range of Welsh Government grants
- ⊙ 1,000 businesses responded to a *questionnaire/telephone survey* conducted in May 2020 to find out more about the impact that COVID-19 had, had on Carmarthenshire businesses - identifying what was important to them in the short, medium and long-term, so that going forward we can provide them with the assistance they most need. The findings of this engagement will provide the platform upon which we will develop our economic response and recovery proposals going forward
- ⊙ A new online showcase was launched shining a spotlight on the best of Carmarthenshire's local independent businesses. [100% Sir Gâr](#) has been developed by ourselves with support from town and community councils, business, and retail groups, to give local retailers and producers a platform to highlight their products. Any local independent business or producer can sign up to be included and take advantage of the free marketing opportunity. By signing up they are able to access support to grow and improve their business. 100% Sir Gâr is a virtual shop window, highlighting a wide range of wonderful home-grown and handmade products by talented local people to become a vital resource for people shopping, as well as supporting local traders when they need it the most.
- Shelley Williams-Davies, who runs *Attic Vintage Interiors*, in King Street, Carmarthen, said: *"100% Sir Gâr will give us an opportunity to attract new customers and showcase what our shop has to offer. We hope it will encourage people to support small local independent businesses too."*
- ⊙ **97.3% of our invoices** were paid within 30 days – our best ever performance. Prompt payment is essential for businesses especially at a time on uncertainty due to the pandemic.



- © The [Regional Learning and Skills Partnership \(RLSP\)](#) worked with employers and training providers to measure the economic and skills impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and produced reports on the impact across the region. The RLSP identified a number of key skills that have arisen as a result of the pandemic that links to the City Deal projects. Work continued with businesses to understand the economic impact of COVID-19 and the impact on skills and training. The Skills and Talent Business Plan is nearing completion, with presentations having been made to the City Deal Programme Board and the Employer Strategy Board with a review by Welsh Government in April 2021.

## The Way We Work

### How We Have Helped Our Businesses



Having been made redundant from his former employer, *Ryan Jones* set up his new business, *Pentre Plumbing & Heating*, in April 2019.

With the help of a grant of almost £3,000 from the *Carmarthenshire Business Start Up Fund* operating at that time, Ryan purchased all the tools and equipment necessary for delivering his services and very quickly won contracts with clients such as Leekes and Ammanford Town Council, as well as building a reputation as a domestic plumber and heating engineer. This venture has not only created and secured a full-time job for Ryan going forward but has also laid the foundation to possibly creating another job within the business in the near future.

Having become much in demand as a reputable plumber, the arrival of COVID-19 and the closure of Leekes, Ammanford Town Council's facilities and cancellations from domestic clients not wanting any trades people in their homes, meant that unfortunately

Ryan's work all but stopped.

Ryan sought support through the Council's newly set up **COVID helpline** where he was referred to a business support officer for advice. Being a start-up business with no business rates liability meant that, unfortunately he fell through the net of many of the business support schemes which were being introduced at that time, but he was held on a reserve list and advised to apply for Universal Credit to help him through the lockdown period.

Upon the launch of the *COVID Start Up fund* introduced by Welsh Government in June and being delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council, Ryan was contacted and advised to apply as he met the criteria. Through this scheme, Ryan received £2,500 to help keep his business afloat until he can fully resume his services.

Ryan said *"I am grateful to Carmarthenshire County Council for the support they have given me in establishing Pentre Plumbing & Heating. From starting up last year to maintaining support when all went quiet during lockdown, their assistance has been invaluable to keeping the business going and sustaining my job"*.

### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective





## Well-being Objective 7

### Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

#### We have delivered over 1,000 additional affordable homes

Good quality, affordable homes are the bed rock of healthy and sustainable communities. We have delivered **1,129** additional affordable homes since 2016 as part of the affordable homes plan

#### Why it is important

- Good quality affordable homes promote *health and well-being*, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the People and the Environment – our homes are well insulated and have the latest innovative technologies (solar panels and batteries to store energy) that do not only significantly reduce our carbon emissions, they promote affordable warmth for our tenants. The average savings to fuel bills can be as much as 60% per year.
- It's good for the *Social Structure* - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents.
- It's good for the Economy – Our plans to increase affordable housing will see the investment of over £150m over the next ten years in the county. This will help stimulate the local economy, grow the construction industry, the local supply chain and the green economy. This will also create jobs for local people as well as providing more homes to help local people remain in their communities.

#### Success Measure

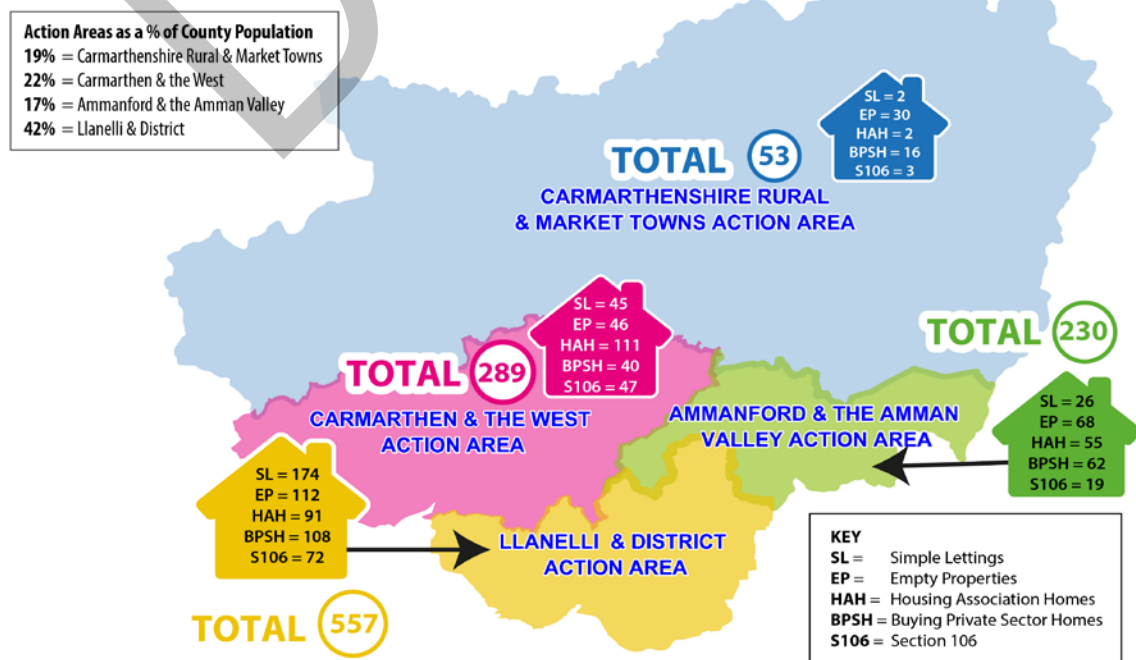
**+ 158** Additional Affordable Homes during 2020/21



#### Explaining the Results

#### Affordable Homes Performance – Overall Performance from April 2016

##### 1,129 Affordable Homes Delivered



## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- Through our Affordable Homes Delivery Plan we aimed to deliver over 1,000 additional affordable homes between 2016 and 2021. We are pleased to report that we have exceeded this target and delivered **1,129** additional affordable homes. We have delivered the homes through the following solutions:

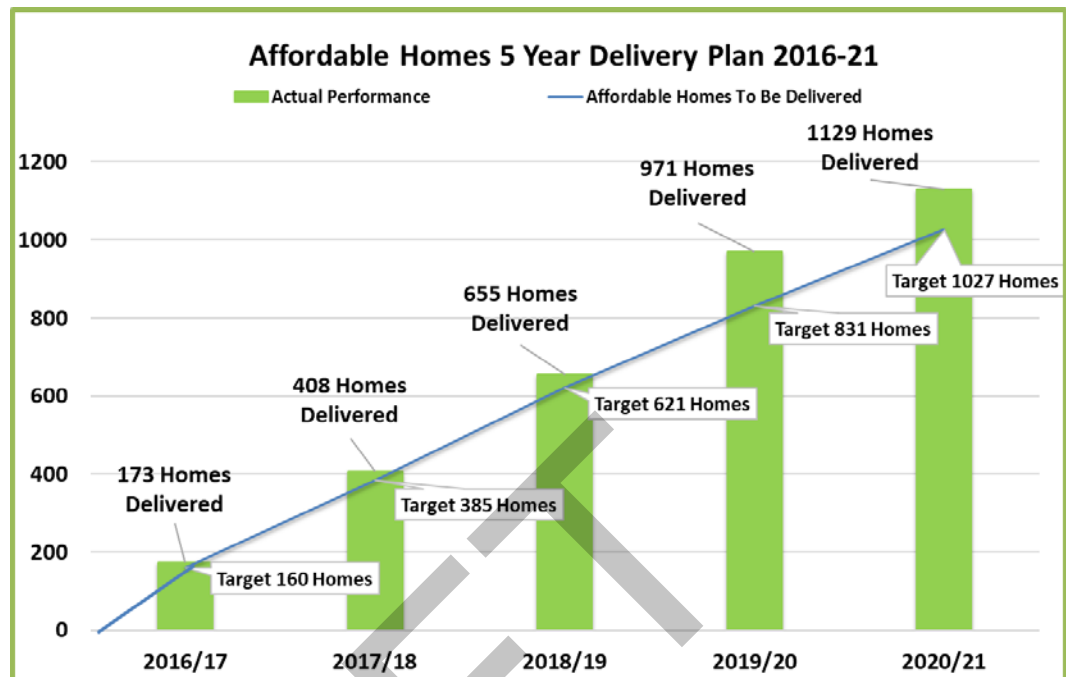
**247: Simple lettings agency**  
(32: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 61: 18/19;  
61:19/20; 30 20/21)

**256: Empty homes brought back into use**  
(28: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 67: 18/19;  
64:19/20; 34 20/21)

**245: Buying private sector homes**  
(45: 16/17; 69: 17/18; 81: 18/19;  
43:19/20; 7: 20/21)

**240: Housing Association new build development**  
(45: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 17: 18/19;  
107:19/20; 51: 20/21)

**141: Section 106 Contribution by Developers**  
(23: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 21: 18/19;  
41:19/20; 36 20/21)



*Our new energy efficient affordable homes are well insulated and have the latest innovative technologies which will reduce our carbon emissions by on average 70% and reduce fuel bills for tenants by up to 60% promoting affordable warmth, growing the green economy and creating sustainable communities.*

- In September 2019, we published our plans to build over 900 new council homes in our communities. Our plans will help stimulate the local economy and grow the green economy creating energy efficient homes and much needed local jobs. Our new build standards exceed the requirements of the Building Regulations and follow the principles of the Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture SOLCER house model for energy and include:
  - Highly insulated walls, roofs and floors
  - Triple glazed windows
  - Solar PV Panels
  - Battery Storage for any unused electricity produced by the solar panels
  - Electric car charging point
  - LED lighting
  - Achieve an average energy rating (SAP level) between 98 and 105

- ⦿ We currently have 8 council new build developments onsite including: Dylan, Garreglwyd, Glanmor Terrace, Gwynfryn, Maespiode, YMCA in Llanelli, Coleshill Terrace and Glanamman. These developments will create 145 new affordable homes. With a further 18 sites being prepared for either planning or tender. This includes 6 sites in rural areas that will be developed on a mix tenure basis and will provide homes for low-cost home ownership
- ⦿ In May 2020 the Future Generations Commissioner published a [report](#) on the progress of the Well-being of Future Generations Act the report states: *“Carmarthenshire’s new build programme is identified as an excellent example of what can be delivered in the social housing sector”*.



**Building over 30 new innovative council homes  
in Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port**

### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 8

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

Excellent progress has been made in diversifying our health and well-being offer for the residents of Carmarthenshire by developing opportunities to engage online whilst supporting people to stay healthy locally during this challenging year

#### Why it is 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.

#### Success Measures / Explaining the Results

The following two [National Survey for Wales](#) results are based on a lower response level compared to previous years due to restrictions and resources due to COVID-19:-

##### General Health Good or Very Good



**70%** of Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good  
Previously 70%

Source: National Survey for Wales

**70%** of Carmarthenshire participants said their **general health is Good or Very Good**, this is the same as the previous year, comparatively we have moved down from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> position in Wales. We continue to work with partners such as Public Health via the

Public Services Board to promote a healthy environment for Carmarthenshire residents, including exercise, nutrition, and cleaner air.

##### Long-term Illness



**51%** of Adults who say they have a long-term illness  
Previously 51%

Source: National Survey for Wales

**51%** of Carmarthenshire participants **said they had a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity**, this is the same as the previous survey result, we have moved up from 15<sup>th</sup> position in Wales to 6<sup>th</sup>. Whilst this measure has numerous influences we continue

to see increases in the number and impact of schemes such as National Exercise Referral scheme with almost 1,400 referrals in the past 12 months.

Due to COVID-19, there is no updated data available for the following two National Survey for Wales results:-

##### Adult Mental Health - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19

- The 2018/19 **Mental well-being score** showed Carmarthenshire participants having a score of 51 out of a possible score of 70, same as the average score for Wales. This is based on 14 positively worded statements asked as part of the survey which represents positive attributes of well-being and covers both feeling and functioning as opposed to mental illness or disorder and is suitable for use in the general population.

##### Less than 2 Healthy lifestyle behaviours - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19.

- The combined 2018/19 & 2019/20 result showed that **12.4%** of participants have **fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours** this had declined on the previous result of 8.8% and moved down from 5<sup>th</sup> best to 18<sup>th</sup> in Wales.



## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- Our specialist social work team have assessed 138 adults with drug and alcohol problems in the past year.
- £130k from the Valleys Regional Park fund has been invested in Llyn Llech Owain which has included a new toddler play area, improvements to the entrance and walkways, improvements to the Boardwalk and Visitor Centre and an enhanced outdoor area for the café.
- Our Library services have provided online access to residents throughout the pandemic, with 226,543 visits being made to our Libraries Corporate website, and a new 'click 'n collect' service being established in the three regional libraries.
- Over £500k has been spent at Ammanford Leisure Centre to re-furbish the wet side changing rooms, with further plans to upgrade the all-weather pitch and improve car parking facilities on site.
- Carmarthen Leisure Centre's external upgrades are nearing completion, with a new 2G AstroTurf surface laid, the 4x external community Tennis Courts re-surfaced, the Athletics Track re-surfaced and widened, and additional parking and traffic calming measures in place. Works are also well underway in Llandovery, where there is a £350k investment into the school conversion to provide the town with health & fitness facilities adjacent to, and complimenting, the swimming pool.
- Plans for the new leisure facility in Llanelli are now moving forward with over £25 million earmarked for a new leisure centre on the Pentre Awel site.
- During COVID-19, we have supported Sport Wales with 66 Sports Club Applications for the Emergency Relief Fund, totalling over £40k of funding to protect clubs during lockdown. In recent months, our internal Actif community sports team have been critical in promoting and supporting the award of Emergency Relief Funding, where Sport Wales (funding body) relied on our guidance and advice in allocating a proportion of the £500k+ of national funding to clubs and organisations in Carmarthenshire. This will continue as Sport Wales switch to an £8m+ 'Sport Relief Funding' mechanism moving forward.
- Due to the pandemic the National Exercise Referral Scheme was suspended, despite this we have maintained contact with 583 of our National Exercise Referral clients, making 13,657 contacts taking nearly 6,820 hours, with 693 home programmes sent to vulnerable clients.
- We have created a number of online fitness classes for our Actif Leisure members to access free of charge, during the period that our leisure facilities have been closed, whilst developing a new Actif Anywhere offer to deliver online memberships and activities in future.



**John is 72 years old** and lives alone following the death of his wife. He lives in the South of Carmarthenshire but was not a member of Actif until he saw an advert for the new Actif Anywhere digital platform in September.



The platform has been a life saviour for John during the pandemic as he would have otherwise spent the vast majority of his time alone. John has a background in martial arts and now practices Thai Chi.

Since the launch of the platform, John has been identified as being one of the major attendees and one of our biggest advocates. He has attended over 170 sessions to date and is now sometimes joined by his daughter or grandchildren when they visit. Over months, John trialled all the classes that have been on the timetable and has since found his favourites in Yoga, Dance, HIIT, Boxfit, legs bums & tums and Walk your way to Fitness. John says:

*"Good morning all, just finished HiiT with Cath. Woke me up from my slumber, warmed me up from a chilly morning and set me up for the rest of the day. Thank you all at Actif Anywhere."*

## Beach Wheelchairs

Hi..

Last year I emailed you, asking about the possibility of introducing beach wheelchairs to Pembrey. I just need a few minutes each week breathing in the sea air to get myself calm and happy, and I'm usually content to just sit in my chair or scooter at the top of the beach for 20 minutes while hubby plays with the dog.

This used to be a nightmare, as getting onto the beach was very difficult, usually involving my husband dragging the chair backwards across the sand with the help of anyone available... but your fabulous chairs will change all that.

The chair itself was amazing, very comfortable indeed, and it moved so smoothly across the sand, hubby was really impressed.

So, a huge thank you for all your team has done, it is really, much appreciated.

Sian

## Mental Health

**People Speak Up** is a social, mental-health, arts, health and wellbeing enterprise with inclusion, individual empowerment, and community involvement at its heart. It works closely with the local Carmarthenshire community and arts/health networks.

Reaching 450 / overall attendance of 2,000 / 15 projects  
from the start of the pandemic in April 2020 – March 2021

- **Stories By Phone** – Our professional applied storytellers and practitioners facilitated weekly calls to people living in isolation and living with dementia: <https://wahwn.cymru/knowledge-bank/stories-to-the-door-and-stories-by-phone>
- **Story care & Share** – weekly wellbeing and mental health creative story sessions for ages 18+, this was adapted during the pandemic to Zoom, currently we are running workshops online and face to face.
- **Care Home sessions** – Weekly storytelling sessions, pre-pandemic at our base and at care homes. Since the pandemic, we have worked over zoom.
- **Intergenerational** - Main aim is to bring older and younger people together to re-connect through sharing time by working with professional storytellers, Spoken Word Artists & Visual Artists: <https://youtu.be/rVnLSsh4Dco>
- **Creative companions** – Bringing young volunteers together to an older person living in isolation, to create resilience and cohesion.
- **Young people Speak up** – Well-being creative sessions for ages 11-24/ adapted on to various platforms and face to face. These young people are integrated into all our other projects with mental health, connectivity, training and volunteering being our main objectives.

## Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective







## Well-being Objective 9

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

### ***We have seen remarkable spike in community spirit***

*Over the past year, in the face of the huge challenges of COVID-19 we have seen our communities supporting each other. Neighbours helping each other, colleagues supporting each other, and strangers working together for community good.*

In a recent commissioned survey of Mid and South West Wales 77% of the interviewees referred to community cohesion as good, rising to 92% who said good but needing improvement. However, there is some concern that these gains may be short lived.

### **Why it is important**

- ⦿ Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being and more people 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.

### **Success Measures**

*A sense of community - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

*Feeling Safe - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

We normally measure the success of this Well-being Objective with the above National Survey for Wales results but unfortunately due to COVID-19 these questions were not asked during 2020/21. The most recent data published in June 2019 showed that **51.6%** of participants felt they had a '**Sense of Community**', 14<sup>th</sup> position in Wales. With the number **feeling safe** was **76.1%** and in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19**

#### **Community Cohesion**

In order to ensure our communities are as cohesive as possible, we work with organisations at a grassroots level to develop initiatives that bring people and communities together and provide opportunities for people from different backgrounds to meet and get to know and understand one another.

- ⦿ During 2020, we ran two Community Cohesion Small Grants funds for projects across the region. We have funded 20 projects across the region, two examples are:
  - Story Connections – People Speak Up Llanelli. This project brought approximately 200 people from diverse communities together to share space and create stories and involved a wide range of partners including Syria Sir Gâr, Llanelli Pride, Ffwrnes Theatre and Youth service.
  - 'Faces & Places' project which is celebrating diversity across Mid & West Wales.

The Cohesion team have recently completed a research project, delivered by Premier Advisory Group to look at the impact that Brexit and COVID-19 had on communities. The purpose of this was to provide an evidence base, identifying potential community hotspots, tensions and issues and recommendations as to how we embed good practice into our work moving forward. We are now considering how to embed several recommendations into our policies and strategies.





- One of the key areas of work that we are engaged with is to raise awareness of *Hate Crime* and how to report it. Ensuring people understand what constitutes a hate crime, what is and isn't acceptable behaviour is so important and we work closely with agencies like Victim Support to develop campaigns and projects which support this work.
- Another key area of our work is to promote a *Cohesion calendar* of events and campaigns throughout the year, focusing on National campaigns and highlighting these with a regional or local perspective if possible.
- We have developed a perpetrator intervention programme on a regional basis to combat *Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence*
- The pandemic has provided opportunities for criminals to exploit persons who may be more exposed to fraudulent approaches due to lockdown/shielding and isolation from support networks with 2020 seeing an overall rise in the numbers of frauds reported nationally. trueCall Nuisance Call Blocking Devices which have been installed in elderly and vulnerable residents' homes in the county have for the year 2020/21 blocked 16,277 nuisance calls – based on national intelligence 4,883 of those calls were identified as calling from numbers used by known criminals.
- An *innovative alert system Seraphimbeta®* was developed in the wake of the pandemic to notify authority officers when a trueCall user was experiencing high volume of calls from suspected fraudsters. The system has generated 66 high level alerts leading to welfare calls and officer intervention to prevent vulnerable residents engaging in telephone fraud. Funding has been secured to develop the wider call blocking project further.

### Sir Gâredig – Sharing Carmarthenshire's kindness

- This year, the act of kindness to others has been more prevalent than ever due to COVID-19, therefore Sir Gâredig – Sharing Carmarthenshire's kindness was introduced with the aim to connect people in need with those that can help. It was an opportunity to provide a focal point for community activities and a friendly term that people could use to share positive stories, images, and video on social media. This campaign was also an opportunity for people to be inspired to sign up and volunteer within their communities. To help their neighbours and share the good work and kindness that is being shared across Carmarthenshire.



### Community Safety in Tyisha

Partner organisations are working closely together to tackle the drug, alcohol and anti-social behaviour issues in Tyisha, aiming to make the area a safer place to live. A survey has been completed by 217 residents in Tyisha – 10% of households - to give information on how they feel about policing, reassurance and safety in their neighbourhood. The results are being analysed and an action plan will be developed to tackle local concerns.

Two community wardens, part funded through a partnership bid with Dyfed Powys Police to the Home Office 'Safer Streets' fund, have been recruited by the Council and are working in Tyisha and Glan-y-môr to provide reassurance and support to the local community and raise awareness of crime prevention measures. The community wardens are setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes and are working with partners to reduce crime relating to drug and alcohol use and to tackle anti-social behaviour including the use of CCTV and video doorbells provided by the Safer Communities Partnership using Home Office 'Safer Streets' funding. The Council are also working in partnership with neighbourhood policing teams and local housing associations to tackle anti-social behaviour within tenancies and deliver robust action plans to prevent it from reoccurring.

The Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) into parts of Llanelli Town Centre in October 2020 to help combat alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour in public places and improve the quality of life for the local community.

## Tackling Serious Violence and Organised Crime

We have continued to work closely with police and other partners to *successfully tackle 'County Lines'*, including the sharing of information and participating in targeted weeks of action. County Lines is a term used for illegal drug-dealing networks, usually controlled by a person using a telephone number – the 'county line'. They distribute drugs via 'runners' who are vulnerable children and adults recruited to transport drugs and cash all over the UK. This crime is often associated with other serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, violence, money laundering and human trafficking.

A new '*INTACT*' Strategy for 2021-24 has been developed by partners to tackle Serious Violence and Organised Crime across Dyfed Powys. A work plan has been produced, information and awareness sessions arranged for staff of partner organisations and clear prevention messages are being promoted widely to the public, with a new theme per month. A new Early Intervention and Prevention Team is being introduced, consisting of 10 community support officers across the region and an analyst. This team will aim to prevent children, young people and vulnerable adults from engaging in, or becoming victims of Serious Violence and Organised Crime. This team will develop and deliver early intervention activities, identifying opportunities for diversion activities, undertake targeted vulnerability patrols and support partners when working with young people.

### Zero-tolerance approach to racism pledge

We have pledged to take a zero-tolerance approach to racism within the authority.

We have joined other organisations and individuals who have signed the policy as part of the Zero Racism Wales campaign which has been launched by Race Council Cymru.

By signing the pledge, we have committed to promoting a zero tolerance to racism approach throughout the organisation, this means that:

- ⦿ We will take a stand against racism and promote a more inclusive and equal society for all.
- ⦿ We will not tolerate racial prejudice, discrimination, harassment, victimisation, abuse, or violence against any individual.
- ⦿ We will stand in solidarity, come together, and say no to racism, in all its forms.
- ⦿ We will promote good race relations between people from diverse ethnic backgrounds in organisation.
- ⦿ We will promote equal and fair opportunities for people from diverse ethnic backgrounds to attain promotion.
- ⦿ We will eliminate unlawful race discrimination, harassment, victimisation and abuse.

### Living in the community

We have redeveloped a property to provide accommodation for individuals stepping down from residential care.

The individuals have lived together for many years in a care home in Carmarthenshire which was scheduled for closure. Given their significant and complex needs, the likely outcome was that they would be placed in various other residential establishments. An Intermediate Care Fund grant was utilised in this project to find a suitable large residential property with outdoor space to meet their needs and maintain their longstanding relationships.



A property was purchased, and three individuals moved in in October 2020 with 24/7 support. They have been encouraged to be involved in the decoration and set up of their new home, particularly in the personalisation of living areas and their own rooms. They have also renamed the property.

The local community affords many opportunities for participation, as well as there being many leisure pursuits available within easy travelling distance. Family members have been consulted throughout and are now looking forward to visiting their relatives in their new home, maintaining these important links.

### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will have specific emphasis on *Community Cohesion* within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 and will be renamed:

**Live Well - Support community cohesion, resilience, and safety**



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 10

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

### ***Support for older people has continued despite the pandemic:***

*We have continued to support older people and ensure that they can remain as independent as possible and maintain their dignity, despite the challenges that the pandemic has presented.*

### Why it is important

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

### Success Measures / Explaining the Results

#### ***Good Social Care Service available in the area***



**66%**

Agree there's a good social care service available in their area  
(Previously 47.5%)

*Source: National Survey for Wales*

According to the monthly [National Survey for Wales](#) questionnaires completed between May and September 2020, **66%** of participants believed that there is **good Social Care Service available in the area**. This result is based on a lower response level than previous years due to lower participation because of COVID-19.

This is a good improvement on the previous result of 47.5%, which maybe partly attributable to the pandemic which highlighted the excellent work and commitment shown by Social Care staff during this period.



**99%**

of people we surveyed during the pandemic within Adult Social Care said that we responded quickly to their needs

*"Very, very fast response to my needs in a time of national lockdown"*

### Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-1

- ⦿ We implemented new processes and procedures to ensure effective and safe assessment and support of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⦿ We revised the approach to support discharges from hospital to ensure that risk of exposure to COVID-19 is minimised for all.
- ⦿ We provided alternative support instead of day services and respite which have not been possible during the pandemic; this has included increased support to individuals and their carers at home as well as an increase in uptake to the CONNECT project to ensure that people can have regular social contact. (see *Well-being Objective 11*)
- ⦿ Wide scale consultation with service users and their carers who attended day centres prior to closure due to COVID-19 restrictions has resulted in a revised model of support in partnership with the third sector. This is including a pilot of 1 to 1 support at home and the development a virtual offer which allows people to join activities that they are interested in.



- A Care Inspectorate Wales Quality Assurance Check 2021 found that the local authority ensures people's voices are heard, their choices respected, and people routinely achieved self-identified outcomes and that the Delta/Connect project has been successful in promoting prevention and early intervention and reducing need for increased or formal support from statutory agencies.

## Supporting Care Homes in the County During the Pandemic

Within weeks of the national lockdown, multiple care homes were being hit by COVID-19 outbreaks, with significant numbers of staff and residents contracting the virus. Carmarthenshire County Council was in the unprecedented position as a commissioner of care home placements, and the key agency to help, advise and support care homes to deal with the challenges they faced linked to COVID-19. Carmarthenshire has the highest number of care homes of any county in Wales with 91 care homes, despite only having the 4th largest population of 188,771.



Faced with this challenge a Daily Operational Command virtual meeting was set up with all aspects of the Health and Social Care integrated community services system represented.

The aim was to help prevent acute hospitals becoming overwhelmed by ensuring safe and timely discharge from hospital and preventing admissions to hospital where not necessary, as well as ensure that care providers were effectively supported. This enabled rapid identification of the parts of the system that were experiencing pressure, and a joint problem-solving approach to alleviate the pressure points and ensure availability of hospital beds for those that most needed them. This was the first time that a wide range of services had been brought together, which was a significant achievement.

The Daily Operational Command was overseeing the impact of the temporary closure of admissions to Care Homes on the whole Health and Social Care system - when the availability of Nursing beds became very limited, the issue was escalated, and it was decided to re-open the Field Hospital to prevent long delays in being able to discharge patients awaiting these placements.

A Care Home Escalation Procedure was developed. This set out a blueprint on how outbreaks should be managed, adopting a standard multi-agency approach to support care homes through outbreaks. The Council's Commissioning Team took the lead on a multi-disciplinary team which included Commissioning, Care Management, Health Board Infection Prevention and Control, Environmental Health, Community Nursing and Primary Care to support the home with infection control reviews, help maintain acceptable staffing levels and nursing support and remained in place until the outbreak had ended. The processes which were put in place enabled a rapid response to an outbreak situation and the measures of success were that at no point was availability of acute hospital beds significantly compromised, and at no point was any care home unable to provide appropriate care for its residents.

### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 will show this Well-being Objective 10 combined with Well-being Objective 11 to become -

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



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective





## Well-being Objective 11

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

**Over 10,000** pro-active well-being calls were made over the last year

#### Why it is important

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

#### Success Measure

*Feeling Lonely* - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19

We normally measure the success of this Well-being Objective with the above National Survey for Wales result but unfortunately due to COVID-19 there is no updated data available for the measure. The most recent data published in June 2020 showed that **16.2%** of participating adults in Carmarthenshire **classed themselves as lonely**, this was above the Welsh average of 14.43% but had reduced from the previous result of 18.3%.

#### Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- ⦿ We have rolled out of the CONNECT programme across Carmarthenshire that provides proactive well-being support, including proactive well-being calls and digital inclusion.
- ⦿ We have funded intergenerational projects where connection between children and older people were promoted, such as the school children ‘virtually’ attending care homes.
- ⦿ We have increased digital inclusion of older people in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⦿ We have launched *Connect to Carmarthenshire*, time-banking platform and active volunteering schemes in partnership with the third sector to promote social connectedness.



**CYSYLLTU**  
Sir Gâr  
**CONNECT**  
Carmarthenshire



## Carmarthenshire Project CONNECT finalists for an award

Carmarthenshire has designed and implemented an innovative and large-scale programme focused on supporting older people's independence and #wellbeing through a technological and digital approach that has been acknowledged as good practice not only across Wales but across the UK. This programme is called **CONNECT** and is delivered in partnership with Delta Well-being, health and social care and the third sector, funded by Welsh Government Transformation funds.



The project in Carmarthenshire is a finalist in the Public Sector Transformation Award for Excellence, as it exemplifies our ambition of working across sectoral boundaries to deliver a radical, person-centred approach to well-being, care and support. It involves implementing a new model of self-help and pro-active care, enabled by Technology Enabled Care (TEC), improving the well-being of individuals, which in-turn allows people to stay independent for longer, reducing demands on long term or acute care.

This programme is based on a model operating Spain which we adapted to fit in Carmarthenshire. This has not been done before in the UK and certainly not at the scale implemented in Carmarthenshire. Since February 2020 nearly 2,000 Carmarthenshire residents have been supported by the project and it has been instrumental in our response to the COVID pandemic. We do this is through:

- Well-being calls
- Digital support and TEC packages
- Help to re-engage with the local community (digitally currently, but physically longer term)
- Access to an appropriate Community Response Team 24/7, if in crisis



Over **10,000** pro-active well-being calls were completed between April 20 and January 21

An additional **9,000** well-being calls to provide COVID support



When surveyed **88%** of clients feel considerably safer with the service

## Raymond's story...

Widower Raymond moved into sheltered accommodation after his beloved wife sadly lost her battle to cancer a few years ago. He was referred to CONNECT after being hospitalised for six weeks.

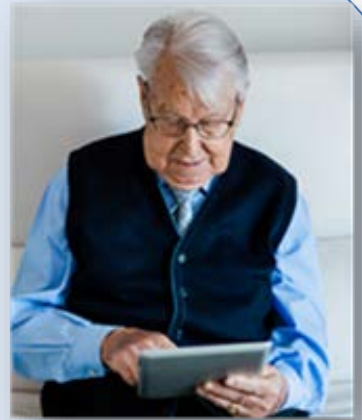
Paying tribute to his family, he said although he had always received great support from them due to COVID-19 he was unable to see them as he had received a shielding letter advising him to self-isolate.

Without being able to spend time with his loved ones and friends socially, and with no sporting activities taking place to go and watch, he began to feel "very depressed and lonely."

Through CONNECT, Raymond receives vital weekly well-being calls. This includes checking he has enough food at home and can access any prescriptions or medication.

Speaking about the benefits of the well-being calls he told us, "I really look forward to the calls. I appreciate them. It's nice to have a friend to talk to. I used to feel depressed in the week, but now I look forward to the calls every Monday morning. They have helped me regain my confidence, which is important. These calls help save lives as without them, I'd feel very down and would likely need more help from the NHS. I really feel like a different person after we've spoken."

Through the CONNECT service, Raymond also has a red button lifeline which he can press any time he needs help or support, and it goes directly through to the team's 24/7 Monitoring Centre. CONNECT also enables Raymond to have access to a 24/7 Community Response Service, if in crisis.



### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 will show this Well-being Objective 11 combined with Well-being Objective 10 to become -

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



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective

# Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment





## Well-being Objective 12

### Healthy & Safe Environment -

#### Look after the environment now and in the future

#### First local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan

In February 2020, we became [the first local authority in Wales to publish a climate change action plan](#) detailing how we work towards becoming net zero carbon in the next 10 years.

We were one of the first councils in the UK to declare a climate emergency, pledging, the ambitious and challenging target of becoming net carbon zero by 2030 - 20 years ahead of Welsh and UK government targets. Actions include developing new carbon reductions from council's buildings, purchasing more energy efficient fleet, collaboration with other public bodies to deliver wider change, exploring opportunities for tree planting and renewable energy generation on council-owned land.

#### Why it is important

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

#### Success Measures



We generated **TBC kWh** of renewable energy during 2020/21  
(increased from 997,480 kWh in the previous year)



The Council's Energy Consumption (kWh) increased by **TBC%**  
from 70,332,291 kWh in 2019/20 to **TBC** kWh in 2020/21



Our recycle rate is **66.08 %**  
(This is an increase on the previous year's figure of 64.66%.  
(Fly-tipping has increased by 29% and kerbside collection increased by 22%)

#### Explaining the Results

- ⊙ Renewable energy ....**updated figures due in TBC**
- ⊙ Energy Consumption by the Authority see table below. **Updated figures due in TBC**
- ⊙ **Recycling** increased in 2020/21 to 66.08% (51,494 Tonnes) from 64.66%(50,544 Tonnes) the previous year. We continue to exceed Welsh Government statutory targets (64% March 2020) avoiding any financial penalties.
  - Thanks to residents and the way in which they have used our recycling services, there has been a significant increase in recycling.
  - Looking ahead, how we collect recyclable materials in future and the way our residents use our recycling services will become even more important so that we can meet even more stringent recycling targets and our carbon reduction ambitions.
  - The recyclable material that we collect is used to make new products and can aid the circular economy, thereby minimising the need for raw materials and reducing our carbon footprint.

- In order to allow that waste material to be efficiently used to make new products, we have to ensure that the quality of the materials is the best it can be and that these materials are not contaminated, which could render them unusable for recycling.
- Consequently, looking ahead, we will need to review our kerbside waste collection strategy to address current problems, but this will mean that as residents of Carmarthenshire we all will need to have an open mindset towards new ways of collecting recyclable waste and to adopt the most effective way of recycling in the near future; ultimately, we are safeguarding our environment for future generations.

## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

### Net Zero Carbon

- ⦿ Working towards Net Zero Carbon we are trying to reduce energy consumption and emissions and the table below shows that whilst consumption has increased emissions have reduced.

Updated table extracted from the [Net Zero Carbon Action Plan Report-February 2020](#):

Updated table extracted from the [Net Zero Carbon Action Report February 2021](#).

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20 vs 2020/21	
	Results				Progress	% change
Non-Domestic Buildings						
Consumption (kWh)	63,690,923	64,857,362	66,407,242	TBC		
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	16,258	14,822	14,443	TBC		
Street Lighting						
Consumption (kWh)	4,873,979	4,202,381	3,925,149	3,875,843	Improved	1.3%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,874	1,291	1,088	981	Improved	9.8%
Fleet Mileage						
Mileage (Miles)	5,121,289	*5,293,249	5,154,668	4,427,070	Improved	14.1%
Diesel Used (litres)	1,441,751	1,434,583	1,419,336	1,267,437	Improved	10.7%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	3,852	3,856	3,814	3,407	Improved	10.7%
Business Mileage						
Mileage (Miles)	3,948,586	3,846,615	3,971,513	2,251,986	Improved	43.3%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,159	1,118	1,132	621	Improved	45.1%
TOTAL						
Consumption (kWh)	68,564,902	69,059,743	70,332,391	TBC		
Mileage (miles)	9,069,875	8,829,043	9,126,181	TBC		
Carbon Footprint (tCO2e)	23,143	21,087	20,477	TBC		
Note:* This figure has been updated to correct for incorrect mileage entries						

- ⦿ Street Lighting makes up 6% of our carbon footprint, with 1,088 tCO2e emitted in 2019/20. This is a decrease of 16% from 2018/19. We have completed the conversion of almost 100% of our 20,000 streetlights to low energy light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, funded by the Welsh Government's interest-free Wales Funding Programme. This has resulted in a 33% decrease in electricity consumption from street lighting over the past five years.
- ⦿ We have replaced almost 5,000 community lights with LED units working in partnership with Town and Community Councils.
- ⦿ We completed Phase 1 of our Re:Fit Cymru Programme, a £2.5m project funded by an interest free loan from the Wales Funding Programme, which aims to carry-out energy efficiency opportunities in our non-domestic buildings. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, energy efficiency measures were delivered across 17 schools and 13 other Council buildings including leisure centres, care homes and Council office buildings.

These measures will result in overall carbon savings of 675 tonnes of carbon equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and cost savings of £315,726 each year.

- ⦿ Business Mileage in 2020/21 has reduced by 1,719,527 Miles (43.3%) and amount paid has reduced by £757,904 (43%). The reduction in mileage has reduced our carbon emissions to 621 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (45.1%). In addition, numbers of staff working from home has reduced the commuting mileage and emissions.
- ⦿ A major audit of all our electricity and gas meters has recently been completed. This will allow us to work with our energy suppliers to roll-out a comprehensive programme of smart meter installation as soon as possible. We will then focus on extending smart meters to our water consumption.
- ⦿ We continue to work with Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) to explore and deliver large-scale renewable energy projects. WGES are currently reviewing our land holdings to determine feasibility for renewable energy. We are also actively pursuing other opportunities, including a possible power purchase arrangement with Hywel Dda UHB linked for a proposed 500 kWp solar farm at their Hafan Derwen site – some 50% of the generated electricity would be available to supply our adjoining Parc Dewi Sant offices



**United Nations**



The [Walk the Global Walk](#) international project in Carmarthenshire.

- Over the last three years, growing numbers of Carmarthenshire schools have been working to raise awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- They have published Carmarthenshire Global Goalkeepers Climate Action 8-point [Manifesto](#) and presented this at the December 2020 Youth Climate Summit Cymru hosted by Welsh Government. The Council has endorsed the manifesto and agreed to include this action plan in its Corporate Strategy for 2021/22.
- This work is part of the EU-funded Walk the Global Walk project which involves schools in 12 nations.
- During the first lockdown, the Walk the Global Walk project carried out a series of events online. For example, a model UN debate on climate change as well as an international summer school involving pupils from different countries.

***"Thank you to connecting us to the outside world."** Carmarthenshire pupil*

## Natural Environment

- ⦿ Ash dieback is a fungal disease which is having a devastating effect on ash trees across the UK – it is thought around 95% of ash trees could die from the disease. The council is currently having to remove affected trees for which it is responsible along A and B roads throughout the county as the trees are at risk of falling posing a serious risk to the public. Other landowners are also having to take similar action.
  - Carmarthenshire County Council has been actively looking for areas where new trees can be planted to help make up for the loss of trees that are being affected by ash dieback disease.
  - As well as helping to make up for the loss of ash trees, these will bring a number of other benefits. These new woodlands will, in time, absorb carbon dioxide, improve air quality and soil structure and support biodiversity by providing new wildlife habitats.
  - We have removed **648** Ash trees from our Council owned highways and **370** Ash trees from the Council owned sites. We are planning to plant 8.8ha of new trees and have started with planting **77** trees at St David's Park.



## Bio- Diversity

**Returning land to a species rich grassland which supports pollinating insects, reptiles, birds, and mammals.**

Llyn Llech Owain Country Park in Gorslas is owned and managed by Carmarthenshire County Council. The park is a popular destination for local people to enjoy Carmarthenshire's spectacular countryside, which has become all the more important in the last year.



Within the park there are some special habitats which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). One of these sites on the northern side of the park contains a large area of grassland and heathland which had started to become neglected due to lack of grazing.

In March, we were fortunate to have funding from the Green Recovery Grant to pay for the installation of fencing around the site and have arranged for native breed cattle to graze the site this summer to return the site to a species rich grassland which supports pollinating insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

The site will give visitors the opportunity to see nature friendly farming in practice, showcasing the benefits this has for both habitat management and sustainable food production.

## Flooding

The County has been subject to a number of significant weather events in recent years.

- Storm Callum caused widespread damage in 2018.
- Storm Lorenzo and Hannah in October 2019 and Storm Ciara and Dennis in February 2020
- During 2020-21 Storm Ellen and Storm Francis in August and Storm Aled in October

It is considered that the frequency of these events is increasing and are linked to climate change.

During the recent storms this year members of staff worked to support affected communities. We worked with Natural Resources Wales and emergency services to prepare for and respond to the rising waters.

- ⊙ We have assisted in the management and investigation of significant flooding through the winter of 2020/21. While affected by COVID-19, all high-risk flood assets have been inspected.
- ⊙ We worked with Natural Resources Wales and emergency services to prepare for and respond to rising water at Llanybydder, Newcastle Emlyn and Pontweli, and in Carmarthen around Pensarn and the Quayside.
- ⊙ We have developed operational plans and purchased mobile pumps to manage flood risk in high risk areas of Carmarthen.
- ⊙ We have invested in a bespoke weather service to better inform officer of storms and heavy rainfall events
- ⊙ All high-risk flood and coastal erosion risk management assets were inspected.
- ⊙ We have continued to develop our capital works portfolio and are continuing to develop schemes to manage flood risk in Pensarn, Llanybydder, Pont Tywelim, Llangennch, Ammanford and Newcastle Emlyn.
- ⊙ We are also developing a natural flood risk management scheme in Ammanford that will seek to use natural process to manage flood risk.
- ⊙ We have worked to address coastal erosion of the MCP and Bynea and coastal erosion at Burry Port and Pembrey.
- ⊙ As a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) we are working with professional and amateur developers to advise them on sustainable drainage systems and adopt the systems when applicable.

## Air Quality

- There is evidence that air quality has improved across the County during lockdown. Across all sites in 2020 the greatest improvements to Air Quality were observed during the first lockdown, particularly during the months of April and May as non-essential travel was restricted. The busiest roads that normally experience the highest levels of Nitrogen Dioxide with higher traffic counts benefitted the greatest, reporting around 50% decreases compared to 2019 [Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Air Quality Report](#)

## Waste Services

- As a result of the changes in residents' lifestyles due to the virus, front line services saw a staggering increase in kerbside collection recycling tonnages. Blue bag recycling and food waste increased by 28% in addition to 706 tonnes more bulky waste materials being collected via our appointment-based collection service. Changes to the number of appointments per day had to be made to accommodate the demand for the service!



Residents kept the crews morale high with their paintings, thank you notes and posters and home baking treats, several are now on display in their cabs. Domino's Pizzas donated over 100 pizzas to the key works at our operational depots, and at Easter Morrison's Carmarthen donated easter eggs.

Due to the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres, we established additional temporary outlets for blue bags in order to meet Welsh Government 'essential travel – stay local' messages and as a result 67,000 rolls have been delivered to outlets and a further 40% increase in home deliveries achieved due to demand. Once more, our programme of annual deliveries of blue recycling bags and food waste liners are well under way with operational crews working additional hours in order to ensure that all 91,274 households receive their recycling bag packs by the end of spring 2021!

## The way we work

**Some of the changes we have made during the pandemic have proved so successful that we will change the way we worked before the pandemic.**

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) - online appointment system to visit

In order to make sure Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) were opened after the first lockdown on 26th May adhering to all government guidelines, officers rallied to set up an appointment-based system online to make residents visits safe for all concerned whilst making it as easy as possible for people to dispose of their waste. The result of this has seen 85,000 appointments successfully made since reopening. Partnership working with Cwm Environmental, IT, marketing and media and customer services was paramount to this success.



## Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 13

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

#### Helping to gain access through the pandemic

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

#### Why it is important

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

#### Success Measures

##### Roads that are in poor condition:



**4.1%** of our A Class

(An improvement on 5.4% in 19/20)

**3.4%** of our B Class

(An improvement on 4.7% in 19/20)

**12.0%** of our C Class

(An Improvement on 12.5% in 19/20)

Our road casualty numbers have **increased** with **TBC** people being killed or seriously injured on the roads



(111 in 2019)

(2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Wales)

Source: Stats Wales

**Updated data will be published in July 2021**

#### Explaining the Results

- ⊙ **Road conditions in Carmarthenshire have improved during 2020/21.** Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales (3,482 Km of highways) and more than double the Welsh average of 1,578Km. We also have the third highest traffic volume in Wales at 2.06 billion vehicle km/per year (2018) far higher than the Welsh average of 1.33 billion (Cardiff highest at 3.0 billion followed by Rhondda Cynon Taff at 2.15 billion). The % of A class, B and C class roads in Carmarthenshire in a poor condition (red zone) has reduced; with the % of A class roads in poor condition decreasing from 5.4% to 4.1%, B roads from 4.7% to 3.4% and C roads from 12.5% to 12.0%.
- ⊙ **A total of 111 people were killed or seriously injured** on Carmarthenshire's roads in 2019, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest figure in Wales behind Powys and an increase on 2018 of 97. These include 25 motorcyclists and 27 persons aged 16-24. Although we cannot control the number of road traffic incidents on the county road network, we do work with partner agencies to encourage the safer use of the road, engage with high-risk road user groups (motorcyclists, the elderly, young drivers), invest in targeted road safety engineering projects and assist the Police with speed enforcement campaigns and address community concerns about speeding. **Updated data will be published in July 2021**

## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

- It was crucial that in order to help as many of our *town centre businesses to get back* operating safely as soon as possible, we needed to create safe town centre environments and enable sensible movement throughout, that gave residents and businesses confidence to resume activity and business. Priorities include: Signage; Communications with businesses; Public Conveniences; Bus Stations; Car Parks; and Street Furniture issues (e.g. benches) – with the aim for better access to the town’s public transport link. We introduced a range of traffic management and access measures in town centres along with public messaging to encourage shoppers and visitors back to our town centres.
- Despite the restrictions brought about by COVID-19 we also delivered a full capital programme which included the implementation of 25 highway support schemes and 97 road surfacing schemes.
- Public transport* was significantly reduced during lockdown, and in fact usage has plummeted even before the formal lockdown. This created an issue for operators where there was significantly reduced income on those routes which they managed to maintain a service on. This has created a funding issue going forward. It could take a considerable amount of time to restore patronage levels, and with many having grown familiar with home working there could be long-term adverse effects on service levels. Despite the challenges there may be an opportunity to re-visit and re-prioritise provision according to need.

*“Bwcabus drivers have gone above and beyond...assisting key workers...they are wonderful and are so very appreciated”*

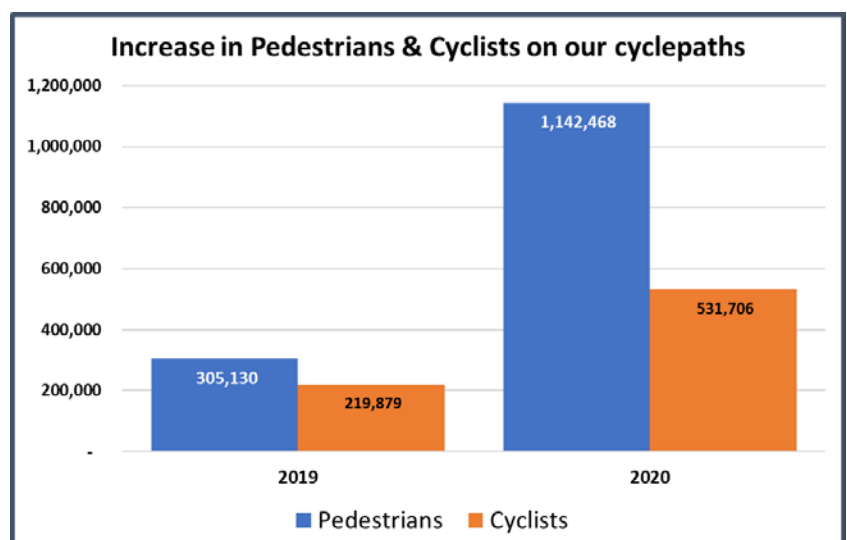


- School transport* was provided during the period that schools reopened in late June and July. Transport was available in accordance with our usual policy but only to those who specifically requested it. Transport operated as normal from September. The need to provide social distancing between driver and passenger created quite a challenge as it means that some seats nearest the drivers need to be left unused, creating loading issues and the need for additional vehicles. There is also concern that there may be a shortage of drivers and passenger assistants, bearing in mind the older age-profile of many of these.

## Active Travel

This year due to the pandemic and more people working from home there is an increase in the numbers of walkers and cyclists.

*Data based on a sample of our cycleways through the year shows that we had 837,388 (274%) more walks taken and 311,827 (142%) increase in cycling during the year.*





The total number of recorded walks on all our cycleways in 2020 was 1,308,706 and 601,613 cycle counts, but we don't have comparable data for 2019 on all our cycleways.



- ⦿ £1,050,000 for the Llanelli Masterplan: providing the first step in creating an easily accessible and mostly traffic free shared use route through the spine of Llanelli.

### The way we work

- ⦿ Roadworkers from our Cillefwr, Glanamau and Trostre depots initially assisted with food deliveries to our schools from Castell Howell in Crosshands, and then assisted with food packages being delivered direct to homes from schools.

We also had a number of roadworkers from our Trostre depot redeployed each day to the Waste / Refuse Unit as drivers in a support vehicle on refuse rounds. The support vehicle ferried one loader around the refuse round following behind the Refuse lorry.



### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 14

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

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



#### Why it is important

- ⦿ 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.

#### Success Measures

We normally measure the success of this Well-being Objective with the below National Survey for Wales results but unfortunately due to COVID-19 there is no updated data available for these measures:

##### *People who can Speak Welsh - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

The most recent data published in June 2020 showed that **37.4%** of participants said they could **speak Welsh**, this continues to be 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales despite a slight decline on the previous result of (37.8%). The National Survey for Wales gives a good annual indication, based on a sample of the population, of the number of Welsh speakers, however, the Census is the only source that gives a whole population figure, with 43.9% (78,000 speakers) noted in 2011, the highest number of Welsh speakers in any county.

##### *People who visited Arts Events, Historic Places and Museums - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

The most recent data published in June 2020 for participants from Carmarthenshire **attending an arts event, visiting historical places or visiting a museum** had increased. Both visits to Arts events and museums were below the Welsh average of 70.4% and 42.5% respectively but the % visiting historic places are above the Welsh average of 62.5. *Please note that the questions asked whether they attended or visited these places in Wales and not specifically in Carmarthenshire.*





## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

### Language

- Our Marketing and Media team have ensured compliance with the Welsh Language Standards in all communication during the pandemic. This includes all web based and social media-based information and all emergency messages.
- We have continued to promote our Work Welsh opportunities to our staff and have seen an increase in the staff accessing the online Croeso modules available through the National Centre for Learning Welsh. In March 2021, Carmarthenshire were awarded the 'Employer of the Year' award at the Work Welsh 2020-21 Awards through Aberystwyth University. These awards were given across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. We were presented with the Welsh in the Workplace award for our work in creating a very supportive environment for Welsh speakers and learners.
- During the year, we have continued to support our pupils and parents within Welsh-medium education and have circulated the 'Welsh homework? No problem!' guide to all parents. The aim of the guide is to alleviate any concerns parents may have in supporting their children to study and complete homework through the medium of Welsh.
- To support our staff to use the Welsh language daily and whilst using new technology, a new electronic guide was prepared to explain the key features available. Technology facilitates the use of the language daily and with staff working remotely and accessing more online meetings, the guide signposts to online resources and features within Outlook and Teams.

### Culture

- A new Archive Building is nearing completion at the rear of Carmarthen Library.
- Funding has been secured to secure the future of Oriel Myrddin as the foremost visual arts and crafts gallery in West Wales. A development project that will see £1.9m invested to refurbish and extend the gallery which will in future have the capacity and security standards to attract loans from National art collections.
- £1m has been invested in Abergwili County Museum and improvements have been made to the roof and entrance to the building to return the Bishop's Palace to its former glory.
- A West End at Christmas concert was filmed at the Ffwrnes Theatre for care home residents and staff across West Wales. Care homes were offered a link to watch the concert on YouTube or a DVD sent in the post.  
**71** individual care homes across West Wales registered for the online link to watch, with a further **100** homes receiving DVDs.
- Theatrau Sir Gâr supported colleagues within Carmarthenshire County Council to successfully make a bid for capital funding from the Integrated Care Fund bid which funded new smart TVs, tablets, and other digital equipment to enable care homes across Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire to become more connected during the pandemic. Our live streaming of concerts coincided with this bid and helped the care homes to access theatre which they had been unable to do previously.
- A series of 4 Welsh language gigs were streamed as part of our 'Yn Fyw o'r Ffwrnes series' featuring ALFFA, GWILYM, MELLT and Eädyth, with Eädyth's set coinciding with Welsh Music Day 2021.



Abergwili County Museum



### Welsh in Business

The private sector is not obliged to operate bilingually by law. However, Carmarthenshire County Council, like the Welsh Government, is keen to see the county's businesses reflect the bilingualism of our residents and offer people the opportunity to use their Welsh. Our aim, therefore, is to promote the Welsh language, and facilitate and support its use, with Carmarthenshire's businesses, in accordance with our Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. During 2020-21 we took the opportunity to do this by producing a comprehensive leaflet, *Welsh in Business*, to assist the county's businesses to operate bilingually, and this was done in partnership with the regional business officers of the *Welsh Government & the Mentrau Iaith*.

Research was gathered from the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office and Welsh Government to provide a sound basis for the information in the leaflet. The team then worked with *Helo Blod* officers on the design and content of the booklet from the outset, collating local case studies to give the leaflet a local flavour and to ensure that it was relevant to Carmarthenshire. The content was designed to reflect the message that the Welsh language is for everyone; for those businesses who want to take small steps towards increasing their use of Welsh to reflect the bilingualism of the county, as well as for businesses who want to operate fully bilingually.

A distribution plan was created involving several new partners. It was arranged for the Council to disseminate the electronic link through our work with economic development, trading standards, leasing, tourism and childcare. We also worked with business promotion agencies to ensure that it was included in the they used to give advice to businesses. *Menter a Busnes* sent the booklet to all businesses on the *Cywain* project for example.



### Going forward...

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



# Building a Better Council & Better Use of Resources







## Well-being Objective 15a - Building a Better Council

### When the pandemic struck, we were in a good position in terms of IT

Our [Digital Technology Strategy](#) set out a new approach that would underpin just about everything we do as a Council and when the pandemic struck we were in a good state of preparedness. We had been taking advantage of new digital platforms so that our residents and businesses could find information or complete their dealings with the local authority in ways that are convenient to them and also saved public money. This vision and investment put us in a favourable position at the onset to move services on-line and to facilitate home working.

### Why it is 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 7 key areas of corporate change that are required by the Act.

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

### Success Measures

We normally measure the success of this Well-being Objective with the above National Survey for Wales results, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 there is no updated data available for these measures. The most recent data published in June 2020 showed that:

#### *People can Access Information - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

- **71.2%** of participants agreed that they **could access information about us in the way they preferred**, below the Welsh average of 74.9%, and in 17<sup>th</sup> position.

#### *People can find out what services we provide - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

- **74.6%** agreed that **they knew how to find what services we provide**; below the Welsh average of 75.8% and in 13<sup>th</sup> position in Wales.

#### *People have opportunity to participate in making decisions - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19*

- Only **9%** agreed that **they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of our services**. Well below the Welsh average of 17% and in 21<sup>st</sup> position.

We also measure our success with **Staff Sickness data**, the 2020/21 result shows that: -



### Staff Sickness dramatically reduces to

**7.7** days per year

(previously 10.7 days)

Sickness levels within the Authority have reduced by an average of **3 full time equivalent days** per employee during 2020/21.  
*From 10.7 days in 2019/20 to 7.7 days.*

Short-term sickness has reduced by over 50% during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic with shielding and working from home being key factors in this.

## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID-19

Building new and better ways of working is something that we have trying to do for some time. However, the pandemic accelerated changes to the way we work and has taught us much.

Through a talented and committed workforce and continued investment in our digital infrastructure we are now well placed to deliver even better public services. By using what we have learnt and modernising the way we provide services, we have the opportunity to make work better for everyone whilst building a better, more productive, and healthier Carmarthenshire now and for the future generations.

### Corporate Planning

- Our *Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives* were last refreshed in June 2019 and as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit and Climate Change we have refreshed the Corporate Strategy for 2021/22.

### Performance Management

- An *Annual Report* was produced for 2019/20 and published in October 2020.
- Many of the actions and targets set for the year were blindsided by the pandemic and a *Community Impact Assessment* of COVID-19 was published in October 2020 to account for the first half of the year.
- We have been reporting at half year and quarterly on Performance Measures and Regulatory Report Recommendations.

### Workforce Planning

- An integral part of the business planning process. In 2015 we developed a toolkit for managers and held bespoke development sessions. We will be running further development sessions for managers (facilitated by the LGA) to help managers respond to future service demands. To support the process, we continue to provide people data for managers' use.
- We have launched a new appraisal process that focuses on the individuals' strengths. It aims to **recognise** good work and successes, to help individuals and the service **grow** by exploring what individuals have done well, and how we can work **together** to achieve our ideas. Initial discussions have begun with schools to support the development of an appraisal process for non-teaching staff.
- During the pandemic we developed creative digital solutions to keep the organisation learning and to re-skill staff so that they could be deployed to critical service areas. We also undertook a skills audit which will provide a valuable resource for services to call on
- We redeployed 900+ staff during the pandemic to support essential service delivery.

### Staff Health & Well-being

- We have continued to ensure we fully *support staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle*, which includes proactive and preventative actions, education to raise awareness on key health topics and, where necessary, ensuring the careful management of staff sickness absences in the interest of the staff and the provision of services.
- 160 volunteer *Well-being Champions* have been trained and are working, encouraging and motivating their colleagues - developing clubs, teams, activities and corporate messages which improve mental and physical health and well-being.
- The Council has achieved the highest award in recognition of the work we do to support our staff's health and well-being. The *Platinum Corporate Health Standard* is the quality-mark for workplace health promotion in Wales led by the Welsh Government.



We are the first Authority in Wales to achieve the [Platinum Corporate Health Standard](#)

### Mental Health of Staff

- We have re-signed the *Time to Change Pledge* which confirms our continued support, priority and work on reducing mental health discrimination and the stigma around the topic. Alongside this, work continues on our mental health action plan which works in partnership with the Authority's well-being agenda.
- Since first signing the pledge in 2015, we have created a mental health e-learning module and rolled out mental health awareness training for managers and all staff across the Authority.
- We are also looking to recruit mental health first aiders/supervisors across the authority and in our schools as well as recruiting a new Well-being Coordinator which will focus on mental health and initiatives supporting this work.

### The way we work

From a strategic perspective, the *Transformation, Innovation and Change (TIC) team* has been responsible for evaluating the Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis to ensure that any learning and positive changes are used to inform the approach to the re-setting of services and the Council's future strategic and operational delivery framework. The review focused on the following key questions:

*"Life has changed, and work life is changing too. Building on the learning through the pandemic, Carmarthenshire is transforming its working practices and accommodation to modernise, and support the shift to, the way we need to work. We will create vibrant, collaborative, and dynamic workspaces that are fit for purpose and flexible enough to sustain the way everyone works to deliver outstanding services. **Case for Change (March 2021)**"*

*What's gone well and how this may have contributed to better/smarter ways of working?*

*What hasn't gone well and why?*

*What specific learning and examples of good practice do we need to ensure are now embedded in future ways of working?*

*What further support/other arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that any positive changes are sustainable?*



*An example of a new way of working developed during the COVID-19 pandemic that we will continue with...*

### **The Adult Learning Disability Day Service**

*These services were severely reduced at the start of lockdown period. To mitigate the impact of this on service users, services were provided virtually according to individual plans and interests such as cooking, gardening, bingo, karaoke etc. Targeted support was also provided for those with the greatest needs via an overnight support at home and emergency respite care.*

- Service Users have been able to access a broader range of virtual sessions and engage with a wider number of participants, which has resulted in new peer groups being formed.
- Carers have been able to participate alongside service users in the online activities, which has allowed them to see how their dependant engages and responds to the sessions, engage with other carers, and strengthen links with support staff and, likewise, form peer groups.
- Staff have been given the opportunity to be innovative in developing and delivering online sessions, engage with a broader range of services users and their carers.

Activities have been expanded to provide service users with additional "life skills. For example, virtual cooking lessons also factored in elements of menu planning, how to shop for ingredients, food preparation, cooking and cleaning up.



**Chris Boner**  
Baking



**Dean Bonnell** with a  
Woodworking Activity Pack

With reduced capacity in our building-based service as we need to develop more community-based options to ensure everyone gets the support they need.

The transformational journey for service delivery has always aspired to make better use of facilities and services available in local communities. The service is working closely with colleagues in leisure and third sector partners to provide service users with access to a cohesive range of community-based services. This will also have a positive impact on travel costs and support the net zero-carbon agenda as we reduce the number of service users who have to travel [some distance] to building based activities.

**Supporting adults to grow, develop and feel safe, belonging to their community**

### **Going forward...**

During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 and will be renamed:

**Better Governance**



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



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

The financial position faced by Local Authorities across Wales has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with Welsh Government Funding and Grants to support our community during this pandemic

### Why it is important

- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering *'more (or even the same) for less'*.
- 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 **7 key areas** of corporate change that are required by the Act.

4 Financial Planning  
5 Assets  
6 Procurement  
7 Risk

**Making  
Better Use  
of Resources**

### Success Measures

**'Do it online' payments** - See infographic and comments below

**Organisational 'running costs'** - See infographic and comments below

**People agree that the Council asks for their views and as part of Carmarthenshire County Council budget consultation we sort views of members and public before setting the budget** - updated data is unavailable due to COVID-19



**16.09%** increase of  
'Do it online' payments  
(From 46,044 to 53,454 transactions)



**Financial  
impact of  
the  
pandemic  
was £30m**

(£20m extra costs and £10m lost income). This will be claimed back from Welsh Government.



**£72m** of Grants paid to support local business.

**£308K** of Self Isolation Grants were paid.

**410 person weeks** of targeted recruitment & training

### Explaining the Results

- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and with increased access to online services, this has created a natural shift with many customers contacting us, submitting forms and documents and paying for our services electronically with a 16% increase in the number of online payments from 46,044 in 2019/20 to 53,454 transactions increasing customer satisfaction and efficiency of service.
- There is a forecasted underspend of £1.98 million of which £1.7 million relates to Capital charges not incurred during the year due to capital schemes being delayed due to the pandemic.
- The 2019/20 National Survey for Wales showed the number of participants agreed that *we ask for their views before setting our budget* was 9% (Welsh average 9.2%), this is a decline on the previous year of 11.3% and in 9<sup>th</sup> position (previously 7<sup>th</sup>). Due to COVID-19 there is no updated data available for the measure, although we continued to hold our annual budget consultation and engaged with councillors and members of the public.

- ⦿ We have supported local businesses and town centres with payments to the sum of £72 million being paid from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 in Discretionary and Non-Discretionary grants to ensure the survival of local businesses.
- ⦿ £308K of financial support has been paid to eligible claimants who have been contacted by NHS Wales, Test, Trace, Protect Scheme to isolate on or after 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 via the Self Isolation Payment Scheme.
- ⦿ Through our delivery of Community Benefits over 410 person weeks of targeted recruitment and training was delivered in 2020/21 through the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools project across the County.

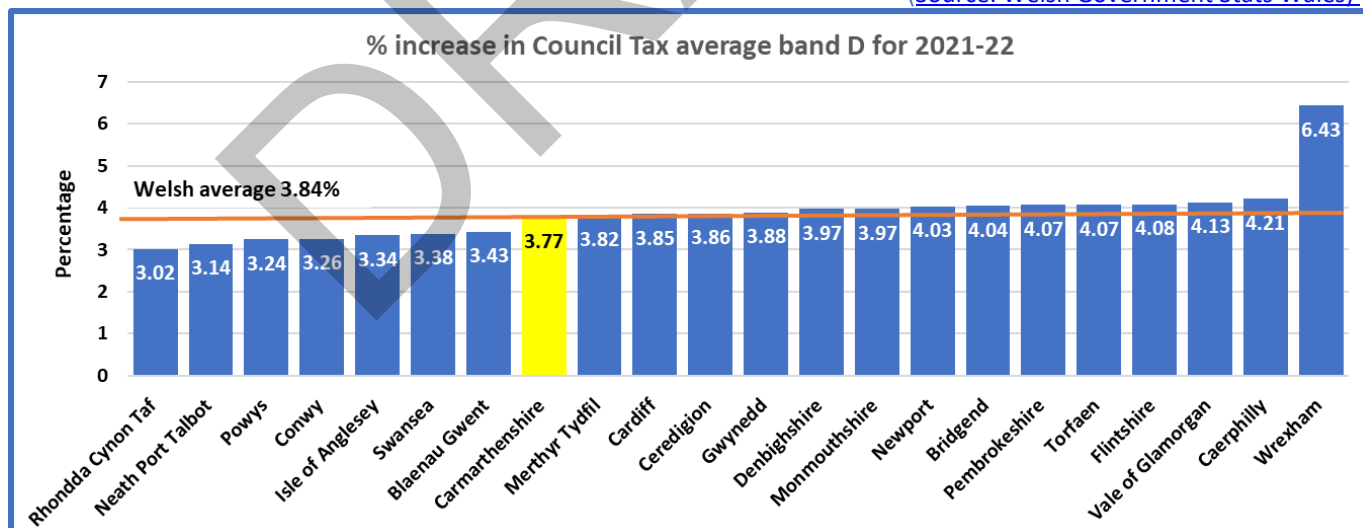


## Progress on this Well-being Objective taking account the effect of COVID19

### Financial Planning:

- ⦿ It was agreed at full Council in March 2021 that the Council Tax increase for 2021/22 will be set at 3.45%, for County Council services. The table below illustrates the average increase to be paid for residents in Carmarthenshire including Town and Community and Police and Crime Commissioner. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest increase in Wales and below the Welsh average of 3.84%.

(Source: Welsh Government Stats Wales)



- ⦿ Our financial reporting arrangements have been adapted throughout the year with consideration given to address any underlying pressures with the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the emerging impact of the post Brexit trading arrangements.
- ⦿ A mixed method approach to ascertain views of the 2021-24 budget took place including Councillor involvement and Public Consultation. The survey was advertised via social media, local and regional press and radio and via various groups including Equality Carmarthenshire, Ageing Well Network, the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action and via Town and Community Councils. All responses received were considered as part of the budget setting process.

## Assets:

### Asset Management

- Recent examples of where we've reduced accommodation and generated revenue from lettings or capital from sales are:
  - Nant Y Ci, Carmarthen
  - Parc Dewi Sant (Block 14 and part of Block 3 and 8), Carmarthen
  - 5-8 Spilman Street, Carmarthen
  - 2-4 Coleshill Terrace, Llanelli
- We have continued to support local ownership of assets through our *Community Asset Transfer* work with most of Council playing fields and playgrounds transferred to Town and Community Councils and community groups enabling new sources of funding and safeguarding these assets for future generations.
- We have also supported our business tenants in meeting the challenges faced over the last 12 months with rent concessions and flexible terms.

### Facilities Management

- As a result of continued office accommodation rationalisation and the ongoing working from home strategy, two buildings were able to be closed and several others had restricted opening hours or days. Our Property team carried out additional legislative checks on these sites, such as Legionella flushing, which was needed due to the increased risk due to the reduced number of staff.

*Agile working areas were created* in various offices - Tŷ Elwyn, Llanelli; 3 Spilman St / St David's Park, Parc Myrddin and County Hall, Carmarthen; and Town Hall / Tŷ Parcyrhun, Ammanford.

### Cleaning Services

- As infection control and cleaning in schools played a significant role in enabling schools to reopen at the end of June, we launched a significant recruitment drive in May and June. Within a short window of 4 weeks, we employed and trained over 150 new employees to increase the team of cleaners from around 550 to 700.

The revised cleaning regimes and recruitment required a huge retraining programme which was supported by redeployment of additional staff from other services including Public Protection, Highways and Planning Services. Cleaning arrangements were enhanced across all our buildings to ensure the safety of our staff and the public.

## Risks:

- The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by the Corporate Management Team every 2 months and by Audit Committee every 6 months. Corporate, Departmental and Service Risks are updated in line with the Risk Management and Contingency Planning strategy 2018-22 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

## Procurement:

- We had some difficulties in sourcing high demand products such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), so we were actively engaging with partner organisations such as Welsh Government, NHS and other Local Authorities within Wales to source these products from specialist suppliers.

Through the Environment Directorate we set up a PPE, hygiene and cleaning store, that has been operating for all non-social care settings across the Authority.

- We have undertaken a considerable piece of work with the *Centre for Local Strategies (CLES)* with the Council being key partners in the PSB foundational economy challenge fund project. The project looked at the Council's current approach, our Procurement Spend, engagement with key stakeholders and suppliers to develop an advanced progressive procurement action plan that will further support opportunities for the Council to build community wealth into our procurement activity. Embedding this approach will be central to the County's wider Economic Recovery Plan.



### Making Better Use of our Resources by Supporting our Suppliers and Providers virtually



Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions placed on Supplier Engagement, we have adapted our ways of working and have held virtual Procurement Surgery Sessions and Webinars to further enhance procurement support available. Procurement support is now offered virtually to suppliers and providers and we have worked with Business Wales to hold 'Live Tender Workshops'.

The aim of the Workshops initiative managed by our Corporate Procurement team and delivered by Business Wales Tender Advisers is to pro-actively engage with suppliers who require this level of assistance with submitting their tenders via the electronic tender portal, Bravo; an example being a Virtual Market Engagement Event for the Flying Start Programme tender whereby 25 providers attended. Due to the nature of the business of the organisations who had an interest in this tender, the event was held on a Saturday allowing childcare providers the opportunity to attend the virtual session.

A briefing paper was drawn up for the event summarising the requirements and specification of the tender which provided as much information as possible to providers prior to the tender advertisement. This allowed opportunity for providers to ask more relevant/pertinent questions at the virtual event. This was followed by a Live Tender Workshop for the Flying Start Childcare Programme organised by us and run in conjunction with Business Wales Tender Support Team whereby 7 Providers attended



### Going forward...

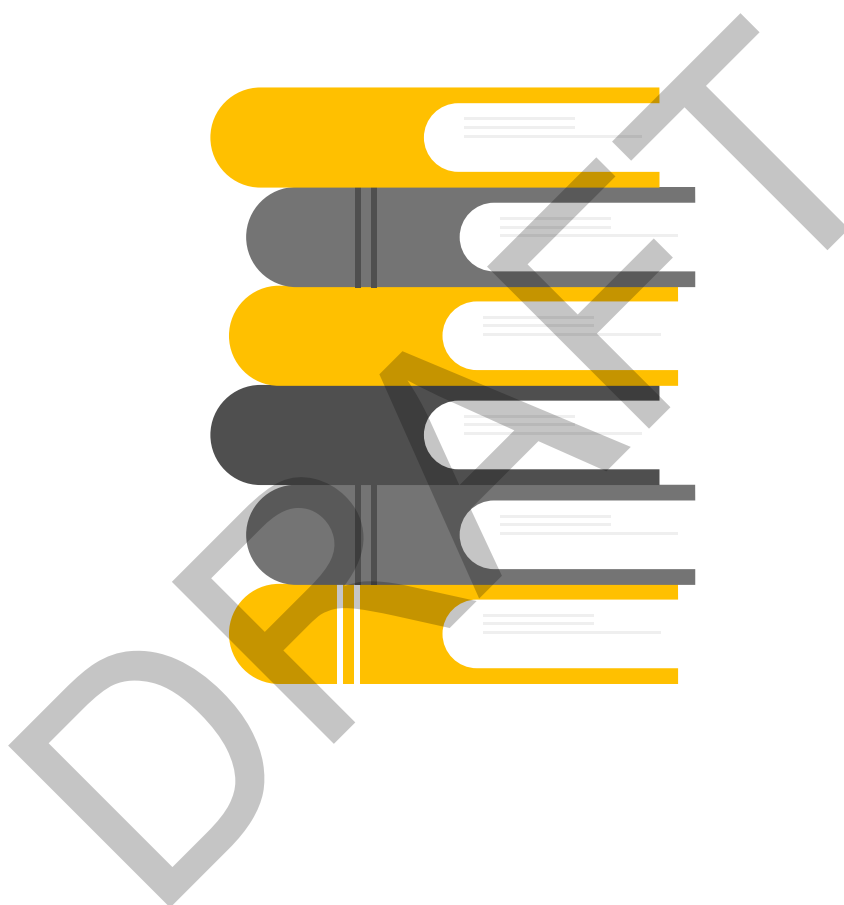
During our annual review of the Well-being Objectives, this Objective will remain a Well-being Objective within the updated Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 and will be renamed:

**Better Use of Resources**



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective

# APPENDICES





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

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

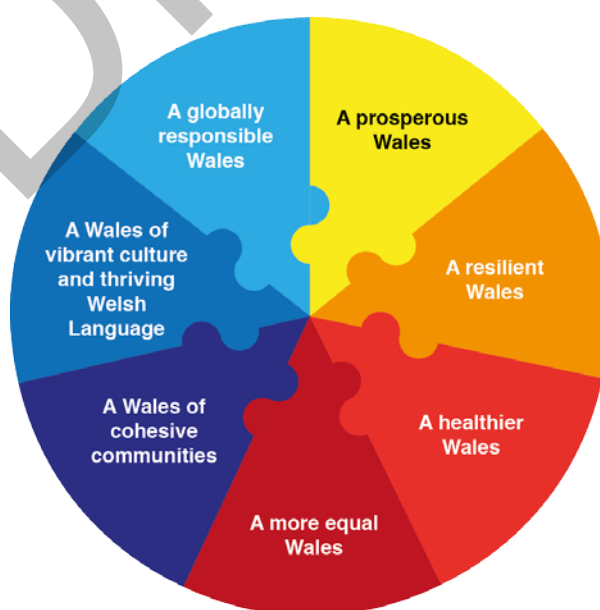
### The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

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

### Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

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

- 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 5 ways of working:  
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative (see **Appendix 1**)
- 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.



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

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

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

# Success measures for our Well-being Objectives


Well-being Objective		Success measures	Updated for 2020/21	
			YES	NO
1	Best Start in Life	Children in care who had to move 3 or more times (PAM/029)	YES	
2	Children - Healthy Lifestyles	Childhood obesity (Child Measurement Programme NHS)		NO
3	Improve Learner Attainment for all	Educational attainment - Average Capped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) (PAM/032)		NO
		School attendance rates (Primary) (PAM/007) (Secondary) (PAM/008)		NO
		Satisfaction with child's primary school (NSW)		NO
4	Reduce NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, Training)	Number of leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (PAM/009) Year 11 & Year 13 (5.1.0.2)	YES	
5	Tackle Poverty	Gap in the Average Capped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) for those eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not eligible (NWBI)		NO
		Households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (PAM/012) (NWBI)	YES	
		Households in material deprivation (NWBI)		NO
		Households Living in Poverty (CACI's 'PayCheck' Data)	YES	
6	Creating Jobs and Growth	Employment figures (ONS – Annual Population Survey) (NWBI)	YES	
		Average Gross weekly pay (ONS – Annual Survey of hours and earnings)	YES	
		Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above (Stats Wales) (NWBI)	YES	
		People moderately or very satisfied with their jobs (NSW) (NWBI)		NO
7	Affordable Homes	Number of affordable homes in the County (7.3.2.24)	YES	
8	Healthy Lives	Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good (NSW)	YES	
		Adults who say they have a longstanding illness (NSW)	YES	
		Adult mental well-being score (NSW) (NWBI)		NO
		Adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (NSW) (NWBI) (Not smoking, drinking > 14 units or lower, eating 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week).		NO
9	Supporting Good Connections	% Say they have a sense of community (NSW)(NWBI) (Derived from feeling of belonging; different backgrounds get on, treat with respect'.)		NO
		People feeling safe (NSW)(NWBI) (At home, walking in the local area, and travelling)		NO
10	Independent Lives	Agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area (NSW)	YES	
		Number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015)	YES	
11	Ageing Well	People who are lonely (NSW)(NWBI)		NO
12	Healthy and Safe Environment	Renewable energy generated (kWh)	YES	
		Council's Energy Consumption (kWh)	YES	
		Rates of recycling (PAM/030)	YES	
13	Highways & Transport	Road conditions (PAM/020, PAM/021 & PAM/022)	YES	
		Road casualties (5.5.2.21)	YES	
14	Welsh Language & Culture	Can speak Welsh (NSW)(NWBI)		NO
		People attended arts events in Wales in last year (NSW)		NO
		People visited historic places in Wales in last year (NSW)		NO
		People visited museums in Wales in last year (NSW)		NO
15	Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources	'Do it online' payments	YES	
		People agree that they can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to. (NSW)		NO
		People know how to find what services the Council provides (NSW)		NO
		People agree they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services. (NSW)		NO
		Staff sickness absence levels (PAM/001)	YES	
		Organisational 'running costs'	YES	
		People agree that the Council asks for their views before setting its budget. (NSW)		NO

**Key:** PAM – Public Accountability, National Measures; ONS –Office for National Statistics; NSW - National Survey for Wales; NWBI – National Well-being Indicator.

## Public Accountability Measures (PAM)

Public Accountability Measures (PAM) - is a National suite of measures that all councils in Wales have to collect, but due to COVID-19, DataCymru who centrally collect the data on behalf of Welsh Local Government Association decided not to collect data for 2019/20 or 2020/21. Therefore, we cannot measure how we perform against other authorities for 2020/21.			Our 2019/20 result	Our 2020/21 result
<b>WBO1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences</b>				
<b>1</b>	% Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year (PAM/029)		<b>8.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>2</b>	Percentage of child assessments completed in time (PAM/028)		Change in definition	<b>93.6%</b>
<b>WBO3 - Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners</b>				
<b>3</b>	% Pupil attendance in primary schools (PAM/007)		<b>93.9%</b>	Not available
<b>4</b>	% Pupil attendance in secondary schools (PAM/008)		<b>93.5%</b>	Not available
<b>5</b>	Average Capped 9 score for pupils in year 11 (PAM/032)		<b>367.2 score</b>	Not available
<b>WBO4 - Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</b>				
<b>6</b>	% of Year 11 Leavers not in education, employment or training (NEETS) (PAM/046)		Not available	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>WBO5 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty</b>				
<b>7</b>	% of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (PAM/012)		<b>46.4%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>
<b>WBO7 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes</b>				
<b>8</b>	% Private sector dwellings returned to occupation (PAM/013)		<b>7.72%</b>	<b>6.99%</b>
<b>9</b>	Number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use (PAM/045)		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10</b>	Number of additional affordable housing units delivered per 10,000 households (PAM/036)		<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11</b>	Average number of calendar days taken to complete all housing repairs (PAM/037)		<b>13.8 days</b>	<b>10.5 days</b>
<b>12</b>	% of homes that meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) (PAM/038)		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>13</b>	% of rent lost due to properties being empty (PAM/039)		<b>3.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>WBO8 - Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and Adult obesity)</b>				
<b>14</b>	% of Quality Indicators (with targets) achieved by the library service (PAM/040)		<b>97.5%</b>	<b>86.1%</b>
<b>15</b>	Visits to Sport & Leisure facilities per 1,000 population (PAM/017)		<b>7,768</b>	<b>673</b>
<b>16</b>	% of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that complete the 16-week programme (PAM/041)		<b>57.4%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>17</b>	% of NERS clients whose health had improved on completion of the exercise programme (PAM/042)		<b>78.4%</b>	<b>68.4%</b>
<b>18</b>	% Food establishments that meet food hygiene standards (PAM/023)		<b>96.02%</b>	<b>88.65%</b>



Public Accountability Measures (PAM)		Our 2019/20 result	Our 2020/21 result
<b>WBO10 - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years</b>			
<b>19</b>	Days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015)	<b>176 days</b>	<b>347 days</b>
<b>WBO12 - Looking after the environment now and for the future</b>			
<b>20</b>	% of all planning applications determined in time (PAM/018)	<b>71.6%</b>	<b>60.3%</b>
<b>21</b>	% of planning appeals dismissed (PAM/019)	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>
<b>22</b>	% of streets that are clean (PAM/010)	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>97.7%</b>
<b>23</b>	Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents (PAM/035)	<b>2.5 days</b>	<b>10.5 days</b>
<b>24</b>	Kilograms of municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person (PAM/043)	<b>156.3Kg</b>	<b>155.8Kg</b>
<b>25</b>	% Municipal waste reused, recycled or composted (PAM/030)	<b>64.66%</b>	<b>66.08%</b>
<b>WBO13 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity</b>			
<b>26</b>	% A roads that are in poor condition (PAM/020)	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>27</b>	% B roads that are in poor condition (PAM/021)	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>28</b>	% C roads that are in poor condition (PAM/022)	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
<b>WBO15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources</b>			
<b>29</b>	Number days lost due to sickness absence. (PAM/001)	<b>10.7 days</b>	<b>7.7 days</b>
<b>30</b>	Number of apprentices on formal recognised apprenticeship schemes per 1,000 employees (PAM044)	<b>34.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>
 <p><b>Some measures are not fully comparable year on year because of disruption in service due to COVID-19. Full result details and comments are available in the Commitment updates link at the bottom of each Well-being Objective</b></p> <p><b>Please note that not all Well-being Objectives (WBO) have allocated National Measure(s)</b></p>			

## Regulatory Reports 2020/21

### Several regulatory reports were issued during the last twelve months.

- ⊙ Local reports, specific to Carmarthenshire are highlighted below.
- ⊙ National/Thematic reports are undertaken by regulators to look at all Councils in Wales (in an integrated programme of work consulted and agreed upon with local government) to identify best practice.
  - Most of these reports contain recommendations. Sometimes the recommendations are for Welsh Government only or and/or local government.
  - Not all recommendations contained in reports may apply to Carmarthenshire as in some instances we could be the area of best practice proposed, be already doing what is identified or it may be, just not be applicable.
- ⊙ All these report recommendations are entered onto the Council's monitoring system and any reasons for discounting recommendations are explained and recorded. Progress against relevant recommendations is monitored and reported.
- ⊙ COVID-19 has seriously disrupted agreed regulatory work during 2020/21.

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



July 2020	Rough Sleeping in Wales- Everyone's Problem; No One's Responsibility
August 2020	Financial Sustainability Assessment Carmarthenshire County Council
September 2020	Better Law Making
October 2020	National Fraud Initiative Commercialisation in Local Government
January 2021	Carmarthenshire County Council Annual audit summary 2020



March 2020	National review of the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in Wales
July 2020	<b>Local authority annual performance review letter 2019/20</b> This letter summarizes the evaluation of performance of social services (adults and children's services) during 2019/20.
September 2020	Prevention and promotion of independence for older adults National review of care homes for people living with dementia
August 2020	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2018-19
April 2021	Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Assurance Check 2021: Carmarthenshire County Council

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June 2020	A level Welsh First Language
July 2020	Community schools: families and communities at the heart of school life
July 2020	Learner resilience - building resilience in primary schools, secondary schools and pupil referral units
August 2020	Business and social studies subjects at A level
October 2020	The Value of Youth Work Training
October 2020	Celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion
November 2020	Preparing for the Curriculum for Wales
January 2021	Post-16 partnerships
January 2021	Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19
March 2021	Developments in remote and blended learning practice
March 2021	Support for learners' mental health and emotional well-being
March 2021	English language and literacy in settings and primary schools
March 2021	Welsh language acquisition



In May 2020, the Future Generations Commissioner published the **Future Generations Report 2020** on the progress of the Act over the last 5 years and made a number of recommendations for public bodies, which we will consider as part of our future service planning and development.

In addition, the *Commissioner* has also made some post pandemic recommendations for public bodies in Wales to consider as noted below. We will take account of these as part of our recovery planning:

1	Develop an economic stimulus package that leads to job creation and supports the decarbonisation of homes, through building new low carbon affordable housing and investing in a national programme to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes.
2	Invest in better ways to connect and move people through improving digital connectivity, active travel and public transport.
3	Invest in skills and training to support the transition to a better future, creating new greener jobs.
4	Invest in nature and prioritise funding and support for large-scale habitat and wildlife restoration, creation and connectivity throughout Wales – including for natural flood defences, to implement the new national forest, and to ensure land use management and agriculture supports secure local food chains and distribution.
5	Invest in the industries and technologies of the future, and support for businesses that will help Wales to lead the low carbon revolution and lock wealth and jobs into local areas with investment in the foundational economy

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### AIR QUALITY DELIVERY PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Members of the Scrutiny Committee are updated on the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire, and to consult on our draft Air Quality Delivery plan.

#### Reasons:

To ensure that progress is made in monitoring and improving air quality within the County, particularly within our 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's).

**To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO – Consultation Document**

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. P Hughes (Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Lisa Jones Alun Rees	Designations: Head of Homes & Safer Communities  Environmental Health Officer Pollution and Wellbeing Lead	Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses: 01267 228960 JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk LisaJJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk AJRees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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# ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021**

## AIR QUALITY DELIVERY PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT

- 1.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area. This is achieved through the Local Air Quality Management regime. There are various pollutants that can be assessed, but local authorities are only required to monitor those that have a potential to breach the Air Quality Objectives. For Carmarthenshire, the main pollutant of concern is nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from road traffic.
- 1.2 NO<sub>2</sub> is a pollutant that can affect the respiratory system. It can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. Prolonged exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> can be harmful, in particular to those with existing respiratory conditions, the elderly or the young.
- 1.3 The town of Llandeilo and areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli have experienced increasing levels of NO<sub>2</sub>, to the extent that the air quality objective for NO<sub>2</sub> has been breached and Air Quality management Areas have been designated. Our Air Quality Delivery Plan focuses on these areas, but also highlights the need to protect good Air Quality in the rest of the County.
- 1.4 The Environment Act 1995 and associated statutory guidance specifies how Local Authorities deal with areas that fail to comply with the national air quality objectives.
- 1.5 This Air Quality Delivery plan is being presented to members as a consultation draft, and views are welcomed.
- 1.6 Our Air Quality Delivery Plan is set out in two parts. The first sets out the way in which we deal with Air Quality, and provides context as to how it sits within the legal framework and specifically, in Carmarthenshire. It outlines how the Air Quality Delivery Plan aligns with other Policies and Strategies of the Council, and it describes how poor Air Quality can adversely impact health, especially that of our most vulnerable in society. This can be seen in full in Appendix 1.
- 1.7 The second part introduces specific actions that have been identified to contribute towards improving Air Quality, both generally across the County and more specifically in individual AQMAs. Measures for assessing progress are also included in this part. This is attached as Appendix 2.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**YES -**

- Appendix 1 – Air Quality Delivery Plan 2021
- Appendix 2 – Air Quality Delivery Plan 2021 - measures

## 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: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

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

### Legal

The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area.

### Finance

Subject to cost/benefit analysis at the time.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

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

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

**THERE ARE NONE**

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# Air Quality Delivery Plan- Consultation

## Environmental Protection

2021 - 2025

[carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://carmarthenshire.gov.uk)



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# Clean Air in Carmarthenshire

## Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to set out, at a corporate level, the Council's position on air quality and how we plan to deliver improvements.

Carmarthenshire's Corporate strategy 2018-2023 'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire' outlines the council's vision for the future in 15 well-being objectives under four key themes – To support residents to start well, live well and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment. It also sets out a five-year plan of projects incorporating 15 Well-being objectives, that seeks to continuously improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in the County. This air quality delivery plan outlines a number of measures to improve air quality in the County and supports six of these Corporate wellbeing objectives further.

This document has been developed with several departments and divisions within the Council. Its development has included Environmental Protection, Environment, Transport Planning, Highways and Infrastructure, Sustainable Development and Regeneration. The Council will also engage with external partners across the County and beyond in the process of progressing this plan, because the improvements required cannot be delivered by the Council alone.

## The Health Impact

In 2019 The World Health Organisation (WHO) described air pollution as the largest environmental risk to our global health, and increasing evidence indicates that poor air quality significantly contributes towards several preventable illnesses and early deaths.

Air pollution threatens all ages and particularly the vulnerable such as older people, children, pregnant women and people with existing medical conditions. Long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy.

In Wales, the estimated burden of poor air quality on early deaths is in an equivalent range of between 1,000 and 1,400 deaths each year and DEFRA has estimated that Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) contributes to shortening lives by an average of around 5 months.

Targeting effective air quality management also requires an understanding of the relationship between air pollution and the wider health determinants, as evidence suggests that poor air quality is often linked to wider socio-economic factors.

## Carmarthenshire's Air Quality- What is the current position?

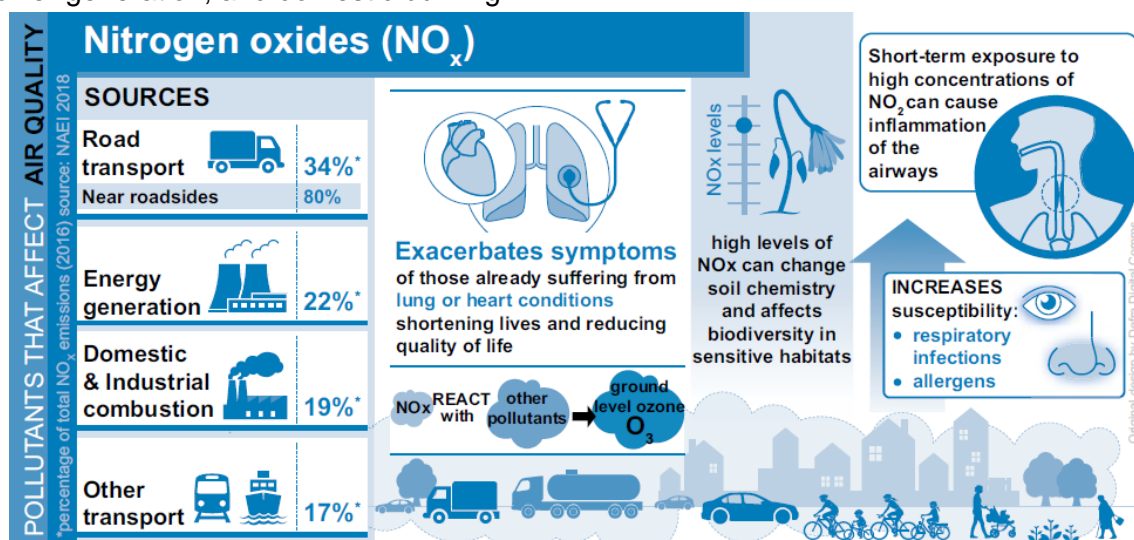
- We have identified that the key pollutant most relevant to Carmarthenshire is NO<sub>2</sub>. The main source of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Carmarthenshire is road traffic emissions. We have developed a monitoring network that follows some of our busiest roads and most congested streets and we continue to monitor levels of NO<sub>2</sub> to observe the impact from any improvement measures delivered and any potential impact from future development;
- We also continue to assess potential impacts from Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) arising from new industry and development proposals to ensure that dust is minimised, so it does not adversely impact on human health, the local ecology or cause a nuisance. We also regulate 70 industrial premises under the Environmental Permitting regime;
- Three areas in the County have been declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's), located in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli Towns as a result of Nitrogen Dioxide levels exceeding the National Air Quality Objective. Action plans have been developed to deliver specific measures with the aim of improving air quality in these Towns, however we also recognise the importance of enhancing air quality across the County wherever possible;
- During 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic several restrictions were imposed on our normal behaviours which significantly affected how we travelled and where we travelled to. Non-essential trips were restricted, several businesses and schools had to close, workers were encouraged to work from home where possible, socialising with other households was limited and there were times we were told to 'stay local' in Wales;
- This change in behaviour resulted in much fewer vehicles on the road, especially during the height of the lockdown periods. The public embraced low pollution behaviours such as walking and cycling in their local areas whilst adapting to work from home. The benefits of fewer vehicles on the road were recognised nationwide. This provided an opportunity to observe the impact of reduced traffic on our local air quality and identify where greater effort is needed; and
- In Carmarthenshire, levels of NO<sub>2</sub> significantly decreased during the 'lockdown' periods of 2020, and particularly within the declared AQMA's. The areas that usually report with the highest levels of NO<sub>2</sub> seemed to benefit the greatest, and for the first year since 2005 no monitoring sites within the County reported an exceedance of the Annual Air Quality Objective (AQO).

Air pollution causes underlying health conditions that can make people more susceptible to severe health outcomes of COVID-19, and as we continue to battle the virus, we recognise that cleaner air is more important than ever.

## Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

Nitrogen dioxide is a gas that is produced with nitric oxide (NO) by combustion processes and together they are often referred to as oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>). The largest source is emissions from diesel light duty vehicles (cars and vans) and there has been significant growth in these vehicle numbers over the last 10 years.

In general, road transport and non- road transport (rail, aviation, and domestic shipping) is responsible for 50% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and at the roadside road transport is responsible for around 80% of NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations. Other sources include industrial combustion processes, power generation, and domestic burning.



## The Law

As part of our statutory functions under Local Air Quality Management, The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on us to periodically review and assess air quality within our area. There are key pollutants that should be considered, and they are set out in legislation. Each of the key pollutants has a standard that should not be breached. The standards (or objectives) have been set at levels based on current scientific information which are designed to protect health and the environment. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010.

## The Welsh Government Clean Air Plan

Welsh Government's Clean Air Plan 'Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020)' sets out a 10-year pathway to achieving cleaner air. They have structured the plan around four core themes, with actions to enable collaborative approaches to reducing air pollution.

- **People:** Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations;
- **Environment:** Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity;

- **Prosperity:** Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales; and
- **Place:** Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport.

We recognise the importance of aligning our aims with national policy to improve air quality in our Carmarthenshire, and to help meet government targets. At the time of writing this plan, a white paper for the Clean Air (Wales) Bill has also been published, which we will closely follow and incorporate into our plans to frame a positive outlook.

Some actions included in the Clean Air Plan, however, will be led by Welsh Government and may not be directly delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council e.g. the delivery of a new South Wales Metro system which will support regional and local transport plan priorities. Other topics which may require further consideration as they progress by Welsh Government include:

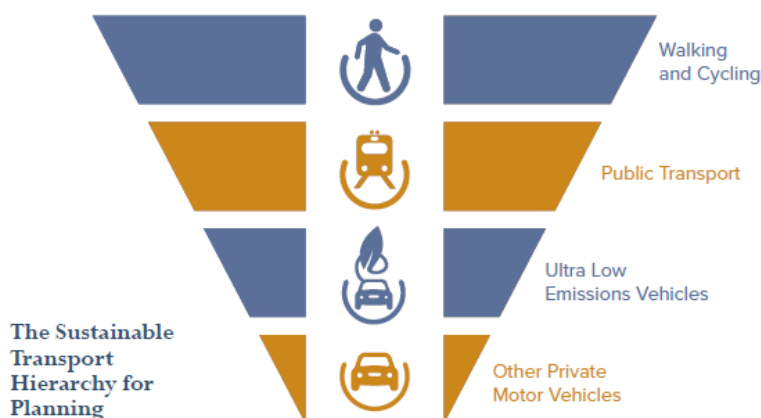
- Anti-Idling enforcement, which is currently subject to national debate;
- The Clean Air/ Low Emission Zones framework, which is under review;
- Revisions to Smoke Control Regulations; and
- Changes for controlling pollution from domestic solid fuel burning.

## Alignment with other Policies and Plans

In carrying out our functions under Part IV of the 1995 Act, due regard is given to the policy guidance issued by Welsh Government 'Local Air Quality Management in Wales' and the five ways of working as set out by the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are adopted when conducting out our functions to manage local air quality.

### Air Quality Planning Policy

Clear guidance in respect of a range of Environmental Protection matters are contained within Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 (2018), to maximise health and well-being through sustainable development, whilst tackling climate change and making places more resilient. In relation to the impact of development on Air Quality Management Areas; minimising exposure to air pollution by incorporating good design and mitigation. The Sustainable Transport hierarchy has been adopted in this Air Quality delivery plan to reduce the need to travel and prioritise active and sustainable transport through the planning process. PPW and the National Development Framework can be used directly in the decision-making process where an LDP is silent or out of date on an issue.





## Carmarthenshire Council's LDP

Carmarthenshire County Council is in the process of preparing the revised Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area. The current LDP was adopted by the County Council on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and can be found [here](#).

Whilst development proposals should be considered against the policies and provisions of the Plan as a whole (along with other relevant considerations and policies), the most notable LDP policies in relation to Air Quality is EP2: Pollution, TR2: Location of Development – Transport Considerations, TR3 – Highways in Development Design Considerations, TR4 – Cycling and Walking. Other policies regarding Sustainable and High-quality Design, Ecological Corridors and Networks, Major Tourism, Town Centres, Renewable Energy and Minerals are also aligned to consider air quality benefits and implications.

## Local Transport Plans and Strategies

The authority historically produced a Local Transport Plan; however, this was incorporated into a Regional Transport Plan which had been established under the direction of the Welsh Government. The region covers the unitary authorities of Neath-Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. The Regional Transport Plan is now no longer being utilised in the same way but the partnership arrangement with the other authorities remains in place and they have developed a combined Local Transport Plan for the Swansea Bay City Region covering the period 2015 – 2020. Further information on the Local Transport Plan can be found [here](#). The Local Air Quality Management work that fed into the Regional Transport Plan work is given due regard within the Local Transport Plan, with the policy and infrastructure interventions tailored to help improve air quality and minimise air pollution from transport sources.

## Active Travel Plans and Strategies

It is acknowledged that NO<sub>2</sub> from road traffic is the primary cause for concern for Carmarthenshire. Any measures that can encourage and facilitate active travel are therefore to be welcomed. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to identify and improve routes for walking and cycling, which includes the publication of maps to identify suitable routes, and to provide links within key locations, such as places of work, education etc. Carmarthenshire County Council has published its integrated network maps, which can be found [here](#).



This also ties in with the Council's long term aim of becoming the Cycling Hub of Wales. Further information on Carmarthenshire's cycling strategy can be found [here](#).



# Supporting Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives



Carmarthenshire's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 Vision is summed up as:

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

The Corporate Strategy includes 15 Well-being objectives to meet this vision. By working in partnership to deliver improvements to air quality, we will also address a range of cross cutting benefits, which can further support the following six Council Well-being Objectives:

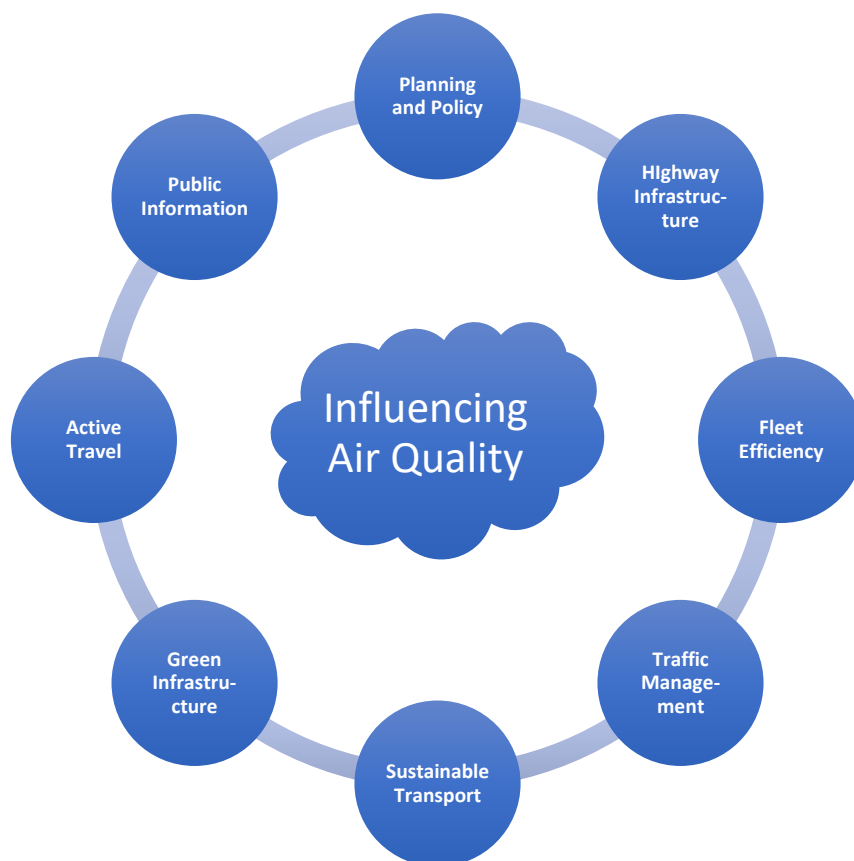
 <b>Well-being Objective 2</b> Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>We recognise the impact that poor air quality can have on children's development, cognitive abilities, and health. Children are specifically vulnerable, even from foetal development as their lungs, organs and brains are developing.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with schools and the Healthy School's Initiative to promote active travel campaigns such as walk/cycle to school days and the National Clean Air Day;</li> <li>• continue to study air quality around the school yard in our Air Quality Management Areas, raising awareness, encouraging active travel to school and promoting anti-idling at the school gates. We don't want traffic around the school gate, enforcement activity is in place to discourage parents/carers from contravening TRO's at school gate; and</li> <li>• Encourage people to walk to school by developing behavioural change programme and work with communities to develop bids for infrastructure funding to develop safe routes to school.</li> <li>• Promote the use of school travel plans.</li> </ul>
 <b>Well-being Objective 8</b> Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>Sustainable communities support people to live healthy lives and improved pedestrian connectivity can support active travel options to reduce traffic pollution.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor air quality (nitrogen dioxide) for the residents and visitors in the County. This will be carried out by regular assessments and where necessary, sampling programmes;</li> <li>• Promote sustainable placemaking through the development process and our Local Development Plan;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve Walking and Cycling Linkages;</li> <li>• Provide Safer Routes in communities to encourage and support active travel as above; and</li> <li>• Create low emission options by providing electric bike hire schemes and increasing access the electric vehicle charging points across the County. We will also continue to develop infrastructure to support the growth of electric cars.</li> </ul>
 <b>Well-being Objective 11</b> Age Well - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>Good health is a key factor to aging well. Older people are vulnerable to more severe ill-health conditions associated with air pollution as it can cause lung and heart disease and emerging evidence suggests that areas with very poor air quality can increase the risk of dementia.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a preventative approach to support health and well-being in the County; and</li> <li>• Through regular reviews and assessment of our transport routes, industry and developing communities, monitor air quality risks to minimise long term exposure to pollutants that may adversely impact health.</li> </ul>
 <b>Well-being Objective 12</b> Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>Air pollution has direct impacts on the natural environment, contributing to climate change, reducing crop yields, and polluting oceans. Cleaner air will directly benefit animals and habitats as well as creating a better environment for everyone to live, work and thrive in. Good quality energy efficient homes can also have a significant effect on reducing fuel use polluting the atmosphere.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the planning process, promote sustainable places with good pedestrian linkages, green infrastructure, travel plans and sustainable transport options;</li> <li>• Protect our environment and ecological habitats from industry under the environmental permitting regime;</li> <li>• Assess the impacts of development on local air quality and natural habitats from both the construction and operational phases;</li> <li>• Monitor Nitrogen Dioxide in our Air Quality Management Areas some of our busiest roads and assess other potential impacts;</li> <li>• Utilise policy guidance and developmental control to minimise pollution impacts and improve air quality where possible; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the increased use of renewable energy and support measures to become carbon neutral by 2030.</li> </ul>
 <b>Well-being Objective 13</b> Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>Highway Infrastructure can influence air pollution by lowering speed limits, reducing congestion, promoting active travel with safe cycle and footways. Access to electric vehicle charging points across the County can also support the uptake of lower emission vehicles.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the cycle network adopt public cycle hire schemes;</li> <li>Expand our active travel routes and continue to provide safer routes for communities;</li> <li>Continue to work with Welsh Government to help deliver at Llandeilo Bypass to improve air quality and road safety in Llandeilo town;</li> <li>Continue to work with Regional local Authority Partners to develop the plans for a South Wales Metro;</li> <li>Reduce speed limits improve pedestrian safety around schools and residential areas with 20mph zones;</li> <li>Work with South Wales Trunk Road Agency to deliver Strategic Highways Improvements;</li> <li>Seek to improve emissions from our own fleet; and</li> <li>Increase the provision of electric vehicle charging points across the County.</li> </ul>
 <b>Well-being Objective 15</b> Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources	
<b>Air Quality Impact</b>	<i>Sustainable delivery models through investment and efficiency savings will support different ways of working and reduce the Council's contribution to air pollution.</i>
<b>Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution</b>	<b>We will</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support remote and agile working where it can reduce the need for staff travel, minimising waste travel time, mileage and increasing productivity; and</li> <li>Support Digital Transformation to support staff flexible working arrangements, and digital access to services to reduce customer travel.</li> </ul>

## Delivering Improvements to Air Quality

The responsibility of delivering such improvements requires a collaborative approach with several internal and external partners, because there are many factors that can influence the delivery of clean air in Carmarthenshire. The main themes are summarised below:



Each theme in the plan acts as a framework for the creation of policies, projects and schemes, to invite flexible, co-beneficial solutions to address a spectrum of issues. Each theme can deliver contributions towards improving air quality but collectively those impacts can be significant. It may not always be possible to quantify emission reductions directly attributed to certain actions, as many influencing factors can play their part. Nevertheless, our aim is to reduce pollution emanating from transport, enable and support our residents to choose more sustainable modes of transport and increase their active travel.

Ultimately, our goal is to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide levels within our AQMA Towns, not only to meet the national air quality objectives but to enhance our air quality for residents and visitors in the County. Our efforts must be sustainable to continue the trend for future generations. In turn, we will thereby help reduce the risk of ill-health cause by air pollution and support our Well-being objectives.

We will aim to deliver the following four key objectives:

#### **Objective 1. Reducing Congestion:**

actions robust enforcement of TRO's, Improvements to infrastructure, promoting more sustainable travel such as car sharing, active travel, walk the last mile.

#### **Objective 2. Modal Shift:**

Promoting and developing public transport tie into the development of the regional Metro, demand management prioritising short stay parking in town centres to ensure spaces are available. Active Travel etc. Safer Routes in Communities walking routes to schools. Regional METRO transportation.



**Objective 3. Improving Air Quality:**

ULEVs. Smoke controls wood burning stoves, green space initiatives.

**Objective 4. Know what is happening:**

Provide robust data capture and model air quality and transport movements.

An Air Quality Action planning steering group has been set up with key stakeholders across a range of key services to deliver actions predominantly within our AQMA's but also with a view to improve air quality across the whole County. These measures incorporate many actions currently underway to deliver the AQMA action plans with further actions planned over the next few years.

The detailed actions can be found in the attached appendix. Progress on its delivery will be reported annually to Welsh Government and indicative timescales have been framed for measuring our progress in these areas and to keep actions in focus.

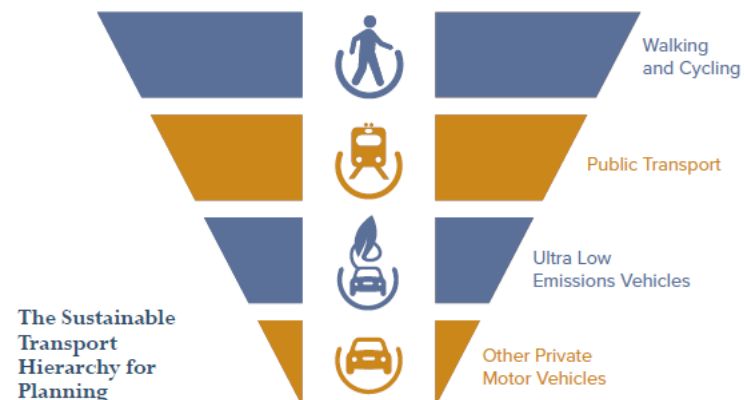
# Air Quality Delivery Plan 2021

Environmental Protection

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Air Quality Delivery Plan Measures

<b>G</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>CARMARTHEN</b>
<b>LLN</b>	<b>LLANELLI</b>	<b>LLD</b>	<b>LLANDEILO</b>



Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
<b>G</b>	<b>GENERAL ACTIONS</b>										
G1	Produce a Electric Vehicle Strategy <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Low Emissions Strategy	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2020	2021-22	Number of EV charging points	Low	Funding sought to commission studies on predicting future demand and additional locations along with a commission to complete and adopt a Carmarthenshire specific EV strategy in line with latest Welsh Government draft strategy.		WG plan recently consulted on an EV charging strategy late 2020.
G2	Produce Planning Guidance for Air Quality <b>(Improve Air Quality, Knowing what is happening)</b>	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other Policy	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2020	2021-22	Clear guidance for developers and planners	Low			WG plan to update TAN 11 to include air quality
G3	Produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other Policy	County Council <b>(Head of ICT)</b>	2020	2021	Strategy in place	Low (£35k)			Increase access to green spaces

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G4	Introduce green infrastructure or urban planting schemes. <i>(possibly through Planning)</i>  <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other policy	County Council <b>(Head of ICT)</b>	ongoing	ongoing	Number of GI schemes /	PSB Funding	Included in planning developments/ Bid for Jackson's Lane Carmarthen and Newcastle Emlyn	ongoing	
G5	Feasibility study for shared use footpaths. (with markings?)  <b>(Reduce congestion, Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport ation)</b>	2018	2020	Path Counters	Sustainable Transport Fund (£1.7m) High	Funding secured for design. Bid submitted for funding the construction.	2022	We now have Active Travel Fund core funding available to cover this in identified areas.
G6	Improve access to M4 through Llangennech area.  <b>(Reduce congestion, Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport ation)</b> / SWTRA / WG	2018	2021	Path Counters	WG (V. High) (£2.5M)	Improvement works scheduled to improve junction 48	2022	Widening of A4138 to reduce congestion and provide shared foot/cycleway Improves access on and off the M4 to reduce traffic congestion at peak times.
G7	Consider a Feasibility study for Congestion Zones.  <b>(Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift, Improving Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Road User Charging (RUC) / Congestion Charging	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2022		Monitoring results	Low	None  For consideration if other measures do not reduce emissions enough	?	WG are reviewing framework for CAZ, This is not realistic or sensible

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G8	Consider Anti-Idling Ban in AQMA's. <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic management	Anti-Idling Enforcement	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2022		Enforcement	Low			WG looking to strengthen powers under Clean Air Act Enforcement options pending Act.
G9	Reduce Idling outside of schools etc. <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic management	Anti-Idling Enforcement Parking Enforcement on Highway Access Management	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2019	2021	Monitoring results	Low	Proposals for Traffic Orders prohibiting stopping outside the school gates at certain times at several schools across the county.		Access Only order being implemented in Burry port to prevent traffic accessing school entrance (via residential area) only residents have access, enforced by cameras.
G10	Introduce a School Street <b>(Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Access Management	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2021	2022		WG Road Safety Grant Medium Cost (£70k)	Proposal to restrict vehicular access during start and finish times at Morfa School		This will be the first 'School Street' trialled in the County
G11	Review & improve timings of bin collections & road sweeping <b>(Reduce congestion)</b>	Freight and Delivery Management	Route Management Plans	County Council <b>(Head of Waste and Environment)</b>	2022	2022	More efficient routes	Low	None	2022	



Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G12	Discuss with WG barriers / opportunities to transfer road freight from ferries to rail freight. <b>(Modal Shift)</b>	Freight Delivery and Management  Promoting Travel Alternatives	Freight Delivery  Promote Use of Rail	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation) / WG</b>	2021			Low	WG have published a study on the use of rail (Increasing rail freight options considered within study to reduce traffic to M4 and rail network improvements)		Wales Transport Strategy 5 year national transport delivery plan being developed. Regional Transport Plans to be developed.
G13	Introduce ULE vehicles within public sector fleet <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Promoting Low Emission Public Transport	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2022		Number of ULE vehicles in fleet	Medium	Fleet review every 5 years		WG Clean Air Plan has proposal for all HGV's in public sector to be ULE by 2030
G14	Explore option of an Eco-Stars scheme for the County and promote uptake to fleet operators. (Improve Air Quality)  <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Fleet efficiency and recognition schemes	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2021		Number of Members in County	Low	Enquiries made		The 'free' scheme awards a star rating and advice on how fleet operators can improve fleet efficiency

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G15	Promote shift to Low emission buses or retrofitting buses / coaches to gas fuel.  <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Vehicle Retrofitting programmes	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation) / Partners/Bus Operators</b>	2021	?	Uptake	Medium costs to bus operators	None		Clean Air plan target for all buses to have zero exhaust emissions by 2028 although Wales Transport Strategy 2021 doesn't include ULEV vehicles in next 5 years – only mentions technology & infrastructure to deliver ULEV in 5 years, zero tailpipe emissions are to be by 2040
G16	Encourage use of non-diesel/ low emission mobile generators within AQMA's  <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Plant	Low Emission fuels for mobile plant	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2021			Low			Scope to address through planning process.
G17	Increase provision of EV charging infrastructure County  <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Procuring alternative refuelling infrastructure	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2018	2020-2021	Number of EV charging points	WG OLEV (£100K)  WG Local Transport Fund (£220K)  WG - Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund (£370K)	Secured funding for EV 26 posts in 24 carparks across the County   Cross Hands EV charging hub	2020   2021	EV update for 21/22 bid submitted to Welsh Government for an additional 15 chargers at 13 locations across the county.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G18	Consider option for low cost or priority parking for Low Emission Vehicles <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Priority Parking for LEV's	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2023		Monitoring				Government proposes to introduce Green number plates for low emission vehicles to be easily identified.
G19	Review Taxi and private Hire conditions to move towards Ultra Low Emissions <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Taxi Licensing Conditions	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2021		Percentage of licensed low emission taxis and Private Hire vehicles		Potential for national policy standards to be set dependant on outcome of Welsh Transport Strategy.		Clean Air Plan includes aim of zero exhaust emission taxi fleet by 2028. Draft Welsh Transport Strategy published 2021 also includes this target.
G20	Consider a Feasibility study for Low Emission Zones. <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Low Emission Zone	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ SWTRA</b>	2022		Monitoring results		None		Potential option for areas that continue to exceed Air Quality Objectives although unlikely to be feasible
G21	Consider a Feasibility study of making towns and villages vehicle free. <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Clean Air Zone/ Low Emission Zone	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2022		Monitoring		None Many key towns in County already include pedestrianised zones		Clean Air Zone Framework to be published by WG Spring 2021  Unlikely to be feasible or desirable.
G22	Consider Diesel engine vehicle ban in AQMA's <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Low Emission Zone or Clean Air Zone	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / Partners</b>	2022		Monitoring		Source apportionment work		Government proposals to phase out sales of Diesel and Petrol cars and vans by 2040. Unlikely to be feasible

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G23	Liaise with 'Car Club' facilitators for opportunities to introduce across the County.  <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Car clubs	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / Partners</b>	2020		Uptake of car clubs	Partnership scheme with providers	No car clubs currently operate in Carmarthenshire. Options being explored. Dolen Teifi offers MPV and minibus hire in rural communities (outside AQMA's).		Potential opportunity for developers or Housing Associations to provide access to a car club where limited or no parking
G24	Continue to encourage home / agile working with digital meetings/training where possible, to discourage non-essential travel <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting travel Alternatives	Encourage/Facilitate home working	County Council <b>(Assistant Chief Executive)</b>	2020	2020	Reduction in staff travel and mileage claims	None	Although policies already in place, COVID 19 lockdown has increased uptake and helped identify roles that can work from home		WG policy to work from home where it is possible to do so  Uptake of New Ways of Working
G25	Advertise offices that have facilities for cyclists. (Review provision to Increase number of offices/buildings providing cycle safe storage) <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Property)</b>	2020	2020-2021	Number of facilities with cycle storage	Low	Pool bicycles available to Council staff in Park Myrddin, Carmarthen	2021	The Beacon to have 5x EBike charging stands installed by end of April 21. Intended exclusively for use of people working there.
G26	Increase cycle parking provision across county  Provide public cycle repair stations  <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2020	2021	Uptake of Cycling in the County	Active Travel Fund / Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery Fund	New cycle parking proposed at 27 locations in Llanelli, Carmarthen Ammanford and Leisure centres  20 cycle repair Units to be installed across County	2021	

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G27	Introduction of bike hire schemes within other parts of the County <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promoting Cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b> / Partners	2019	2021-22	Uptake of bike hire	Local Transport Network Fund (£50K per docking station)	Brompton Bike Hire scheme installed in Carmarthen and Llanelli Towns. progress. Other Bike hire schemes available in Carmarthen Park and Pembrey Country Park	Burry Port and Llanelli train stations by 2021	Ammanford considered subject to future grant funding
G28	Provision of E-cargo Bikes <b>(Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2020	2021	Uptake of bike for local deliveries	Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery Fund	12 bike purchased for load to support local businesses undertake deliveries	2021	
G29	Provide E-Bike Charging Stations <b>(Modal shift)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2020	2021	Use of Charging stations	Low	8 x Ebike Charging Stations to be installed across county	2021	7 Public use and 1 for staff of the Beacon
G30	Reward scheme for staff who walk/cycle to work <b>(Modal shift)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Walking and Cycling Other	County Council <b>(Assistant Chief Executive)</b>	2019	Annually / Quarterly	Numbers of staff participating	Very Low	2019 cycle to workday competition		Opportunities to reward staff for participating in active travel days/ Air Campaigns



Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G31	Enhance walking routes.  (Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Walking	County Council (Highways and Transportation)	2017	On-going	Path counters	Active Travel Fund  Local Transport Network Fund  Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery fund	Improvements to footpaths in Llanelli.  Pedestrianised routes improved, introduced through planning development.  Wayfinding signage being installed across 13 towns in Carmarthenshire (incl Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo) providing directions from public transport stops/stations	ongoing	Additional Enhancements through COVID recovery
G32	Increase use of trains in County  (Modal shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promote use of Rail	WG	2020	2023	Uptake of Train journeys to AQMA Towns		WG are nationalising the Rail network and delivering South Wales Metro System to improve journeys.		The inclusion of Bike hire schemes at key stations will also improve connectivity
G34	Engagement with SAT NAV providers to highlight AQMA's  (Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ WG	2016	WG included in Consultation document	?		Working with WG/WAQF Introduced in WG AQ policy	?	Currently sat Nav's recognise Clean Air Zones but not AQMA's

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G35	Advertise cycle paths.  (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via the internet and other	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	Ongoing	Ongoing	Cycle path counters	Low	Cycle routes advertised on internet and discovercarmarthenshire.com  New wayfinding signage to be installed across towns with walking/cycling journey times to key trip attractors from public transport stops/stations	Ongoing	Improvements to be made as additional new paths created
G36	Produce Air Quality messages (e.g. – turn engine off when parked/idling, slow down, consider air quality, stay back from car in front).  (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Other	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2019	2019-	Monitoring	Low	Social media messages as parts of National Clean Air Days	ongoing	Raise awareness and profile of air quality
G37	Check tourist route maps / websites for advised routes (avoid AQMA's where relevant) (Know what's happening & Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via the Internet	County Council (Head of Safer Homes & Communities and Regeneration)/ SWTRA	2022			Very Low	None		
<b>C</b>	<b>CARMARTHEN</b>										

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C1	Improve cycle routes in and around the town. <b>(Reduce Congestion &amp; Modal Shift)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2018	2018 -	Usage of cycle routes by counter	Tywi Valley Cycle path (£12-14.5M) Active Travel Fund	Safer routes in Communities Tywi Valley Cycle Path in progress New path along Llansteffan Rd, Picton Hill and Picton Terrace	2021 TBC 2020/21	Masterplan being scoped for the town as well as active travel consultation currently live. Tywi Valley Cycle Path – subject to funding.
C2	Promote bike hire scheme for the town. <b>(Modal Shift)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure Promoting travel alternatives	Public cycle hire scheme Promotion of cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b> / Partners	2019-2020	2020	Uptake of bike hire	Local Transport Network Fund (£50k)	Brompton Bike Hire Docks Installed In Blue Street, Carmarthen, next to the bus station	Operational from Jan 2021	
C3	Monitor and Improve car parking issues at Glangwili Hospital. <b>(Reduce Congestion)</b>	Traffic Management	Parking Enforcement	Local Health Board / County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2017	2018 - ongoing	Reduced congestion / traffic counts		Cycle space compound, Additional parking spaces and promotes use of park and ride scheme	Car park Management contract started September 2018. APNR enforcement in 2019	Carpark capacity reduced 2019, considering increasing capacity

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C4	Introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town  <b>(Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Reduction of speed limits, 20mph zones	County Council  <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2018	2018-2019	Monitoring data		20mph zones introduced around schools and shopping areas  Area wide in Carmarthen	2023	WG are working on a programme to change default speed from 30mph to 20mph in built up areas A number of 20mph limits were installed in 2020 on a temporary basis as part of the Authority's covid response. Consideration being given to making these limits permanent.
C5	Review pedestrianisation across town  <b>(Reduce congestion)</b>	Traffic Management	Access management/ traffic reduction	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2016	2020-2022	Area coverage/ Monitoring data	Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response Fund	Temporary Restrictions in Town Centre to support social distancing	Started August 2020	Temporary restrictions were covid driven and are to be reviewed, they may eventually be removed.
C6	Traffic modelling options for reducing traffic through Priory Street  <b>(Know what's happening / Modal Shift)</b>	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements / Traffic Reduction	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2021		Traffic Counts and source apportionment	Low	Manual Vehicle Source apportionment conducted.		Surveys needed to understand reason for using routes Not feasible to remove HGVs and a one-way system is also unlikely to be feasible or supported.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C7	Introduce low emission buses and consider smaller buses at off-peak times.  <b>(Improve Air Quality)</b>	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Promoting Low Emission Public Transport	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)</b> / Bus Operators	2021- 2022		Change in bus fleet	Medium	Unsuccessful application for electric bus bid for the park and Ride scheme.  We are currently looking at introducing electric buses on the T1 service Aberystwyth To Carmarthen in partnership with WG but this will probably take 2 years.	On going	Clean Air plan target for all buses to have zero exhaust emissions by 2028.  Bus industry is a competitive commercially driven market where margins for operators are small. Reducing the vehicle size is very unlikely to be taken up by operators and is beyond our direct control.
C8	Review the Park & Ride provision for the town. <b>(Reduce Congestion &amp; Modal Shift)</b>	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based Park& Ride	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)</b>	2019-2020 –	2020-	Usage data / monitoring data	Medium cost PR1 is 50% PHW and 50% CCC funded PR2 is PHW 100% funded	Timings reviewed to support hospital staff and evening use from 10pm		Uptake increased 2019, COVID reduced uptake 2020
C9	Promote uptake of P&R through carpark information boards and improved signage before entering AQMA  <b>(Reduce Congestion &amp; Modal Shift)</b>	Public information	Via other mechanisms	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)</b> / BID / Hywel Dda	2021	(After COVID)	Usage data	Low	Directional signs already in place		Potential opportunities with Carmarthen BID improvements to carparking options.
C10	Promote use of Carmarthen by-pass.  <b>(Reduce Congestion/ Know what's happening)</b>	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)/</b> WG /SWTRA	2021	2022	Traffic Counts	Low	None	TBC	Designation surveys and assess need to amend signage for HGV preferred routes – bypass is a trunk road, any signage review would need to be in partnership with SWTRA

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C11	Install AQMA signage (suggest alternative routes?). <b>(Reduce Congestion)</b>	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2021	TBC	Traffic Counts/ improvements in monitoring results	Low	Explored options for AQMA signage	TBC	Possibly link to promoting use of the bypass / Western link Rd
C12	Promote more car sharing / dedicated car parks (involve supermarkets?). <b>(Reduce Congestion &amp; Modal Shift)</b>	Public Information Alternatives to private vehicle use	Via internet Car and Lift sharing schemes	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)/ Partners</b>	2018	2019 – (After COVID)	Use of car sharing	Low	Promotion of car share website. Dedicated parking through planning	Ongoing	A lift sharing app for parents is being developed. Await outcome of covid travel impacts
C13	Initiatives including School Travel Plans <b>(Modal Shift)</b>	Promoting Travel Alternatives	School Travel Plans	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)/ Schools</b>	ongoing	ongoing	Reduction in car journeys to school	Very Low	Travel Plans have been introduced in schools.	ongoing	Travel plans are managed by the schools
<b>LLN</b>	<b>LLANELLI</b>										
LLN1	Improve footpath / cycle route connectivity for the Sandy Road area. <b>(Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transport action)</b>	2018	2019-2021	Usage of cycle routes by counters	Local Transport Fund/Active Travel Fund  Local Sustainable Transport Covid RecoveryFund	Safer routes in Communities grant awarded 3 year project  Footway widening across Sandy Bridge (Pembrey Rd) Carriageway narrowed to achieve this.	2021	Wider active travel network also being developed



Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLN2	Introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town  <b>(Modal Shift, improving air quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Reduction of speed limits, 20mph zones	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2018 2020	2019-2020 2021	Speed data Monitoring data	Safe Routes in communities Fund WG Funding	20mph zones introduced around schools and some other areas	2021 2022-2026	Further projects for Llanelli north and south areas will introduce 20mph with 5-year AQ monitoring. Encouraging active travel will be a key part of the Llanelli South project which will include working with schools on School Travel Plan
LLN3	Consider sustainable options to reduce congestion via A484, Llanelli West (Sandy Road Corridor) encouraging sustainable modal shifts  <b>(Reducing congestion, Modal shift, Improving Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements UTC, congestion management, traffic reduction	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2019		Traffic counts Changes in traffic flow, congestion monitoring data		Application to WG to fund improvements, Public consultation held		Options subject to WG funding
LLN4	Improvements to Thomas Street Junction at turning to Old Road  <b>(Improving Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements Traffic reduction	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2020	2021	Monitoring data Queue lengths	Road Safety Grant Covid Recovery Funding (£130k- £140) Medium	Proposals to improve bus stop and reduce idling engines incorporating Green Infrastructure in this area	2021	Pedestrian Safety need identified
LLN5	Identify and review HGV delivery timings to businesses in and around the town centre.  <b>(Reducing congestion, Improving Air Quality)</b>	Freight and Delivery Management	Delivery and service plans Quiet and out of hours delivery	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes &amp; Communities) / Partners</b>	2020	2021	Monitoring results	Resource intensive	Reviewed upon new planning developments to avoid peak times	ongoing	Difficult to influence  May not reduce overall emissions, but short-term higher emissions from congestion at peak times This one is difficult to deliver.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLN6	Review the Park & Ride provision for the town.  <b>(Modal Shift)</b>	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based park and ride	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b> / Llanelli Town Centre Task force	2019	(AFTER COVID)	Usage data/ monitoring data	Medium to High	No current demand, low cost parking available within AQMA , Active Travel network being developed		Possible opportunity to link with town centre bus service. No options currently being actively developed, covid will influence travel behaviours This is very unlikely to be feasible
LLN7	Implement traffic survey for Llangennech / Dafen / Thomas Street to establish why that route is used.  <b>(Know what is Happening, Modal Shift)</b>	Promoting Travel alternatives	Other	County Council <b>(Head of Highways and Transportation)</b>	2019	2020-21	Survey results	Low	Sat Navs often determines quickest route to Llanelli West  Traffic modelling study  Active Travel Improvements from Hendy M4 Junction planned		Information gathering to help understand driver habit/route choice to help inform other potential inventions  Encourage modal shift to Active Travel
LLN8	Install AQMA signage (possibly suggest alternative routes?).  <b>(Know what is happening, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b>	2021		Traffic counts / monitoring data	Low	None		Potential to link with smart sensors
<b>LLD</b>	<b>LLANDEILO</b>										

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLD1	Consider Diversion of HGV's to other routes or Restriction of HGV's <b>(Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/</b> SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Important to ensure that diversions do not displace poor AQ Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD2	Consider one Way system with vehicles diverted around King Street with bypass <b>(Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities) /</b> SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG £50 – £60m	WG Transport Study considering option		Important to ensure that diversions do not displace poor AQ. A bypass would reduce the amount of traffic diverted. Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD3	Consider Traffic Light system to reduce fumes at pinch points and improve traffic flow <b>(Reduce congestion)</b>	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/</b> SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Trial scheme may help monitor whether idling traffic creates AQ issues near lights. It will not reduce traffic numbers. Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD4	Build a bypass <b>(Reduce congestion, Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Traffic reduction  Strategic highway improvements	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities) /</b> SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		A Bypass would remove through traffic not visiting Llandeilo and allow for improvements in Rhosmaen Street

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLD5	Consider removing parking bays along Rhosmaen Street and Bridge Street  <b>(Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Congestion Management	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b> /SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on. Removing parking would be very unpopular
LLD6	Rhosmaen Street Improvements - widening pavements, green infrastructure  <b>(Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)</b>	Traffic Management	Reprioritising road space away from cars	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b> /SWTRA / WG	2017	Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data		WG Transport Study considering option		Must be carried out in conjunction with another traffic reduction measure to allow widening pavements Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD7	Introduce a bike hire scheme for the town.  <b>(Modal Shift)</b>	Transport Planning and Infrastructure  Promoting travel alternatives	Public cycle hire scheme  Promotion of cycling	County Council <b>(Head of Safer Homes and Communities)</b> /Partners	2019-2020	2021-22	Uptake of bike hire	(~£50K)	WG Transport Study considering option		This would integrate well with existing bike hire schemes (Brompton) as well as proposed Tywi Valley Path and Heart of Wales Line (rail).

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## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

<b>ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22</b> <b>(Extracts relevant to the Environment &amp; Public Protection Scrutiny remit)</b>		
<b>Purpose:</b> To give members an opportunity to review the Department's Business Plan.		
<b>To consider and comment on the following issues:</b> <u>Elements of the business plan relevant to this Scrutiny's remit as identified below:-</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways &amp; Transport – page 7</li> <li>• Waste &amp; Environmental Services – page 10</li> <li>• Business Improvement – page 13</li> </ul>		
<b>Reasons:</b> To show how the department, for which this Scrutiny has a remit, supports the Corporate Strategy.		
<b>To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision:     NO</b>		
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-</b> Cllr. Hazel Evans (Environment); Cllr Philip Hughes (Public Protection); Cllr Ann Davies (Communities and Rural Affairs)		
<b>Directorate</b> Environment  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Stephen Pilliner  Ainsley Williams  <b>Report Author:</b> Jackie M Edwards	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Highways & Transport  Head of Waste & Environmental Services  Business Improvement Manager	<b>Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 228150 <a href="mailto:SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224500 <a href="mailto:AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 228142 <a href="mailto:JMEdwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JMEdwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>



**ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021**

**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22**

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

This is the Environment Departmental Business Plan, but the following service areas are under the remit of this Scrutiny:

- Highways & Transport
- Waste & Environmental Services
- Business Improvement

Due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic this is an abbreviated plan, usually it would include a review section, but this has been covered in the Service COVID-19 Impact Assessments previously submitted to this Scrutiny.

The purpose of the business plan is nevertheless to show how this plan will support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy.

**OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS**

The impact of the pandemic and BREXIT create a lot of uncertainty in future planning and this plan is subject to change.

**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: Stephen Pilliner  
Ainsley Williams  
Jackie M Edwards

Head of Highways & Transport  
Head of Waste & Environmental Services  
Business Improvement Manager

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

- This departmental business plan shows how the department supports the Corporate Strategy and its Well-being Objectives.
- It will be supported by more detailed divisional business plans.
- The actions that support the Well-being Objectives and the steps taken to achieve them will be monitored throughout the year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on departments and business plans reflect this. There have been many lessons learnt and new ways of working developed that will be maintained.

## 2. Legal

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that functions of the council should maximise their contributions to the Well-being Objectives set by the Council. Our Well-being Objectives maximise our contribution to the seven national Goals of the Act and demonstrate the five ways of working.

## 1. Finance

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that we ensure that resources are allocated annually to meet our objectives. The budget breakdown has been reported to a previous meeting.

## 4. ICT

The Digital Transformation Strategy sets out the Council's strategic digital priorities and aspirations, and outlines what we plan to do to achieve our vision for a Digital Carmarthenshire.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Key risks are identified for each department and mitigating actions are outlined.

## 6. Staffing Implications

As identified within the plan.

## 7. Physical Assets

Some projects might be included in the business plan.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Stephen Pilliner**  
**Ainsley Williams**  
**Jackie M Edwards**

**Head of Highways & Transport**  
**Head of Waste & Environmental Services**  
**Business Improvement Manager**

**1.Local Member(s)** N/A

**2.Community / Town Council** N/A

**3.Relevant Partners** N/A

**4.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** N/A

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
 HOLDER(S) 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
Corporate Strategy		<u><b>Corporate Strategy 2018-2023</b></u>

# Environment Department's Extract of Summary Business Plan

for delivering our Corporate Strategy  
and Well-being Objectives

**MARCH 2021**

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

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[carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**  
**Carmarthenshire**  
County Council



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This is a Departmental Business Plan to show at a high level what the department will do to support the Corporate Strategy 2018-23 and the Well-being Objectives we have set. Within this framework we have examined our priorities for 2021/22 and the impact of COVID-19.

## Purpose of the plan

This departmental business plan has been produced to give staff, customers, and elected members and partners a guide to the services provided by the department. It translates strategic objectives, to service objectives, to individual staff targets. It provides an open and transparent way of showing what is to be achieved and how we plan to do this.

It shows how resources will be used to achieve objectives and the service implications of budgetary increases or reductions. It shows what we get for what we spend and if we are making the most of what we have. The plan also aims to demonstrate and provide assurance on service standards so that the service can be held to account.

This plan will be supported by more detailed Divisional Plans and Team Plans.

### Director's Overview

I would like to thank all staff and services for their excellent contribution, often under challenging circumstances. The impact of Covid-19 on the Environment Department in 2020 and ongoing impact has raised challenges in continuing to provide essential key services. The dedication, commitment, flexibility and personal resilience shown and applied by the department's staff deserve to be recognised and their aptitude and contribution cannot be overstated.

The department manages a diverse range of services which include highways and transport, waste collection and recycling, property maintenance and design, and planning. All divisions in the department have been working hard throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to maintain frontline services and support other departments. Operationally, we setup a central store for personal protective equipment for the authority, improved customer communications and developed an online Household Waste Recycling Centre booking system.

Our high priorities for this year are to address the recent years flooding in Carmarthenshire, and support and contribute to the Net Zero Carbon agenda. Our Active Travel plans will support the reduction in carbon, whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle. We will continue to review and implement our Waste Strategy to improve recycling rates. Our plans have been developed in line with the Future Generation sustainable development principles of planning for the long-term, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement.



## How the Department's Services support the Well-being Objectives

Well-Being Objective	Transportation & Highways Division	Property Division	Waste & Environmental Division	Planning Services Division	Specific focus for 2021/22
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 learners		✓			
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. Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county	✓	✓		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on SME</li> <li>• Foundational economy</li> <li>• Rural regeneration</li> <li>• Pentre Awel</li> </ul>
6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes		✓		✓	Local housing crisis - escalating costs and second homes
7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)	✓			✓	
8. Support community cohesion and resilience					
9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	✓		✓		
10. Looking after the environment now and for the future	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change with particular focus on flooding</li> <li>• Net Zero Carbon</li> </ul>
11. Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	✓				
12. Promoting Welsh Language and Culture	✓				Supporting national target of a million Welsh speakers
13. Better Governance and Use of Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	Embed tackling inequality across all of the Council's objectives



[HOS and Well-being Objective Map](#)

[Steps within Well-being Objectives](#)

Divisional Business Plans will include supporting actions for the Well-being Objectives.

## Environment Departmental Key Priorities

Ref	Key Priorities	By When?	By Whom?	WBO Ref
PA1	Consider how we are set up as a department. Are there better synergies of services within and across other departments? Allow collaborative working across <u>structures</u> and reduce duplication. Consider working patterns for all groups of staff e.g. operatives, supervisors and managers; Consider the potential for multi-functional workforce not necessarily confined to specific work types.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA2	Review the interaction and service provision with respect to Corporate Procurement Unit and the Departmental Procurement Unit. More emphasis needed on performance and contract management.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA3	Review and evaluation of suitable technology and software, to aid efficient operational delivery and provide links with management systems that will avoid duplication and allow easy extraction of management and performance data, access to real time data for customers and improve mobile working opportunities.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA4	Review current communication channels and identify improvements to enable timely and effective two-way communication with all colleagues across the Directorate. To include specific solutions to address difficulties with communicating with non-office based and part-time colleagues.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA5	Identify property assets the department requires. Work with Regeneration Division to re-evaluate the concept of a single depot to provide modern and functional facilities for our operational staff, including vehicles and plant parking/storage. Given the reduced need for office content due to potential for greater homeworking a new depot may be more viable. Also, consider options for centralising WES operations at a single depot, co-located with CWM Environmental at Nantycaws. Aspects of Highways/TMU operational delivery could also be considered. Carbon Zero agenda to be considered also, along with plant and machinery.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA6	Review managerial, supervisory and operational resource levels and skills to allow sufficient resilience. Ensure skills and competencies match the service delivery and response expectations and include support for change management and staff wellbeing. Response to emergency project work and sufficient resource to ensure longer term delivery.	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6
PA7	One team approach – disparity of work allocation during the Pandemic to resource projects. Inequality of teams and individuals supporting delivery of services needs to be addressed, such as	Mar 2022	Ruth Mullen	WBO 13 B6

	workloads/furlough/volunteering/capacity/willingness to work/flexibility.			
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## Corporate /Departmental Risks

Risk Ref or New?	Risk Score	Identified Risk
		<p>All risks can be profiled in the Divisional Plan. In this departmental plan the Division should identify:</p> <p>1. Any Risks that it has on the Corporate Risk Register</p> <p>2. Significant Risks (scored 16+) (3. Service High Risk(scored 12+) – see Divisional Plan)</p>
CRR190016	20	<p>Delivery of the Authority's waste management and recycling obligations (including meeting Landfill Targets)</p> <p>Owner: Ainsley Williams</p>
Control Measure		<p>Maintain current provision and infrastructure for recycling. Continue education and awareness activity to improve participation.</p> <p>Develop recycling strategy and direction of travel recycling rates of greater than 70% beyond 2025 (subject to publication of WGs new waste/beyond recycling strategy).</p>
CR19/20023	20	<p>Ash die back and the risk to public safety</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		<p>Officers developing strategy for managing risk for ash die back for trees adjacent to the highway. Identification and consideration of risk where Ash trees are located on Council land. Pilot survey proposed for Highways Inspectors to establish the extent of Ash tree adjacent to the highway. Chainsaw training for Council operatives, specific to Ash die back</p>
CRR190029	20	<p>Failure to deliver the Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local by 2030</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public participation strategy being produced.</li> <li>Petition scheme being developed.</li> <li>In discussions with WG on proposal in the Bill for webcasting formal meetings.</li> <li>Remote attendance of members being discussed with WG and Public-i</li> <li>Collaborative working with Principal councils - awaiting further guidance from WG.</li> <li>Corporate Joint Committees - Guidance awaiting from WG - LG engagement will be expected in developing regulation.</li> </ul>
CRR190032	20	<p>Flooding - Strategic risk: The effects of more frequent and intense storm conditions that compromise homes, businesses, essential infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood Risk Strategy and FRMPs</li> <li>Community plans in terms of self-help where practicable</li> <li>Continue to work with our professional partners (as a LLFA).</li> <li>S19 Reports and action plans.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-active maintenance programme for flood assets.</li> <li>• Making more use of contemporary flood data and information from partner agencies.</li> <li>• SAB for future development and TAN 15 compliance.</li> <li>• Effective communication strategy.</li> </ul>
CRR190033	20	<p>Flooding - Operational risk: The effects of more frequent and intense storm conditions that compromise our operational ability to respond to widespread and prolonged emergencies both in the immediate response phase and recovery phase of an incident.</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		Review maintenance methodology, continue to update winter maintenance plan, gather improved intelligence of the network performance. Present case for supporting additional capital investment
CRR190055	25	<p><b>Coronavirus – COVID19 : Impact on the Passenger Transport bus sector</b></p> <p>Ability of the sector to sustain financial stability in the short and long term and to source adequate staffing resources for the sector to support delivery of Passenger Transport services as a result of the impacts of the Covid 19 outbreak on the Department and Authority.</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		To work closely with Regional and Welsh Government partners, other Departments and the Passenger Transport sector to implement contingency plans and measures to deal with the financial and staffing impacts of the Covid 19 outbreak
New	20	<p>SAC Phosphate &amp; NRW Interim Planning Advice</p> <p>Owner: Ruth Mullen</p>
Control Measure		<p>Triage applications with grant implications as a matter of urgency along with other applications with economic benefits to see whether they can be progressed.</p> <p>Lobby and work with WG/NRW to get clarity around the scope of the requirements resulting from the Interim Advice to ensure that the authority can progress with determinations whilst still meeting its duties as a Competent authority in relation to the Habitat Regulations.</p>

## Summary Divisional Plans

The Environment Department has four Divisions providing front line services to the people of Carmarthenshire and a Business Support Unit and Performance, Analysis & Systems Team that assist and provide support to the four divisions in delivering their services.

Each division has full business plans containing full details within each service area.

The Division Profiles included are as follows:

- Highways & Transport Division
- Property Division
- Waste & Environmental Division
- Planning Services Division

### Transportation & Highways Summary Divisional Plan - HoS Steve Pilliner

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When?	By Who?	WBO Ref	Measure/ Outcomes
1	We will continue to work with national and regional bodies to develop the public transport network to support carbon reduction and economic development.	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO 11-B MF5-6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
2	We will support the Council's vision for Carmarthenshire to become the Cycling Hub of Wales by continuing to develop Active Travel infrastructure. We will also support the delivery of major on road cycle events. (13264)	31/03/2024	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A MF5-1	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report Capital Budget Monitoring
3	We will continue to support and contribute to the Weltag process with Welsh Government to support the delivery of a bypass for Llandeilo to improve air quality and safety in the town of Llandeilo. (13271)	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A MF5-4	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
4	We will develop the Highway Maintenance Policy to in accordance with the <b>Highways Asset Management Plan</b> .	31/03/2022	Richard Waters	WBO 11-A	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <a href="#">HAMP</a>
5	We will deliver the 3 year capital investment program for highway maintenance in accordance with the resources available. (14092)	31/03/2022	Chris Nelson	WBO11-A MF5-8	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <a href="#">HAMP</a>
6	Develop, maintain and deliver a 3 year capital maintenance programme of <b>highway bridge strengthening and replacement schemes</b> . Prioritising delivery of schemes with the resources available	31/03/2022	Chris Nelson	WBO 11-A	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <a href="#">HAMP</a>

7	We will continue to develop the infrastructure for the use of electric vehicles across the county including in rural areas. (13270)	31/03/2022	Simon Charles	WBO11-A MF5-6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report.  <b>13 EV Charging Points</b>
8	We will work with communities to submit bids to the Welsh Government to secure funding for the development of Safer Routes in Communities and Active Travel to improve walking routes to encourage more sustainable travel to assist with achieving the objective of decarbonisation. (14096)	31/03/2024	Thomas Evans	WBO11-E MF5-7	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report.  Capital Budget Monitoring
9	<p>We will update the Council's Fleet Strategy to reduce the level of Carbon and Nitrogen Dioxide emissions from our transport operations over the next five years.</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce fossil fuel use by introducing alternative fuel powered Ultra Low Emission vehicles.</li> <li>• Procure vehicles and plant using whole of life costing for procurement.</li> <li>• Maintain and service our vehicles in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.</li> <li>• Train our staff in new technologies.</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel through new ways of working</li> <li>• Explore the use of alternative vehicles such as e scooters</li> <li>• Use vehicle telematics to improve efficiency.</li> <li>• Promote Active Travel journeys.</li> </ul> <p>(14097)</p>	31/03/2022	Antonia Jones	WBO11-F MF5-5	<p>PIMS Qtr. Performance Report</p> <p>Net Zero Carbon-Progress Report</p> <p>Capital Budget Monitoring</p>
10	We will conclude the study into the feasibility of developing an overnight lorry park/s within the County. (13272)	31/03/2022	Simon Charles	WBO11-A MF5-9	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
11	We will continue to support the delivery of the Modernising Education Programme – redesigning networks to facilitate the movement of pupils as set out in our home to school transport policy.	31/03/2022	Alwyn Evans	WBO 11-C	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
12	Develop a joint working strategy between the Countryside Access Unit and the Countryside Operations/Ranger Unit to ensure an effective working partnership.	31/03/2022	Richard Waters	WBO 10-B	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
13	Work with community organisations to improve access to the network of footpaths and bridleways across the County. (14028)	31/03/2022	Alan Warner	WBO7-A MF5-68	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report



					Capital Budget Monitoring
14	We will review systems and processes across our business units and modernise our IT systems to improve efficiency.	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO 13-B6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
<b>Measures</b>					
Public Accountability Measures (PAMS) Guidance			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Road Safety Strategy			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP)			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Net Zero Carbon – Progress Report			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report.			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Council's Capital Programme Update			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Highway Footway and Road Safety Investment Programme Update.			<a href="#">Link</a>		
4	% of A roads in poor condition. (PAM/020) Target (5)	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A	PIMS Annual Performance Report
5	% of B roads in poor condition. (PAM/021) Target (5)	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A	PIMS Annual Performance Report
6	% of C roads in poor condition. (PAM/022) Target (12)	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A	PIMS Annual Performance Report
7	% of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non-principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition. (THS/012) Target (9.5%)	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO11-A	PIMS Annual Performance Report
8	The average number of calendar days taken to repair all street lamp failures during the year. (THS/009) Target 4 days	31/03/2022	Stephen Pilliner	WBO8-D	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report

## Waste & Environmental Summary Divisional Plan – HoS Ainsley Williams

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When?	By Who?	WBO Ref	Measure/ Outcome
1	We will continue to review and develop our waste treatment strategy options and recycling infrastructure needs to ensure that we can continue to meet our statutory recycling targets and landfill diversion targets from April 2018. (13256)	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E MF5-16	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/030 &amp; PAM/043</b>  Capital Budget Monitoring
2	We will continue to work with CWM Environmental to review our waste treatment/disposal arrangements in the immediate term and long term by securing appropriate arrangements for treating and disposing of our waste.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/030 &amp; PAM/043</b>  Capital Budget Monitoring
3	We will continue to review existing household recycling participation rates to maximise landfill diversion and increase recycling. Undertake a programme of door-stepping to advise and encourage householders to participate in our recycling schemes.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/030 &amp; PAM/043</b>  Capital Budget Monitoring
4	Undertake a full review of our waste collection methodology at the kerbside, with a view to assessing alternative models of delivery on a cost vs performance gain basis. This will include a consultation exercise with a range of stakeholders.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/030 &amp; PAM/043</b>  Capital Budget Monitoring  <a href="#">Kerbside Waste Collection Strategy Review</a>
5	Continue to target local environment quality issues, including dog fouling, fly-tipping and general litter blight. Review effectiveness of Public Space Protection Order.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/035</b>
6	Review and update our Public Convenience Strategy as necessary.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO9-B	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
7	We will work in accordance with our Flood Risk Management Plan and commence implementation as part of the strategy for identifying, managing and	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-D	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report

	mitigating flood risk within our communities.				
8	To undertake the role of Lead Local Flood Authority in investigating widescale incidents of flooding in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act. This will include the coordination of flood investigations where there are multiple sources of flood causations involving partner organisations as asset owners/Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). We will work with RMAs to find solutions or mitigations where appropriate and viable.	31/3/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-D, WBO8-C	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
9	Manage the determination of all Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) applications within the 7 or 12-week deadline Manage the determination of all Flood Defence Consent (FDC) applications within the 2-calendar month deadline; Establish and implement a process for the adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-D	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>Within 7 or 12 week deadline</b>
10	We will develop and produce a flood guidance document	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-D	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
11	Provide technical advice and support to Town Councils, Community Council's and Sporting Organisations in relation to transferred assets.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO13-B6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
12	Review all SLAs with internal clients on an annual basis (schools and Housing)	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO13-B6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
13	We will work with local stakeholders to manage the local environment quality in terms of managing blight and associated problems on public land by undertaking litter and fly-tipping management arrangements across the County, including enforcement work. This will include a particular focus on some areas of Llanelli that have specific problems.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO13-B6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report <b>PAM/035</b>
14	We will develop and implement a comprehensive plan to fully utilise the assets at Parc Howard. (13248)	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-A MF5-19	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
15	Review our operational arrangements for the cleansing service.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO13-B6	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report

16	We will review future plans for Nantycaws in relation to Net Zero Carbon.	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-C	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
<b>Measures</b>					
Public Accountability Measures (PAMS) Guidance			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report.			<a href="#">Link</a>		
Council's Capital Programme Update			<a href="#">Link</a>		
1	% of streets that are clean. (PAM/010). 2021/22 Target 92%	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
2	% of waste reused, recycled or composted. (PAM/030). 2021/22 64.5%	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
3	Average number of working days taken to clear fly tipping incidents. (PAM/035) 2021/22 Target (4 days)	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
4	Kilograms of residual waste generated per person. (PAM/043) 2021/22 Target 167.9Kg	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
5	The Cleanliness Index. (STS/005a) 2021/22 Target 71%	31/03/2022	Ainsley Williams	WBO10-E	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
6	Monitoring of Flooding measure to be developed				PIMS Qtr. Performance Report

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When?	By Who?	WBO Ref	Measure / Outcome
1	We will review departmental communication plan	31/03/2022	Jackie Edwards	WbO13-B5	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report
2	We will deliver the outcomes as identified from the Departmental Health & Wellbeing Group	31/03/2022	Jackie Edwards	WbO13-B5	PIMS Qtr. Performance Report

## APPENDIX 1 - Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

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

### A. The Sustainable Development Principle of the Act

The new law states that we must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. **The sustainable development principle** is

*‘... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’*

### B. The Five Ways of Working required by the Act

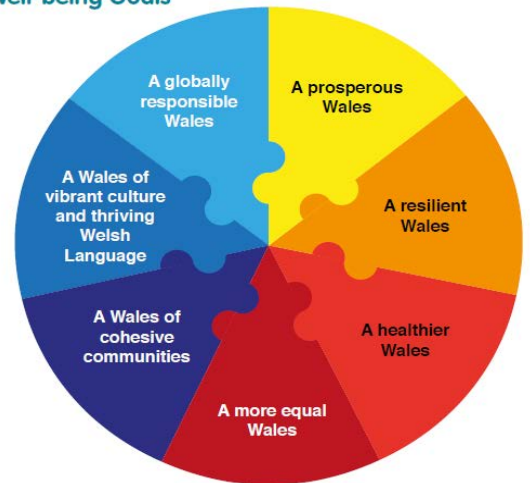
To show that we have applied the sustainable development principle we must demonstrate the following 5 ways of working:-

1. Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
2. Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their priorities;
3. Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them;
4. Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions;
5. Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.

### C. The Seven Well-being Goals of the Act

There are **7 well-being goals** in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards. We must work towards achieving all of them.

Well-being Goals



DRAFT



## Environment Department Budget

As agreed at a previous Scrutiny.

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## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

<b>COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22</b>		
<b>Purpose:</b> To give members an opportunity to review extracts relevant to this scrutiny committee in the Department's Business Plan.		
<b>To consider and comment on the following issues:</b> <u>Actions from the business plan relevant to this Scrutiny's remit as identified below:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Protection</li> </ul>		
<b>Reasons:</b> To show how the department supports the Corporate Strategy.		
<b>To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision:</b> NO		
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-</b> Cllr. Phillip Hughes (Public Protection)		
Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Angie Bowen	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Homes and Safer Communities  Investment and Income Manager	<b>Tel Nos.</b> <b>E Mail Addresses:</b>  JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01554 899285  AnBowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01554 899292

# ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

## COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The following actions relating to Public Protection are from the Communities Departmental Business Plan, these are relevant to the portfolio of this Scrutiny Committee:

### PUBLIC PROTECTION

Extract from the Communities Business Plan for the Homes and Safer Communities Division:

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When? Or EOY target	By Who?	Well-being Objective
1	Ensuring compliance with the external regulated reports recommendations.	31/03/2022	Jonathan Morgan	<b>HSCBP/WBO13</b> <i>Better Governance and Use of Resources</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of current regulatory actions in being as well as regulatory reports throughout the year e.g., CIW, FSA</li> </ul>			
2	Develop a new pro-active Public Health and Infection Control Service that will build on what we have learned from the COVID experiences and monitor the rate of covid-19 infections.	30/09/2021	Jonathan Morgan	<b>HSCBP/WBO7</b> <i>Help people live healthy lives</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of new Public Health and Infection Control service</li> </ul>			
3	Develop a service delivery plan in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement	31/07/21	Sue Watts	<b>HSCBP/WBO8</b> <i>Support community cohesion, resilience &amp; safety</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The service delivery plan has been approved and implemented</li> </ul>			
4	Develop our Air Quality Delivery Plan to protect and improve Air Quality in the County. This will primarily focus on our Air Quality Management Areas and seek to embrace any positive experiences from the COVID pandemic	30/09/2021	Sue Watts	<b>HSCBP/WBO10</b> <i>Look after the environment now and for the future</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Air Quality Delivery Plan has been approved and implemented</li> </ul>	30/09/2021		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce and Annual Progress Report on Air Quality for WG</li> </ul>	31/03/2022		

5	Continue to be pro-active in the trading standards field (e.g., financial exploitation, licensing, POCA, COVID enforcement) ensuring we do as much as is possible to protect the public.	31/03/2022	Roger Edmunds	<b>HSCBP/WBO8</b> <i>Support community cohesion, resilience &amp; safety</i>
	Measured by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of Proactive Covid-19 Visits/Enforcement that resulted in improvement, Closure, and Fixed Penalty notices being served.</li> <li>• Financial Exploitation – the No of ‘True call’ units fitted at residents properties in a financial year</li> <li>• Financial Exploitation – the No of MoU’s signed with other LA’s who adopt CCC FESS</li> <li>• POCA - the No of MoU’s signed with Partner Agencies who contract with CCC to carry out their POCA function on their behalf</li> </ul>			
6	Intelligence monitoring of the daily rate and other factors around enforcement activity. Escalating to IMT should the rate exceed 50 per 100,000 per head of population.	31/03/2022	Adele Ludwig	<b>HSCBP/WBO8</b> <i>Support community cohesion, resilience &amp; safety</i>
	Measured by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carmarthenshire Incident rate per 100k – Number of cases over a rolling 7 days, and a comparison to previous 7-day period.</li> </ul>			

### Planned Improvements for 2021/22

We know that there is a lot more to do and that Covid has temporarily delayed some of our programmes. However, by implementing the re-structure (**Action 2**), we will ensure that we set ourselves

up for the post COVID world. We will continue to be pro-active in the trading standards field and Environmental Protection through **Actions 2, 3, and 5**. We will contribute to WBO10 through **Action 4** by developing our Air Quality Delivery Plan to protect and improve Air Quality in the County, looking after the environment now and for the future.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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# 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:** Jonathan Morgan Head of Homes and Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- The departmental business plan extracts show how the department supports the Corporate Strategy and its Well-being Objectives.
- They will be supported by more detailed divisional business plans/action plans.
- The actions will be monitored throughout the year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on departments and business plans reflect this. There have been many lessons learnt and new ways of working developed that will be maintained.

## 2. Legal

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that functions of the council should maximise their contributions to the Well-being Objectives set by the Council. Our Well-being Objectives maximise our contribution to the seven national Goals of the Act and demonstrate the five ways of working.

## 2. Finance

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that we ensure that resources are allocated annually to meet our objectives. The budget breakdown has been reported to a previous meeting.

## 4. ICT

The Digital Transformation Strategy sets out the Council's strategic digital priorities and aspirations, and outlines what we plan to do to achieve our vision for a Digital Carmarthenshire.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Key risks are identified for each department and mitigating actions are outlined.

*Key Divisional Risks are currently under review to reflect the up-to-date Covid-19 situation, Corporate and Executive Board Member Priorities. Risks will be aligned with service areas and service leads and will be re-published in V.2 following implementation of the Divisional Re-structure.*

Risk Ref or New?	Risk Score After control measures	<b>Identified Risk</b> All risks can be profiled in the Divisional Plan. In this departmental plan the Division should identify: 1. Any Risks that it has on the Corporate Risk Register 2. Significant Risks (scored 16+)	See Actions above
New		Manage changes in environmental health, trading standards and licensing regulatory requirements. Failure to do so will result in:  Council not meeting its legislative requirements in these key regulatory services	A3 Sue Watts
New		Ensuring we continue to have a robust public health response and infection control measures in place.  Failure to have a response and measures in place will result in:  COVID rates increasing and the impact this will have on the general population, businesses, and schools; and  The economic recovery of the County being slowed down; and  Failure to closely monitor incident rates has implications on the ongoing risk of outbreak, community health and economic recovery of the County	A2/A3/ A5/A6 Jonathan Morgan Sue Watts Roger Edmunds Adele Lodwig

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below	
Signed: Jonathan Morgan                      Head of Homes and Safer Communities	
1. Local Member(s) N/A	
2. Community / Town Council N/A	
3. Relevant Partners N/A	
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A	
EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES

<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b> <b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>  <b>THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:</b>		
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy		<u>Corporate Strategy 2018-2023</u>



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## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

**Purpose:**

To give members an opportunity to review extracts relevant to this scrutiny committee in the Department's Business Plan.

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

Actions from the business plan relevant to this Scrutiny's remit as identified below:

- Community Safety
- Net Zero Carbon

**Reasons:**

To show how the department supports the Corporate Strategy.

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

Cllr. Ann Davies (Communities and Rural Affairs)

<p><b>Directorate</b></p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b></p> <p>Noelwyn Daniel</p> <p>Jason Jones</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b></p> <p>Gwyneth Ayers</p> <p>Kendal Davies</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of ICT &amp; Corporate Policy</p> <p>Head of Regeneration</p> <p>Corporate Policy &amp; Partnership Manager</p> <p>Sustainable Development Manager</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos.</b></p> <p><b>E Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:JKDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JKDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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# ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The following two actions relating to Community Safety and Net Zero Carbon are from the Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan, these are relevant to the portfolio of this Scrutiny Committee:

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

Extract from the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan for the ICT & Corporate Policy Division

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When? Or EOY target	By Who?	Well-being Objective
1	We will ensure the Council fulfils its duties relating to the current Contest Strategy (counter terrorism) and respond to any duties as they arise.	31/03/2022	Gwyneth Ayers	8 - Support community cohesion, resilience & safety
2	To work with departments to ensure compliance with the new corporate CCTV policy	31/03/2022	Gwyneth Ayers	
3	To work with departments to deliver the White Ribbon campaign action plan	31/03/2022	Gwyneth Ayers	
4	To ensure progress against the Safer Communities Partnership Action Plan	31/03/22	Gwyneth Ayers	

### NET ZERO CARBON

Extract from Chief Executive's Department Business Plan for the Regeneration Division:

Ref	Key Actions and Measures	By When?	By Who?	Well-being Objective
21.	<i>We will implement the Action Plan contained in the <u>Route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030</u></i>	April 2030	Kendal Davies	10 - Look After the Environment Now and In the Future

Various departments contribute to the 28 Actions in the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan, including the Chief Executive's Department (Regeneration Division), for example:

#	Key Actions and Measures	By When?	By Who?	Well-being Objective
1	We shall deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy / carbon savings (NZC-01)	April 2021	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13
2	We will continue to extend the use of 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data and develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of action plan (NZC-05 & 06)	April 2022	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13
3	We will continue to work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects (NZC-13)	March 2022	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13
4	We shall explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting (NZC-15)	Sept 2021	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13
5	We shall continue to work with Carmarthenshire PSB partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction and Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales. (NZC-19 & 20)	March 2022	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13
6	We will continue to work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects (NZC-23)	March 2022	Kendal Davies	WBO10-C MF5-13

The County Council approved a NZC Plan on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Action NZC-28 of this Plan requires performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.

The first Annual Progress Report was received by EPP Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and was subsequently approved by Executive Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

Extract from Report to EPP Scrutiny Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021:

*...As referenced in our NZC Plan, Welsh Government have an ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030 and were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, this Guidance is not yet available, and the delay has impacted on the following Actions in the NZC Plan which were dependent on it being published in April 2020:*

Ref	Action
NZC-06	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of annual review of action plan
NZC-07	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's street lighting as part of annual review of action plan
NZC-09	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's fleet mileage as part of annual review of action plan
NZC-12	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's business mileage as part of annual review of action plan
NZC-16	Develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of annual review of action plan
NZC-27	Review action plan following publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new national carbon reporting framework

*We know that Welsh Government's reporting methodologies will differ from our current approach, and until we have the specific detail there appears to be little merit in setting targets etc. as these will inevitably have to be reviewed / amended when the Guidance is published. Following the publication of the reporting Guidance, we will review our carbon reporting methodologies and will set targets incorporating the new Guidance. This will not prevent us from progressing work outlined in our NZC Plan to reduce our carbon footprint...*

Welsh Government published the 'Public sector net zero reporting guide' on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and we are currently reviewing our carbon reporting methodologies and will be proposing targets that incorporate the new Guidance.

**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:** Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT & Corporate Policy  
Jason Jones Head of Regeneration

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

- The departmental business plan extracts show how the department supports the Corporate Strategy and its Well-being Objectives.
- They will be supported by more detailed divisional business plans/action plans.
- The actions will be monitored throughout the year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on departments and business plans reflect this. There have been many lessons learnt and new ways of working developed that will be maintained.

## 2. Legal

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that functions of the council should maximise their contributions to the Well-being Objectives set by the Council. Our Well-being Objectives maximise our contribution to the seven national Goals of the Act and demonstrate the five ways of working.

## 2. Finance

The Well-being Future Generations Act (2015) requires that we ensure that resources are allocated annually to meet our objectives. The budget breakdown has been reported to a previous meeting.

## 4. ICT

The Digital Transformation Strategy sets out the Council's strategic digital priorities and aspirations, and outlines what we plan to do to achieve our vision for a Digital Carmarthenshire.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Key risks are identified for each department and mitigating actions are outlined.



# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel    Head of ICT & Corporate Policy  
                  Jason Jones        Head of Regeneration

**1.Local Member(s)** N/A

**2.Community / Town Council** N/A

**3.Relevant Partners** N/A

**4.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** N/A

**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
Corporate Strategy		<u><b>Corporate Strategy 2018-2023</b></u>

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Executive Board Member
Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report	This item will provide a report on the progress against the actions and measures in the 2020/21 Well-being Objectives delivery Plan relevant to the Committee's remit.	This item will enable the Committee to consider and comment upon progress achieved.  To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	N/A
Highways Maintenance Manual	The Highways Maintenance Manual sets policies for maintenance of the highways network. The policies are a key part of our Highways Asset Management Plan. It is a portfolio of policies that will be developed over time.	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the report.	Councillor Hazel Evans
Flood Response	The purpose of the report is to provide an overview (for information) of how the Council responds to flood events both during the event itself and thereafter during the recovery phase.	The Committee is being requested to consider and note.	Councillor Hazel Evans
E&PP Scrutiny Committee Actions Update report.	An update on the actions and requests from previous Environmental and Scrutiny Committee meetings.	The Committee is being requested to consider and note progress.	N/A

**Items to be circulated under a separate cover to Scrutiny Committee members**  
*(as agreed at the Committee's Forward Work Programme development session on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.*

Equestrian Strategy	One of the key actions in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan was to develop an Equestrian Strategy. The strategy will review the sector contribution to the local economy and include an action plan to support the sector relative to resources available.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Councillor Hazel Evans
Local Environment Quality	This report sets out how the Waste and Environmental Services Division of the Environment Department undertakes litter management activity for public spaces within its portfolio.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Councillor Hazel Evans
Graffiti Policy	This report sets out the process of dealing with cases of graffiti for public and private property across the County.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Councillor Hazel Evans
Budget Monitoring [April to June 2021]  And End of Year report [2020-2021]	This item enables members to undertake their monitoring role of the Environment Department, Public Protection Services and Community Safety Team's revenue and capital budgets.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Councillor David Jenkins
Public Rights of Way Network Hierarchy	The PROW network is over 2400km in length. The PROW hierarchy will set out a risk-based approach which takes account of factors such as promotion, footfall and level of access. It will provide a basis for the Countryside Access team to efficiently deliver the service during a time of increasing demand and limited financial resources.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Councillor Hazel Evans

**Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover  
since the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

In line with the Environmental and Public Protection Committee's decision to receive and scrutinise budget monitoring reports outside of the formal committee process, the following report was forwarded to all members of the Scrutiny Committee by e-mail on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021:

- Budget Monitoring Report (1st April 2020 – 28th February 2021)

No comments/queries were received in relation to the abovementioned report.

## ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 APRIL 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor J.D. James (Chair)

**Councillors:** J.M. Charles, T.A.J. Davies, J.A. Davies, K. Davies, S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, E. Morgan, B.D.J. Phillips, J.S. Phillips, D. Thomas, A.D.T. Speake and A. Vaughan Owen.

Councillor D. Cundy - Substitute for Councillor P. Edwards.

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor C.A. Campbell, Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs;  
Councillor H.A.L. Evans, Executive Board Member for Environment;  
Councillor P.M. Hughes, Executive Board Member for Public Protection.

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

R. Mullen, Director of Environment;  
R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services;  
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;  
S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways;  
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;  
R. Edmunds, Consumer and Business Affairs Manager;  
K. Harrop, Community Safety Manager;  
D.W. John, Environmental Services Manager;  
S.E. Watts, Environmental Protection Manager;  
R. James, Group Accountant;  
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;  
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;  
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer;  
A. Kenyon, Senior Performance Management Officer;  
J. Corner, Technical Officer;  
A. Eynon, Principal Translator;  
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

**Virtual Meeting: 11:00am - 1:30pm**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. Edwards.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

There were no declarations of any prohibited party whips made.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair informed the Committee that for various reasons it was necessary to change the order of the remaining business on the agenda and was taken in the order of Item 5, Item 9, Item 4, Item 6, Item 7, Item 8, Item 10, Item 11 and Item 12. However, these minutes reflect the order of business itemised on the agenda for the meeting.

### **4. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report presented by the Head of Financial Services on the 2020/21 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring reports for the Environmental and Public Protection Services for the period up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The reported that the revenue budget was projecting to be over the approved budget by £486k as detailed within Appendix A appended to the report, the capital budget appended at Appendix D of the report detailed the main variances on capital schemes, indicating a forecasted net spend of £10,062k compared with a working net budget of £11,410k thus giving a -£1,348k variance.

In addition, it was reported that the expectation is that at year end £713k of Managerial savings against a target of £1,176k was forecasted to be delivered. Furthermore, Policy savings of £139k put forward for 2020/21 were projected to be on target.

There were no queries or comments raised in relation to this report.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report be received.**

### **5. TASK AND FINISH REPORT - TRADING STANDARDS SERVICES - FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION SAFEGUARDING SCHEME (FESS)**

The Committee received a revised report of the Task & Finish Group it had established on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019, to review the Trading Standards Services – Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS).

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group explained that the recommendations contained within the report had been formulated by the Group following the consideration of a range of evidence over a series of meetings held between July 2019 and April 2021, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic there was a period of hiatus in the review during 2020.

The scope of the review was to explore whether the portfolio of crime prevention, victim support and education activities consolidated within the FESS initiative provided an effective strategy to help combat fraud victimisation and promoted corporate health and wellbeing objectives.

A member of the Task and Finish group commented that the review had been both interesting and informative and commended the Trading Standards Service for all the invaluable work in relation to the FESS initiative.

There were no queries or comments raised.

**RESOLVED that the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for its consideration.**

## **6. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22**

The Committee considered the Environment Departmental Draft Business Plan 2021/22 in relation to those services falling within its remit as follows:

- Highways and Transport
- Waste and Environmental Services
- Business Improvement

The Executive Board Member for Environment presented the report and explained that the Business Plan provided a summary of the key actions and measures required to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and the Council's Well-being Objectives and was supported by detailed divisional plans subject to regular review.

It was reported that due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic the plan was an abbreviated plan, as it would usually include a review section, which was covered in the Service COVID-19 Impact Assessments previously submitted to this Scrutiny.

The following issues/questions were raised on the report:

- Clarification was sought on actions and what success would look like. It was asked about the key actions and how the measures that attribute the actions linked?

The Director of Environment explained that this year, the business plans were presented in a different manner due to the pandemic. The consequence of the pandemic impacted on the normal timing of the development of Business Plans as officers were required to concentrate on responding to the pandemic. Therefore, a corporate decision was taken to present the tabulated version of the plan which was different to the what the Committee had received in previous years which included the narrative to provide the background to the key action.

In addition, the Director of Environment explained the purpose of Business Plans in that the business plans enabled departments to identify the areas of work it would continue to carry out, the importance of this was to ensure that in the event of efficiency savings the plan would explain how services would continue to be delivered. In addition, the plans were utilised as a platform to set out aspirations and explore new avenues.



- In response to a comment raised implying that the Business Plan was very generic and more details on timescales would be beneficial, the Director of Environment emphasised that the 2021/22 Business Plan had been developed in a summary format and should the Committee have general feedback on the way that the Business Plans had been written, further discussions would be necessary. The Director of Environment stated that she welcomed the Committees views in relation to the development of future business plans, however in reference to this plan, it would be beneficial to receive information on which actions the Committee would like to receive more detail on. The Head of Highways and Transportation provided the Committee with verbal update in relation to the developments to the Transport sector.
- In light of the comments raised regarding the content of the business plans, the Head of Homes & Safer Communities stated that Departmental Business Plans were high level and were backed up by Divisional Business Plans which provide more detail. However, he had noted the comments and would consider the actions further ensuring that each has a corresponding measure in order to assess the impact of an action.
- Reference was made to the measures within the Business Plan. It was identified that the measures used percentages throughout the plan and was commented that percentages as a measure does not always provide the true story. It was asked if it was possible to change percentages to numbers. The Director of Environment stated that the measures were expressed corporately using percentages, however acknowledged that it was important to also understand the numbers and agreed that percentages could portray a different picture in relation to low numbers. In order to provide greater clarity, the Director of Environment stated that she would feed this point back to the performance team to enquire if there was a way to express results using numbers in addition to percentages.
- A further concern was raised in relation to the measures, with specific reference to B and C class rural roads. It was raised that work on these roads had been promised over a number of years but had not yet been completed. It was asked how these could be improved going forward and agreed more clarity in the measures was necessary. The Head of Highways and Transportation explained that the details on the condition of roads were contained within the separate Highway Asset Management Plan and condition report which provides a review of the network of roads in Carmarthenshire considered by Scrutiny Committee Members on an annual basis. In addition, the ever-decreasing budget does have an impact upon the work on improving roads however, the department continuous to seek grant funding.
- In response to the comments raised regarding the actions and measures, the Senior Performance Management Officer explained that the review process would entail a quarterly monitoring report presented to Committee which would then be fed into the Annual report.

- In response to comments raised, the Director of Environment suggested that Committee Members consider the Divisional Plans which contain more details.
- It was commented that there seemed to be an inconsistent approach between departments.

In light of the comments raised, the Chair proposed that the committee does not receive the Environment Departmental Draft Business Plan 2021/22 and seek that further information be included within the actions and measures addressing the comments raised and for the Environment Departmental draft Business Plan 2021/22 be submitted for consideration at the next meeting. This was duly seconded.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that further information be included in the actions and measures to address the comments raised and that the Environment Departmental Draft Business Plan 2021/22 be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

#### **7. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22**

To be consistent with the comments raised in Minute 6, the Committee;

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that further information be included in the actions and measures and that the Department for Communities Departmental Business Plan 2021/22 be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

#### **8. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22**

To be consistent with the comments raised in Minute 6, the Committee;

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that further information be included in the actions and measures and that the Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan 2021/22 be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

#### **9. FUTURE KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a report on the Future Kerbside Waste Collection Strategy which was presented by the Executive Board Member for Environment. The report provided the future options and route for future service delivery for the kerbside collection of waste and recycling.

The report provided information in relation to the considerations, measures, strategy options and sought the Committee's opinions and views on the following service considerations:

- the move to weekly recycling collections;
- the change to three weekly restricted residual collections;
- the collection of glass at the kerbside;
- the collection methodology of recycling.

It was reported that one of the drivers for change was that whilst the current service model had enabled the Authority to exceed the statutory 64% target, further change was required to meet the 70% target from 2024/25 and the potential 80% target by 2030.

In addition to the report, the Committee received a supporting presentation delivered by the Environmental Services Manager on 'Shaping the Future of Waste Collections in Carmarthenshire'. The presentation provided information in relation to the considerations and covered the following:-

- Performance
- Challenges
- Operational Challenges
- Contamination
- Policy
- Beyond recycling
- Welsh Government Waste Collections Blueprint
- Kerbside vehicle
- Recycling Service Options
- Recycling frequency
- Results and conclusions
- Workforce and Public Engagement

The Committee noted that the service was no longer fit for purpose and as a consequence generated operational challenges. In addition, it was reported that currently Carmarthenshire was the only Authority in Wales which does not deliver a weekly dry recycling service, or collect glass at the kerbside.

In relation to the methodology, the Blueprint (Kerbsort) collection methodology was the only collection method which could potentially achieve Welsh Government funding subsidy.

The following issues/questions were raised on the report:

- It was commented that the proposed new kerbside glass collection would reduce the requirement for glass centre recycling points which was increasingly being utilised as a location for fly-tipping.
- In response to a concern raised in relation to the change in frequency from weekly to fortnightly collection of nappies and incontinence waste, the Waste Services Manager explained that all Absorbent Hygiene Product clients would be contacted and their needs assessed with the potential to provide with wheeled bins if necessary. It was reported that potentially there were 16,000 AHP clients and the cost of weekly collections would be significant.
- It was asked, which methodology was the preferred option? The Waste Services Manager stated that it was a matter for the Committee and the Council to explore and agree on the preferred method. However, in relation to cost it was highlighted that the Blueprint (Kerbsort) collection methodology was the only collection method that could potentially achieve Welsh Government funding subsidy. In addition, the Blueprint collection proposal offered the greatest carbon benefit.

- In relation to the glass kerbside collection service, a concern was raised that boxes of glass left at the kerbside would encourage vandalism. The Director of Environment stated that interference in waste was present despite the method used. However, there was a need to be alert to such incidences and in order to manage this, clear communication was necessary and implement appropriate management of those areas where vandalism occurs.
- In response to a query raised in relation to the size of the Blueprint Kerbsort collection vehicle, the Environmental Services Manager explained that to compliment the larger vehicles, smaller vehicles would be available to make collections within rural areas. In response to a further query regarding the suitability of the small vehicles in rural areas for use on narrow roads, the Environmental Services Managers reported that the use of smaller vehicles in restricted areas had been successful in other Authorities.
- A query was raised in relation to the capacity of the independent compartments located within the Blueprint Kerbsort Collection vehicle used to keep materials separated and what would happen should one compartment reach its maximum capacity before the others? The Environmental Services Manager acknowledged that this was likely to occur particularly in the case of cardboard, therefore it would be necessary to undertake a thorough design of the methodology and its operation prior to any commencement.
- Concern was raised that should the collection of black bags be reduced to one a week this could encourage an increase in contamination. The Environmental Services Manager explained that an initial kerbside sort would be carried out by the collection operatives, any identified cross contamination would be managed by way of a letter of an explanation to the householder providing the reasons for non-collection, with the offending waste being left.
- The Environmental Services Manager, in response to a query regarding a consultation process confirmed that a full public and staff consultation process seeking views and comments would be carried out accordingly.
- In relation to the close proximity of some properties, it was commented that collection boxes could present an issue regarding space on the kerbside. The Environmental Services Manager explained that there were a number of options of what the design of the kerbside sort containers would be. An example of which could be the provision of a stacked trolley style and possibly an introduction of communal pickup points both of which would work to minimise the spread of waste containers on the kerbside.
- In response to a concern raised regarding reduction of black bag collections the Head of Waste and Environmental Services explained that in excess of 40% of the contents of black bag waste was recyclable and if households managed waste recycling successfully, 3 weekly collections should suffice.

- A concern was raised regarding the probability of the County experiencing an increase in fly-tipping due to the reduction in black bag collections. The Environmental Services Manager stated that in terms of service change and to reduce instances of fly tipping additional staff resources would be in place to manage communications, public engagement and enforcement.
- In response to a comment regarding the placement of and the length of time dog/cat waste within black bags prior to collection, the Director of Environment appreciated that this matter could become unpleasant and therefore would explore how other Authorities had managed this issue with a view to incorporating an appropriate solution into the design of the future system.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Executive Board continue to develop and consult on appropriate delivery options to meet the statutory targets and address challenges as contained within the report.**

#### **10. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

The Committee noted the non-submission of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) – Future Delivery Plan which had been deferred to be considered the next Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the non-submission of scrutiny report be noted.**

#### **11. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee considered the list of forthcoming items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and was afforded the opportunity to request for any specific information that Members may wish to include within the reports.

The Chair informed the Committee that the report on the Place Making Charter was due to be considered by the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as it resided under the remit of Communities. In light of this, this report would be removed from this committees Forward Work Programme.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that with the removal of the Place Making Charter report, the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be noted.**

#### **12. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be signed as a correct record.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**