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**THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL MEETING** OF THE **COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD **AT 10.00 AM, ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2022** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Emma Bryer</b>
<b>Telephone (direct line):</b>	<b>01267 224029</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></b>

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

# AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.
3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.
4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 8TH DECEMBER, 2021 5 - 12
5. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 13 - 24
6. APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 25 - 32
7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
  - 7.1 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT - 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021 33 - 50
8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE:-
  - 8.1 6TH DECEMBER, 2021 51 - 56
  - 8.2 20TH DECEMBER, 2021 57 - 62
9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).
10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:-
  - 10.1 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GLYNOG DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN  

It is our understanding that there has been a large increase in materials and labour costs since the pandemic, with significant implications for your capital programme inc Modernisation Education Programme. Can you confirm whether all the school proposals in last years budget will be progressed as originally planned?
  - 10.2 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GLYNOG DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN  

It has been the plan to build new schools in Ammanford for a number of years, with the previous Labour administration allocating capital funding for the project prior to 2015. Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the new Ammanford schools?

**10.3 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GLYNOG DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN**

Could the Cabinet Member indicate whether land has been purchased for the new Ammanford school?

**10.4 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GLYNOG DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN**

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the new Ysgol Dewi Sant?

**10.5 QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GLYNOG DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN**

Parents, pupils and campaigners ran a successful campaign for both Mynyddydgareg and Blaenau to be saved from closure. Both schools could benefit from immediate investment to prove their sustainability going forward. Will you be including capital investment this year to improve the buildings and look at making them 3-11 schools?

**11. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:-**

**11.1 THE LABOUR GROUP HAS NOMINATED COUNCILLOR DOT JONES TO REPLACE COUNCILLOR AMANDA FOX ON APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE A**

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

**12.1 ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 25TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**13.1 ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22ND DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.2 EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**13.3 SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 29TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**13.4 SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 20TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.5 DYFED PENSION FUND COMMITTEE - 3RD DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.6 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 9TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.7 POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.8 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 13TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13.9 COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 14TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13 .10 LICENSING COMMITTEE - 15TH DECEMBER, 2021**

**13 .11 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 17TH DECEMBER,  
2021**

## COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)

**Councillors:**

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

**Also Present:**

W. Walters, Chief Executive;  
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;  
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);  
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;  
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;  
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;  
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;  
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;  
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services;  
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;  
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;  
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer;  
A. Eynon, Principal Translator;  
R. Morris, Members Support Officer;  
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer (Minute Taker).

**Virtual Meeting:- 10:00am - 11:45am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Akhtar, S.A. Curry, A Fox, K. Madge, E. Morgan, S. Matthews, B.D.J. Phillips, B.A.L. Roberts and L.M. Stephens.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
S.J.G. Gilasbey	8.1 – To receive the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021.	Councillor Gilasbey has a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the review of the Primary Education Provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian Areas, a matter within Minute Item 5.1. Cllr Gilasbey had a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak on the matter but not vote.

## 3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair conveyed his best wishes to Councillor Eryl Morgan who had recently been admitted to hospital following a fall. On behalf of the Council, the Chair wished Councillor Morgan a speedy recovery.
- The Chair conveyed his best wishes to Councillor Mair Stephens who is currently unwell.
- The Chair wished to express a many happy returns to Miss Ethel Lewis who turned 100 on 1st December. Miss Lewis, with the support of her family and meals on wheels lives independently in her family home in Llandeilo.
- The Chair extended his congratulations to Roger Thomas who had been appointed the new Chief Fire Officer for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Mr Thomas would start his new role upon the retirement of the current Chief Fire Officer Chris Davies in April 2022.
- The Leader, with the Chairs permission provided an update on the Covid situation in Carmarthenshire. The Leader highlighted that the first case of Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19, had been confirmed in Wales as announced by Public Health Wales last Friday. From experience it was likely that the number of cases would increase as the new variant proceeds to spread throughout communities. There was little confirmation of the transfer rate of the variant, but it had reached a point of community transfer in England which made it inevitable that it would reach Wales and Carmarthenshire in time.

In providing Members with an overview of the advice provided by Public Health Wales, the Leader re-iterated points raised in previous meetings that best form of protection against the new variants of Coronavirus would be to take up the offer of a vaccine. It was confirmed that as of Monday, all adults in Wales would be offered a vaccination by the end of January, the Leader encouraged all present to make every effort to attend their appointment and take up the offer.

Members were informed that the Welsh Government were expected to make an announcement later this week and that it was likely that new measures would be introduced.

Members were provided with an overview of the numbers across Wales. As of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Wales had an incident rate of 484.2 per 100,000. It was reported that the rate in Carmarthenshire had decreased from 483.1 cases per 100,000 to 421.7 cases per 100,000.

Furthermore, it was encouraging to note that as of the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 over 695,850 vaccines had been provided across the Hywel Dda region of which over 106,000 were booster vaccines.

**4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

**5. ADDENDUM TO THE INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT (IAA) OF THE WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP (WPP)**

The Council received a report which provided the required addendum to the inter-authority agreement (IAA) of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) for approval.

It was reported that the IAA had been reviewed by the WPP Officer Working Group and WPP's legal advisers Burges Salmon to enable:

- a scheme member representative to sit on the WPP Joint Governance Committee,
- the appointment of Allocators for the Private Market Sub-funds,
- various other minor changes or updates since the WPP was established.

An addendum to allow for the changes was included within schedule 1 of the report.

**RESOLVED** that the addendum to the Inter-Authority Agreement of the Wales Pension Partnership be approved.

**6. SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Chair announced that this item had been withdrawn to allow for further discussion to be taken place by the Constitutional Review Working Group (CRWG).

**7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-**

**7.1. REINSTATEMENT OF PUBLIC ACCESS AT GILFACH IAGO**

The Council received a report which provided a proposal to progress the completion of public access reinstatement at the Gilfach Iago, the former opencast site by securing funding and undertaking required legal processes.

It was reported that if approval was not given, Celtic Energy would remain liable for the current planning conditions in relation to reinstatement of roads and the public rights of way across the site, roads that were not needed. In addition, as stated within the report, there was a high risk that Celtic Energy would not deliver satisfactory reinstatement at this juncture.

After having explored all options for reinstating public access across the former opencast site, the recommendation outlined within the report was considered the best possible option available in terms of deliverability and finance. It was therefore recommended that the proposal be approved, and the Authority take responsibility to ensure appropriate public access was restored in a timely manner.

A query was raised regarding Celtic Energy and if the Council was confident in receiving a payment. It was stated that in accordance with the recommended solution, as stated within the report, Celtic Energy Ltd have been party to negotiating the solution and therefore it is anticipated will fully comply with the agreement with the Council.

**RESOLVED that:**

**7.1.1. the proposal to apply to the Magistrate's court for reclassification of three unclassified roads to bridleway status be approved;**

**7.1.2. the financial settlement offered by Celtic Energy to take responsibility for and to undertake all public access reinstatement works across the former opencast site be accepted.**

**8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE:-**

**8.1. 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

[NOTE: Cllr. S.J.G. Gilasbey having earlier declared an interest in this item remained in the meeting for its consideration but then left prior to the vote. Cllr Gilasbey had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak but not vote.]



In response to a query raised in relation to minute number 5.1, it was confirmed that the review of ALL schools in Carmarthenshire had commenced as part of the Modernising Education Programme (MEP). However, due to the complex nature of the review, it was not yet determined when the review would be completed. Members were assured that they would be kept updated with its progress.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 be received.**

**8.2. 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021 be received.**

**9. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION:-**

**9.1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN JAMES**

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

“That this Council:

- 1) Acknowledges the great efforts and professionalism the Dyfed Powys Police Force makes in carrying out its duties
- 2) Further recognises how important that calls from members of the public are in assisting the Force by reporting incidents and giving intelligence on issues of crime and disorder.
- 3) Notes that residents in Carmarthenshire are finding it difficult to access the 101-call system of reporting due to long delays in answering.

Council therefore:

Respectfully calls on the Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police to initiate a revamp of the 101-call system that will reinstall the confidence of the residents of Carmarthenshire in using this system which in turn will give a more accurate account of crime and disorder statistics.”

The motion was duly seconded.

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

Statements were made in support and against the Motion.

Following a vote, it was:

**RESOLVED that the Motion be supported and referred to the Cabinet.**

## 10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

## 11. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:-

### 11.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR GARY JONES TO COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY, CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

“In view of the excellent initiative from Carmarthenshire County Council in working on a new strategy to develop natural outdoor features and spaces, can planning applications on the current LDP and proposed LDP be challenged via this strategy? And if so, should not this be on top of any consideration when planning applications are received, along with residents views on retaining Green spaces in their locales”

#### **Response by Councillor Alun Lenny – Chair of Planning Committee:-**

I would like to thank Cllr Gary Jones for the question – as it’s the first one I’ve had during over six years as Chair of the Planning Committee! I must admit, however, to being a little bemused as to why the question is directed at me, as we have a Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning – including the Green and Blue Strategy and the revamped LDP. But no matter, I’m quite happy to reply.

As members are aware, the green and blue infrastructure strategy aims to create a network of natural and semi-natural spaces and corridors between towns and villages, and threads through them – parks, allotments, hedges, woodland and the like. It is indeed an excellent initiative which has potential to help deliver on many of the corporate objectives of the Council, including the declaration of a climate emergency in February 2019.

There are, of course, already a number of policies contained within the current LDP that reflect the emphasis on conserving and enhancing the natural environment, as well as promoting good design – such as carbon neutral housing. This agenda has been developed further in the Revised LDP with placemaking and green infrastructure very much part of the requirements for new developments.

The LDP and determination of planning applications are underpinned by consultation processes – including those with members of the public and our colleagues in Parks and Leisure, and Ecology. These are fed into the decision-making process, with any material planning comments and evidence given due weight as part of this process.

As regards the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, yes – it will be used to inform decision making and to inform the emerging Revised LDP – alongside a whole raft of other information, policies and evidence. Although it does not necessarily trump other factors, the strategy is informed by consultation responses from a range of bodies and interested parties – and such feedback is always given full consideration.

We as a Council, and the Planning Committee, always have to weigh various demands against policies and evidence and consider matters as objectively as possible. Planning has a key relationship with this council's regeneration vision and delivery. We're investing countless millions of pounds in Llanelli in particular, in Carmarthen, Ammanford and in our smaller market towns in rural areas. Young people need 21<sup>st</sup> century education, decent jobs – and affordable housing, which this council is providing by the hundreds, in addition to the 900 council houses we've started building. Obviously, we need land to do that.

For example, within Cllr Gary Jones' own ward, the allocated site at Plas Isaf is included within the Housing Department's ambitions Affordable Housing Programme. Also, at Harddfán on the Bryn, a smaller site is earmarked for inclusion in the Welsh Government's Self Build for Wales scheme.

I hope this clarifies the situation. I also hope that members will take every opportunity to promote the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy as an important element in shaping the future of our communities.

**There were no supplementary questions.**

#### **11.2. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR GARY JONES TO COUNCILLOR HAZEL EVANS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

“I found this gas canister whilst litter picking in the village. There's no information on the bottle of where to return it to, so I booked a slot at Trostre, I knew there would be a charge but was shocked at the £20 charge. This will discourage people from returning them here and will stop people recycling. I understand that Cwm Environmental is a standalone company, but can we exert any influence on them to amend this, and charge a nominal amount?”

#### **Response by Councillor Hazel Evans – Cabinet Member for Environment:-**

The charges currently levied by CWM reflect the actual cost of disposing of gas canisters as they are classed as hazardous waste and must be disposed of in a safe and proper manner. The charge covers the operational costs of handling, storage, transportation and disposal by an authorised specialist.

Due to the wide range of cylinders received, e.g. fire extinguishers, gas cannisters, helium cylinders, Calor gas cylinders etc. CWM operate two levels of charge; £20.00 for large cylinders and £8 for smaller cylinders.

Whilst I can understand the basis of the question, we are of course relying on people to dispose of the items in a responsible manner. Commercial operators will have a duty of care to dispose of such items in a safe manner. However, I recognise that there will be a level of unscrupulous practice out there that could cause issues in our communities.

I am happy to look into the matter to establish the facts. CWM of course is a commercial entity in its own right so CWM would not be expected to take on the cost of disposal. That would rest with the Council. As you have rightly said there are outlets that take the cylinders back.

**There were no supplementary questions.**

## **12. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda under 12.1 – 12.3 were available for information on the Council website.

## **13. URGENT ITEM**

In accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 2.4 the Chair, following a request agreed to allow an urgent request for an update in relation to the damage caused as a result of Storm Barra.

The Chief Executive reported to Council Members that the evenings severe winds had caused extensive structural damage to two Council buildings emphasising that no one had been injured.

It was reported that the wind had removed a section of Bryngwyn School's roof and that a full assessment of the damage was currently being carried out this morning. Whilst the roof had been made safe with the help of the Fire Service, the highway remained closed. In the meantime, all pupils of Bryngwyn School would be carrying out their learning online. Recovery and repair plans would be made accordingly.

It was further reported that significant damage had been caused to the roof of one of the buildings being developed as part of the Pendine Attractor Scheme. The roof debris had been blown onto the MoD land. Information would be cascaded to relevant parties within the village.

In addition, teams had responded to a number of calls from received from tenants.

Members wished to thank all staff, contractors and emergency services who worked tirelessly throughout the night to make situations safe in severe weather conditions.

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

## COUNTY COUNCIL

19TH JANUARY, 2022

<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</b>		
<b>Recommendations / key decisions required:</b>		
To receive the report		
<b>Reasons:</b>		
The committee is required to report annually to Full Council		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NA		
Cabinet Decision Required	NA	
Council Decision Required	NA	
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Emlyn Dole - Leader		
<b>Directorate:</b>  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b>  Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Robert Edgecombe	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration and Law   Legal Services Manager	<b>Tel:</b>  <b>Email addresses:</b> <a href="mailto:rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224018

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2022**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

In accordance with requirements placed upon it, the Standards Committee reports annually to Full Council detailing its activities during the preceding municipal year.

In recent years this report has been presented to Full Council in January, to allow sufficient time for code of conduct data to be gathered from Town and Community Councils.

A copy of this year's draft report is attached for consideration.

Members should note that with effect from May 2022 the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 will apply regarding the production of such reports and therefore both the timing and content of the reports will need 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: *LRJones*

Administration and Law

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

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** - not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** - it is suggested that such consultation take place
4. **Relevant Partners** - not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - not applicable

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

NO

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Services file	DPSC-192	County Hall, Carmarthen

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# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

### Introduction

1. Period Covered by the Report
2. Terms of Reference
3. Membership of the Committee
4. Code of Conduct Complaints
5. Applications for Dispensation
6. Code of Conduct Training
7. Whistleblowing Policy
8. Code Compliance by Town and Community Councils
9. Other Activities
10. Conclusion

## **INTRODUCTION**

The law requires every County and County Borough Council in Wales to establish and maintain a Standards Committee. Such committees are responsible for overseeing standards of conduct for elected members of both the principal council and the constituent community and town councils within the principal council's area.

The Committee receives and determines applications for dispensation from elected members in relation to the Code of Conduct and adjudicates upon code complaints referred to the Council by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. However, it should be noted that only rarely has the Committee been requested to undertake this latter function.

The Committee also receives reports in relation to the operation of the Council's whistle-blowing policy.

### **1. PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT**

This report covers the activities of the Standards Committee during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The role and functions of the committee as set out in the constitution of the Council are:

- To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members
- To assist councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of conduct
- To advise the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct
- To monitor operation of the Members' Code of Conduct
- To advise, or arrange training for councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct
- To grant dispensations to councillors and co-opted members where they have a personal and prejudicial interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
- To deal with reports from the Adjudication Panel for Wales and reports from the Monitoring Officer or the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- The exercise of the above functions in relation to Town and Community Councils in the county
- To receive annual reports on the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy

### **3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Panel consists of 9 members, 3 County councillors, 1 Community councillor and 5 co-opted members.

There were no changes to the co-opted members of the committee during the period covered by this report. The co-opted members were.

Mr. Andre Morgan (Chair)

Mrs. Mary Dodd (Vice-chair)

Mrs. Daphne Evans

Mrs. Julie James

Mr. Alun Williams

There was no change to the Community council member of the committee. He was Councillor Philip Rogers (St. Clears Town Council)

There were no changes to the County Councillor membership of the committee during the year. The members were:

Councillor. Jeanette Gilasbey

Councillor. Gareth Thomas

Councillor. Rob James

Although falling outside the period of this report, I would like to thank both my predecessor as Chair, Mr. Andre Morgan and Mr Alun Williams, both of whose terms of office on the committee came to an end in December 2021. Both Mr Morgan and Mr Williams contributed greatly to the work of the committee and their contribution was highly valued by their fellow members.

### **4. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The Committee was not required to adjudicate upon any Code of Conduct complaints during the period of this report.

Formal complaints about councillors who are suspected of breaching the Code of Conduct are referred directly to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales without involving the Standards Committee. Most complaints are resolved by the Ombudsman but occasionally the Ombudsman may require the Committee to investigate and adjudicate on a complaint.

In 2020-21 however, the Ombudsman did not refer any complaints to the Committee, nor were any matters referred to the Adjudication Panel for Wales in respect of Councillors from Carmarthenshire.

During the period covered by this report the Ombudsman's Annual Report stated that he had considered and closed a total of 15 code of conduct complaints against councillors from Carmarthenshire. The breakdown of these complaints is shown in the table below

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>No. of Complaints</b>
Carmarthenshire County Council	3
Betws Community Council	4
Llanelli Rural Council	3
Llanelli Town Council	2
Llanfynydd Community Council	2
Llangunnor Community Council	1
Total	15

In all these cases the Ombudsman either closed his investigation after initial consideration or found no action was necessary.

However it should be noted that there are small number of other complaints received during this period which have yet to be concluded as at the time of preparing this report

Therefore, although the number of complaints does represent an increase over 2019-2020 the committee is satisfied that the vast majority of councillors do comply with the code and that where allegations of breach are made they are either unfounded or are not considered by the Ombudsman to be sufficiently serious to warrant enforcement action.

## **5. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

The Committee considered 7 applications for dispensation from County and Community and Town Councillors during the year, all but one of which were either granted or partly granted.

This represents a significant reduction compared to previous years.

The grounds upon which the Committee may grant a dispensation are set out in the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

The Committee continues to approach each application with a presumption in favour of granting a dispensation wherever practicable, particularly in relation to granting a dispensation to speak only.

Details of the applications that have been dealt with can be viewed as part of the minutes of the meetings of the Committee which are accessible on Carmarthenshire County Council's website [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

A comparison between the numbers of dispensation applications received since 2015/2016 shows the following:

YEAR	TOTAL	CCC	T/CC	GRANTED*	REFUSED	OTHER
2015/16	65	5	60	62	3	N/A
2016/17	21	4	17	18	3	N/A
2017/18	31	7	24	31	0	N/A
2018/19	55	42	13	52	3	N/A
2019/2020	25	19	6	24	1	N/A
2020/2021	7	6	1	6	1	N/A

\* either granted or partly granted

## 6. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic that usual annual code of conduct training sessions for Town and Community Councils could not be held. Instead, the proposed training presentation and reference materials were circulated to all Councils.

## 7. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Committee has oversight of the authority's Whistleblowing Policy. The process is regulated by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, which protects against dismissal and other detriment for workers who disclose information in the public interest in prescribed circumstances to prescribed persons.

The number of whistleblowing complaints recorded during the period of this report are set out below.

New Complaints	Complaints carried over from 2019/20	Cases Concluded	Cases Continuing
3	6	8	1

The number of complaints continues to be consistent with those received by other local authorities.

It is pleasing to note a significant reduction in the number of cases being carried over into the following year for investigation, from 6 in 2019/2020 to just 1 in 2020/2021.

The Committee reviewed the Whistleblowing Policy during the period covered by this report and made changes which reflected the experience of its operation during the year.

## **8. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

The committee again received a report regarding the extent to which Town and Community Councils within the County are complying with the Code of Conduct. The report contained data relating to:

- Code complaints
- Dispensation requests
- Declaration of interests
- Code Training

No obvious patterns or trends could be discerned from the data. Overall levels of compliance with the code appear to be good.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

In addition to the above activities the Committee also:

- Received and considered case decisions of the Adjudication Panel for Wales
- Received and considered case decisions made by other Standards Committees in Wales
- Received and considered the Code of Conduct casebook published by the Ombudsman

Where appropriate the Committee has identified points of learning and best practice and has taken them into account in their own decision making and included them in the training referred to in paragraph 5 above.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The committee had a busy year and we are grateful for the help and support given to us by the council's legal department. We have been much encouraged by the generally good levels of compliance with the Code of Conduct exhibited by Councillors across the County and very much hope this will continue in to the coming election year.



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## COUNTY COUNCIL 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

### APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

#### Governance and Audit Committee Recommendation

**TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons to accord with the new requirement arising from the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for one third of the Governance and Audit Committee membership to be made of lay persons.

#### Reasons:

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires one third of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to be lay persons and for the lay person to be appointed as Committee Chair.

The Governance and Audit Committee considered a report on arrangements for the appointment of Lay Persons to the Committee at its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and is making a recommendation to the Council on the Composition of the Committee going forward.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NO  
Cabinet Decision Required: NO  
Council Decision YES (Recommendation 2 of the report considered by the Committee on the 17/12/2021)

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr David Jenkins (Resources)

<p><b>Directorate:</b></p> <p><b>Chief Executives/ Corporate Services</b></p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b></p> <p><b>Linda Rees Jones</b></p> <p><b>Helen Pugh</b></p> <p>Report Authors:-</p> <p>Caroline Powell</p> <p>Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p><b>Head of Administration and Law</b></p> <p><b>Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance</b></p> <p>Principal Auditor</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p><b>Tel:</b></p> <p><b>Email addresses:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:LRJones@cararthenshire.gov.uk">LRJones@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:HLPugh@cararthenshire.gov.uk">HLPugh@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:capowell@cararthenshire.gov.uk">capowell@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:GMorgan@cararthenshire.gov.uk">GMorgan@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the Governance & Audit Committee considered a report on changes to the Governance and Audit Committee as a result of the provisions within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. That report made reference to the requirement to increase the number of lay members to one third of the Committee and for a lay person to be appointed as Committee Chair (coming into force in May 2022).

The Governance and Audit Committee currently comprises 8 members plus one external member with voting rights, so if the Committee is to remain at 8 members, this will result in a reduction in elected members to 5 and 3 lay persons.

Alternative options considered by the Governance and Audit Committee included a Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 Council Members and 4 lay members or 16 members i.e. 11 Council members and 5 lay members. Historically the Authority has had 167 or 168 seats to allocate between elected members across committees so as best accommodate the number of seats for distribution, and if this is to be maintained a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons is the best fit.

The Committee also approved the recruitment process. This recruitment process has already been commenced (approved job profile attached) - although the number of lay persons to be appointed will be confirmed once the County Council has decided on the size of the Committee. All Welsh Local Authorities will similarly be advertising for lay members.

Under the Authority's Constitution once Council has decided how many lay members should be recruited it will be for the Committee to shortlist (which will be done by a shortlisting Panel of the main Committee) and interview candidates (full Committee) and to recommend the ones to be appointed to County Council.

The Governance and Audit Committee's recommendation to Council is that a Governance and Audit Committee of 12 members be established i.e. 8 elected members (as currently) and 4 lay persons to accord with the new requirement arising from the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for one third of the Governance and Audit Committee membership to be made of lay persons.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**Advertisement – Appendix 1  
Job Profile – Appendix 2**

# 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 and Law

Helen Pugh - Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

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>

## 1. Legal

Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act requires one-third of the members of the Governance and Audit Committee to be lay persons and for the member appointed as the Committee Chair to be a lay person. These provisions within the Act come into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and forms the basis of this report.

## 2. Finance

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has determined that a daily or half daily fee is appropriate remuneration for the important role undertaken by co-opted members of authorities with voting rights.

Fees for co-opted members (with voting rights) are:-

Lay Chair of audit committees £268 (4 hours and over) £134 (up to 4 hours)

Ordinary co-opted members of audit committee £210 (4 hours and over) £105 (up to 4 hours)

Additional costs will need to be met from the existing Democratic budget with a growth bid for additional funding submitted if appropriate.

## 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 and Law

Helen Pugh - Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

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

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

N/A

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021		<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted</a>
Audit Committee meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		<a href="https://carmarthenshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4256&amp;Ver=4">https://carmarthenshireintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4256&amp;Ver=4</a>
Audit Committee Meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021		<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4573&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=4573&amp;Ver=4</a>

## **Appointment of Lay Persons - Governance and Audit Committee**

### **Role of the Governance and Audit Committee**

This statutory committee is a key component of Carmarthenshire County Council's governance framework. The purpose of the Governance and Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of our risk management framework, internal control environment, performance assessment, complaints handling and integrity of our financial reporting and governance processes. The Committee makes an important contribution to ensuring that effective assurance arrangements are in place.

The Governance and Audit Committee meets at least four times a year for which Lay Persons (Independent Members) receive financial remuneration in accordance with the rates determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (section 9, pages 30-31).

### **What is a Lay Person ?**

A Lay Person means a person who:

1. Is not a member or an officer of any local authority;
2. Has not been a member or an officer of any local authority at any time in the period of twelve months ending with the date of appointment; and
3. Is not the spouse of civil partner of a member or an officer of any local authority.

In addition to satisfying this criteria, suitable applicants will need to be non-political with an understanding and commitment to the 7 Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles) and able to demonstrate the following qualities and characteristics:

- Interest and knowledge/experience of financial, risk and performance management, audit, accounting concepts and standards, and the regulatory regime within Wales;
- Objective and independent of mind with an unbiased attitude and ability to apply discretion;
- Supportive of good governance principles and their practical application towards the achievement of organisational objectives;
- Strategic thinker with excellent communication skills;
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence and challenge respectfully.

A detailed knowledge of local government is not necessary although it would be expected that potential candidates would be interested in matters relating to public life and services. Local interest in, and knowledge of, Carmarthenshire is desirable. From May 2022 the Governance and Audit Committee will be chaired by a Lay Person, therefore a willingness and ability to fulfil this role is desirable.

**LOCATION:** County Hall, Carmarthen / Remote / Hybrid Meetings

**REMUNERATION:** Remuneration is paid in accordance with the rates determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

**COMMITMENT:** A minimum of 4 meetings per annum

**TERM OF APPOINTMENT:** For a period of 5 years, but could be re-appointed for a further term

**For an informal discussion please contact Helen Pugh, Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance – [HLPugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:HLPugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)**

**For an application form please email: [Scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01267 224028.**

## Member of Governance and Audit Committee Role Description

### 1. Accountabilities

- To Full Council
- To the Chair of the Committee

### 2. Role purpose and activity

#### Participating in meetings of the Committee and making decisions

- To demonstrate independence, integrity, and impartiality in decision making according to legal, constitutional and policy requirements.
- To have regard to the requirements of the Chair of the Committee and the professional advice of senior officers of the authority including the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance (Head of Internal Audit).
- To Comply with the authority's Code of Conduct.
- To work according to the Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- To contribute to the development of the forward work programme for the Committee.
- To promote the role of the Committee within the authority.
- To report as required to Council.
- To respond to any recommendations made by the Auditor General for Wales.
- To participate in any training and development required for the role.

#### Contributing to the work of the Committee in its role in:

##### Reviewing and scrutinising the authority's financial affairs

- Make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's financial affairs.
- Oversee the authority's internal and external audit arrangements.
- Work with internal and external auditors.
- Review the financial statements prepared by the authority and approve them when powers are delegated including making relevant reports and recommendations.

##### Contributing to the effective performance of the authority

- Review the draft report of the authority's annual self-assessment and make recommendations for changes to the conclusions or actions that the authority intends to take.
- Make recommendations in response to the draft report of the authority's Panel Assessment (commissioned once per term **from May 2022**).
- Review and assess the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively.
- Make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's ability to handle complaints effectively.

#### Reviewing and assessing the Governance, Risk Management and Control of the authority

- Review and assess the risk management, internal control, and corporate governance arrangements of the authority.
- Make reports and recommendations to the authority on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.
- Review and assess the financial risks associated with corporate governance, and be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the annual governance statement, reflects the risk environment and any activities required to improve it.

### **3. Values**

To be committed to the values of the council and the following values in public office

- Openness and transparency
- Honesty and integrity
- Tolerance and respect
- Equality and fairness
- Appreciation of cultural differences
- Sustainability



## COUNTY COUNCIL

19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

### MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021 TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

That the Cabinet considers and approves the report.

**Reasons:**

To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted:

YES - Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 10/12/21

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Cllr. D. M. Jenkins

Directorate:  
Corporate Services

Name of Director:  
Chris Moore

Report Author:  
Anthony Parnell

Designation:

Director of Corporate  
Services

Treasury and Pension  
Investments Manager

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AParnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

## **MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021 TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

# IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **C Moore** Director

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Within the requirements of the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Report 2021-2022

## 3. Finance

The authority's investments during the period returned an average return of 0.05%, exceeding the 7-day LIBID rate.

Gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £38k and interest paid on loans was £8.46m.

The Authority did not breach any of its Prudential Indicators during the period. At the period end the investments included £0.52m of KSF investments.

The Administrators have confirmed that the twenty third dividend received on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 will be the final dividend paid.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: C Moore

Director

## 1. Scrutiny Committee

For information to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## 2. Local Member(s)

NA

## 3. Community / Town Council

NA

## 4. Relevant Partners

NA

## 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

NA

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

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

**THERE ARE NONE**

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

**CABINET**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND  
PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT**

**1<sup>ST</sup> April 2021 – 30<sup>TH</sup> September 2021**

**A. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**1. Introduction**

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2021-2022 was approved by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. Section B 1.1(2) stated that Treasury Management activity reports would be made during the year. This report outlines the Treasury Management activities in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and satisfies the reporting requirement stated above.

There are no policy changes to the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for this period and this report updates the position in light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

**2. Economic update**

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept Bank Rate unchanged at 0.10% on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. It also made no changes to its programme of quantitative easing, which is due to finish by the end of the year at £895bn.

The MPC indicated that there was a concern that more recent increases in prices, particularly the increases in gas and electricity prices in October and due again next April, are likely to lead to faster and higher inflation expectations and underlying wage growth. This will in turn increase the risk that price pressures would prove more persistent next year than previously expected. To emphasise its concern about inflationary pressures the MPC reaffirmed its commitment to the 2% inflation target in its statement.

Financial markets are now pricing in a first increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in February 2022, but this looks ambitious as the MPC has stated that it wants to see what happens to the economy, and particularly to employment once furlough ends at the end of September.

### **3. Prospects for Interest Rates**

Based on the average projection from a number of sources we can expect the trend in base rates over the year to be as follows:

	Dec 2021	Mar 2022	Jun 2022	Sep 2022	Dec 2022
Base Rate %	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25

(Source: LINK Asset Services)

Link Asset Services undertook its last review of interest rate forecasts on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 after the Quarterly Inflation Report of the Bank of England and Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021, where the decision was made to keep the Bank Rate unchanged at 0.10%.

The revised projection based on this review:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	%	%	%
Revised Average Bank Rate	0.10	0.25	0.56
Original Average Bank Rate (TM Strategy 2021-22)	0.10	0.10	0.10

### **4. Investments**

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

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

The total investments at 1st April 2021 and 30th September 2021 analysed between Banks, Building Societies, Local Authorities and Money Market Funds, are shown in the following table:

Investments	01.04.21				30.09.21			
	Call and notice £m	Fixed Term £m	Total £m	%	Call and notice £m	Fixed Term £m	Total £m	%
Banks	34.50	7.53	42.03	36	34.50	7.52	42.02	32
Building Societies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	7.00	7.00	5
Money Market Funds	25.00	0.00	25.00	22	25.00	0.00	25.00	20
DMADF (DMO)	0.00	36.50	36.50	31	0.00	50.00	50.00	38
Local Authorities	0.00	13.00	13.00	11	0.00	7.00	7.00	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59.50</b>	<b>57.03</b>	<b>116.53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>59.50</b>	<b>71.52</b>	<b>131.02</b>	<b>100</b>

Investments on call are available immediately on demand. Fixed term investments are fixed to a maturity date. The current longest investment is maturing on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The £131.02m includes £0.52m (12.97% of original claim) invested in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander which has been reduced from the original £4.0m by distributions.

During the period the total investments made by the Council and repaid to the Council (turnover) amounted to £706.51m. This averaged approximately £27.02m per week or £3.86m per day. A summary of turnover is shown below:

	£m
Total Investments 1st April 2021	116.53
Investments made during the period	360.50
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>477.03</b>
Investments Repaid during the period	(346.01)
<b>Total Investments 30th September 2021</b>	<b>131.02</b>

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

The benchmark return for the London money market is the "7-day LIBID rate". For 2021-2022 the Council has compared its performance against this "7-day LIBID rate". For the period under review the average "7-day LIBID rate" was -0.08% whereas the actual rate the Council earned was 0.05%, an out performance of 0.13%.

This outperformance can be quantified to £104k additional interest earned compared to the “7-day LIBID rate”.

The gross interest earned on investments for the period amounted to £38k.

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

#### **5. Update on the investments with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF)**

As at 30th September 2021 the sum of £3.48m principal and £213k interest had been received from the Administrators, which equates to 87.03% of the claim submitted.

The Administrators have confirmed that the twenty third dividend received on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 will be the final dividend paid.

#### **6. Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY)**

Within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021-2022, the Council's investment priorities are:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity and
- Yield

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

Attached at Appendix 1 is the Investment Summary and Top 10 Counterparty Holdings (excluding the £0.52m in KSF) as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.



## 7. Borrowing

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

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

The total loans at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are shown in the following table:

<b>Loans</b>	<b>Balance at 01.04.21 £m</b>	<b>Balance at 30.09.21 £m</b>	<b>Net Increase/ (Net Decrease) £m</b>
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	403.38	397.61	(5.77)
Market Loan	3.00	3.00	0.00
Salix, Invest to Save, HILS & TCL	7.46	7.82	0.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>413.84</b>	<b>408.43</b>	<b>(5.41)</b>

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

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

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

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

## 7.1 New Borrowing

The following loan was borrowed during the period:

<b>Loan Reference</b>	<b>Amount (£m)</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
Salix	0.36	0.00%	16th April 2021	8yrs	01/04/2029
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.36</b>				

## 7.2 Interest Paid

Interest paid on loans during the period was:

<b>PWLB Interest Paid £m</b>	<b>Market Loan Interest Paid £m</b>	<b>Total Interest Paid £m</b>
8.39	0.07	8.46

## 8. Rescheduling and Premature Loan Repayments

The current economic climate and the consequent structure of interest rates meant that no rescheduling opportunities arose during the period and there were no premature loan repayments.

## 9. Leasing

No leases were negotiated during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **B. PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT**

### **1. Prudential Indicators**

As part of the 2021-2022 Budget and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2021-2022, the Council adopted a number of Prudential Indicators. These Indicators are designed to ensure that any borrowing or other long-term liabilities entered into for capital purposes were affordable, sustainable and prudent.

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

#### **1.1 Affordability Prudential Indicator**

##### **1.1.1 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream**

The indicator set for 2021-2022 in the Budget was:

	<b>2021-2022 %</b>
Non-HRA	4.50
HRA	32.71

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

#### **1.2 Prudence Prudential Indicators**

##### **1.2.1 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

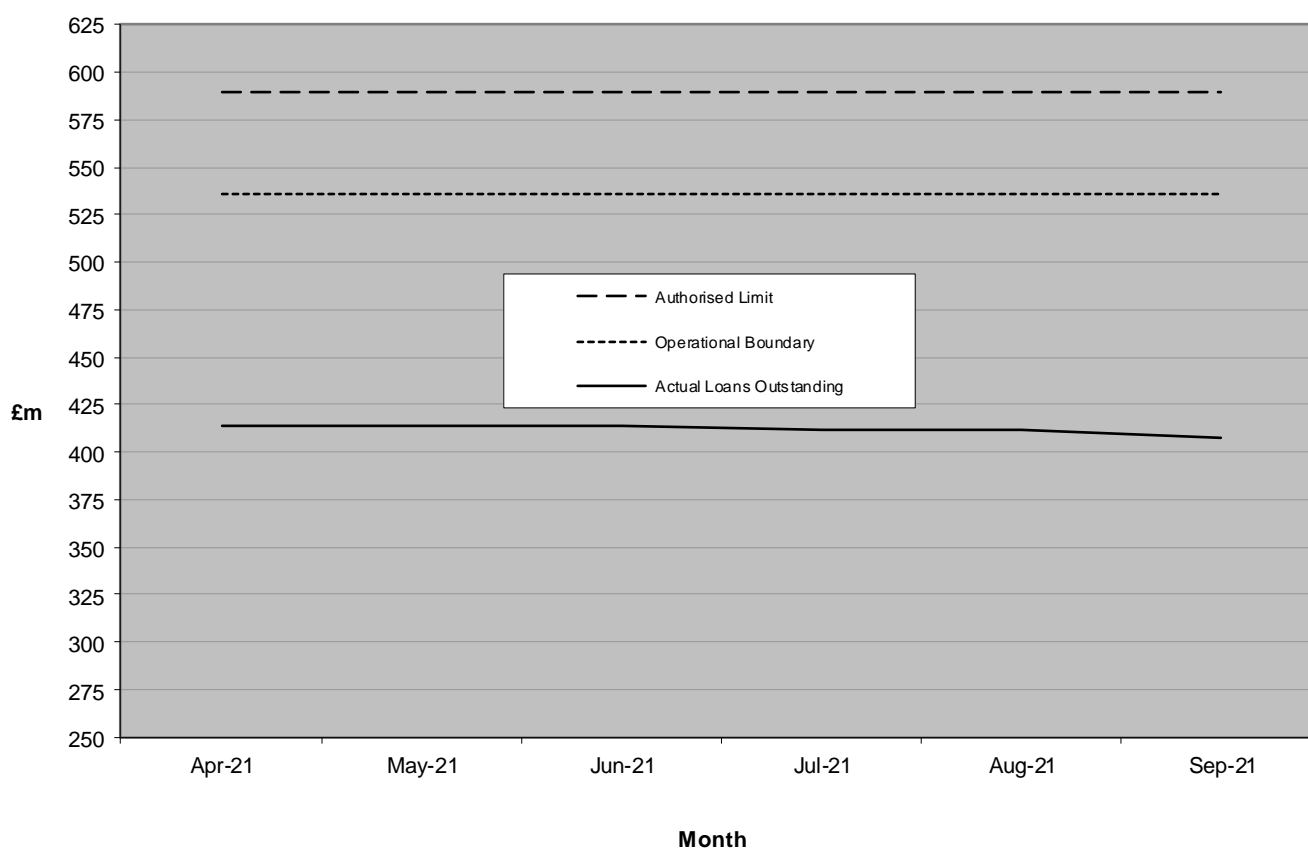
The Director of Corporate Services reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.

	<b>2021-2022 Estimate £m</b>	<b>As at 30.09.21 £m</b>	<b>2021-2022 Forecast £m</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>			
CFR – non housing	284	279	279
CFR – housing	182	178	178
CFR - housing subsidy buy-out	70	70	70
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>527</b>

## 1.2.2. Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

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

	Authorised Limit for External Debt		Operational Boundary for External Debt	
	2021-22 Estimate £m	2021-22 Forecast £m	2021-22 Estimate £m	2021-22 Forecast £m
Borrowing	589	589	535.8	535.8
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>589.5</b>	<b>589.5</b>	<b>535.9</b>	<b>535.9</b>



	Apr-21 £m	May-21 £m	Jun-21 £m	Jul-21 £m	Aug-21 £m	Sep-21 £m
Authorised Limit	589	589	589	589	589	589
Operational Boundary	536	536	536	536	536	536
Loans Outstanding	414	414	414	412	412	408

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

## **2.1 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators**

### **2.1.1 Interest Rate Exposure**

Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021:

	<b>Fixed Interest Rate £m</b>	<b>Variable Interest Rate £m</b>	<b>TOTAL £m</b>
Borrowed	405.42	3.00	408.42
Invested	(71.52)	(59.50)	(131.02)
<b>Net</b>	<b>333.90</b>	<b>(56.50)</b>	<b>277.40</b>
Limit	516.00	52.00	
<b>Proportion of Net Borrowing Actual</b>	<b>120.37%</b>	<b>(20.37)%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Limit	125.00%	5.00%	

The authority is within limits set by the 2021-2022 indicators.

### **2.1.2 Maturity Structure of Borrowing**

	<b>Structure at 30.09.21 %</b>	<b>Upper Limit %</b>	<b>Lower Limit %</b>
Under 12 months	2.70	15	0
12 months to 2 years	3.00	15	0
2 years to 5 years	7.28	50	0
5 years to 10 years	10.36	50	0
10 years to 20 years	21.60	50	0
20 years to 30 years	22.21	50	0
30 years to 40 years	25.38	50	0
40 years and above	7.46	50	0

The authority is within the limits set by the 2021-2022 indicators.

### **2.1.3 Maximum Principal Sums Invested Longer than 365 Days**

	<b>2020-2021 £m</b>
Limit	10
Actual as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	NIL

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Cabinet considers and approves the report.**

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Totals			
<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,500,000</b>		
<b>Calls &amp; MMFs</b>	£59,500,000	46%	
<b>Fixed Deposits</b>	£71,000,000	54%	
<b>Specified</b>	£59,500,000	100%	

Weighted Average			
<b>Yield</b>			0.06%
<b>Maturity (Days)</b>			
Total Portfolio	Total Portfolio		42.26
<b>Long Term</b>			
<b>Short Term</b>			
AAA	-		1.00
AA	F1		56.05
A	F1		55.14
BBB	F2		0.00
CCC	C		0.00

Risk Factors		
<b>&lt; 1 year</b>	£7,353	0.006%
<b>1 - 2 years</b>	£0	0.000%
<b>2 - 3 years</b>	£0	0.000%
<b>3 - 4 years</b>	£0	0.000%
<b>4 - 5 years</b>	£0	0.000%
<b>Total Portfolio</b>	£7,353	0.006%

Maturity Structure		
<b>&lt; 1 Week</b>	£67,500,000	52%
<b>&lt; 1 Month</b>	£29,000,000	22%
<b>2 - 3 Months</b>	£22,000,000	17%
<b>3 - 6 Months</b>	£0	0%
<b>6 - 9 Months</b>	£7,000,000	5%
<b>9 - 12 Months</b>	£5,000,000	4%
<b>12 Months+</b>	£0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

**SLY Model**

**Carmarthenshire County Council**

30/09/2021

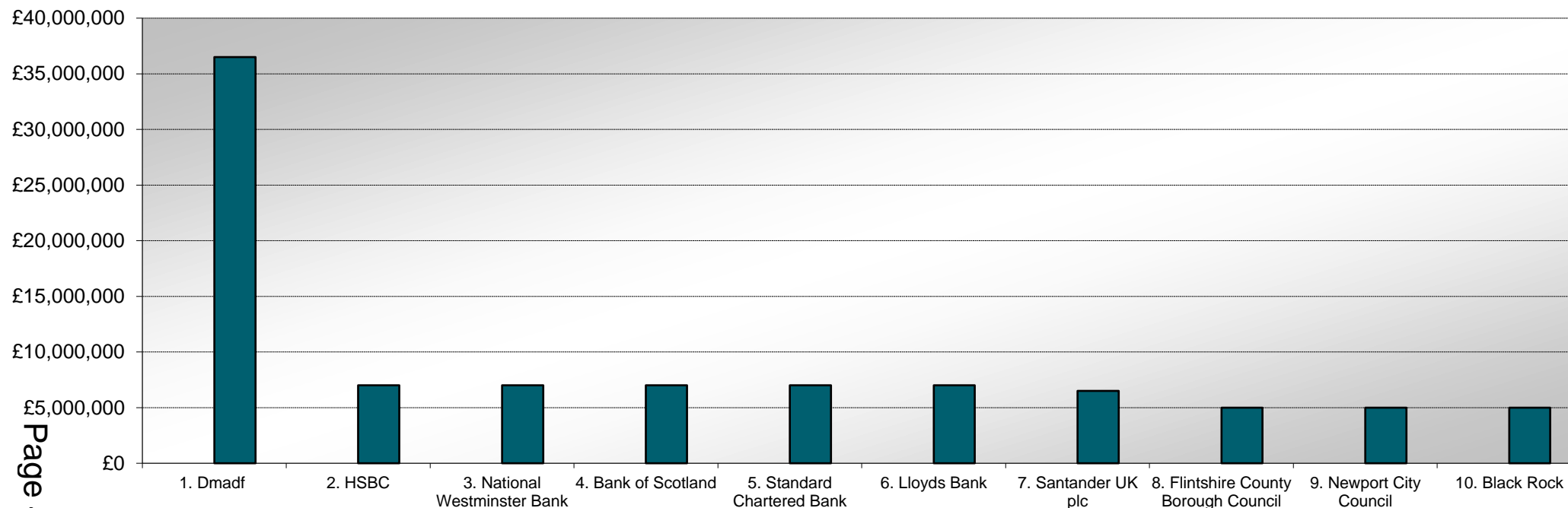
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# Top 10 Counterparty Holdings

Carmarthenshire County Council

Counterparty	Principal	% of Total Holding	WAM (Days)	WAYield	WADefault
1. Dmadf	£36,500,000	32.30%	25	0.00%	0.001%
2. HSBC	£7,000,000	6.19%	1	0.03%	0.000%
3. National Westminster Bank	£7,000,000	6.19%	183	0.11%	0.047%
4. Bank of Scotland	£7,000,000	6.19%	1	0.01%	0.000%
5. Standard Chartered Bank	£7,000,000	6.19%	1	0.10%	0.000%
6. Lloyds Bank	£7,000,000	6.19%	1	0.10%	0.000%
7. Santander UK plc	£6,500,000	5.75%	1	0.58%	0.000%
8. Flintshire County Borough Council	£5,000,000	4.42%	54	0.03%	0.002%
9. Newport City Council	£5,000,000	4.42%	19	0.05%	0.001%
10. Black Rock	£5,000,000	4.42%	1	0.01%	0.000%



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## Cabinet

Monday, 6 December 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor E. Dole (Chair);

**Councillors:**

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

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor D. Cundy;  
Councillor J. Gilasbey;

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

W. Walters, Chief Executive;  
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;  
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;  
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;  
S. Davies, Head of Access to Education;  
S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways;  
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;  
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);  
D. Hockenull, Marketing and Media Manager;  
L Morris, Senior Press Officer;  
T. Evans, Transport Planner - Strategy and Infrastructure;  
R. S. Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager;  
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;  
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;  
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

**Virtual Meeting: 10.00 am - 10.50 am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
J. Gilasbey	12 – Modernising Education Programme Proposal to Review Primary Education Provision in the Mynyddgarreg and Gwenllian Areas;	Family member is a teacher in one of the schools.

**3. MINUTES - 22ND NOVEMBER 2021**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

#### 4. **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS**

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

#### 5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

#### 6. **HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (HAMP) MAINTENANCE MANUAL**

The Cabinet considered the adoption of a Highways Maintenance Manual in support of the Highway Asset Management Plan [HAMP] which itself had been adopted in 2018. The Maintenance Manual would form Part 4 of the HAMP and was being developed as a portfolio of specific manuals covering the management of a range of highway asset categories. The first four sections of the Manual brought forward at this time were:

- Part 4.1 Highway Maintenance Management;
- Part 4.2 Highway Network Hierarchy;
- Part 4.3 Highway Inspection and Repair Regime;
- Part 4.4 Road Condition Assessment and Investment Prioritisation.

If adopted the Manual would ensure the highway network was maintained in accordance with statutory duties, corporate objectives were supported and that the revised national code of practice, 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure', was complied with. The Manual introduced changes to the inspection and maintenance of highways recommended by the County Surveyor's Society Wales to provide consistency across Wales.

It was noted that the Manual had been endorsed by the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee on the 25th November 2021.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adopt the Highway Maintenance Manual in support of the Highway Asset Management Plan.**

#### 7. **CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (CCC) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY - DECARBONISING TRANSPORT**

The Cabinet considered a proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the Council. The Strategy would support the future development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county to support the delivery of carbon reduction targets and demonstrate a commitment to meeting net zero targets by 2030 and 2050.

It was noted that the strategy had been fully supported by the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee on the 25th November 2021.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the Council be adopted.**

#### 8. **MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF SWISS VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11**

The Cabinet considered a report reiterating, following consultation, proposals to change the age range of Swiss Valley Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1st September 2021.

The Cabinet [then known as the Executive Board], at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 [minute 9 thereof refers], had approved the commencement of a formal consultation period. The consultation period had commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and, following a decision by the Cabinet, the Consultation Period had been extended to 16 July 2021. A total of 36 responses had been received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation events) in response to the formal consultation as detailed in the Consultation Report.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve**

**8.1 the Local Authority's responses to the observations received during the Consultation Period as detailed in the Consultation Report;**

**8.2 the modification to the implementation date of the proposal as noted in the report;**

**8.3 the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal.**

**9. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y FELIN**

The Cabinet considered a report reiterating proposals, following consultation, that from the from 1st September 2022 the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Y Felin would change to Welsh medium education.

The Cabinet [then known as the Executive Board], at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 [minute 7 thereof refers], had approved the commencement of a formal consultation period. The consultation period had commenced on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, and, following a decision by the Cabinet, the Consultation Period had been extended to 16 July 2021. A total of 40 responses had been received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation events) in response to the formal consultation as detailed in the Consultation Report.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve**

**9.1 the Local Authority's responses to the observations received during the Consultation Period as detailed in the Consultation Report;**

**9.2 the modification to the implementation date of the proposal as noted in the report;**

**9.3 the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal.**

**10. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE AND REMODEL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICES AT YSGOL RHYDYGORS TO IMPROVE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Cabinet considered a report reiterating proposals, following consultation, to reconfigure and remodel Behaviour Support Services at Ysgol Rhydygors to improve provision for children and Young People as of the 1st January 2022.

The Cabinet [then known as the Executive Board], at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 [minute 11 thereof refers], had approved the commencement of a formal consultation period. The consultation period commenced had on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and, following a decision by the Cabinet, the Consultation Period had been extended to 16 July 2021. A total of 53 responses had been received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation event) in response to the formal consultation as detailed in the Consultation Report.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve**

- 10.1 the Local Authority's responses to the observations received during the Consultation Period as detailed in the Consultation Report;**
- 10.2 the modification to the implementation dates of the proposal as noted in the report;**
- 10.3 the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal.**

**11. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO REVIEW PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE BLAENAU AND LLANDYBIE AREAS**

Prior to considering both this and the following item [Proposal to Review Primary Education Provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian areas] the Cabinet Member for Education and Children, with the Chair's permission, gave an update on the current review of the Modernising Education Programme. He spoke of the need for the Programme to be flexible taking into account the needs of communities and the impact of other factors such as pressures on the capital programme related to covid and Brexit. In addition analysis of the Annual Schools Admissions Round had clearly indicated changes in parental choice of schools possibly linked to demographic changes due to the pandemic including an increase in the number of people working from home. Accordingly he advised the Cabinet that he had agreed to extend the period of the review so that pupil-trends could be analysed in greater detail to ensure new schools satisfied future requirements and supported communities both socially and economically. Whilst, therefore, the plans for some schools such as Heol Goffa, Bryngwyn, Pembrey, Dewi Sant, Ammanford and Llandeilo would continue the Cabinet Member for Education and Children now recommended that the plans to close Blaenau and Mynyddygarreg schools not be proceeded with at this time whilst the MEP was being reviewed and further consultation took place.

In view of the above statement it was

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED not to publish a Statutory Notice to discontinue Ysgol Gynradd Blaenau but to continue with plans for a new school at Llandybie.**

**12. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO REVIEW PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE MYNYDDYGARREG AND GWENLLIAN AREAS**

[NOTE: Councillor J. Gilasbey had earlier declared an interest in this item. She had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak on the matter]

The Chair advised that Councillor J. Gilasbey had sought permission in accordance with CPR 11.1 to ask a question in relation to this item.

Councillor Gilasbey requested the Cabinet to consider any possible alternative means to keep Mynyddygarreg school open, even if the age range had to be reduced, but urged that work on the new 200-pupil school in Kidwelly for Ysgol Gwenllian commence as soon as possible.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Children reiterated his earlier comments in the meeting [Minute 11 above refers] that he was relooking at the situation in regard to the MEP countywide and in this regard he recommended that the plans

to close Mynyddygarreg school not be proceeded with at this time but that the plans to build a new welsh school in the area continue.

In view of the above statement it was

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED not to publish a Statutory Notice to discontinue Ysgol Gynradd Mynyddygarreg but to continue with plans for a new welsh school in the Kidwelly area.**

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

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

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CHAIR

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DATE

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## CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

**Councillors:**

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

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor D.M. Cundy.

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

W. Walters, Chief Executive;  
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;  
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;  
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);  
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;  
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;  
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy; Interim Head of Planning;  
J. Jones, Head of Regeneration;  
L. Morris, Senior Press Officer;  
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;  
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer;  
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;  
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

**Virtual Meeting:- 10:00am - 10:40am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interests.

**3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

**4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS**

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

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

**6. MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT - 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021 TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Cabinet considered an update report on the treasury management activities and the prudential indicators for the period 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Mid-Year Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 be approved.**

**7. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2022-23**

The Cabinet considered the Council Tax Base 2022-23 report. Cabinet Members were reminded that the Council was required to determine, on an annual basis, its Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Base of each community within its area, for the purpose of calculating the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and, under the provisions of Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2004, the annual calculation had been delegated to the Cabinet.

The calculation of the Tax Base for the County Council for 2022-23 was detailed in Table 1a and summarised in Table 1b, which were appended to the report. The calculation for individual Town and Community Council areas for 2022-23 was summarised in Table 2 and detailed in Appendix A, which were also appended to the report.

Cabinet Members noted that the Tax Base report provided calculations which were Authority-wide as well as broken down into all community and town council areas for their precept purposes and that the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2022-2023 had been calculated at £74,698.57.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that**

- 7.1 the Council Tax Base calculations for the financial year 2022-23 as detailed within Appendix A of the report be approved;**
- 7.2 a Council Tax Base of £74,698.57 as detailed within tables 1a and 1b of the report, be confirmed in respect of the County Council area;**
- 7.3 the relevant tax bases for the individual community and town council areas, as detailed in table 2 of the report be confirmed.**

## 8. CARMARTHENSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM - MEMBERSHIP

The Cabinet received a report on the membership of the Carmarthenshire Admissions Forum which explained that in accordance with the LA appointment policy for Admissions Forum Members, there was a requirement to review core members and school members of the Forum every 4 years and that the last full membership review took place in Autumn 2017.

It was reported that typically, the renewal of membership would fall in sync with the County Council members elections however, due to the Welsh Government elections in 2021, the local Council elections were delayed a year to 2022. Therefore, in order to comply with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code, there was a need to re-elect the core members for the period from November 2021 to the Local Government Elections in May 2022. Cabinet Members noted that receipt of confirmation had been received from the Welsh Government that re-appointment of existing members was acceptable.

The report proposed that all existing core elected members be re-elected for the period November 2021 to May 2022. This approach had been supported by the Carmarthenshire's Admissions Forum at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

A full review of the Forum members would take place following the County Council elections in May 2022 and every 4th year after that.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the current elected member representatives on the Panel, as detailed within the report be re-appointed to the Admissions Forum up to the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

## 9. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021) - ACOUSTIC CAMERAS

Cabinet Members received a report which detailed a Notice of Motion on the matter of acoustic cameras, which was referred to Cabinet from Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

It was reported that since September 2021, research into the use of acoustic cameras by other local authorities had taken place with a view to understanding how these could be implemented within Carmarthenshire. The research revealed that in the main there were two significant challenges in terms of resourcing and coverage.

Cabinet Members were informed that mobile acoustic cameras had not been developed yet and that they had to be hardwired onto a lamp post. Relocating hardwired acoustic cameras to specific areas of complaint could be resource intensive and costly. In addition, Cabinet Members noted that to purchase and install four acoustic cameras across the County, it would cost the Council an estimated £110,000+ with a significant additional resource cost to maintain. This cost was deemed a financially disproportionate way of dealing with the issue.

It was further reported that at present, only 5% of the Councils complaints were attributed to vehicle noise and that each complaint was investigated accordingly with a local resolution being sought.

In recognising that loud vehicle noise was an issue which affected some residents, Members concurred that currently the most cost-effective method of managing this would be to continue to favour the local approach at present, by continuing with the current proactive approach and liaising with Dyfed Powys Police as and where necessary.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that**

**9.1 the Notice of Motion on Acoustic Cameras referred from Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be received;**

**9.2 the current proactive approach and the number of complaints received on this matter continue to be monitored.**

**9.3 a report be presented to the Cabinet in 12 months should there be a marked increase in complaints any significant changes in terms of technological developments.**

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021) - 101 CALL SYSTEM**

Cabinet Members received a report which detailed a Notice of Motion on the matter of the 101 call system, which was referred to Cabinet from Council on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Cabinet Members were informed that Dyfed Powys Police were currently seeking to procure an Integrated Communication Control System and Contact Management Solution which included the telephony platform for the Force Control Room based at Headquarters, Carmarthen. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys would shortly be receiving tenders from suitably qualified and experienced organisations for the supply, implementation, support and maintenance of a Contact Management Solution.

In considering that Dyfed Powys Police had committed to procure a new Integrated Communication Control System and Contact Management Solution, it was proposed that the Cabinet write a letter to the Chief Constable to acknowledge and encourage his intention to improve the current 101 call system. The proposal was duly seconded.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Cabinet write a letter to the Dyfed Powys Police Chief Constable to acknowledge and encourage the installation of a new solution as an improvement upon the current 101 call system.**

**11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

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

## **12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

## **13. TRANSFORMING TOWNS PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS**

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

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained detailed information about particular business and financial affairs. In this case, the public interest in maintaining the above exemption under the 1972 Act in respect of this report outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein, as disclosure could undermine the Council's position in subsequent negotiations and adversely impact upon the public purse.

The Cabinet Members considered a report which detailed information in relation to the strategic acquisitions of properties utilising the Transforming Towns Placemaking funding.

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

**13.1 that the acquisition of properties utilising Transforming Towns Placemaking funding be approved**

**13.2 to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration and Head of Administration and Law, in consultation with Cabinet Members with responsibility for Regeneration and Resources, to finalise and complete the proposed acquisitions;**

**13.2 to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services and the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Resources, to acquire alternative properties of a strategic nature that would add value to the Council's town centre regeneration proposals, in the event that the properties identified in this report (Table 1) cannot be purchased and to ensure maximum grant spend.**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

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