

**TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2022**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL MEETING** OF THE **CABINET AT 10.00 AM, ON MONDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2022** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Kevin Thomas</b>
<b>Telephone (direct line):</b>	<b>01267 224027</b>
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Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,  
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP  
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

# CABINET

## MEMBERSHIP - 9 MEMBERS

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

# **A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**
- 3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 31ST JANUARY 2022** 5 - 10
- 4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS**
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**
- 6. HOUSING REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT - FIVE YEAR DELIVERY PLAN (2022 - 2027)** 11 - 40
- 7. LOCAL ENVIRONMENT QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 - 2026.** 41 - 82
- 8. DIGITAL SCHOOLS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES 2022-2025** 83 - 122
- 9. REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN NEXT STEPS AND REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT** 123 - 178
- 10. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.**

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## CABINET

Monday, 31 January 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Tremlett [Vice Chair in the Chair]

**Councillors:**

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

**Also in attendance:**

Councillors D.M. Cundy and D. Price

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

W. Walters, Chief Executive  
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services  
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  
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services  
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy; Interim Head of Planning  
J. Jones, Head of Regeneration  
R. Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability  
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager  
L Morris, Senior Press Officer  
C.S. Griffiths, Welsh Language Development Manager  
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator  
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer  
K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer  
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

**Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 11.05 am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E. Dole.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
C. A. Davies	6 - Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Report 2018/19 - A Review of the Current Provision for Early Years Education, Childcare and Play Opportunities.	Personal – runs a children's nursery.

	<b>8 - 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</b>	
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**3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 17th JANUARY, 2022**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 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. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP REPORT 2018/19 - A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT PROVISION FOR EARLY YEARS EDUCATION, CHILDCARE AND PLAY OPPORTUNITIES**

[NOTE: Councillor C. A. Davies declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting during its consideration]

The Cabinet considered the Recommendations Report, presented by the Chair of the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on the review of the current provision for Early Years Education, Childcare and Play Opportunities.

It was noted that at its meeting on 14th March 2018, the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review into provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities. The recommendations contained within the report were formulated by the Group following the consideration of a range of evidence over a series of meetings held between May 2018 and February 2019. The report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet Members on the 7th of October 2019 however Members requested further detail in regard to implications on funding, policy etc. On the 19th April 2021 an update was provided for consideration. An action from that meeting was to develop a separate paper to include further information in relation to the review of school admission arrangements.

The scope and aims of the Task and Finish Review were:

1. Review Foundation Phase provision
2. Review the Standard of provision
3. Review the provision of play opportunities
4. Review the provision of Childcare
5. 30 Hour Childcare Offer
6. Carmarthenshire Schools Admissions Policy

The Chair of the Education and Children's Scrutiny advised the Cabinet that during the course of the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish

Group review, Welsh Government announced that the all-Wales Childcare Offer for 3 and 4 year olds would be rolled-out across Carmarthenshire from January 2019. This had had a significant impact on the work of the Task and Finish Group, and the recommendations reflected this.

Officers confirmed that should the report be approved, a proposal would be brought to Cabinet in the Summer and a consultation on the revised policy undertaken in the Autumn.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Recommendations Report of the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group to review Carmarthenshire's Education Admissions Policy be approved.**

## **7. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S 10 YEAR STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered the Education Department's 10 year Strategy. The strategy set out the vision for the role that education services would play in the future development of vibrant communities and a prosperous economy in Carmarthenshire.

It was noted that the Strategy provided:

- an overview of strategic thinking over the next 10 years.
- a collective vision, mission statements and priorities.
- a steady steer.
- an insight into the golden thread from international, national and corporate policy
- contextualised the Business Planning processes and documentation.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to:**

- 7.1 agree that the Strategy and 20 Purpose Pieces met the agreed aims and the Cabinet's aspirations for Education Services.**
- 7.2 agree to the final version of the Education Department's 10 year Strategy for launching and publishing.**

## **8. 2022-2032 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

[NOTE: Councillor C. A. Davies declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting during its consideration]

The Cabinet considered Carmarthenshire's 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), the purpose of which was to detail how the Authority aimed to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in its Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The WMES aimed to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

Carmarthenshire's WESP is a key vehicle for creating an improved planning system for Welsh-medium education. The WESP will provide the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which the Authority responds and contributes to the implementation of the WMES objectives.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children advised that the consultation process was undertaken for a total of 8 weeks between the 4th of October and 29th of November 2021. A total of 862 responses had been received in response to the formal consultation.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the revised 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan be approved.**

## **9. SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered the South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy. It was noted that the strategy had been commissioned by the Welsh Government and supported by the Welsh Government Energy Service. It had been developed by the South West Wales Energy Core Group, a sub-group of the Regional Directors' forum from the four local authorities in South West Wales, with additional support from an Advisory Panel and regional stakeholders.

The overall objective of the strategy was to develop a strategic pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region's ambitions for decarbonising its energy system. An Energy Vision scenario had been modelled to set out a potential decarbonisation route that would put the region on track to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050.

It was noted that the vision was supported by six regional priorities:

- Energy efficiency
- Electricity generation
- Smart and flexible systems
- Decarbonise heat
- Decarbonise transport
- Regional coordination

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Rural Affairs stated that she would like the logos promoting the four Local Authorities involved with the strategy to be more prominent within the report.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to:**

- 9.1 adopt the South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy,**
- 9.2 delegate authority to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy.**

## **10. 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.

## **11. 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.

## **12. UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP FUND - CARMARTHEN TOWN CENTRE**

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 11 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in 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 considered a report which detailed information in relation to a key strategic project that would bring a redundant property in Carmarthen town centre back into use.

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

- 12.1** that the proposed purchase of the Carmarthen town centre property identified in the report on the terms provisionally agreed be endorsed.
- 12.2** to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration and the Head of Administration and Law, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Resources, to finalise the purchase terms and complete the transaction.
- 12.3** to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration and the Head of Administration and Law, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Resources, to award stage one of the construction process (Appointment of successful contractor and their associated design team) to include carrying out of all necessary surveys, obtaining required reports and investigations and developing the initial design to obtain planning permission and building regulations approval.

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

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## **CABINET MEETING 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

### **SUBJECT:**

### **Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022 – 2027)**

#### **Purpose:**

This Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan will set out our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years.

It will build on the success of our current affordable housing delivery plans. It will also support economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities and directly supporting the actions in our Economic Recovery Plan, supporting businesses, people and places.

This delivery plan will :

- support the development of strong sustainable communities – places where people want to live and work.
- help grow the local economy and help the County recover from the devastating economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic;
- support the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles, creating energy efficient innovative homes, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents;
- understand the needs of our diverse communities, building the right homes in the right places and meeting housing need;
- support some of our most vulnerable tenants through the housing support grant programme;
- create jobs for local people;
- provide affordable homes for young and working aged people to help them remain in the County and benefit from the additional jobs created;
- help maintain our culture and identity especially in rural towns and villages, where we must help ensure that local people are able to afford quality affordable homes and remain in their communities;
- help to maintain and develop our town centres by increasing the residential offer, increasing footfall and helping businesses thrive;
- support the growth of the green economy, the local construction industry and our supply chains; and
- be flexible to ensure that we can respond to changing market conditions, risks and opportunities as they arise.

This plan will set out our housing regeneration priorities for the next five years, stimulating economic growth and helping our economy and communities become stronger than ever before.

## Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To confirm that the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan will support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale in the County over the next five years, meeting housing need, stimulating economic recovery and growth, and supporting the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles;
2. To agree that the authority to acquire non-Council owned land and buildings identified in the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan, together with any other land and/or buildings that would add value to the Council's Housing and Regeneration priorities and aspirations is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.
3. To agree that this plan will play a key role in increasing the supply of social rented homes in our communities, including homes suitable for:
  - general needs households;
  - specialist supported accommodation for people with complex needs; and
  - easily adapted flexible accommodation for older people.
4. To confirm that mixed tenure developments, consisting of homes for social rent, low-cost home ownership and open market sale will be supported through this delivery plan, creating balanced, strong, resilient communities;
5. To agree that this plan will include providing new flexible, innovative, mixed tenure housing solutions that meet the needs of an aging population;
6. To agree that this plan will support the delivery of the Councils strategic regeneration sites by providing more homes for rent and sale, including:
  - Town centre regeneration;
  - Rural towns and villages;
  - Pentre Awel Life Science Village; and
  - Tyisha.
7. To confirm that the homes supported through this plan will be delivered using a range of delivery vehicles that offer flexibility, scale and pace and;
8. To agree that the county-wide delivery of homes in this plan will follow the affordable housing action areas, building up wards in the County into distinctive areas, which link geographically and culturally.

## Reasons:

- To continue to increase the supply of homes in the County, building on the success of the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan, meeting housing need and stimulating economic recovery and growth following the Covid 19 pandemic;
- To provide homes for some of our most deprived and vulnerable households;
- To provide affordable homes for young and working aged people helping them remain in their communities;
- To create local jobs;
- To protect our Welsh language and culture; and
- To build strong sustainable communities, places where people want to live and work.



Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted **YES**

Community & Regeneration Scrutiny – The report was agreed in the meeting held on 31st January 2022

Cabinet Decision Required **YES - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Council Decision Required **YES – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Linda Davies Evans, Cabinet Member for Housing

<b>Directorate</b> Communities	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes & Safer Communities	JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk (01267) 228960
<b>Report Author:</b> Rachel Davies	Strategic Housing Delivery Manager	<a href="mailto:Ramd Davies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">Ramd Davies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> (01554) 899202

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
CABINET MEETING  
14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**SUBJECT:**

**Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022 – 2027)**

**1. Purpose**

This Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan will set out our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years.

It will build on the success of our current affordable housing delivery plans. It will also support economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities and directly supporting the actions in our Economic Recovery Plan, supporting businesses, people and places.

This plan will set out our housing regeneration priorities for the next five years, stimulating economic growth and helping our economy and communities become stronger than ever before.

**2. Context**

The demand for housing, especially affordable housing has been increasing rapidly in recent years. This effect has been felt across the whole of Wales and has been caused by several factors affecting the housing market and the economy. The Covid 19 pandemic has also served to further increase demand.

Addressing the need for more affordable housing in the County has been a key strategic priority for the Council for a number of years. This plan will help further increase the supply of homes in the County. It will meet housing need and build on the success of our existing affordable housing and new build plans that have already delivered over 1100 additional affordable homes across the County. It will also support the national goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, the Council's Net Zero Carbon Principles, the priorities in the Economic Recovery Plan and the Rural Growth Plans.

**3. Our Approach**

Meeting housing need has always been our main reason for providing more affordable homes. Our evidence confirms that this approach must continue, ensuring that we build the right homes in the right places. Good quality homes, at affordable rents and prices are essential to enable

local people and families on low income levels to live in homes in their community of choice. Through this plan we will meet housing need by:

- Providing more homes for social rent, including homes for general needs households, specialist supported housing for individuals with complex needs, temporary accommodation and accommodation for older people;
- Providing a choice of mixed tenure assisted living options for older people;
- Providing homes for low cost home ownership;
- Providing mixed tenure developments; and
- Supporting the development of the Councils strategic regeneration sites, including town centres, rural areas. Pentre Awel and Tyisha.

#### **4. The Journey Ahead**

This plan is ambitious and aims support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale, over the next five years. The plan is flexible and will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that we respond to and mitigate risks, including changing market conditions, land availability, labour and material shortages. The authority to respond to changing market conditions and opportunities by acquiring non-Council owned land and buildings, identified to meet the priorities of this plan, is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.

The delivery of more homes through this plan will follow the affordable housing action areas, which build up wards of the County into distinctive areas which link geographically and culturally. The delivery of homes will be driven by meeting housing need and stimulating economic growth. This will include supporting the delivery of all property types and sizes meeting the individual needs of our communities. The homes delivered will include houses, bungalows and apartments for rent and sale.

Our homes will look distinctive, they will follow a clear set of design principles that create new communities that are sustainable, with a real sense of place. Our developments will have a deep connection between people and places, promoting confidence and encouraging further economic investment.

Our developments will follow the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles. The use of innovative renewable technology and high levels of fabric insulation will be key in all our developments, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents.

The homes supported through this plan will be delivered using a range of delivery vehicles that offer flexibility, scale and pace, including:

- New build developments;
- Private sector partnerships;
- Bringing empty homes back into use;
- Buying private sector homes;
- Section 106 agreements and the planning system; and
- The Simple Lettings Agency.

#### **5. Our Five-Year Delivery Programme**





Our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale over the next five years is ambitious and exciting. It will create opportunities and help transform our County following the devastating effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The current Housing Regeneration and Development Five Year Delivery Plan by development and action area is shown on the next page.

This programme is flexible and will change as new opportunities arise. The programme will be affected by changing market conditions and risks that will affect the viability of some developments. This will result in some developments not proceeding and being replaced by other developments. The authority to acquire land and buildings on behalf of the Council to meet the priorities of this plan is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.

The programme is inclusive of the homes the Council will deliver, the homes we will deliver collaboratively with our housing association (HA) partners, and the homes the Council will deliver in partnership with private developers.

## Current Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022 – 2027)

Action Area	Development	Number of Homes	Delivery Vehicle
<b>Ammanford and the Amman Valley</b> 	Land at Gwynfryn, Ammanford	28	Council
	Land at Maes y Bedol, Garnant	8	Council
	Land in Llandybie	24	Council & HA Partner
	Ammanford Town Centre	12	Council
	Land in Saron	60	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Bonllwyn, Ammanford	30	Council & HA Partner
	Land Penygroes	140	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Cross Hands	60	Council & HA Partner
<b>Carmarthen and the West</b> 	Land in Maesgriffith, Llansteffan	16	Council
	Land at Wauniago House	4	Council
	Land in Carmarthen West, Carmarthen	100	Council & Private Partner
	Spilman Street, Carmarthen	12	Council
	Carmarthen Town Centre	25	Council
	Land at Llansteffan Road, Carmarthen	48	Council & Private Partner
	Lidl Site, Carmarthen	50	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Is y Llan, Llanddarog	6	Council
	Land in Station Road St Clears	45	Council & HA Partner
	Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland	15	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Porthyrhyd	54	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Bancyfelin	40	Council & HA Partner
<b>Carmarthen-shire Rural and Market Towns</b> 	Land in Meidrim, Trelech	11	Council
	Land at Alltwalis, School	17	Council
	Land opposite Llangadog School,	12	Council
	Llandovery Playing Fields, Cilycwm Road	12	Council
	Land in Llanllwni	16	Council
	Pencrug, Llandeilo	60	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Cwmman	22	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Llandovery	32	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Pontweli	14	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Pencader	30	Council & HA Partner
<b>Llanelli and District</b> 	Land in Dylan, Llanelli	32	Council
	Land in Maes yr Haf, Pwll	8	Council
	Land in Llangennech	11	Council
	Clos y Bacca, Burry Port	32	Council
	Pentre Awel, Llanelli (Assisted Living)	144	Council & Private Partner
	Llanelli Town Centre	18	Council
	Tyisha, Llanelli	120	Council & Private Partner
	Land at Plas Isaf, Llangennech	60	Council & Private Partner
	Land in Burry Port	240	Council & Private Partner
	Cwm y Nant, Llanelli	202	Council & Private Partner
	Land in North Dock, Llanelli	210	Council & Private Partner
	Land in Cross Hands	60	Council & HA Partner
	Penygraig, Bynea	20	Council & HA Partner
		<b>2160</b>	

***\*\*This programme is flexible and subject to change due to changing market conditions, risks and opportunities that may arise over the next five years\*\****

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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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>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

### **Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities**

- The report is set within the context of the previously agreed HRA business plan. Delivering against our priorities of providing more council homes, developing strong sustainable communities and meeting housing need.
- This report supports the seven national goals and the five ways of working within the Well-being of Future Generation Act. Providing more affordable homes is one of the Councils well-being objectives, supported in the Corporate Strategy.
- Equalities – meeting housing need is the driver for providing more homes in our communities. This includes providing homes for general needs households, specialist accommodation for individuals with complex needs and accommodation for older people.
- Welsh language – increasing the supply of affordable homes in the County will help local people help afford to live in their communities, protecting the Welsh language and culture.
- Social inclusion – the delivery of mixed tenure developments through this plan will help promote social including and create balanced sustainable communities.

### **Legal**

None at this stage, however, any services that need to be bought in to assist with the delivery plan will be subject to the Council's legal and procurement procedures.

### **Finance**

The funding required to increase the supply of social rented homes in this plan is supported by the HRA Business Plan. The homes delivered through this plan will also be supported by Social Housing Grant, Integrated Care Funding, the Land Release Fund, the Land and Buildings Development Fund and private finance from both our Housing Association partners and private sector developers.

### **Risk Management Issues**

There are significant risks with the delivery of this plan including changing market conditions, land availability, the capacity of the building industry and the supply of materials. The delivery of the plan will be monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis to manage and mitigate the risks identified. The delivery of affordable homes is recorded in the Councils Risk Management Plan.

### **Physical Assets**

Increasing the supply of affordable homes through this plan will increase the number of homes in the Council's housing stock. The homes delivered will follow the Council's Net Zero Carbon Principles, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents.

### **Staffing Implications**

The recent restructure of the Homes and Safer Communities Division has accounted for some of the additional resources required to deliver this plan. The additional resources required by other divisions are being identified.

## **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. Scrutiny Committee**

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

### **2. Local Member(s)**

Will be engaged as part of the consultation and delivery process

### **3. Community / Town Council**

Will be engaged as part of the consultation process on each development.

### **4. Relevant Partners**

Will be engaged as part of the delivery process.

### **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

Will be engaged as part of the delivery process.

**CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Linda Davies Evans, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Cllr Evans has been consulted and is fully supportive of this draft five-year delivery plan.



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

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery & Delivery Plan		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a>
Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a>
Building More Council Homes – Our ambition and plan of action		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a>
Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus Business Plan 2021/2024		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a>

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# Housing Regeneration and Development - Five Year Delivery Plan

2022 – 2027

December 2021



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

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## Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to present such an ambitious plan that will deliver a sea change in approach, leaving a lasting legacy for years to come. This new five-year delivery plan (2022-27) is just that and will see the greatest development of new Council homes in the County, through a variety of delivery vehicles, since the 1970's, three generations ago.

The plan is exciting and bold, supporting the delivery of over 2,000 homes in our communities. As an administration, providing more has been so important to us. We have already exceeded the targets in our first five-year plan, produced in 2016, which delivered over 1,000 homes, nearly a year ahead of programme. This plan sets out an even greater ambition.

The homes delivered through this plan will be for rent and sale in all areas of our County, including rural and urban areas. We will provide homes for all household types, including families, older people, single people, couples and households with specialist needs. Our developments will include a mix of property types, including apartments, bungalows, large and small family homes.

But its not just about building homes - the homes we build will have a design where the quality and the way they look is distinctive, and sustainable in terms of their carbon footprint. Our new homes will create communities with a real sense of place. Communities that people of all ages are proud to call home.

The investment associated with this plan will exceed £300 million over the five years. This will have a huge impact in stimulating the economy, creating jobs for local people and supporting the County's recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents, and partners for their contribution and feedback, that has helped development of this new ambitious plan. Our success to date is due to excellent joint working between all Council services and I look forward to seeing this continuing through our new delivery programme.

Finally, I would like to thank all Council members for their continuous support in driving forward our affordable home ambitions that will create a lasting legacy for future generations- something that we should all be proud of.

**Diolch yn fawr iawn,**



**CLlr Linda Davies Evans,  
Cabinet Member for Housing**

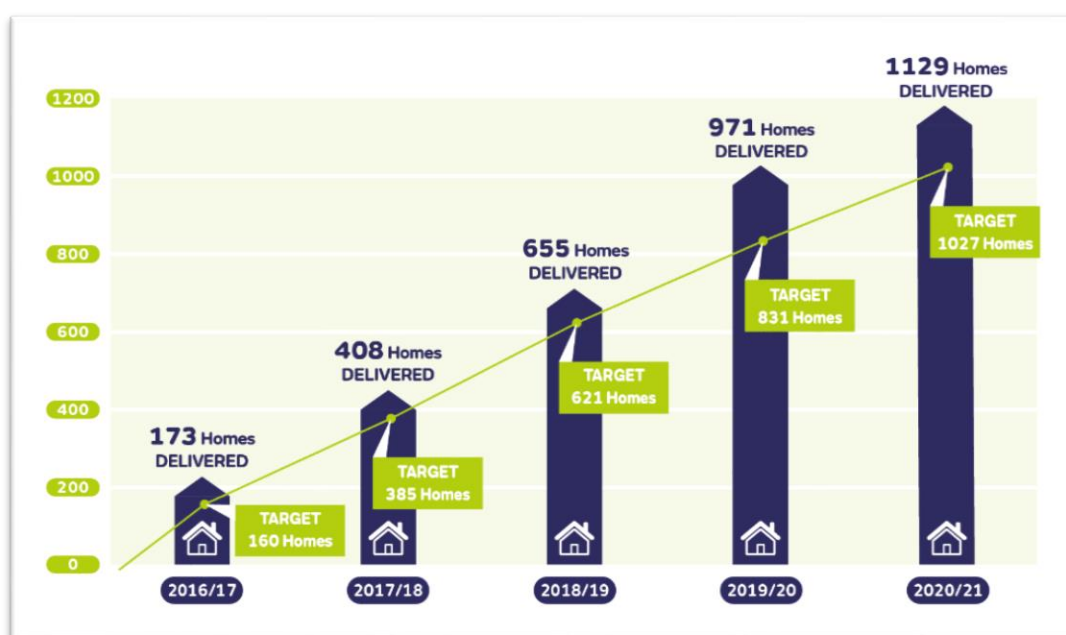


# 1. What is the purpose of this Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan?....

This Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan will set out our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years.

It will build on the success of our current affordable housing delivery plans that have already delivered over 1,000 homes and exceed our delivery targets every year, as shown in the graph below.

## Our Affordable Housing Delivery



This plan will also support economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities and directly supporting the actions in our Economic Recovery Plan, supporting businesses, people and places.

This delivery plan will :

- support the development of strong sustainable communities – places where people want to live and work.
- help grow the local economy and help the County recover from the devastating economic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic;
- support the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles, creating energy efficient innovative homes, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents;
- understand the needs of our diverse communities, building the right homes in the right places and meeting housing need;

- support some of our most vulnerable tenants through the housing support grant programme;
- create jobs for local people;
- provide affordable homes for young and working aged people to help them remain in the County and benefit from the additional jobs created;
- help maintain our culture and identity especially in rural towns and villages, where we must help ensure that local people are able to afford quality affordable homes and remain in their communities;
- help to maintain and develop our town centres by increasing the residential offer, increasing footfall and helping businesses thrive;
- support the growth of the green economy, the local construction industry and our supply chains; and
- be flexible to ensure that we can respond to changing market conditions, risks and opportunities as they arise.

This plan will set out our housing regeneration priorities for the next five years, stimulating economic growth and helping our economy and communities become stronger than ever before.

## 2. Why do we need to increase the supply of homes?....

The demand for housing, especially affordable housing has been increasing rapidly in recent years. This effect has been felt across the whole of Wales and has been caused by several factors affecting the housing market and the economy, including:

- the reduction in social rented homes available for letting due to the effect of the Right to Buy scheme facilitating the sale of Council homes from 1980 to 2015;
- the long term increases in house prices compared with income levels, making home ownership impossible for many individuals and families; and
- the increasing number of people in insecure and low wage employment, again making home ownership impossible for many due to their inability to get a mortgage.

The economic effect of the Covid 19 pandemic has also increased the need for more affordable homes. As more people work from home and look to leave busy urban areas, the demand for homes in rural and coastal areas has inflated property prices, widening the affordability gap for many local people.

The findings of the Rural Affairs Task and Finish Group<sup>1</sup> and the more recent Ten Towns Growth Plans<sup>2</sup> clearly support the need for more housing in rural areas. These plans highlight that affordable homes in rural areas are crucial to help younger and working aged people stay in our rural communities. By helping local people stay, we help preserve the culture of rural towns and villages and protect the Welsh language.

We have strong evidence to support the need for additional homes in the County. This drives our housing investment programmes, ensuring that we build the right homes in the right places. This evidence comes from a variety of sources, including:

#### **A) Demographic Research**

The research data used helps us understand housing need in the County. The data is mainly based on information contained within the Carmarthenshire Housing Market Assessment. A study of publicly available information that projects housing need and demand for affordable and market housing from today through to 2033. The information used as part of the demographic research also includes various housing need studies, including the rural housing need study carried out in 2019, household income data and information on the housing market. We also analyse our own data in the Housing Choice Register and Canfod Cartref.

The data is reviewed frequently, to ensure that we direct resources to the right places, and deliver new affordable homes, in accordance with medium to long term housing need projections. The need for additional homes in the County is also supported by the Local Development Plan, which predicts the need for over 8,000 new homes by 2033.

#### **B) Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

It is vital that we understand the views and priorities of the public and our key stakeholders in addressing housing need. To ensure that we are clear on their priorities, in July 2021, we began a six-week consultation campaign that was widely publicised to maximise participation.

Over 2,500 consultation responses were received. The key messages from the consultation are summarised below and have helped shape our new Five Year Delivery Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Rural Affairs Task and Finish Group – July 2019

<sup>2</sup> Ten Towns Growth Plans – July 2021



## Consultation Key Messages

The infographic is a vertical list of eight key messages, each preceded by a yellow icon. The background is dark blue with faint, light blue circular patterns. The messages are separated by horizontal dashed lines.

-  Housing need should determine where more homes are provided;
-  Affordable homes should be provided for families, people with ill-health and disabilities, young people and key workers;
-  Homes should be provided on mixed tenure basis;
-  The Council has a clear role in growing the green economy, including improving the energy performance of homes, using building techniques that reduce waste and embodied carbon and generating renewable energy;
-  91% of respondents said that improving the skills of local people should be a priority for the Council;
-  Future town centre uses should include more residential space, restaurants, cafes, the entertainment industry, the provision of public services and creating more public open space;
-  Homes in town centres should be provided for town centre workers, single people, couples, young people under 25, people with disabilities and retired people;
-  The Council should support rural communities by providing more affordable homes for rent and low cost home ownership, improve transport links, improve digital connectivity and support local businesses; and
-  62% of respondents agreed that building strong communities, promoting the Welsh language and culture should be a priority for the Council.

### **C) Carmarthenshire's Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan**

Carmarthenshire's Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan<sup>3</sup> sets clear goals and actions for the next two years that will support the recovery of the County's economy from the social and economic impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and Brexit. The Plan sets out the short-term priorities and immediate actions that will protect jobs, safeguard businesses, and build strong, sustainable, resilient communities.

<sup>3</sup> Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery & Delivery Plan Final Report April 2021 – Agreed by Council July 2021

Increasing the supply of homes is recognised in the plan as a key driver of economic recovery and growth.

The actions in the recovery plan are focused on supporting:

- **Businesses** - safeguarding existing businesses, supporting new start-ups and growing businesses in the foundational and growth sectors to become more productive and competitive, including the green economy.
- **People** - protecting jobs, responding to the expected increases in unemployment, helping people gain the skills needed for the jobs that will become available, and creating new and better-skilled employment opportunities.
- **Places** - ensuring a fair distribution of opportunities through investing in the infrastructure and adaptation of our strategic growth areas, town centres, the rural economy and regenerating our most deprived communities.

Increasing the supply of homes and meeting housing need will help support some of the immediate priorities identified in the economic recovery plan, including:

- **The need to build strong communities** – by creating over 2,000 homes we will help ensure that we deliver the right homes in the right places. This will include providing affordable homes for young and working age people in both rural and urban areas, helping them remain in the County, increasing footfall in our primary towns and protecting the Welsh language and culture in rural areas;
- **Replacing and safeguarding jobs** – the investment associated with this plan exceeds £300million. This will support local businesses and the supply chain, creating and safeguarding jobs, helping to replace the 3,000 jobs that have already been lost.
- **Growing the green economy** – developing energy-efficient new homes, with the latest renewable technology and the delivery of our commitments outlined in the Housing Decarbonisation and Affordable Warmth Strategy will help support the Council's Net Zero Carbon targets and the circular economy. These new build and retrofit programmes will support the development of the green economy, the construction industry and build local skills.

Addressing the need for more affordable housing in the County has been a key strategic priority for the Council for a number of years. In 2015, we published our five-year vision<sup>4</sup> for increasing the supply of affordable homes. In 2016, we set out our first ambitious programme to deliver over 1000 additional affordable homes

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<sup>4</sup> Our Commitment to Affordable Homes – Agreed by Council in October 2015

across the County<sup>5</sup> and, in September 2019, we published our exciting plans to build over 900 new Council homes<sup>6</sup>.

Our new Housing Regeneration and Development Plan will help increase the supply of homes in the County. It will meet housing need and build on the success of our existing affordable housing and new build plans that have already delivered over 1100 additional affordable homes across the County. It will also support the national goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, the priorities in the Economic Recovery Plan and the Rural Growth Plans.

### 3. Our Approach....

Meeting housing need has always been our main reason for providing more affordable homes. Our evidence confirms that this approach must continue. Good quality homes, at affordable rents and prices are essential to enable local people and families on low income levels to live in homes in their community of choice.

There are a number of reasons why people find themselves in housing need, including:

- their current home is too small for their family;
- they are homeless;
- their home is not suitable for them because of their disability or ill health;
- they are paying a level of rent that does not leave them enough to live on; or
- their current home is in poor condition

Some of these issues may be resolved by improving existing homes. Our housing need information picks up where this is not possible and identifies where additional affordable and open market homes are required in our communities.

Housing need can be met in a variety of different ways, according to the needs of the household, their financial position and the opportunities available, including:

#### **A) Providing more homes for social rent**

Families and households on income levels of less than £20,000 a year are likely to need a social rented home. Our housing register (Canfod Cartref) tells us how many households need social housing. This includes all types of need, including families, older people, single people, couples, people with disabilities or support needs such as people with mental ill health, autism or learning disabilities.

This plan will play a key role in increasing the supply of social rented homes in our communities, including:

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<sup>5</sup> Affordable Homes Delivery Plan – Agreed by Council in March 2016

<sup>6</sup> Building More Council Homes – Our Ambition and Plan of Action – Agreed by Council in September 2019

- **Providing general needs housing for social rent** – the greatest demand for social rented homes is from individuals and families without any specialist or complex needs. We will continue to increase the supply of general needs social housing for rent throughout the County by providing homes of all sizes.
- **Providing supported specialist housing for social rent** - Supported housing projects are commissioned for accommodation and support for individuals or groups of people that have complex needs. We will continue to increase the supply of supported accommodation and temporary accommodation by bringing the landlord function in-house and commissioning the care services separately. This will provide safe, affordable accommodation for some of our most vulnerable individuals and offer them a real choice of support provider, as the support is not linked to the landlord.
- **Providing more social rented accommodation for older people** - We have a good supply of social rented homes for older people, but the supply is unevenly distributed throughout the County, and does not necessarily match where people want to live or their expectations. We need to provide more accommodation for older people, which is easily adaptable, in areas of short supply. This will include two-bedroom bungalows and one-bedroom older person apartments, which are easily adaptable should the needs of the household change.

#### **B) Providing a choice of mixed tenure assisted living accommodation options for older people**

Information from the housing market assessment indicates that the need for assisted living accommodation for older people will continue to rise as the older person population in Carmarthenshire increases. The need for older person accommodation includes social rented homes, homes for low-cost home ownership and open market sale. Many people in owner occupation may want to downsize as they get older and/or release the equity in their existing home.

We want to help older people remain independent as long as possible, by developing homes which are well-designed, accessible and have access to support if required. There will also be a need for good quality residential and nursing care for people with higher care needs. Our future plans include re-modelling and improving our existing accommodation offer for older people.

#### **C) Providing more homes for low-cost home ownership**

The demand for low-cost home ownership products continue to rise as the long term increases in house prices compared with local incomes levels makes home ownership impossible for many individuals and families. The recent economic effect of the Covid19 pandemic has also served to widen the affordability gap for many, as more people work from home and look for alternative accommodation in rural and coastal villages, further inflating property prices.

The estimated need for low-cost home ownership is determined from unmet need and income levels. Families on income levels between of £25,000 and £35,000 a year are unlikely to be able to afford a mortgage without assistance.

Low-cost home ownership is needed throughout the County, but the demand is greatest in rural areas. This is due the existing short supply of homes and the lack of new build developments. Both the findings of the Ten Town Growth Plans and the Rural Housing Study support this need.

#### **D) Providing more mixed tenure developments**

The delivery of mixed tenure developments through this plan will help create balanced sustainable communities. Mixed tenure developments consist of social rented, low-cost home ownership and open market homes, offering a real choice of tenures for local people depending on their individual circumstances. These developments also help strengthen the economy by attracting key workers that are working in the local area, helping to address the labour and skill shortages.

Through this plan we will support the delivery of mix tenure developments in all parts of the County. This will include small rural developments, which will help working aged people stay in rural towns and villages. It will also include the development of key strategic sites that are developed in partnership with private sector development partners.

#### **E) Supporting the development of the Council's strategic regeneration sites**

Developing and delivering the Council's strategic regeneration sites is an important part of our economic recovery and growth. This plan will in support the development of these sites throughout the County by delivering more homes for rent and sale, including:

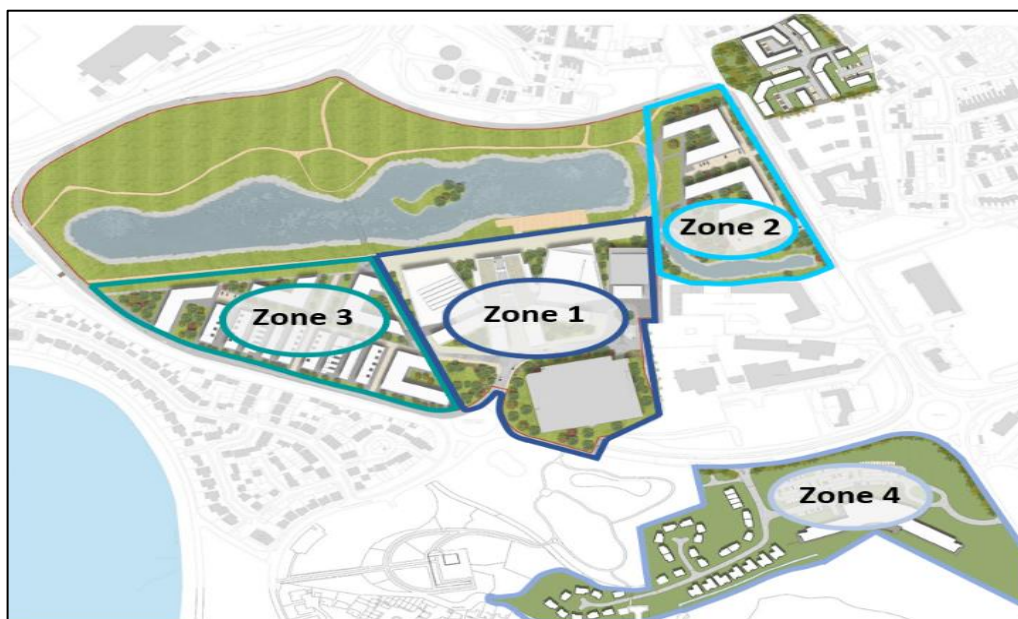
- [Town centre regeneration](#) - Over recent years town centre use and footfall has declined as on-online shopping trends increase. This decline has also been accelerated by the Covid 19 pandemic as shops and businesses were forced to close during the lockdowns. This change in shopping trends has had a negative economic effect on our three primary towns of Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli. Through this plan we want to stimulate housing-based regeneration, economic recovery and growth in our town centres. We will do this by looking at alternative land uses in our town centres including increasing residential space and the residential offer. In line with the public consultation results, more homes in town centres will be provided for people working in town centres (including key workers), single people, couples, people with disabilities and older people.
- [Supporting Rural Town and Villages](#) – Providing more affordable homes in rural areas are important to help younger and working age people stay in rural communities. This will not only help strengthen our rural culture and protect the Welsh language. It will also help create a more balanced age structure in our rural



towns that will help support schools, local businesses and the foundational economy. The affordable homes provided in rural communities will be a mix of social rent and low-cost home ownership. This will provide a choice of tenures, which will help meet some people's aspirations to buy their own homes and get on the property ladder.

- [Pentre Awel Life Science Village in Llanelli](#) - This development forms part of the City Deal portfolios led by the Council in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board and a range of other local and regional stakeholders. Its aim is to regenerate the area and stimulate the local economy by integrating economic development, education, wellness and healthcare initiatives, research and business development on one strategic site. The site is over 80 acres in size and will see the investment of over £200 million into South Llanelli. The site has been divided into a number of zones with differing uses as indicated on the master plan below.

#### **Pentre Awel Life Science Village Master Plan**



- Zone 1** – Integrated business, education, health, aquatics and dry leisure centre;  
**Zone 2** – Nursing home, extra care and re-habilitation hub;  
**Zone 3** – Assisted living retirement homes and business centre;  
**Zone 4** – Hotel and executive homes

This plan will directly support the development of Zones 2 and 3, creating mixed tenure assisted living accommodation for older people with support and care (if required). Helping older people remain independent as long as possible, by developing homes which are well-designed, accessible and have access to support and health care on site if required.

Zone 2 will contain a nursing home and extra care scheme to help cater for older people with higher needs. Zone 3, will consist of 144 mixed tenure assisted living units for lower needs, including homes for social rent, shared ownership and open market sale. This will help cater for older people who may want to downsize in both rented and private accommodation. The shared ownership products offered on this development will also help older people release the equity in their existing home, if required.

- [The Transforming Tyisha Project, Llanelli](#) - The Tyisha project will deliver a bold, transformational plan in partnership with the local community to create vibrancy, cohesion, and sustainability for one of our most deprived communities. The Tyisha project has an ambitious plan to regenerate the area by:  
[Improving the built environment](#) – demolishing redundant buildings that are no longer fit for purpose. Improving and re-modelling the existing homes in the area and tackling the social deprivation caused by the current tenure mix. Creating innovative business and retail space that will help stimulate the foundational economy. Building new modern, innovative and attractive mixed-tenure homes, that are in high demand by local people and key workers. Creating homes and a community that people are proud to live in.  
[Creating a new street scene](#) – improving the environment, addressing local traffic, litter and parking issues. This will include improving transport links and the visual appearance of the street scene and public realm. This will strengthen connectivity and access to well-being and leisure facilities at the new Pentre Awel Life Science Village and the Llanelli coastal path. It will also include the creation of a new avenue that will help increase footfall into Llanelli Town Centre, helping local businesses grow and supporting the local economy.  
[Providing more green space](#) - creating new community facilities and providing more educational opportunities to help children and young people thrive in the area. Providing more green spaces making the most of Llanelli's heritage for everyone to enjoy.

This plan will directly support the regeneration of the Tyisha area by re-modelling the existing housing stock and delivering new mixed-tenure modern homes in the community, which in turn will provide incentives for further development, making the area more vibrant and attractive. This will help lay the foundations for stimulating the economy and improving the social and economic profile of the area.

## 4. The Journey Ahead....

This plan is ambitious and aims support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale, over the next five years. The plan is flexible and will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that we respond to and mitigate risks, including changing market conditions, land availability, labour and material shortages.

We will ensure that we support the delivery of more homes in the most cost-effective way, maximising all external funding opportunities, working collaboratively with partners to support the development of our communities, rural areas and town centres.

The authority to respond to changing market conditions and opportunities by acquiring non-Council owned land and buildings, identified to meet the priorities of this plan, is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.

The delivery of more homes through this plan will be driven by meeting housing need and stimulating economic growth. This will include supporting the delivery of all property types and sizes meeting the individual needs of our communities. The homes delivered will include houses, bungalows and apartments for rent and sale.

Our homes will look distinctive, they will follow a clear set of design principles that create new communities that are sustainable, with a real sense of place. Our developments will have a deep connection between people and places, promoting confidence and encouraging further economic investment.

Our designs will be innovative and attractive, filled with natural light, thermal comfort and packed with high specification fixtures and fittings. Each home, large or small will have its own outdoor space.

Our developments will follow the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles. The use of innovative renewable technology and high levels of fabric insulation will be key in all our developments, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents.

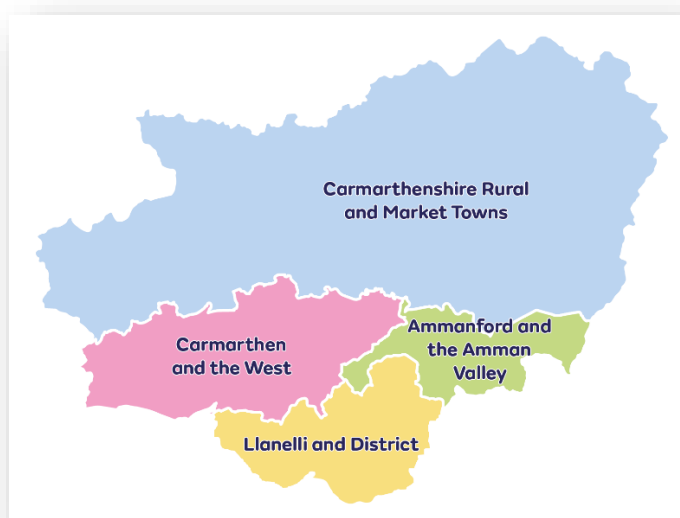
The homes supported through this plan will be delivered using a range of delivery vehicles that offer flexibility, scale and pace, including:



- **New Build Developments** – the Council will develop new build homes, but will also work collaboratively with housing association partners to maximise all regeneration and funding opportunities;
- **Private Sector Partnerships** – the Council will work with private sector partners to deliver housing solutions at scale and pace that meet the individual needs of an area;
- **Empty Homes** – the Council will continue to work with private owners across the County to bring empty homes back into use. It will also look to purchase empty homes through the Land and Building Development Fund, releasing the potential of a disused asset;
- **Buying Private Sector Homes** – the Council will continue to purchase private sector homes for general and specialist housing need e.g. assisted living schemes for learning difficulties, mental health, temporary accommodation and older people's housing;
- **Section 106** – low cost home ownership will continue to be provided through the planning system on private sector developments in line with the requirements of the Local Development Plan; and
- **Simple Lettings** – working with private landlords and increasing the number of homes available for rent through the Council's Simple Lettings Agency.

The delivery of more homes through this plan will follow the affordable housing action areas set up as part of the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan, which are recognised in the deposit draft of the Local Development Plan. Four action areas have been created by building up wards in the County into distinctive areas, which link geographically and culturally as shown in the map below.

#### Map of Action Areas



The number of homes delivered in each action area will reflect housing need, population size and the economic opportunities available, including land availability, funding opportunities and market trends.

## 5. Our Five-Year Delivery Programme....

Our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale over the next five years is ambitious and exciting. It will create opportunities and help transform our County following the devastating effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. It will :

- support the development of strong sustainable communities – building the right homes in the right places, creating places which people are proud to call home;.
- stimulate the economy, creating and supporting local jobs;
- support the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles, reducing carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for residents;
- provide affordable homes for young and working aged people to help them remain in the County and benefit from the additional jobs created;
- improving the health and well-being our tenants and residents;
- support rural towns and villages, helping to maintain our culture, identity and the Welsh language by ensuring that local people are able to afford quality affordable homes and remain in their rural communities;
- regenerate our town centres by increasing the residential offer, increasing footfall and helping businesses thrive; and
- support the growth of the green economy, the local construction industry and our supply chains.

Delivering the priorities in this plan will bring new challenges. It will require different thinking and flexibility. It will also require a range of delivery vehicles and clear design standards that meet the diverse needs of our communities.

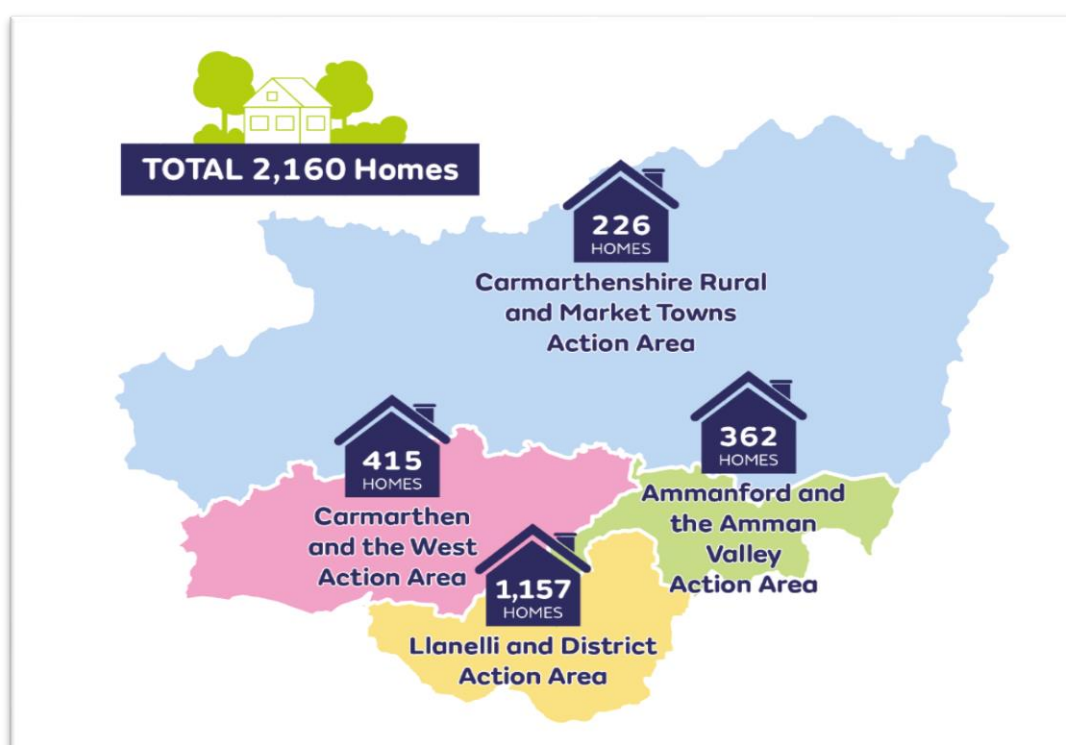
We will continue to maximise all external funding opportunities and work collaboratively with our partner housing associations. We will also work in partnership with private developers to ensure that we access the expertise available in the private sector and deliver mixed tenure developments throughout the county at scale and pace.

The current Housing Regeneration and Development Five Year Delivery Plan by action area and development is shown on pages 16 and 17. This programme is flexible and will change as new opportunities arise. The programme will be affected by changing market conditions and risks that will affect the viability of some developments. This may result in some developments not proceeding and being

replaced by other developments. The authority to acquire land and buildings on behalf of the Council to meet the priorities of this plan is delegated to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.

This programme is inclusive of the homes the Council will deliver, the homes we will deliver collaboratively with our housing association (HA) partners, and the homes the Council will deliver in partnership with private developers.

### **Current Housing Regeneration and Development - Five Year Delivery Plan by Action Area (2022 – 2027)**



## Current Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022 – 2027)

Action Area	Development	Number of Homes	Delivery Vehicle
<b>Ammanford and the Amman Valley</b> 	Land at Gwynfryn, Ammanford	28	Council
	Land at Maes y Bedol, Garnant	8	Council
	Land in Llandybie	24	Council & HA Partner
	Ammanford Town Centre	12	Council
	Land in Saron	60	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Bonllwyn, Ammanford	30	Council & HA Partner
	Land Penygroes	140	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Cross Hands	60	Council & HA Partner
<b>Carmarthen and the West</b> 	Land in Maesgriffith, Llansteffan	16	Council
	Land at Wauniago House	4	Council
	Land in Carmarthen West, Carmarthen	100	Council & Private Partner
	Spilman Street, Carmarthen	12	Council
	Carmarthen Town Centre	25	Council
	Land at Llansteffan Road, Carmarthen	48	Council & Private Partner
	Lidl Site, Carmarthen	50	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Is y Llan, Llanddarog	6	Council
	Land in Station Road St Clears	45	Council & HA Partner
	Clos Llwyn Ty Gwyn, Whitland	15	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Porthyrhyd	54	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Bancyfelin	40	Council & HA Partner
<b>Carmarthen-shire Rural and Market Towns</b> 	Land in Meidrim, Trelech	11	Council
	Land at Alltwalis, School	17	Council
	Land opposite Llangadog School,	12	Council
	Llandovery Playing Fields, Cilycwm Road	12	Council
	Land in Llanllwni	16	Council
	Pencrug, Llandeilo	60	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Cwmman	22	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Llandovery	32	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Pontweli	14	Council & HA Partner
	Land in Pencader	30	Council & HA Partner
<b>Llanelli and District</b> 	Land in Dylan, Llanelli	32	Council
	Land in Maes yr Haf, Pwll	8	Council
	Land in Llangennech	11	Council
	Clos y Bacca, Burry Port	32	Council
	Pentre Awel, Llanelli (Assisted Living)	144	Council & Private Partner
	Llanelli Town Centre	18	Council
	Tyisha, Llanelli	120	Council & Private Partner
	Land at Plas Isaf, Llangennech	60	Council & Private Partner
	Land in Burry Port	240	Council & Private Partner
	Cwm y Nant, Llanelli	202	Council & Private Partner
	Land in North Dock, Llanelli	210	Council & Private Partner
	Land in Cross Hands	60	Council & HA Partner
	Penygraig, Bynea	20	Council & HA Partner
		<b>2160</b>	

***\*\* This programme is flexible and subject to change due to changing market conditions, risks and opportunities that may arise over the next five years \*\****

## Cabinet Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Subject:**

Local Environment Quality Management Plan 2022 - 2026.

**Purpose:**

The plan sets out the direction of the Council's for litter management within the County for the next four years. The purpose of the plan is to demonstrate how litter management will be undertaken thereby contributing to the Council's Corporate Strategy, with particular emphasis Wellbeing Objective 10 – Healthy and Safe Environment; look after the environment now and in the future.

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

To approve the attached revised Local Environment Quality (LEQ) Management Plan (formerly the Litter Management Plan 2014-2018) for Carmarthenshire, including the LEQ Action Plan.

**Reason(s) for recommendation:**

To update the former Litter Management Plan 2014-2018 (renamed the Local Environment Quality Plan) in order to meet the Council's aim of prevention and control of litter and associated environmental blight in a coherent and comprehensive manner.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted Yes – E& PP Scrutiny Committee 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Cabinet Decision Required Yes

Council Decision Required No

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

Cllr. Hazel Evans –Environment

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**Report Author:**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Cabinet Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Local Environment Quality Management Plan 2022 - 2026

#### 1. Background

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (As amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005), imposes a legal duty on the council to keep the streets, Highways and other areas under its control free from litter and refuse.

Statutory bodies, business, educational establishments, internal asset owners and individuals have a duty to keep their land clean by disposing of litter and waste safely in a responsible manner.

This Local Environment Quality (LEQ) Management Plan has been written to inform the people who live and work in the County of Carmarthenshire of the obligations of the County Council in relation to litter, the obligations of others and how it intends to manage litter. The previous versions of the plan were referred to as the Litter Management Plan.

The aim of the updated LEQ Management Plan is to set out in non-technical terms the legal position and type of litter problems that the Council manage, the ways in which the Council will achieve results and how the Council can continue to improve and maintain cleanliness standards. This in turn contributes to the Council's Corporate strategy and in particular Wellbeing Objective 10 - Healthy and Safe Environment; look after the environment now and for the future.

The vision and core aim of the plan is to protect and maintain the natural heritage and ecosystems, including our community amenity assets to achieve a clean, healthy & sustainable natural and built environment for people to enjoy.

One of the principal activities in achieving this service objective is the implementation of litter control measures. Litter consists of any substance, material or item deposited in, or disposed of in, or within sight of a public place in such a manner as to be detrimental to the amenity of the natural or built environment. The amount of litter that defaces our footpaths, streets, parks and green spaces is an environmental issue in which we seek to reduce through the adoption of this plan.

#### 2. Aims and Objectives

The overall vision and overarching objective of the plan is to maintain and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution, thereby creating a healthy and safe environment.

This LEQ Management Plan sets out objectives for the prevention and eradication of litter throughout Carmarthenshire. The LEQ Management Plan recognises that the problem of litter will not be reduced unless a multi-dimensional approach is taken, and every sector must be involved in tackling the litter problem: including the general public and visitors, businesses, town and community councils as well as the Authority.

While there is a growing awareness of the importance of keeping Carmarthenshire litter free amongst some in our society, there remains a real need to change attitudes and behaviour to recognise that littering is an antisocial act. Behaviour change can be achieved by generally heightening the awareness of littering, its causes and its impacts.

The LEQ Management Plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

**Objectives:**

- Maintain and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution.
- Target the main causes of litter in the County.
- Improved litter awareness for all.
- Implement operational activity through regular scheduled and reactive litter management programmes.

These objectives are met through an overarching set of actions:

- Service operations - the prevention and control of litter.
- Education and engagement- public awareness, participation and education relating to litter matters.
- Enforcement.

**Causation:**

The main causative factors or source origins of litter pollution in Carmarthenshire (based on the LEAMS Survey's) can be attributed to:

- Pedestrians.
- Motorists.
- Actions/behaviours at gathering points or near venues.
- Actions/behaviours associated with retail outlets/shopping centres.
- Dog fouling.
- Fly tipping.
- Discarded PPE.
- Fast Food litter.

This LEQ Management Plan will act as an overarching strategy document for the next four years, based on which, an annual LEQ Action Plan will be formulated to identify priorities and specific actions to be carried out in each financial year. The Action Plan will be reviewed at financial year end and performance will be evaluated against the targets set out therein.

A copy of the LEQ Management Plan will be made available to sight on the Authority's web pages.

The problem areas and issues identified for action in this plan are:

- Lack of awareness by the public on the environmental legislation and their responsibilities in complying with it, such as littering, miss management of waste etc.
- Illegal/indiscriminate dumping.
- Litter from retail and fast-food outlets.
- Cigarette derived litter.
- Flyposting & distributing of advertising material.
- Dog fouling / dog related anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues.

### **3. Proposals to combat local environmental quality issues:**

The following is a summary of the practical measures that are and will continue to be adopted in combating these issues.

- Ongoing Education and Awareness campaigns promoted by the County Council's Environmental Enforcement Team and the Waste and Environmental Services Team.
- Adopt various and new approaches to keep areas of County clean and tidy.
- Promote and assist residents to participate in Carmarthenshire County Councils waste recycling schemes and the correct use available facilities.
- Develop and distribute anti-litter messaging via various marketing tools
- Increase the use of the website to promote awareness.
- Undertake effective mobile patrols aimed at identifying areas with litter and dog fouling problems and deter further littering.
- Increase awareness of public responsibility towards litter.
- Operational management of litter and cleansing activities.
- Partnership working.
- Attendance and participation in regional and national fora and associated campaigns.

### **4. Partnership working:**

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to collaboration with local voluntary and community groups, businesses, schools, residents' associations, Dyfed Powys Police, Town & Community Councils and with residents and visitors to Carmarthenshire in order to achieve a reduction in the amount of litter in our local environment.

As part of a collaborative process to bring this from a draft plan to a working plan, Carmarthenshire County Council will seek to work in partnership specifically with the following:

- Voluntary groups and organisations.
- Chamber of Commerce.
- Town & Community Councils.
- Partner Agencies.
- Welsh Government and Keep Wales Tidy.
- Working in accordance with the Welsh Government backed pan-Wales "Caru Cymru" initiative alongside all local authorities in Wales.

On approval of the LEQ Management plan, we will engage with our stakeholders and elected members to advise of the actions planned over the next twelve months and maintain partnership working during the plans cycle between 2022-2026.

### **5. Summary of main objectives and actions:**

As a Council (including all internal asset owners within the Council), we will continue to work in partnership with resident associations, estate management groups, the business and voluntary



sectors and encourage each to play their individual and collective part in LEQ issue prevention as set out with the following objectives:

**Objectives:**

- Maintain and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution.
- Target the main causes of litter in the County.
- Improved litter awareness for all.
- Implement operational activity through regular scheduled and reactive litter management programmes.

In order to meet the objectives, the following high-level actions are identified:

- Continue to implement our cleansing and litter removal operational activity.
- Continue to work with the various groups and encourage the development of local litter action plans for blackspot areas.
- Actively encourage participation of resident associations, estate management groups and other voluntary groups in litter awareness programmes.
- Examine the introduction of new schemes by promoting community involvement and partnership.
- Work with schools to heighten awareness of the problems caused by littering of confectionary items and 'on the go' litter.
- Ensure that operators of take-away outlets and deli-shops take responsibility for the correct recovery/disposal of packaging sold by them in the vicinity of their premises
- Increase awareness of the laws & responsibilities regarding litter in line with the Code of Practice with Litter and Refuse (Wales) 2007 (COPLAR).
- Continue to heighten awareness of public responsibilities towards litter/littering  
Carmarthenshire County Council will:
  - Use all available media to heighten awareness towards litter/littering
  - Provide litter awareness literature in different languages to include and embrace our multicultural society
  - Continue to remind the public to use only registered waste collectors to collect their waste
  - Provide litter awareness signs at litter black spot areas in the County.

More detailed actions are contained in the separate LEQ Action Plan document.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

LEQ Management Plan 2022- 2026 and LEQ Action Plan.

## 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: A I 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>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**Policy** - The LEQ Management Plan aligns with the Council's updated Corporate Strategy and in particular Wellbeing Objectives 10 - Healthy and Safe Environment; look after the environment now and for the future. The plan will also contribute to Wellbeing Objective 8; Live well age well – support community cohesion, resilience and safety. The overall objective is to create a healthy, safe inclusive and prosperous environment. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended by The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005), the Council has a legal duty to keep the streets and other areas under its control free from litter and refuse.

**Finance** – No additional expenditure is likely to be incurred as a consequence of the adoption of the updated LEQ Management Plan for 2022 - 2026. The Current Budget for 2021/2022 is £2.5 million on cleansing activities, removal of litter and illicit tipping throughout the County.

The Caru Cymru Project grant has allowed for the appointment of LEQ Advisor for 2021 – 23 to support with behavioural change campaigns in line with the project action plan.

Further reductions of £145k in operational cleansing budget terms are expected as follows:

- 22/23 – a reduction of £55k
- 23/24 – a further reduction of £90k

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: A I Williams

Head of Waste and Environmental Services

**1. Scrutiny Committee**

Due 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

**2. Local Member(s)**

N/A

**3. Community / Town Council**

Consultation as appropriate with respect to specific initiatives to be undertaken.

**4. Relevant Partners**

N/A – but specific discussions and collaborations as part of normal action plans will continue.

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

Consultation and discussion undertaken with all service delivery managers.

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

Yes- cabinet member is supportive of the four year LEQ plan.

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

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

**THERE ARE NONE**



# Local Environmental Quality Management Plan

“Keep Carmarthenshire Clean”

2022- 2026



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

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



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# Foreword

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Cllr. Hazel Evans  
Executive Board Member for  
Environment



Cllr. Philip Hughes  
Executive Board Member for  
Public Protection

*“Welcome to our four-year strategy for the management of Local Environmental Quality issues (LEQ) in Carmarthenshire.*

*The plan has been revised and updated version from the former Litter Management plan.*

*We cannot deliver our LEQ plan without the unique contribution of the public and our partners, and together we will continue to work closely to “Keep Carmarthenshire Clean”.*

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 This Local Environmental Quality Plan is presented by Carmarthenshire County Council for the period 2022—26.

The overall vision and overarching objective of the plan is to maintain, enhance and improve the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution, thereby creating a healthy and safe environment.

Carmarthenshire enjoys a high-quality natural environment and rich diverse heritage, the protection and condition of which is a high priority.

This plan contributes to the wider aims and objectives of the Council's updated Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire ( [corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)), Route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 ([Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 Action Plan](#)) and associated Wellbeing Objectives (WBOs), particularly *WBO 10; Healthy and Safe Environment – look after the environment now and in the future*. This includes our built and natural environment, including the County's natural biodiversity. Unfortunately, wildlife is one of the main victims when it comes to people's rubbish in the environment - particularly wild birds and small mammals. This plan also contributes towards the Council's duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which gives public bodies a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity in all our functions.

It describes how the Council aims to achieve the targets it has set for itself in its annual performance plan. The Council has provided a consultation response to Welsh Government proposed Litter and Fly Tipping prevention plan for Wales. The Council will take account of the outcomes of Welsh Government's prevention plan for Wales as part of our action plan.

This LEQ Plan has been written to inform the people who live, work and travel in the County of Carmarthenshire of the obligations of the County Council in relation to litter, the obligations of others and how it intends to manage litter.

The aim of the LEQ Plan is to set out in non-technical, simple terms the legal position, the litter problem that the Council must deal with, the ways in which the Council considers it will achieve best results and how the Council can continue to improve and maintain cleanliness standards.

The council aims to achieve these objectives, through the integrated use of resources, partnership, and enforcement to deliver a cleaner, healthier and safer county for all.







This LEQ Management Plan sets out objectives for the prevention and eradication of litter throughout Carmarthenshire. The LEQ Management Plan recognises that the problem of litter will not be eradicated unless a multi-dimensional approach is taken, and every sector must be involved in tackling the litter problem: this includes the public as well as the commercial sector and the Council.

The LEQ Management Plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

**Objectives:**

- Maintain and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution.
- Target the main causes of litter in the County.
- Improved litter awareness for all.
- Implement operational activity through regular scheduled and reactive litter management programmes.

These objectives are met through an overarching set of actions:

**Overarching actions:**

- Operations - the prevention and control of litter.
- Education and engagement- public awareness, participation and education relating to litter matters.
- Enforcement.

**Causation:**

The main causative factors or source origins of litter pollution in Carmarthenshire (based on the LEAMS Survey's) can be attributed to:

- Pedestrians.
- Passing motorists.
- Actions/behaviours at gathering points or near venues.
- Actions/behaviours associated with retail outlets/shopping centres.
- Dog fouling
- Fly tipping.
- Discarded PPE.
- Fast Food litter

This LEQ Management Plan will act as a medium-term strategy document, based on which, an annual Litter Management Action Plan will be formulated to identify priorities and specific actions to be carried out in each financial year. The Action Plan will be reviewed at year end and performance will be evaluated against the targets set out therein

## 2.What is Litter?

**2.1 Litter** is used and unwanted items that are not disposed of in an appropriate manner. Examples of Litter Include cigarette butts, chewing gum, food and sweet wrappers, ATM receipts, cans, drink cups and bottles. Most of this waste can take years to break down and has an environmental impact that can harm wildlife. However, litter can also denote a wider range of problems that can make a whole area appear untidy, particularly the following:

- Graffiti
- Flyposting
- Fly Tipping
- Dog Fouling
- Drug related litter



### LITTER AND THE LAW

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (As amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005), the council has a legal duty to keep the streets and other areas under its control free from litter and refuse.

Statutory bodies, business, educational establishments and individuals have a duty to keep their land clean by disposing of litter and waste safely in a responsible manner.

Anyone caught dropping litter or not clearing up after their dog can be issued with a fixed penalty notice, or for non-payment of this penalty, offenders can be reported for summons to court where the maximum fine for:

- Dog fouling is £1000
- Littering is £2500.
- Illicit Tipping of larger volumes of litter or waste can incur a maximum fine of £50,000 and / or imprisonment.
- Any business not complying to the “Duty of Care” regulations may also be liable for prosecution which may incur a maximum fine of £5,000.

Private Landowners are often victims of Illicit Tipping and the council’s Public Protection section will work with landowners on advising preventative measures.

Further information on the Litter Laws and obligations can be found in Appendix A.

### 3. Code of Practice—Legal responsibility

#### 3.1 The Legislation

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse 2007 (COPLAR) sets out the cleanliness standards and response times for different types of Zones.

The Code has classified the different types of land managed by duty bodies into four main zones, based on the following two variables: -

- the Intensity of activity in the area, from People and Vehicles; and
- Health and safety limitations

See Appendix 2 for details of the Welsh Government's Code of Practice for standards of Cleanliness, different types of land affected and response times.

#### 3.2 Residents / Communities.

Those living and working in the county have a vital role in helping to keep the environment clean.

Should any service problems occur prompt reporting of this will allow us to put things right as soon as possible.

You can report it online: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/recycling](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/recycling)

The Authority is frequently reviewing its existing cleansing regime to provide a more effective service within resources allocated, however, it is important that we encourage everyone to take responsibility to keep Carmarthenshire clean.



## 4. How we Manage

### 4.1 Street Cleansing



Carmarthenshire County Council is responsible for removing litter from pavements, streets and council owned public land. The Council's Environmental Services Division has a in house cleansing team, along with a number of mechanical sweeping machines. An average of 40 tonnes of litter is removed every week at a cost of over £2.5 million per year (2019/20).

Under the existing legislation the frequency in which a street is swept is not as important as how clean the street is. This allows us to provide a flexible and responsive service, targeting the areas where it is needed most and maintaining high cleanliness standards throughout Carmarthenshire.

However, this can also make it difficult to provide information on when some streets will next be swept, although all areas near town centres and areas near schools are swept on a regular basis.

Our service is monitored and reviewed for potential improvements within our resource allocation.

The service has developed cleansing, litter picking and litter bin emptying schedules.

We also aim to continue working with local communities to develop new solutions for local problems and carry out locally based clean-ups involving our communities.



## 5. Fly Tipping



**5.1** In accordance with the provisions of The Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005, 'fly tipping' of waste is illegal.

If any person is caught fly tipping waste, the maximum penalty is £50,000. If the case goes to the Crown Court, imprisonment can be up to five years.

It is also an offence to permit or authorise fly-tipping on land where a Waste Management licence is not held.

**Don't ignore it – report it!**

If you witness an illegal tipping, please make a note of the registration number of any vehicle(s), the time and date. If the vehicle has company's details displayed, please also note the name and telephone number of the company - the more information, the better.

You can report it online: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/recycling](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/recycling)



The Council will investigate fly-tipping incidents for evidence and clear the materials as soon as practicable, usually within 4 days, with urgent cases dealt with sooner on a prioritised basis.

If you spot large scale, more serious incidents of illegal waste disposal or fly tipping, contact

Natural Resources Wales on their national hotline: 0300 065 3000 or report it via their website: [www.naturalresources.wales](http://www.naturalresources.wales)



A serious incident could be where fly tipped material is giving rise to the risk of pollution of land or watercourses or is obstructing or causing potential flooding in watercourses.



## 6. Enforcement

### 6.1 What enforcement powers does Carmarthenshire County Council Have?



Enforcement powers clearly have a deterrent effect and can help cut the amount of environmental crime; therefore, action should be taken against those who ignore requests to keep the county clean.

Carmarthenshire County Council has enforcement powers that require individuals, businesses, and landowners to remove waste that could be a danger or pose a risk to public health. The Council can also recharge the cost of removing waste if those responsible for clearance fail to comply with legal notices. Enforcement powers and responsibilities rest within a number of Divisions within the Council.



Where the necessary evidence can be obtained individuals and companies will be prosecuted for fly-tipping.

The areas of environmental crime that are enforced are fly-tipping, litter, dog fouling, nuisance and abandoned vehicles, trade waste, household waste, graffiti, flyposting, skips and scaffolding and taking action against householders who do not put waste out for collection properly.

The Environmental Enforcement teams take a pro-active approach in seeking to address environmental crime include the use of a wide range of technology, including CCTV in order to catch and prosecute offenders. The team conduct general patrols as well as intelligence led investigations. Other activities include targeted days where specific locations are targeted to address problems such as dog fouling and littering.



### 6.2 Fixed Penalty Notices for Littering

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it an offence to drop litter. Drivers of vehicles from which litter is dropped can also be liable for a fixed penalty fine. Carmarthenshire County Council/Dyfed Powys Police has the authority to issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone caught committing a littering offence.



## 7. Dog Fouling and Controlling dogs in Public Spaces

### 7.1 Dog fouling and controlling dogs in public places

Carmarthenshire is a dog-friendly county with a selection of walks and miles of golden, sandy beaches to enjoy with your four-legged friends. The majority of dog owners act responsibly by cleaning up after their pets and keeping them under control in public places.

However, we do get complaints of dog fouling and of nuisance behaviour due to dogs that are not under proper control.

We have introduced a [Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\)](#) to give us greater flexibility in tackling irresponsible dog owners and incidents involving dogs.

Public consultation at the time showed that 98% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with an order for owners to clean up after their dogs; 87% agreed or strongly agreed with an order to exclude dogs from children's play areas.

#### Exemptions

There are some exemptions for people with disabilities and for working dogs.

#### Litter Bins.

Dog walkers can dispose of small amounts of bagged dog waste whilst walking their dogs in any of the litter bins provided in the county, If the bin is full or not available, then please take it home and dispose into your black bag waste.

#### Fines

If you fail to comply with the PSPO you are committing a criminal offence and can be issued with a fixed penalty notice. The maximum fine if prosecuted in the magistrate's court is £1,000.

### 7.2 Existing byelaws

Existing byelaws including seasonal dog exclusions (from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September) at Cefn Sidan and Llansteffan beaches and the bye law requiring dogs to be kept on leads at all times on Llansteffan green remain in force.



#### Grab It, Bag it, Bin It!

- Always keep a good supply of plastic bags near your dog's lead (supermarket carrier bags make great poop scoops) so you don't forget when you go out for a walk. Simply insert your hand in the plastic bag and pick up your dog's waste.
- Carefully turn the plastic bag inside out and your dog's mess will then be 'bagged'.
- Dispose of your bag in a public litter bin.



## 8. Other Offences

### 8.1 Duty of Care



The Anti-social Behaviour Police and Crime Act 2014 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 has now extended Carmarthenshire County Council's use of powers to ensure that householders and local businesses comply with their duty of care in managing waste. Householders are required to ensure that waste produced on their property is transferred to an authorised person for disposal. Both parties could be prosecuted if they fail to comply with their 'duty of care' obligations. Local businesses must ensure that they comply with their 'Duty of Care' obligations and are therefore deterred from fly-tipping, flyposting, leaflet drops, generating litter from shop fronts and not putting waste out for collection properly.

### 8.2 Waste Carrier's Licence



Checks are also carried out to ensure that waste carriers have the appropriate licence and comply with the use of waste transfer notes when transporting waste. Carmarthenshire County Council do undertake joint operations with partner agencies to check compliance. Current legislation provides the ability to issue fixed penalty notices for offenders who fail to produce the appropriate licence/transfer notes when requested to do so.

Waste carriers should have a licence from Natural Resources Wales. Residents can check with Natural Resources Wales if someone is a registered waste carrier on 0300 065 30000 or via their on-line database. Please click on the NRW logo below to access the on-line checker.

### 8.3 Abandoned Vehicles



Sections 3 and 4 of The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has also enabled the Council to deal with nuisance vehicles regarding repair and sale of vehicles on the highway. It is also an offence to unlawfully abandon your car, carrying a maximum penalty fine of £2500- or three-months imprisonment, or both.

### 8.4 Scaffolding/Skips



In accordance with the New Road and Streetworks Act 1991, it is also an offence to erect scaffolding or deposit a skip on the highway without permission of the Authority.



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Natural Resources Wales



## 9. Local Environmental Quality

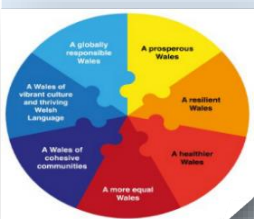
### 9.1 LEQ—A holistic approach to Local Environmental Quality—taking actions forward together.

Carmarthenshire is looking at developing innovative approaches in tackling persistent problems associated with poor local environment quality (LEQ) to prevent and reduce the adverse social, economic and environmental impacts that they have on our communities. These problems cannot be tackled in isolation, they require a step change in collaboration and must focus on prevention; we are increasingly aware that LEQ issues cannot be tackled in a “one size fits all” campaign. Although there is still a role for national anti-litter or anti dog fouling campaigns and coordinated actions to highlight the scale and impact of the problems and to engage communities. We believe that prevention requires different interventions and messaging for different issues. This extends to addressing general environment improvements (based on locality and demographics) to targeting different types of litter (based on area, litter behaviour and sources).

To achieve this, we need to target the source of the problem and address behaviour change combining other policy instruments and actions that we can take forward with all agencies who have an interest in this area. These actions need to be developed in partnership and will require a new way of working to be formed which recognises the multifaceted nature and impacts of local environmental quality.

The Wellbeing and Future Generations Act offers a unique opportunity to look at local environment quality through a collaborative and long-term lens to come together to cement new commitments and partnerships, which are much needed in times of restricted budgets and an uncertain legislative future.

Ultimately, we aim to bring people together, with new solutions to persistent problems which are consistently prioritised across the county. The purpose of the plan is to demonstrate how litter management will be undertaken, thereby contributing to the Council’s Corporate Strategy, with particular emphasis Wellbeing Objective 10 – a Healthy and Safe Environment; look after the environment now and in the future.



## 10. Partnership Working

10.1 The Council recognises that it cannot succeed in greatly reducing the amount of litter in the environment on its own. It is very important that we work with external groups and agencies in the fight against litter. The County Council are eager to promote partnerships in an effort to raise awareness about the litter problem and to improve and maintain standards.

Partnerships have already been established with the following organisations:

- Natural Resources Wales
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Dyfed Powys Police
- Community Safety Partnership
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service



## Partnership working (Continued)



### 10.2 Pride in your Patch

Pride in Your Patch is a partnership project that helps local Volunteers make a difference in their communities. The Scheme can help spruce up your area by offering expert advice, equipment, and assistance on:

- Litter picking
- fly-tipping removal
- painting and general sprucing up strimming and
- weed clearance
- making your space more wildlife friendly

You can volunteer as an individual or a group and do as much or as little as you like – it's completely up to you! You could also earn time credits for volunteering. We work to support volunteers, community groups, registered charities, and not-for-profit organisations to clean up areas of public land. Our partners:



72 Town & Community Councils

## 11. Other Partners



### 11.1 Businesses and Landowners

The legal enforcement powers available to the Council for dealing with businesses and private landowners are a last resort.

We will take every opportunity to adopt a partnership approach with local businesses and landowners to encourage them to take a responsible attitude towards litter and fly-tipping.

Private landowners are often the victims of illegal dumping. In these cases, we would look to work with the landowner to help stop the problem recurring.

### 11.2 Voluntary Groups and other organisations

We also work with the voluntary sector and external organisations on campaigns and clean-up operations.

Should you wish to be involved or wish to suggest an initiative or campaign in your area then please contact us.

We are open to any suggestions aimed at helping to improve and maintain standards of cleanliness.

### 11.3 Other Stakeholders

It is important that the current raft of environmental legislation and the wealth of experience of partners relating to improving the quality of our local environment are used effectively by key stakeholders within Carmarthenshire.

Stakeholders include Town & Community Councils / local Groups / Organisations that have an interest / contribution to achieving a sustainable Carmarthenshire.

## 12. Education and awareness raising



The following are our current campaigns for 2022 - 2026 raising awareness as part of our litter prevention strategy.

### 12.1 Improved litter bin signage

Improved litter bin signage has been provided where necessary and pavement messages have been launched in Llanelli town centre as part of Carmarthenshire County Council's 'Pride in your Patch' campaign.

Using 'nudge theory' on the pavement messages involve pressure washing a stencil to create a two-tone effect encouraging residents to dispose of their litter correctly.

With over 2,000 litter bins across the county, the stencil encourages people to use the litter bins, whilst the bin signage, if required, clarifies their intended purpose, which is to dispose of litter and bagged dog waste only.

Household rubbish and business waste should not be placed in litter bins, all businesses have a duty to keep their waste safe and to dispose or recycle it using a licensed waste contractor.

### 12.2 Enforcement Action Days

Enforcement and Awareness Officers work together to combat litter and waste problems, which links with anti-social behaviour. Problem areas are identified and focus on the key problems in that locality e.g., dog fouling, illegal dumping of business waste and litter bin abuse.

Officers patrol the area to raise awareness with the public and target businesses and individuals who are not complying with the law and issue Fixed Penalty Notices for violations.

### 12.3 Chewing gum and cigarette butt campaigns

We work to stamp out other types of litter such as chewing gum and cigarette butts. These litter types are extremely costly and difficult to clean and remove and prevention is placed as priority.

We support the annual national chewing gum campaign, and the Council has already piloted chewing gums and cigarette butt bins in its principal towns as part of our education and awareness programme and will continue to develop and expand on this initiative.



## Education and awareness raising (Cont.)

### 12.4 Fast food litter campaign

As more and more people eat on the go, roadside litter has become increasingly visible on our main link roads and litter black spots. Drinks litter including coffee/cold drinks cups, cans and plastic bottles are often present as well as take away cartons and bags.

We are working in partnership with local fast food outlets including McDonalds, KFC and Roadchef, in an effort to encourage people to bin their waste on site or take home any waste packaging from drive thru meals. We have engaged with all the fast-food restaurants in the County to work on a consistent messaging campaign.

Promotional signage features an 'eyes on you' design, drawing from research undertaken and compiled by KWT and other partners. Messages also include 'give your litter a lift' and encourage customers at the outlets to join with staff and volunteer for litter picks under our PIYP initiative.

Signage is used in store, in car parks and drive thru areas.

### 12.5 Radio Campaigns

Previously we teamed up with Carmarthenshire Radio to reinforce key messages of the authority's Pride in Your Patch campaign. Every week for 6 months interviews were broadcast about litter and its impacts including the views of our own volunteers, council litter picking staff, local Town & Community councils, schools, and restaurant managers.

As part of other initiatives, we will continue to use radio advertisement around dog fouling, littering and fly tipping.

### 12.6 Caru Cymru Campaign

Caru Cymru is the current flagship partnership project that aims at tackling environmental issues that really matter to communities across Wales.

Caru Cymru is a collaboration between the environmental charity, Keep Wales Tidy and all 22 Welsh local authorities. It focusses on improving local environmental quality (LEQ) providing sustainable solutions and stopping litter at source.

This isn't just about litter but refers to any issue that you might come across when you walk out of your front door, from dog fouling to fly-tipping, graffiti and even the quality of the air you breathe and the proximity of the nearest green space.

We don't want to concentrate our efforts on just cleaning up, we want to change behaviour for the long term. We're working across various sectors to run national and regional campaigns, as well as targeted local projects.



## Education and awareness raising (Cont)

### 12.7 Eco Schools



Eco schools is an award-based programme, that is administered by Keep Wales Tidy that focuses on a range of sustainable development issues. Schools that have registered to take part in the programme look at litter prevention and awareness, waste minimisation and improving and developing school grounds to name a few topics.

Council officers will support with any practical assistance such as organising a litter pick event with pupils via the eco school coordinator and assist the school to work towards achieving Eco School Award status.

Officers from the Enforcement Team also visit schools to talk about the impacts of litter and raise awareness about waste and talk about their role as officers and the impact of litter and fly-tipping.

Further school resources are in development, which will follow the national curriculum. These lesson plans/activities will be provided to teachers to use directly.



### 12.8 #2MinuteBeachClean



A beach litter webpage has been set up on the Council's website to address the issue of litter and the impacts it has when it finds its way into watercourses.

The Council has joined the #2MinuteBeachClean campaign and introduced display boards at beaches across the authority.

The boards hold litter pickers and bags for anyone using the beach to carry out a litter pick when they are visiting.

The boards are monitored and looked after by a local custodian, working with the Council.

## Education and awareness raising (Cont.)



### 12.9 Plastic Free Communities

The Council will assist with advice on ways to look at reducing the plastic used within communities who join the 'Surfer's Against Sewage' campaign and pledge to become a plastic free community.

The 'Beach Litter' webpage also provides tips on how to reduce plastic waste as well as a comprehensive A-Z of materials that can be recycled and an additional section within called 'go the extra mile' that promotes further steps to reduce producing waste for some products in the first instance.



### 1. 12.10 Dog Fouling Campaign

The Council works in partnership with community organisations and schools to encourage dog owners to be more responsible and clean up after their dog. This year we have produced a 'community resource pack' which will enable volunteer groups to take action in their own communities. The contents include stencils and chalk paint, using the principles of 'nudge theory' to lead dog owners to use a litter bin, based on research carried out by KWT. The packs will be issued by our 'Pride in Your Patch' coordinator who will work with and guide the groups on using the packs.

Groups will be encouraged to photograph and share their work using the #BagItBinIt we will also feature details on our webpage:

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

### 12.10 Social Media

We have been promoting householder duty of care and business waste carriers license and legal requirements to collect, transport and dispose of household waste via social media. We will also be enhancing the use of social media, posting key messages with regards to the Caru Cymru project and the core themes of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping.





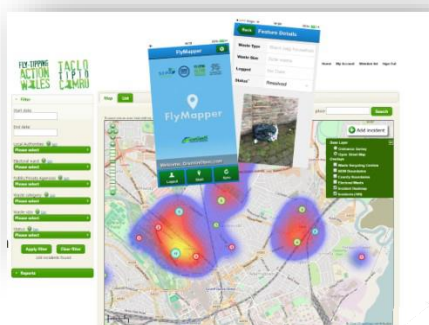
## 13. Other initiatives to tackle adverse Local Environment Quality Issues



### 13.1 Fly Mapper

Developed by Fly Tipping Action Wales, FlyMapper is a system for the capture, management, and analysis of fly-tipping incidents. It comprises a smartphone app, FlyMapper Mobile, and a web application, FlyMapper Web.

The system is used in conjunction with other systems and currently analysis of the system and how we can capture and respond to meaningful data with regards to LEQ issues is currently being explored.



### 13.2 Town Centre & Ward Specific Local Environmental Quality Audits

We are currently piloting town centre and specific ward audits, whereby surveys are conducted to identify the adverse environmental quality issues that are affecting the town centres and the specific areas of a Ward. The Town Centre audits are conducted in our ten principal towns within the county.

The data collected from the audits are shared with key services within the Council to develop actions focussed on addressing the Local Environmental Quality issues that are unique to each town.

## 14. Performance Monitoring

### 14.1 Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS)

LEAMS is a way of recording street cleanliness by measuring the amount of litter found on 50m section of a street. It also records the following Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQI):

Litter / flyposting / graffiti / dog fouling / vandalism / weeds / detritus.

LEAMS records the cleanliness of a street, not the performance of the local authority cleansing staff. Cleanliness can be affected by many factors including the actions of local residents and visitors to an area.

The data collected contributes towards the Performance Indicator for the street scene. Street scene refers to the appearance and condition of the 'street' and public open places and the performance indicator considers issues that have an important factor, such as the presence of litter.

Keep Wales Tidy prepare a report on the findings from their annual LEAMS surveys undertaken in each local authority in Wales. Carmarthenshire also undertakes surveys on a bi-monthly basis.

LEAMS helps the Council meet its obligations under the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) by:

- providing a baseline to establish a starting point
- providing self-monitoring to assess continuous improvement
- providing annual validation by an independent body (Keep Wales Tidy)
- allowing for comparison of results between authorities
- allowing for distribution of best practice between partner authorities

The Council area is monitored through bi-monthly surveys, covering a random sample of streets and other relevant sites.

Each site is graded (A, B, B+, C or D) depending on how badly littered it is. Every 12 months Keep Wales Tidy carry out an inspection of the County, a yearly report is compiled and published detailing the results of the Survey's.

This system can be used to determine the size and nature of the litter problem within specific areas and enables the Council to review service provision. As well as litter, the LEAMS survey also covers Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators such as dog fouling and graffiti. Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to using this technique as a way of monitoring and improving our cleanliness standards. The results to date have shown a general improvement in cleanliness standards.

The Council continues to consult with the public to obtain residents views, opinions and comments to help us to improve the standards of cleanliness and to identify areas for improvement.

Another performance measure is the time taken for us to remove fly-tipped material, and we are developing other measures to support our aim in reducing fly-tipping within the local area.



Example of a  
Grade 'A' Street



Example of a  
Grade 'B+' Street



Example of a  
Grade 'B' Street



Example of a  
Grade 'C' Street



Example of a  
Grade 'D' Street

## 15. The future



Carmarthenshire County Council will strive to continue the simple strategy of education, service provision and enforcement, and reviewing and improving its working practices.

### 15.1 Education and Awareness

Building on the links with communities in the county and continuing with awareness campaigns will help change the behaviour of the small percentage of our community who are responsible for dropping litter and develop long term cultural solutions to the problem of littering and fly tipping.

### 15.2 Service Provision

We will endeavour to sustain and improve service provision for keeping the environment cleaner, targeting problem areas such as fast-food outlets and school routes. We aim to ensure that we supply the right number of bins if appropriate, in the right places and that they are emptied at the right frequency. If there is no litter bin, please take your rubbish home or keep it until you find a bin.

### 15.3 Enforcement

Utilising our enforcement powers to reduce environmental crime through targeted enforcement is key. We work in partnership with the Dyfed Powys Police Authority, Natural Resources Wales and other outside organisations to tackle environmental crime. The section is proactively dealing with the root of environmental crime through patrols, stop-checks and covert surveillance. This approach has proven to be successful in the past and will continue to be a vital part of our strategy.



## 16. Customer Care

### 16.1 Customer Care

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to providing the best possible service to its customers by informing, listening and responding to their needs.

The Council is committed to doing so through the Welsh and English languages according to the choice of the customer.

The Council operates a complaints and compliments procedure that aims to improve customer care.

For more information visit:

[www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/)

If you need this publication in large print, in Braille or on audio tape, please contact the above.



## Appendix 1:

### Waste and Environmental Services Response times

The table below sets out Waste & Environmental Services cleansing service categories for highways and public maintained land and the response times for each:

Sub-category	Response Time
Broken Glass	1 working day
Damaged Litter Bin	10 working days
Dead Animals Removal (If not immediate danger to traffic or road users)	1 working day
Dog Fouling Removal	3 working days
Fly tipping	4 working days
Graffiti Removal Priority 1—Offensive in Nature. Priority 2—Non-Offensive. (Council Owned / maintained structure)	2 Working days 28 working days
Needlesticks removal	1 working day
New litter Bin	15 working days, <i>subject to assessment of need.</i>
Overflowing Litter Bin	1 working day



## Appendix 2: Code of Practice for Litter and refuse (COPLAR)

The table below shows information about the cleanliness standards, different types of land and response times set out in the Code of Practice. Unlike the LEAMS monitoring system, the Code of Practice does not at present include the B+ cleanliness rating.

Table 1—overview of cleanliness standards of response times

Zones	High Intensity of use	Medium Intensity of use	Low Intensity of use	Special Circumstances
<b>Nature of the area</b>	Areas which, through intense pedestrian and / or vehicular movements, are prone to fluctuations litter and refuse and require both high levels of monitoring and frequent cleansing	Area affected by moderate levels of pedestrian and vehicular activity and therefore less prone to fluctuations in litter and refuse, usually situated outside centres of retail or commercial activity but used regularly by members of the public	Area subject to low or infrequent levels of pedestrian and vehicular activity and therefore less prone to fluctuations in litter and refuse, often located in more rural areas,	Types of land where issues of health and safety and reasonableness and practicability are dominant considerations when undertaking environmental maintenance work (includes legislative restrictions for all land types)
<b>Maximum response time to restore to a grade A standard if it falls below a grade B</b>	1/2 day  This means by 6pm if reported before 1pm or by 1pm the next day if reported between 1pm and 6pm on the previous day	1 day  This means by 6pm the following evening	14 days	28 days or as soon as reasonably practicable

The County is made up of a patchwork of abutting areas of land owned, tenanted and managed by a myriad of public and private agencies and Individuals. Unmanaged litter and refuse from your land moves, blows or flows onto other land of others, and theirs to yours. This code is to encourage good land management through awareness of circumstances that will lead to increased litter and refuse at particular times.



## Appendix 2

Table 2—Types of Land

	High Intensity of use	Medium Intensity of use	Low Intensity of use	Special Circumstances
<b>Retail, office and commercial</b>	Primary and secondary retail office & commercial	Primary and secondary retail, office & commercial areas		
<b>Housing land</b>		Areas of housing (except those located within primary or secondary retail, office & commercial area which fall within high intensity		
<b>Industrial areas</b>		Industry / warehousing/ retail parks		
<b>Roads</b>	Main roads and other highways running through the above areas	Main roads and other highways running through the above areas	Rural and other highways running through the above areas  Motorway and trunk road roundabouts and lay-bys, approach and slip roads connecting to these roads	Carriageways verges and central reservations of motorways and trunk roads
<b>Transport Inter changes</b>	Publicly accessible areas in and around transport interchanges in busy public areas (most likely to be major airports, ports, harbours, bus, train, and train passenger stations in cities and town centres, and car parks)	Publicly accessible areas in and around transport interchanges in busy public areas (most likely to be suburban and important town harbours, bus, train and tram inter- changes, car parks and haulage operations)	Public areas in and around transport interchanges located in these areas  Also, operational rail land between platforms and within 100 m of platform ends	Operational rail land within urban areas not covered by other zones

## Appendix 2

Table 2—types of land continued

	High Intensity of use	Medium Intensity of use	Low Intensity of use	Special Circumstances
<b>Educational land</b>		Land designated educational Institutions (most commonly schools, colleges and universities), during term- time, other than weekends or half-term holiday	Land of designated educational institutions (most commonly schools, colleges and universities), when being used for a purpose authorised by governing body or	
<b>Public open spaces</b>	Parks and open spaces located in busy public areas or with strategic national importance or parts of other open spaces subject to high intensity of use	Parks and open spaces located in areas as described above., or parts of other open spaces subject to medium intensity of use	Parks and open spaces located in areas as described above, or parts of other open spaces subject to low intensity of use.	
<b>Waterside land</b>	Waterside land in areas of high intensity of use	Waterside land in areas of medium intensity of use	All other waterside areas	
<b>Beaches</b>				Amenity beaches should be generally clear of all litter and refuse between 1st May and 30th September inclusive, Individual local authorities should decide the level of cleanliness that they are able to provide to any non-amenity beaches, and were practicable, beaches must
<b>Other areas</b>	Other busy public areas		All other areas	



## Appendix 3

Table 3—Fixed Penalty Notices & Prosecutions Fines

Description of Offence	Maximum Penalty on Conviction	Full amount of Fixed Penalty Notice
Depositing Litter	£2,500	£125
Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice	£1,000	£100
Failure to Provide Waste Documents	£5,000 (or on indictment, an unlimited fine)	£300
Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter	£2,500	£125
Failure to comply with a waste receptacle notice	£1,000	£100
Failure to comply with a Public Spaces Protection Order	£1,000	£100
Nuisance Parking inc Selling leaving two or more vehicles for sale on the highway	£5,000	£100
For the Abandonment of a Vehicle	£2,500	£200
For Graffiti and Fly Posting	£5,000 and / or six-month imprisonment at a Magistrates Court	£125
Failure to produce the authority to transport waste	£5,000	£300
Small Scale Fly Tipping	£50,000 and up to 12 months imprisonment at a magistrate's	£400
Household Duty of Care	£5,000 (or on indictment, an unlimited fine)	£300

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## LEO ACTION PLAN 2022 – 2023

### Overarching acts:

- Operations - the prevention and control of litter.
- Education and engagement- public awareness, participation and education relating to litter matters.
- Enforcement (including educational interactions)

Overarching Action and Sub-action Category	Action	Officer	Target/Comments	Target Date
<b>Operations</b>				
<b>O1. LEQ and litter Surveys</b>	Undertake a bi monthly sample of streets and conduct litter surveys. a. IN addition to bi monthly principal and ten town LEQ surveys.	MR	Complete bi-monthly litter and LEQ surveys across the County	Bi-monthly, ongoing
<b>O2. Sharing of live LEQ data to inform the cleansing service of any hotspots/ particular LEQ issues</b>	Provide and share data as a result of LEQ surveys on key information/ trends with respect to adapting cleansing resources to the requirements within a particular area.	MR/GB	Share data between LEQ and cleansing teams to analyse live data and to allow timely targeted action to do with highlighted LEQ hotspots/ issues	Bi-monthly, ongoing
<b>O3. Local Environmental Quality – litter hot spots.</b>	To tackle hotspot areas and amend sweeping frequency to meet the need of individual areas.	GB	Review current service schedules to ensure problem areas are addressed.	March 2022
<b>O4. Review/develop litter bin policy</b>	Develop a policy for the assessment of bin provision with links to findings of litter surveys.	GB/MR	Finalise a litter bin policy and obtain relevant sanctions and engagement with members, town & community councils and relevant council services in order to inform of the new policy and explain the resource availability/ limitations to all concerned.	July 2022
<b>O5. Develop robust strategy and action plan to tackle fly-tipping (1)</b>	Review current arrangements for dealing with fly-tipping. Review how data is reported, captured and presented in relation to incidents of fly-tipping.	GB/GL/MR/PM	Develop and present for sanctioning a robust strategic and operational policy with a detailed action plan to identify incidences, analyse locations, types and source, capture meaningful data to inform relevant services of key requirements both for resources to cleans and enforcement requirements, and reduce/ eradicate fly tipping incidences through education and enforcement engagement.	March 2022
<b>O6. Develop robust action plan to tackle fly-tipping (2)</b>	Continue to work with the Fly Tipping Action Wales, all- Wales group on fly-tipping initiatives.	MR	Work with the all-Wales group to bring a common approach to data capture and public campaigns.	Ongoing
<b>O7. Review how LEQ incident reports from the public are Recorded and processed to completion.</b>	Review current reporting methods for the public and adapt/ enhance to capture all relevant data required to enable services to action the incident in a timely manner.	GB/GL/MR/CT	Create a seamless CRM system that links customer complaints with operations for timely clearance and management of issues.	April 2022
<b>O8. Fly-tipping hotspots</b>	Undertake LEQ surveys following contact specifically to determine the extent of the issues and inform the	DJ/GB/GL	Tyisha ward is currently highlighted as experiencing a high level of fly tipping incidences. Additional resources as a temporary measure has been deployed to the area to work in conjunction with	April 2021/ ongoing

Overarching Action and Sub-action Category	Action	Officer	Target/Comments	Target Date
	possible additional resource requirement to tackle the blight.		housing services to cleanse and improve LEQ of the area. Regular reviews are undertaken to ensure required resource is maintained and the development of a long term strategy is required.	
<b>O9. Tourism hotspot areas</b>	Work collaboratively with marketing, tourism and economic development to support regeneration of tourism and local businesses within the County. Provide additional cleansing support within the coastal and main tourist areas within the County during peak tourism season to compact LEQ issues that arise in high footfall areas.	DJ/GB	Provide supplementary resources in the identified areas to provide additional litter removal at peak times whilst funding is available in the form of WG grant support.	April 2021 – ongoing
<b>O10. Reintroduce the education and enforcement process to tackle kerbside / collection point presentation issues.</b>	Assess current presentation of waste/ recycling at kerbside and analyse impacts on waste, cleansing and enforcement activity following further easement of Covid-19 WG and PHW guidelines.	GL/SR/GB/SL/CT	Reintroduce the education and enforcement process which aligns waste, cleansing and enforcement operational and strategic objectives to collecting and managing misrepresented weekly kerbside and collection point waste allowing all services to work collaboratively and in line with each other's actions to reduce LEQ issues that may result as a consequence of non-adherence to the full kerbside recycling scheme.	October 2021
<b>Education, Engagement, Awareness.</b>				
<b>E1. Increase awareness of public responsibility towards litter.</b>	Engage in relevant litter and LEQ campaigns and initiative such as Welsh Government RDP funding, Caru Cymru Behavioural Change project 2021-2023 and any other subsequent schemes in line with CCC ethos of maintaining a high standard of LEQ in categories such as; dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. Such initiatives will use various engagement techniques to promote behavioural change on LEQ issues	MR/KF	Use an array of communication methods to promote such messages on each subject via social media, website, leaflet and tools such as dog fouling kits promoting the use of visual stencils images promoting nudging techniques with regards to behavioural change. In addition to press releases, radio and newspapers advertisements and locational banners.	March – December 2022
<b>E2. Education awareness programme</b>	Work collaboratively with Marketing & Media officers develop a comprehensive LEQ communications plan.	Michael Roberts/ Karen Fulham/ communications officer	Develop marketing materials in line with the initiative to target key areas/ hot spots within the county. around dog fouling, littering and fly tipping to use various platforms to engage with different social demographic groups on varying issues. Incorporating WG RDP Caru Cymru 2021-2023 partnership project alongside any proceeding initiatives to promote behavioural change with regard to LEQ issues and themes of the Caru Cymru project	October 2021 and six-monthly reviews to project end
<b>E3. Public Information</b>	Provide easily accessible information on legislation with regards to local	Karen Fulham/ Michael Roberts	Review annually or when legislative changes occur website and literature content. Annual review of content to ensure ongoing	April 2022

Overarching Action and Sub-action Category	Action	Officer	Target/Comments	Target Date
	environmental quality issues such as dog fouling / littering and fly tipping.		relevance	
<b>E4. Public Information</b>	Remind the public to use only authorised waste collectors to collect waste	Karen Fulham/ Michael Roberts	Review and update business waste information and make accessible on CCC website Promote public duty of care in relation to domestic waste and what requirements businesses need to collect and dispose of waste legally. Annual review of content to ensure ongoing relevance	April 2021/ ongoing
<b>E5. Education</b>	Support KWT Eco School co-ordinator with any requests for assistance in respect of pupil litter picking activities to support the flag status	Karen Fulham	Work collaboratively with KWT whenever the need arises	March 2022/ ongoing
<b>E6. Gathering information</b>	Identify key LEQ issues via local community contacts, cleansing operational staff and conducting LEQ audits within principal town areas, 10 rural and smaller towns and any local area of significant concern with respect of leq issues. Analysing the data and deciphering the key issues specific to the areas and tailoring key messages and promoting leq initiative in line with the blight.	Michael Roberts	Conduct bi-monthly surveys in the towns and specific LEQ areas of concern and develop educational awareness campaigns and materials to change behaviours	March 2022/ ongoing
<b>E7. Community engagement.</b>	Support and encourage local community groups in organising clean ups in local areas	Michael Roberts	To support a minimum of 10 clean ups each year in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy Officers.	January 2022 - ongoing
<b>E8. Community engagement.</b>	Actively encourage participation in local environmental quality (LEQ) initiatives through engagement with local volunteers, Pride in your patch stakeholders, Keep Wales Tidy and Town & Community councils	Michael Roberts	Engagement with the Caru Cymru WG RDP funded project 2021-2023 on key campaign categories of; dog fouling, littering and fly tipping.	January 2022 - ongoing
<b>E9. Partner engagement</b>	Encourage and support local associations and committees in establishing a civic spirit towards cleanliness of their local areas.	Michael Roberts	Work with 4 town and community councils to carry out community clean ups and adopt initiatives that allows them to take an active role to reduce a particular LEQ issues of concern to their area, adopting behavioural change campaigns and engaging with individuals in their community to introduce nudging techniques to prompt people to doing the right thing with regards to LEQ matters	December 2022

Overarching Action and Sub-action Category	Action	Officer	Target/Comments	Target Date
<b>Enforcement</b>				
<b>EN1. Partnership working</b>	Work closely with Community Safety Partnership Contribute to as an active member.	Steve Raymond / Michael Roberts	Enforcement team to attend strategic meetings quarterly and internal practitioners' meetings. Provide update report to BMT	Bi-monthly report/actions to be fed back to BMT (ongoing)
<b>EN2. Information sharing.</b>	Improve internal communication of intelligence to ensure more efficient sharing of information and resources across departments and divisions.	Steve Raymond / Michael Roberts	Continue to attend PACT and PSG meetings sharing information / intelligence with the Multi-Disciplinary Enforcement strategic group and the Cleansing managers.	Bi-monthly.
<b>EN3. Tourism hotspot areas.</b>	Provide an enforcement capability due to the increase in footfall at tourism locations as lock down from the pandemic eases.	Steve Raymond	To patrol 9 hotspot locations as designated by the tourism section and provide regular reports on outcomes. Provide monthly statistics on patrols undertaken.	April 2021 – ongoing in peak visitor periods
<b>EN4. Awareness signage</b>	Provide litter and dog fouling awareness signs at hot spot areas and encourage use of litter / recycling bins	Steve Raymond	To renew existing or provide new litter and dog fouling awareness signs on land under Council control.	March 2022 - March 2023
<b>EN5. Towns and villages.</b>	Ensure our Environmental Enforcement Officers maintain a presence in town and village hot spot areas across the County to deter littering and dog fouling.	Steve Raymond	To produce monitoring report at the Corporate Enforcement Forum chaired by the Executive Board Member	Bi-monthly reports – up to March 2023.
<b>EN6. Promote responsible actions on the part of property owners</b>	Work with residents and owners of premises to ensure that areas outside their homes/premises/businesses are kept free of litter	Steve Raymond	Working with the Waste Policy section to provide enforcement capabilities ensuring compliance of the 3-bag rule and excess waste and to give advice and assess bin provision for business customers. Exercise powers for noncompliance of waste legislation (s46 domestic property and s47 for business) Scheme to re-start Oct 21 following covid restrictions. Record the number of s46's and s47's issued also the number of properties targeted with feedback to BMT	March 2022 - ongoing
<b>EN7. Multi -Agency Joint Operations</b>	Carry out joint enforcement operations with partner's organisation / services periodically in order to provide a highly visible and coordinated response in targeting problem areas.	Steve Raymond	To undertake 2 environmental enforcement operations with partner organisations and feedback outcome to Corporate Enforcement Group.	December 2022
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Review annual action plan	Geinor Lewis/ Dan John	April 2023	

## Cabinet 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

### DIGITAL SCHOOLS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES 2022-2025

#### Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the content of the Digital Schools Strategy and the Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025

#### Reasons:

The strategies have been revised and updated to set out the Council's strategic priorities to underpin the delivery of digital learning over the next 3 years, along with the direction of the digital technologies that will be adapted by the Council to underpin all digital services.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: Policy & Resources Committee.

Cabinet Decision Required	Yes
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Council Decision Required	No
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#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Mair Stephens

Name of Head of Service:  
Noelwyn Daniel

Designation : Head of ICT &  
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## **1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

The strategies have been refreshed to reflect the direction of travel for the Council over the next 3 years in delivering the ambitious plans for digital learning, the authorities Digital Transformation Strategy and to underpin the Council's vision of a "A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire".

The three-year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where we intend to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework and the Curriculum for Wales. The overarching principals of the Digital Schools Strategy 2022-2025 are:

- HWB FIRST, CLOUD FIRST APPROACH towards our teaching and learning resources
- Align our Schools ICT provision to the EDUCATIONAL DIGITAL STANDARDS as directed by Welsh Government
- Improve EQUITY OF ACCESS TO DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES for our learners
- RATIONALISE AND CONSOLIDATE TO HWB at every opportunity
- Adoption of NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
- IMPLEMENT ALL CHANGES in a methodical and controlled manner
- Add value through COLLABORATION

The Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025 sets out the Authority's technology priorities and aspirations over the next 3 years. It identifies the key technologies and initiatives that will facilitate and underpin the vision and delivery of the organisations Digital Transformation Strategy. The overarching principals of the Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025 are:

- Pro-actively to deal with emerging cyber threats, in terms of underlying infrastructure required to secure our systems and also staff awareness and training, cyber incident exercises and procedures.
- Ensure we have a robust and resilient infrastructure at the heart of everything we do
- Implement all changes in a methodical and controlled manner
- Take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through the active investigation, pursuit, and adoption of new and emerging technologies.
- Upgrade aging technologies to ensure they are secure and resilient and explore cloud options for systems that are resource intensive and organisationally restrictive to maintain



- Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through collaboration, we will do so, locally, regionally, nationally, across the public and private sector
- We will ensure that all solutions in the strategy aim to align with the councils Net Zero Carbon by 2030 pledge.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>Yes</b>  Digital Schools Strategy 2022 – 2025 Digital Technology Strategy 2022 - 2025

## 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**

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>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

These strategies are aligned to delivering key outcomes of the Corporate Strategy and the Authorities Future Generations Well Being Plan.

### 2. Finance

Capital finance has been secured to delivery both strategies via the Council's capital program and the WG HWB grant.

### 3. ICT

There will be a significant impact on ICT resource to deliver the key priorities identified within the Digital Transformation Strategy. The ICT Service has re-aligned to ensure it can deliver these projects.

# 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

1. **Scrutiny Committee** Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee will be consulted prior to formal consideration at Cabinet.
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

A 'virtual' Digital Transformation Seminar was held in December 2020 and attended by over 150 senior officers and Heads of Service from across the Authority. The COVID pandemic and delay of the Digital Transformation Strategy refresh due last year has allowed time for a wider consultation and greater input from key stakeholders and service areas; collaborating and working closely with Media and Marketing, Customer Services and TIC on this revised strategy.

Consultation has been done with primary and secondary school heads during 2021 on the Digital School's Strategy.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Digital Technology Strategy 2018-2021 (previous strategy)		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213936/digi_tech_strat_doc.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213936/digi_tech_strat_doc.pdf</a>
Digital School Strategy 2018-2021 (previous strategy)		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213938/schools_strat_doc.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213938/schools_strat_doc.pdf</a>

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# Digital Schools Strategy

“The next steps on the ‘*Hwb First, Cloud First*’ ladder”

2022 - 2025

[carmarthenshire.gov.wales](https://carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

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



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Digital technology is already firmly established in modern life but historically, its benefits have not always been fully felt within our education establishments.

The overnight near-ubiquitous adoption of Digital Learning during the various lockdown periods remained embedded with schools once they returned to their “new normal” and Hwb is now accepted across Carmarthenshire as the default repository for learning. It has also been essential in keeping learners engaged with their peer groups when being unable to attend school for any period of time.

This strategy builds on the progress made over the last three years to continue the development of technology within schools, creating the conditions to allow everyone involved with delivering education in Carmarthenshire, along with pupils and parents to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technology in order to raise attainment, ambition and opportunities for all.

This strategy outlines the technology we will deliver and support within schools, underpinning the skills and confidence of teachers whilst improving access to digital technology for all learners. We want to ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum delivery and that ICT remains embedded deeply so as to enhance the overall quality of education throughout the county.

Welcome to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Digital Schools Strategy 2022-2025. This strategy sets out the next steps that we will follow to deliver our ambitious approach to transform the way we deliver our services to Schools.

Staff, learners and School Leaders have had a very challenging period over the last two years but they have achieved significant progress in the adoption of digital learning and the delivery of the new curriculum.

There are several tough challenges facing education in the years ahead and utilisation of all the available resources made available to schools will support staff and learners in maximising the use and effectiveness of our latest digital innovations.

The adoption of the Hwb environment, followed by the deployment of the Hwb programme and integral sustainability scheme provides schools with a firm foundation on which to deliver.

The Digital Schools Strategy will be reviewed annually and we will report our progress in delivering on the key projects in our Annual Report.

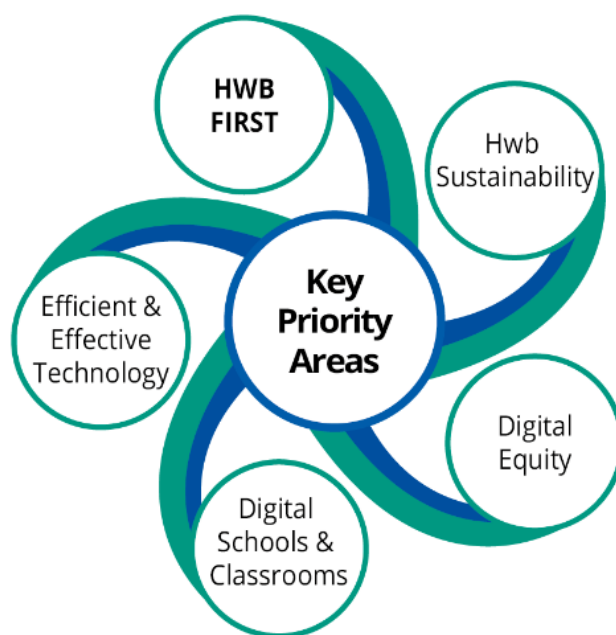
## Building on the Foundation

The previous Digital Schools Strategy outlined the vision, principles and priorities for the ICT service provision to Carmarthenshire's schools. This new strategy aims to build on the foundations of those works, and supporting the principles of Welsh Government's Hwb Programme, sets out the key priorities and deliverables, to move our staff and learners forward.

The past two years have been challenging for all teachers, learners and leaders. The dependence upon ICT has increased significantly and the transition from traditional learning methods to online delivery has been swift. Schools should rightly be proud of what has been achieved in a short time.

The schools' use of Technology promotes innovative learning in school, at home and between students from different schools and establishments. This in turn results in digitally confident students who are inspired by such skilled and creative teaching.

This fully costed and resourced three year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where we intend to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework and the Curriculum for Wales. The audience for this Digital Schools Strategy are our schools, teachers and staff, elected members and the leadership of the Authority.



ICT Services, through the Service Level Agreement and Sustainability Scheme that it has in place with schools articulates how we we will continue to support schools on a day-to-day basis with its ICT support and services.

We will adopt the Sustainable Development Principles of the Well Being and Future Generations Act in our design and implementation of all transformational activity and new digital technologies to assist us in delivering the Future Generations Wellbeing Objectives.



## “A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire”

To help achieve this bold vision within Schools we must:

- Align all digital technology to the needs of the teachers, learners, the Curriculum and the Digital Competence Framework.
- Continue migrating all schools into Welsh Government’s Hwb digital learning platform.
- Strive to continue reducing digital exclusion for learners by working with schools, partners and other stakeholders to improve access to digital resources
- Make digital connectivity and bandwidth the foundation of our schools technology stack, providing reliable and fast access to the Internet and Hwb environment.
- Harness cloud environments to deliver technology anywhere, anytime for schools, teachers, staff and pupils.
- Decommission our central and schools based on-premise infrastructure and replace with virtual cloud technology where at all possible, giving preference to Hwb-hosted solutions.
- Use the Hwb Sustainability Scheme to ensure that staff and learners have equality of access to fit-for-purpose ICT equipment, giving a standardised and consistent experience across all schools.
- Assist schools to achieve efficiency savings without affecting learner outcomes, leveraging corporate contracts wherever possible.
- Provide timely remote and onsite support to ensure that essential equipment is available at key times.
- Provide appropriate web filtering controls to ensure that Internet users are safe online.
- Help and encourage schools to take ownership and responsibility of all matters relating to ICT within their school.

**ICT is an ever-changing environment. It is critical that the services and technology provided to schools underpins the key objectives of teaching and learning in order to enable students to reach their full potential and to fulfil the requirements of the Digital Competence Framework and Curriculum for Wales**



## Overarching Principles



We have seen significant benefits from adopting our **HWB FIRST, CLOUD FIRST APPROACH** towards our teaching and learning resources, technologies and infrastructure. We will continue to pursue and migrate to these solutions where at all possible.

Continue to fully commit and align our Schools ICT provision to the **EDUCATIONAL DIGITAL STANDARDS** as directed by Welsh Government where at all possible, to include but not limited to Hwb, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and the requirements of the Digital Competence Framework/Curriculum for Wales.

Work with schools, utilities and families to constantly improve **EQUITY OF ACCESS TO DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES** for our learners. The ultimate aim is that no learner in our schools ever feels digitally left behind.

We currently host and support a variety of complex and ageing legacy technologies, both centrally and within schools. Supporting and maintaining these is both resource intensive and educationally restrictive. We will continue to **RATIONALISE AND CONSOLIDATE TO HWB** at every opportunity.

We will take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through active investigation and best-fit assessment, leading to the pursuit and adoption of **NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**. Where there is potential to add significant value within schools, we will pursue that technology.

We will strive to **IMPLEMENT ALL CHANGES** in a methodical and controlled manner. We will consult and communicate frequently with all relevant stakeholders.

Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through **COLLABORATION**, we will do so, locally, regionally, nationally and across the education, public and private sectors.

# Carmarthenshire's Digital Estate

## Communications (Voice & Data)

Core Schools Network Circuits: **112**



Wireless Access Points: **2171**



Core Schools routers supported: **112**



Schools Data switches: **518**



Schools Telephone systems: **65**



### Data Centers

2 resilient data centres  
20 centrally virtualized servers  
32 Secondary servers  
62 Mac Servers  
25+ Tb of Cloud Hosted Data



### End Users

Schools staff: **3,800**  
Learners: **27,500**



### Devices

Primary Laptops & PCs: **2,500**  
Secondary Laptops & PCs: **4,600**  
Tablets: **2,800**  
Chromebooks: **8,200**

# Continue the Hwb First, Cloud First Journey



## What it means

- Continue to fully exploit the products and services within Welsh Government's Hwb Learning platform. This system has provided the key foundation to support learning throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period and now forms a key element of education provision in the post-pandemic phase.
- To reduce costly physical infrastructure within schools, reducing the capital expenditure required to replace this infrastructure.
- Reduction of the physical infrastructure within schools also equates to a reduction in the power consumption and a decreasing carbon footprint for each school campus, year-on-year. This will align with the Authority's pledge of being Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

## Why is it important?

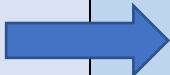


- School data is such a valuable asset, we should ensure that it is stored in the most secure, resilient, efficient, cost effective and appropriate location.
- That it is accessible in a secure manner for staff and learners to teach and learn at home, ensuring our students continue to learn when it is not possible to attend school.
- It allows our students to learn new skills and subjects whilst meeting new people and gaining new experiences across different campuses.
- The proliferation and variation of on-premise data storage and services both centrally and within Carmarthenshire's schools is neither sensible nor sustainable. Our continuation of the

Hwb journey allows us to continue to scale down and decommission this physical infrastructure for future years.

- The digital tools and resources within the Hwb platform supports a national approach to planning and delivery, enables sharing of skills, methods and resources between educational practitioners in Wales; supports teaching and learning in Welsh and English and provides equal access to free, classroom focused tools and resources for all teachers and learners in Wales.

## How will we continue the Hwb First, Cloud First Journey?

- Identification and migration of remaining schools data from any on-premise data source, including any new opportunities arising from additional or emerging functionality within Hwb. In particular, the migration of school websites that were on hold during the Covid-19 Pandemic to support schools in distributing work and information to parents and learners.
- Ensuring that all new and existing devices are managed within the Hwb administration tools. Removes hard-to-manage and expensive to maintain legacy devices.
- That in future technology refreshes and curriculum updates, of cloud-hosted software packages should be our default, unless there are significant and compelling reasons to retain on-premise.
- To work with Welsh Government, exam bodies, the Hwb team and specialist subject colleagues within the Authority to investigate options for cloud-hosting Music, Design & Technology and ICT software.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024
Further assessment of onsite infrastructure and decommissioning of all possible onsite server infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern, safe and sustainable data storage solution.</li> <li>• Secure, highly resilient and highly available data storage solution.</li> <li>• Increase functionality relating to sharing and collaboration of data.</li> <li>• Reduction in power consumption and decrease carbon footprint</li> </ul>			
Migration of remaining devices into the Hwb management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, secure and trackable solution for managing and administering all school devices.</li> </ul>			
Review of key software packages utilised in schools to establish additional options for migration to the cloud to support blended and digital learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, secure and cloud-based solution to allow students greater access to software outside of dedicated classrooms and facilities.</li> <li>• To work with and to inform Welsh Government and examination bodies to identify options for alternative software provision.</li> <li>• To work with schools to evaluate suitable software packages for a comprehensive provision within Music, Design &amp; Technology and ICT.</li> </ul>			

# Hwb Sustainability Programme



## What it means


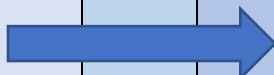
- That we will work closely with Welsh Government to refresh and improve our networking and wireless infrastructure to ensure our learners have a fit-for-purpose network.
- That we will actively engage with our schools on a regular basis to review the programme to ensure it continues to meet needs and that all schools have equal ICT provision for their staff and learners.
- Using the Welsh Government Hwb grant, Carmarthenshire ICT Services will refresh and increase the number of devices in schools, ensuring learners have a greater equity of access to an age-appropriate device.
- That the technology used to teach is fit-for-purpose and supports learner engagement within classrooms.
- Improve service provision by integrating Welsh Government's Education Digital Standards fully into the Hwb Programme roll-out.
- Schools no longer need to worry about how they can afford to replace or improve their technology. Their regular contributions to the Hwb Sustainability scheme replaces end-of-life equipment when needed, so a school does not go without because of budget issues.

## How will we continue to effectively deliver the Hwb Sustainability Programme?

- Continue to work with Welsh Government to be a key contributor and influencer to the all-Wales Hwb programme.
- To fully utilise the contracts and frameworks provided by Welsh Government in order to achieve the best possible value for money in all purchases from the scheme.
- Ensure that the scheme is reviewed and updated annually so that it is always responsive to changes in teaching and learning .
- Review the numbers of devices within schools on a termly basis and to adjust the types and quantities of devices to maintain equality.
- Provide all schools with the opportunity to share their digital learning plans and to look for opportunities as to how they can be supported within the framework of the scheme.
- Seek opportunities to upskill all Schools ICT staff to support the new equipment and to ensure that every teacher and learner is able to realise their aims.

## Why is it important?

- Ensure that all learners have equal access to devices across every school, thus eliminating barriers to creativity and learning due to outdated or lack of technology.
- Eliminate digital inequality between schools so that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed.
- Provide teachers with a fit-for-purpose device upon which to deliver their lessons, that is fully integrated with the Hwb environment.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024
Welsh Government Hwb Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with Welsh Government colleagues and groups to represent Carmarthenshire learners.</li> <li>• Manage and implement the Hwb Programme to the specific requirements of Welsh Government.</li> <li>• Implement Education Digital Standards as part of the programme rollout.</li> </ul>			
Carmarthenshire's Hwb Sustainability Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review equipment age profiles, conditions and numbers to ensure that all staff and learners have equal access to digital resources.</li> <li>• Consult with schools regularly to ensure that the scheme responds to changes and continues to fulfil needs.</li> <li>• Work with colleagues within and external to the Authority to take advantage of any learning opportunities to improve skills.</li> </ul>			



# Digital Equity



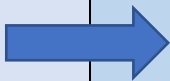
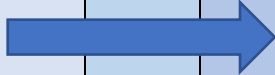
## What it means

- Working towards ensuring that none of our learners are disadvantaged because they are unable to gain access to online learning resources, whether in school or at home.
- To improve access to Hwb resources, homework and create opportunities for learners to learn new subjects, whether available in their school or not.
- Making sure every teacher has the same opportunity and confidence to deliver their subject efficiently and effectively.
- Taking every opportunity to deliver Anytime, Anywhere learning and to explore every possibility to make it a reality for all students, with the aim that no learner is left behind.
- That students who are unable to attend school are able to still learn and participate with their peers, whilst working to improve their outcomes.
- That in the event of a lockdown, education can continue to be delivered and that teachers are able to keep in touch with all students, particularly vulnerable learners.
- That students have access to the best possible selection of subjects, whether taught in person or electronically, to allow them to move forward into the future career choices.
- To work with Families who have connectivity issues at home to signpost options and solutions so they can have the most appropriate and cost-effective solution for their needs.

## How will we continue to promote Digital Equity?

## Why is it important?

- That all students can participate in all online learning opportunities, irrespective of their own situation.
- Teachers have the confidence to teach their students knowing that the devices are the same and that there is a consistent experience every time.
- To consider options for a scheme where learners can borrow a school device for short periods of time when they are unable to attend their classroom.
- Evaluate the demand, options and funding paths for providing a more permanent scheme to provide students with their own devices for their secondary school career.
- Provide signposting and advice to families who are having difficulties with connectivity and access to the internet.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024
Evaluate options for a student device scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider all viable options to provide all or some students with access to a device, both inside and outside school to improve learner outcomes.</li> </ul>			
Improvements to Digital Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To coordinate support and guidance for families who have poor internet connectivity at home but wish to improve their facilities.</li> </ul>			



# Digital Schools & Classrooms



## What it means

- Empowering teachers and learners to be as efficient and effective as possible in the right place, at the right time based on the needs of education.
- Facilitating truly Digital Schools through the efficient and appropriate deployment of laptops, tablets, productivity tools and aligned technologies.
- Ensuring that schools have the right provision of devices within the Hwb Sustainability scheme to support digital learning.




## Why is it important?

- Digital Education has – and continues – to evolve rapidly in terms of the tools and technologies available to staff and learners on a daily basis.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has firmly embedded digital learning within the expectations of learners and skill sets of staff. These skills must not be lost, but sustained and developed.
- To ensure continuous improvement in teacher and learner outcomes, schools must evolve and keep pace with this technology.
- To give teachers the confidence that they can teach using reliable and good quality devices with the confidence that lessons can be delivered consistently and without incident.
- The technology used most commonly in classrooms, offices and meetings, whether in-person or online, can and should facilitate the aims and objectives of schools, the Local Authority and Welsh Government.

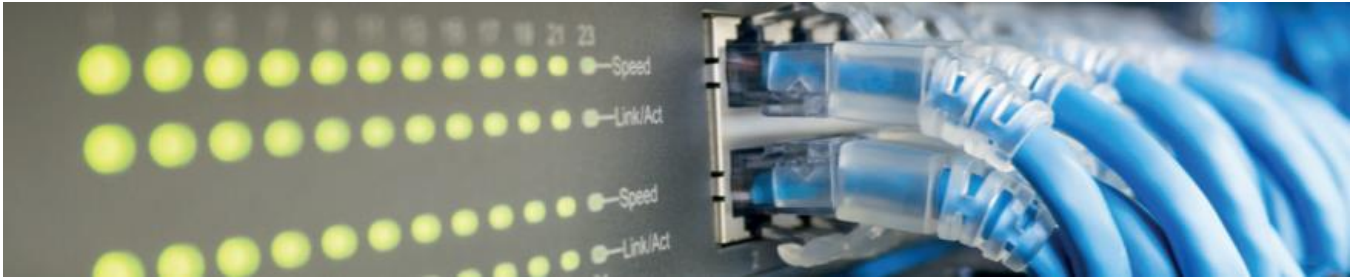
- To reduce any gaps between the technology and skills by continuing to work closely with the Education Department's internal training schemes.

## How will we achieve Digital Schools and Classrooms?

- Encourage and promote the continued development of the first class productivity and collaboration tools available within the Hwb Digital Learning Platform.
- Working closely with schools to ensure end-user devices are upgraded and/or replaced at the relevant intervals agreed within the Sustainability Scheme.
- To work with and help find solutions for schools to offer an increased range of examined subjects through Blended Learning and other collaborative partnerships.
- Provide schools with access to the relevant frameworks and mechanisms to extract maximum value for money on all of their ICT-related expenditure.
- Continue to deploy technologies that facilitate a truly agile approach to learning, allowing teachers and learners to connect, communicate and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their needs.
- Provide consultancy to assist secondary schools to embrace digital learning, including device loan and "Bring Your Own Device" schemes.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024
Ensure Classroom Hardware Provision supports teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of the right device in the right place, at the right time for teachers and learners.</li> <li>Support schools to benefit from the device investment.</li> </ul>			
Support Digital Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work closely with schools and the Local Education Authority to provide a joined-up approach to Digital, Blended and Remote Learning.</li> <li>To support innovative ways of teaching and learning.</li> </ul>			
Support Partnership working with our Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that centrally negotiated contracts provide maximum value for money and efficiencies.</li> <li>Work with Secondary schools to implement BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) where appropriate.</li> </ul>			

# Efficient & Effective Technology



## What it means

- A resilient, 21<sup>st</sup> Century data and voice network infrastructure that facilitates and underpins teaching and learning across the County and keeps Carmarthenshire's learners safe online.
- Sufficient bandwidth for all schools, to facilitate fast and effective access to the internet, Hwb and all other cloud-based teaching and learning resources and data.
- Ensuring that schools data, systems and services are secure.
- Managing and protecting the integrity of devices and appliances to minimise any opportunity for losses or breaches.




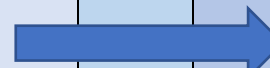
## Why is it important?

- To ensure schools have quick and easy access to the digital resources needed to meet the demands of the curriculum.
- To facilitate communication and collaboration between schools and other learning establishments to give our students every possible opportunity.
- To share data, systems and services locally, regionally and nationally.
- Demand on bandwidth has grown rapidly since learners have returned to school after remote learning and we fully expect this demand to increase consistently in future years.
- To ensure the Local Education Authority and schools are meeting their obligations in terms of safeguarding Carmarthenshire's pupils.

- Data, systems and digital services are crucial in delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education. With the increased and ever-evolving cyber threat to individuals and organisations, it is essential that we continually develop and enhance our protection accordingly.

## How will we deliver Efficient and Effective Technology?

- Securing and investing central capital funding and human resource to achieve all of the above.
- Constantly working with partners to improve, maintain and enhance our County-wide network and wireless provision to increase bandwidth, improve filtering, eradicate bottlenecks and speed up access.
- Continue to lobby Welsh Government, Openreach and other providers for increased broadband coverage across the County to support students and teachers accessing online resources at home.
- To support families by providing advice and guidance to improve their current connectivity at home.
- We will act responsibly, plan ahead and be realistic regarding all aspects of schools ICT security to ensure our network is protected with suitable cyber-protection.
- We will upgrade our device protection and encryption to ensure the security and integrity of schools hardware and devices.
- We will provide secure authentication and access to core central services for the appropriate teachers and staff as and when necessary.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024
Bandwidth Review & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the internet connection remains fit for purpose.</li> <li>• Take advantage of new and emerging technologies to make better use of bandwidth.</li> </ul>			
Digital Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved connectivity for staff and learners by working with stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and technology options.</li> <li>• Facilitate provision of advice and guidance to assist families and staff in improving their digital connectivity.</li> </ul>			
Device Management & Software Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faster deployment of devices and software packages.</li> <li>• Ability for staff to manage own devices and software installations using a controlled and protected approach.</li> </ul>			
Review & Evolution of Cyber Security capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more resilient and secure digital environment.</li> <li>• Improved response capabilities to a cyber breach.</li> </ul>			

# Digital Technology Strategy

“A secure, resilient and cloud ready approach”

**2022 – 2025**

[carmarthenshire.gov.wales](https://carmarthenshire.gov.wales)



## **Foreword from Councillor Glynog Davies**

This Digital Technology Strategy recognises that flexible, agile, and integrated technology can only be delivered to the Council and its Residents if we adopt the same leading-edge models of some of the most forward thinking and efficient companies across the globe.

The importance of digital connectivity is increasing as it becomes more critical to the modern day lives of residents, businesses and the delivery of Council services. This importance has been further highlighted by the pandemic and as we recover and restart, access to fast, reliable internet connectivity is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity for residents, local businesses and the delivery of public services.

This important document outlines how Carmarthenshire County Council will underpin and deliver the components necessary to achieve digital transformation.

**Cllr. Glynog Davies**  
**Cabinet Portfolio holder for ICT**

## **Foreword from the Chief Executive of the Council**

Welcome to the revised Carmarthenshire County Council Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025. This builds on our previous strategy as we continue our ambitious approach to transform the way we deliver our services to the residents of Carmarthenshire.

The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the significant importance of a robust, resilient digital infrastructure and the projects delivered to date ensured we were well placed to handle the challenges of 'home working' for all office-based staff and the delivery of online learning for schools. We continue to face some tough challenges ahead with the Pandemic and against a backdrop of on-going austerity and it is essential we maximise the use of the very latest digital innovations to ensure Council services are financially sustainable into the future.

An enhanced digital infrastructure that takes advantage of the latest technologies and takes every opportunity to address the net-zero carbon aspirations of this Authority by 2030 is critical. It will provide the foundations allowing us to work with partners from across the Region to deliver more effective, efficient services and transform the local economy ensuring it can compete on the global stage.

**Wendy Walters**  
**Chief Executive**

# Our vision for Carmarthenshire

**"A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire"**



## **To achieve this bold vision, we will:**

- Build a flexible, hybrid and robust technology infrastructure to underpin the agile workforce, building on lessons learned from the Pandemic.
- Adopt safe, flexible, and citizen centric digital platforms at the heart of our technology.
- Make use of the latest collaborative technologies to underpin the new 'Better Ways of Working' environment for Staff and Elected Members.
- Adopt strong cyber resilience technologies to ensure services to staff and citizens are safe and secure.
- Plan, test and review Disaster Recovery technologies to ensure the Authority's data and systems are robust and resilient.
- Strengthen our critical on-premises infrastructure to ensure it can meet the needs of the workforce and provide services to our citizens.
- Exploit cloud technology and systems where feasible to help departments deliver their services.
- Adapt a unified Communications policy, providing technology to fit service telephony and communication needs.

- Review and evaluate the latest desktop and smartphone technologies, providing a choice of pertinent technologies for all needs.
- Seek to collect, interrogate, and extract value from data to facilitate organisational strategy, decision-making and service delivery.
- Make digital connectivity and bandwidth the foundation of our technology stack, for the organisation, elected members, citizens, and businesses.
- Facilitate and underpin collaboration locally, regionally and nationally by providing the infrastructure required at public sector hubs through the deployment of suitable technologies.
- Value, recognise and invest in the people and skills required to achieve the aims of this Strategy.



## What is a Digital Technology Strategy?



The Digital Technology Strategy sets out the Authority's technology priorities and aspirations over the next 3 years. Its purpose is to identify the key technologies and initiatives that will facilitate and underpin the vision and delivery of the organisations overarching Digital Transformation Strategy. The audience for this Strategy is the leadership of the organisation, elected members our customers and staff.

The Authority will make use of appropriate emerging and existing technologies to facilitate and underpin service transformation, improvement, and efficiencies.

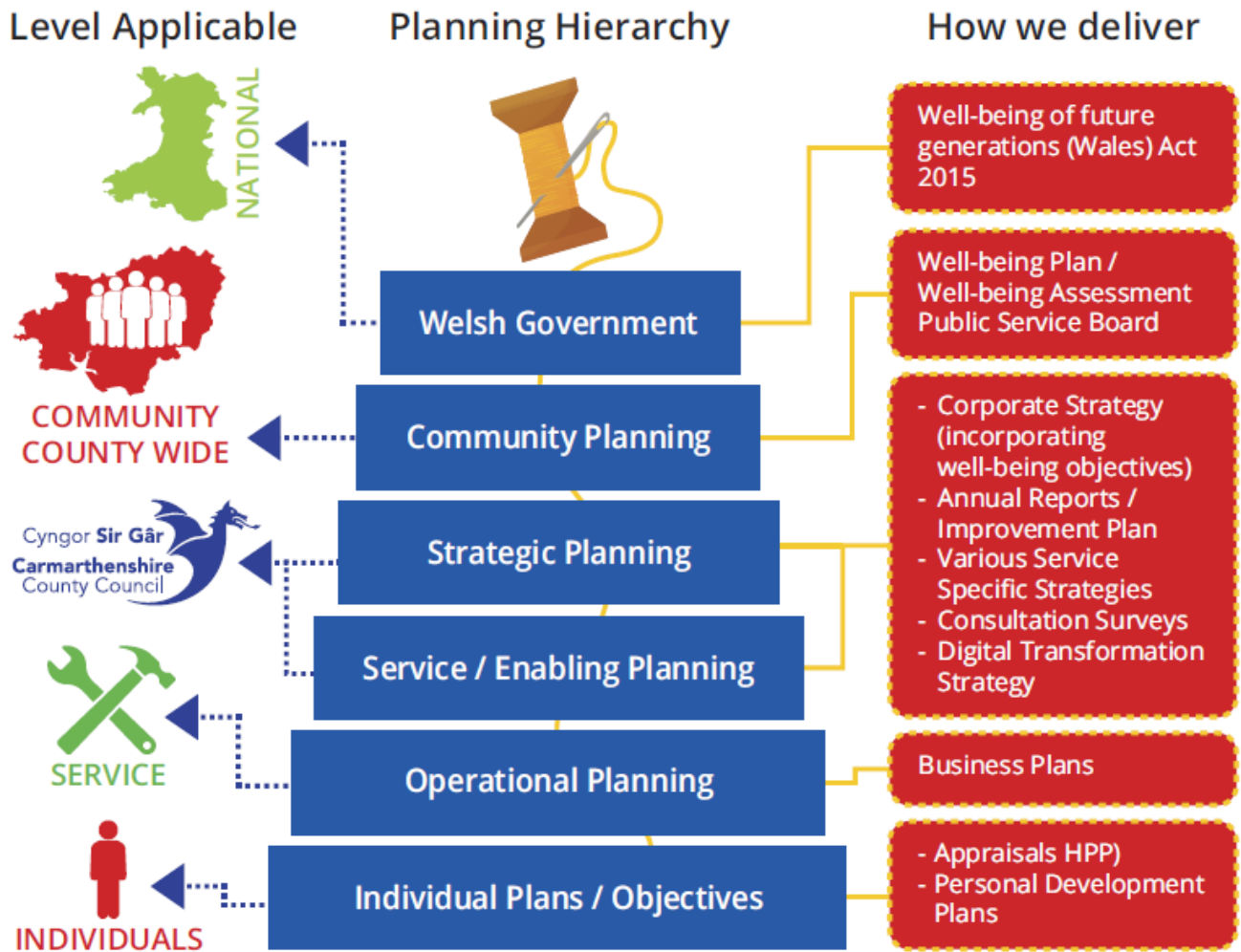
This Digital Technology Strategy recognises that flexible, agile and integrated technology can only be delivered to the Council and its Residents if we adopt the same leading-edge models of some of the most forward thinking and efficient companies across the globe.

We will adopt the Sustainable Development Principles of the Well Being Future Generations Act in our design and implementation of new digital technologies to assist us in delivering the Future Generations Well Being Objectives.



## How plans are made - The Planning Cascade

*"The Wedding Cake & Golden Thread"*



The Digital Technology Strategy will ensure several of the expected outcomes identified within the revised council's Corporate Strategy (April 2021) can be achieved which in turn will underpin the delivery of our Well-being Objectives. Action plans will be developed to deliver the key projects identified and these will be monitored via Performance Management Systems and reported annually. All projects will be designed and delivered in-line with the 5 Ways of Working.

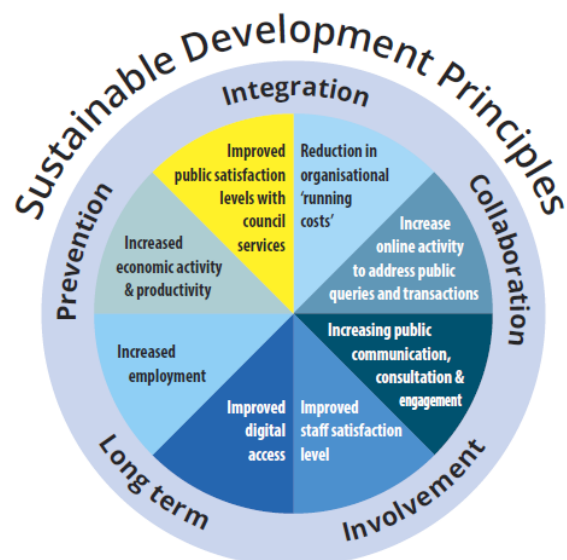
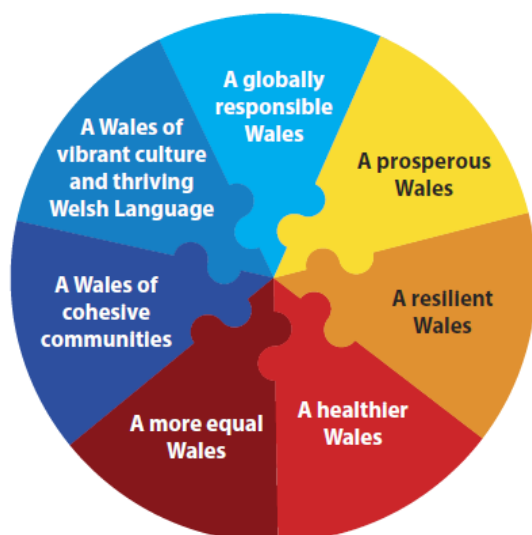
## Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

The general purpose of the Act, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales, take the needs of future generations into account. The Act is designed to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The law states that:

(a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is: **'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'**

(b) We must demonstrate use of the 5 ways of working: Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative.

(c) We must work towards achieving all the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.



Wales was the first country to implement a Well-being of Future Generations Act, which provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act, we are required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximise our Contribution to the Well-being Goals. We have incorporated these Well-being Objectives into the council's Corporate Strategy.

# Digital Technology Strategy – Overarching Principles

The compelling drivers of this strategy are to adopt a **SECURE, RESILIENT AND CLOUD READY** approach towards our future infrastructure and technologies. These factors will underpin all other principals within this Strategy.

To achieve the ambitions laid out in this strategy we will adhere to the following overarching principles:

## CYBER SECURITY

Securing our infrastructure and systems has always been important, however since the pandemic and the move to remote working there has been a 935% increase in double-extortion ransomware attacks and a 600% increase in cyber-crime in general. It is therefore key that we are pro-active and equipped to deal with emerging threats, in terms of underlying infrastructure required to secure our systems and also staff awareness and training, cyber incident exercises and procedures.



## DISASTER RECOVERY

Disaster Recovery will serve as a key priority; we will ensure we have a robust and resilient infrastructure at the heart of everything we do. We will plan, test and document resilience between our two data centres in Carmarthen and Ammanford on an annual basis.



## CHANGE MANAGEMENT

We will strive to implement all changes in a methodical and controlled manner. We will consult and communicate frequently with all relevant stakeholders and follow our agreed change control procedure.





## RESEARCH, RATIONALISE AND CONSOLIDATE

We will take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through the active investigation, pursuit, and adoption of new and emerging technologies. Where there is potential to add significant value, we will pursue that technology.

We host an array of applications running on various technologies, with some being outdated and unsupported. We will look to

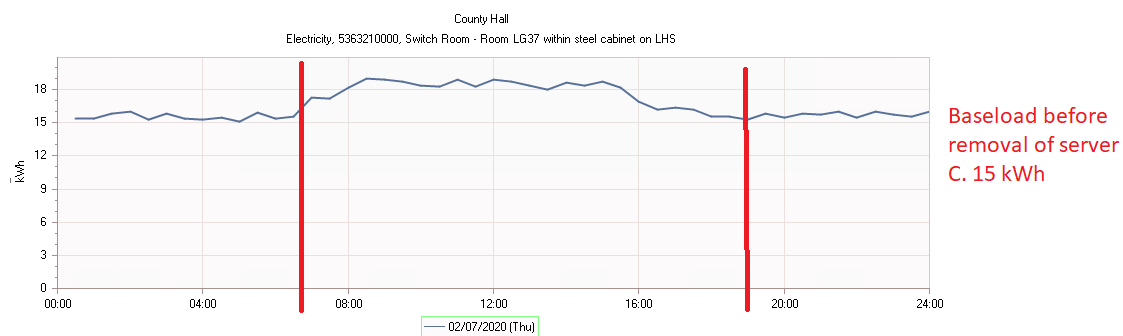


<p>upgrade aging technologies to ensure they are secure and resilient and explore cloud options for systems that are resource intensive and organisationally restrictive to maintain. We will seek to evaluate and replace at every opportunity.</p>	
<p><b><u>COLLABORATE</u></b></p> <p>Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through collaboration, we will do so, locally, regionally, nationally, across the public and private sector.</p>	
<p><b><u>NET ZERO CARBON AUTHORITY</u></b></p> <p>We have a significant role to play in both further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions and providing the leadership to encourage residents, businesses, and other organisations to take action to cut their own carbon footprint.</p> <p>We will ensure that all solutions in the strategy aim to align with the councils Net Zero Carbon by 2030 pledge.</p>	

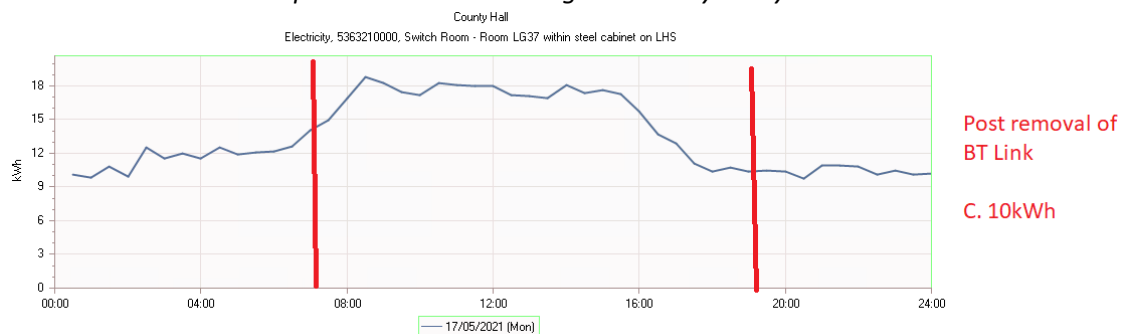
## Net Carbon Zero by 2030

With the ever-increasing reliance on ICT systems, achieving carbon neutrality will be a challenging aspect of this strategy. We will look to migrate systems to cloud services where possible, taking advantage of the advances partners such as Microsoft are making in achieving offsetting carbon emissions. We will strive to ensure that the most energy efficient technologies are used within the Council ICT Infrastructure wherever possible and continue to assess the cooling requirements of our two on-premises data centres in Carmarthen Street and Ammanford. Over the past years, we have reduced our carbon footprint by migrating our data centre from County Hall to Ty Parcyrhun, which has allowed us to replace core infrastructure with new modern technologies that are more energy efficient, whilst reducing the cooling requirements (air con) of our data centres.

The graphs below show the reduction in energy used at County Hall data centre by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> (5kWh) since we decommissioned the infrastructure housed there:



*Baseload prior to data centre migration to Ty Parcyrhun – 15kWh*



*Baseload following migration and decommissioning of redundant infrastructure – 10kWh*

Further efficiencies in County Hall will be achieved over the next year by fully decommissioning the associated infrastructure (Air Conditioning, UPS, Generator, Alarm Systems). We will continue to exploit the Microsoft Office 365 suite of applications over the next 3 years, taking advantage of the aggressive plans Microsoft have produced to become carbon neutral by 2030.

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*In January, Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella, President Brad Smith, and Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood launched a bold new environmental sustainability initiative focusing on carbon, water, waste and biodiversity. We began this work by announcing one of the most ambitious carbon commitments put forward by any company: Microsoft will be carbon negative by 2030 and remove from the environment more carbon than we have emitted since our founding by 2050. We outlined a detailed plan to get there and committed to providing updates on our progress. We have been working hard to turn our commitments into action and, today, we are announcing seven important new steps on our path to be carbon negative by 2030 (Microsoft, 2020)*

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## Carmarthenshire's Digital Estate

ICT Services supports a vast estate of infrastructure, end user accounts and devices. Over the past 3 years with a focus on agile working and the effects of the pandemic there has been a huge shift towards remote working which is reflected in the number of laptop and mobile devices in the figures below. We have also seen an increase in corporate staff with IT accounts, an increase of 1250 users, the majority of which are frontline workers.

<p><b>Communications (Voice and Data)</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Buildings:</b> 137  <b>Core Network Circuits:</b> 156  <b>Broadband Circuits:</b> 134  <b>Wireless Access Points:</b> 2,752 (469 Corporate, 2283 Schools)  <i>Increase of 721 access points since 2018.</i>  <b>Core Routers:</b> 160  <b>Data Switches:</b> 410  <b>Telephony Systems:</b> 2  <i>15 systems rationalised since 2018.</i></p> 	<p><b>End Users</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Staff:</b> 4,750 (Including 81 Councillors and co-opted members)  <i>Increase of 1250 staff since 2018.</i>  <b>Partners Accounts (NHS / Housing etc.):</b> 500  <b>Schools Staff:</b> 3,600  <b>Schools Pupils:</b> 27,000</p> 
<p><b>Corporate Devices</b></p> <p><b>Laptops:</b> 2753  <i>Increase of 973 laptops since 2018.</i>  <b>PCs:</b> 381  <i>Decrease of 1535 PCs since 2018.</i>  <b>Tablets:</b> 545 (445 iPads, 100 Android)  <b>Smart Phones:</b> 2518 (438 iPhone, 2080 Android)  <i>Increase of 2072 since 2018.</i>  <b>Desk Phones:</b> 2800  <b>Softphones:</b> 546  <b>Standard Mobiles:</b> 354</p> 	<p><b>School Devices</b></p> <p><b>Windows:</b> 3243 (1255 Primary, 1988 Secondary)  <b>Chromebooks:</b> 6267 (4513 Primary, 150 Secondary)  <b>Mac:</b> 217 (67 Primary, 150 Secondary)  <b>Tablets:</b> 1897 (280 Primary, 1617 Secondary)</p> 
<p><b>Data Centre Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>Data Centres:</b> 2  <b>Corporate Servers:</b> 350 (334 Virtual, 26 Physical)  <i>Decrease of 71 virtual and 34 physical servers since 2018.</i>  <b>Schools Servers:</b> 75 (334 Virtual, 26 Physical)  <i>Decrease of 20 virtual and 71 physical servers since 2018.</i>  <b>Total Volume of Storage:</b> 412TB  <i>Increase of 162TB from 2018.</i>  <b>Tapes required to support 3 months of backup:</b> 130 (2 copies)  <i>Decrease of 1670 tapes from 2018 (Retention reduced from 12 months to 3 months)</i></p> 	

## Resources Required

The Authority is investing a significant number of resources in ensuring we have a robust and resilient infrastructure to underpin citizen service delivery across the County. In addition to ICT Services ongoing revenue budget, we will also invest the following over the next 3 years:

- £315k to upgrade and replace virtual server and storage environments.
- £190k to upgrade ICT disaster recovery infrastructure.
- £110k to enhance the county network infrastructure.
- £100k to replace aging UNIX hardware.
- £180k to invest in Cyber Security provisions to meet ever increasing and evolving threats.



## People & Skills

We will invest £112K over the next 3 years in retaining and upskilling ICT staff, providing them with the ability to take this ambitious adoption of future technology forward.



## Challenges

The traditional model of maintaining our infrastructure via cyclic capital spends will become less prevalent over the coming years. The transition to more Cloud based "As a Service" ICT models will require a shift to increased revenue spend. ICT Services will work closely with Senior Managers and Finance colleagues on a case-by-case basis to ensure sound business cases are developed to address this transition, and that best value is achieved for the organisation.



## A Secure, Resilient and Cloud ready approach

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"Digital change has accelerated in recent years and now offers us a range of new tools for solving old or novel problems. In essence, digital offers the potential to make our experience of the world better: enhancing people's lives, strengthening the delivery of public services and the work of government, as well as helping businesses to adapt to the future." – WG Digital Strategy for Wales 2021

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*"We are critically dependent on the Internet. However, it is inherently insecure and there will always be attempts to exploit weaknesses to launch cyber-attacks. This threat cannot be eliminated completely, but the risk can be greatly reduced to a level that allows society to continue to prosper, and benefit from the huge opportunities that digital technology brings" - National Cyber Security Strategy 2016-21*

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*"The option now available to organisations such as ourselves is to move our systems into the Cloud. Whilst clearly there are transition costs involved in moving any ICT infrastructure, the lower costs of Cloud based services mean that savings will be realised in a fairly short term after the move." - Welsh Government ICT Strategy 2018-21*

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## **What it means?**

- Greater investment in technologies to prevent cyber based attacks on Council information and data systems which could be extremely costly and render the Authority unable to undertake vital functions. We will continually evaluate the market and engage with vendors to ensure we are deploying the latest in cyber defence in all areas of our Infrastructure.
- Comprehensive testing of our Disaster Recovery procedures to ensure we can restore systems and services effectively and rapidly in line with service needs in the event of a major disaster effecting either of our core Data Centres in Carmarthen or Ammanford.

We will design, plan, test and evaluate our DR functions and capabilities across both data centres to ensure we have robust recovery plans in place.

- The rapid deployment of cloud-based solutions for the provision of key ICT systems such as payroll and ResourceLink should the offer provide significant scope for efficiencies, cost savings and productivity.

## **Why is it important?**

- The organisation's data is an extremely valuable asset. Just as we store our finances in a secure vault at a bank, we need to ensure our data is store in the most secure, resilient, and safe infrastructure as possible.
- We have invested heavily over the previous 3 years in updating our aging data centres to the latest technologies, designing resilience in at every stage. It is vital that we now test in the event of a disaster to ensure services and systems can be bought back as efficiently as possible.
- Cloud allows greater flexibility and rapid deployment of new services in a more efficient, sustainable and scalable manner.
- It will facilitate increased collaboration and provide a means for improved sharing of data and systems.
- It will allow staff to work from the best possible locations from several various platforms as required, in a safe and secure manner.

## **How will we achieve a secure, resilient and cloud ready approach?**

- In every future technology refresh or adoption, we will consider the cloud option, unless there are significant and compelling reasons to deviate.
- We will create, evaluate and scrutinise business cases for all significant cloud migrations to ensure best value for the organisation.

## Resilient Data and Voice Network (1 of 3)

### What it means?

- Our local and wide area networks, internet feeds, telephony and unified communications systems underpin communication across the organisation and with partners.
- Our already significant and sophisticated network provides the ability to communicate, collaborate and share data, systems and services.

### Why is it important?

- Data and voice network connectivity and internet access are critical in delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century citizen services.
- The demand on our bandwidth and internet connectivity channels from corporate services, schools and partners has grown rapidly. We fully expect this demand to increase in the coming years.
- Our network is the foundation of everything we do in terms of technology. Without it departmental, schools and partner systems and services simply would not function.
- We already have both central and departmental systems and services in the Cloud. Our network is the vehicle that allows us to access those, now and in the future.

### How will we achieve resilient data and voice networks?

- Dynamically develop and advance our already complex and sophisticated network technology to ensure our network capabilities continue to be fit for purpose.
- Virtualize and consolidate our voice systems to provide enhanced functionality, increased resilience and significant cost efficiencies.
- Enhance our connectivity to all Wales Public Sector network (PSBA), exploit its full potential as a foundation for collaboration, and utilize shared Cloud services across Wales via that medium.
- Provide truly resilient internet connectivity for corporate, schools and partners.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024	2025
Implement Cyber Security Recommendations	Continue to act upon cyber security recommendations from in-house scans and from trusted partners in order to secure our on-premises and cloud infrastructure.				
PSBA Network Redesign	Work with PSBA to optimise our network for better performance and resiliency.				
Internal Network Redesign	Alongside the PSBA redesign we will be improving our internal network resiliency, key outcomes being resilient internet and internal network connections for all users/devices.				

## Modern Digital Workplace (2 of 3)

### What it means?

- Empowering our workforce to be as efficient and effective as possible in the right place, at the right time based on the needs of citizen service delivery.
- Facilitating a truly Modern Digital Workplace through the efficient and appropriate deployment of laptops, tablets, smartphones, productivity tools and technologies.
- Underpin any changes made to the way staff work as part of the 'Better Ways of Working'

### Why is it important?

- The workplace has and continues to evolve rapidly in terms of the tools and technologies users utilise daily.
- To ensure continuous improvement in workplace productivity we must evolve and keep pace.
- The technology most used in our offices, classrooms, meetings etc. can and should facilitate the aims and objectives of teams, divisions, departments and ultimately the organisation.

### How will we achieve a modern digital workplace?

- Transform our workforce's ability to be productive and to collaborate as individuals, teams and departments through the adoption of Cloud based secure productive environments.
- By ensuring our end-user devices are upgraded and updated in terms of hardware and software, providing users with the latest features and functionality.
- Deploying technologies that facilitate a truly agile approach to work, allowing users to connect, communicate and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their customers and services.
- By allowing users to securely utilize their own companion devices (tablets & Smartphones) for work through the provision of a voluntary "Bring Your Own Device" scheme.
- Enhance and transform traditional workplace practices through the deployment of innovative concepts and technologies such as the Internet of Things and Robotic Process Automation.

Key Projects		Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024	2025
Council File Plan migration to Sharepoint	Migration of our local data repository to facilitate improved access to files and data, improved retention and governance functionality, decommissioning our on-premises data stores.					
Citrix Sharefile to Sharepoint Migration	Migration of our "Sharefile" environment which allows sharing of large files with external users to a dedicated Sharepoint site for improved collaboration.					
OneDrive Known Folder Move (Local Data Migration)	In addition to already migrating user homes, this work enables all user's local data to be backed up to the cloud, allowing them to collaborate and access their data from any corporate device.					
Unified Comms – rollout of Softphone technology	Improved communication and productivity for users previously tied to physical phones in the office or needing to use their mobile phone to take calls – removes the need for a physical phone and allows calls to be taken in any location from a corporate laptop or mobile.					
Konica Guest Printing	Configuration of a guest print environment to allow partner organisations to print in shared office locations.					
Carehome Wi-Fi Rollout	Upgrading all Carehomes and sheltered schemes to superfast fibre, configuring WiFi infrastructure in all locations to the specifications required.					
Microsoft Autopilot Device Provisioning	Allow remote deployment of laptop devices direct to customers, a smoother build process for ICT services staff and the ability for ICT Helpdesk staff to remotely wipe devices for users without a physical visit required.					
Service Delivery Improvement Plan	Transform Service Delivery and ICT helpdesk to adapt to the new ways of working. Improve self-help and remote support for customers and offer IT drop in visits when required.					
Microsoft Remote Desktop Services	Migration from Citrix to Remote Desktop Services in order to provide internal users with connectivity to bandwidth intensive applications and external users with secure remote access with MFA.					

## Secure and Resilient Data Centres (3 of 3)

### What it means?

- Ensuring our data, systems and services are hosted in the most efficient and appropriate location.
- Ensuring our data, systems and services are built and managed on the most efficient and appropriate platforms.

### Why is it important?

- Our Data Centres are the core of our business, housing our infrastructure, data, and applications. Without them, ICT simply would not function.
- The contents of our data centres are of extremely high organisational value in terms of physical assets, data, annual spend, organisational performance and service delivery.

## How will we achieve secure and resilient data centres?

- We will act responsibly, plan and be realistic in terms of systems that could potentially be migrated to the cloud.
- We will seek to upgrade our on-premises environment, platform and software to ensure we provide the greatest resilience possible to the Authorities services serving staff, members and citizens.
- We will consolidate servers, data and applications, improving overall performance through the adoption of the latest high-speed storage, making best use of technology and preparing us for cloud migration.
- We will seek efficiencies and compliance with GDPR and improve collaboration by migrating the Council's file system to SharePoint Online.
- We will decommission all outdated systems and services, replacing them with existing and new technologies that are more efficient and effective for both users and ICT Services.

Key Projects		Key Outcomes	2022	2023	2024	2025
Expansion and evolution of Cyber Security capabilities	A more resilient and secure digital environment, increased testing and exercises will result in an improved response to a cyber security breach.					
Internal firewall replacement	Improved performance and security, ability to offer automated internet connectivity failover in the event of an outage.					
Review and update IT security policies and cyber security incident plan.	Review all existing policies to ensure they are up to date and meaningful, continue to improve our cyber security incident plan to improve our response in the event of an incident.					
Replacement of Barracuda SMTP appliance	Replace aging mail server infrastructure and migrate to cloud in order to offer a more resilient service for sending mail to customers.					
Test and document disaster recovery capabilities	Continue to improve upon existing disaster recovery plans, carrying out a series of annual tests including data centre power downs, simulated loss of internet connectivity, loss of "gold" systems.					
Multi Factor Authentication	Implementation of Multi Factor Authentication for all users with access to our Microsoft 365 environment in order to improve security and reduce the risk of unauthorised access to data.					

## Next Steps and Revised Delivery Agreement

- Provide delegated authority to officers to amend the Revised Delivery Agreement timetable and agree its content with the Welsh Government.
- To consider the content of the report and endorse the need to prepare a consolidated second Deposit Revised LDP and associated documents.
- Grant the Director of Environment in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Planning delegated authority to establish the Afon Tywi Nutrient Management Board (NMB), develop its terms of reference and prepare a Nutrient Management Plan.
- In conjunction with other key public bodies to join the membership board for the Afon Teifi, Afon Cleddau and river Wye NMB's.

- To comply with the Council's statutory obligations in terms of the preparation and progression of a Revised Local Development Plan for Carmarthenshire, in accordance with statutory procedures.
- To ensure the Plan is supported by the required evidence and that it delivers against a changing economic and social environment.
- To consider the impacts arising from NRW Interim Advice on phosphates in riverine SACs.
- To reflect the Councils legal duties under the Habitat Regulations as transposed into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- to ensure compliance with the Authority's duties to enhance the environment under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to support sustainable development objectives in Carmarthenshire.

Council Decision Required YES 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

<b>Directorate</b> Environment	Designations:	Tel Nos. 01267 246270
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Rhodri Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	E Mail Addresses: <a href="mailto:RDGriffiths@sirgar.gov.uk">RDGriffiths@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Ian Llewelyn	Forward Planning Manager	01267 228816 <a href="mailto:IRLlewelyn@sirgar.gov.uk">IRLlewelyn@sirgar.gov.uk</a>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Cabinet**  
**14<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

## **Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Next Steps and Revised Delivery Agreement**

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

The report seeks to update on the progress of the Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) and notably the impact and implications of a series of factors, issues and guidance that has, and will have on the progress and/or future content of the Plan. In setting out these areas the report proposes a series of next steps and seeks endorsement on the recommendation to prepare a further Revised Deposit LDP to address and mitigate the implications arising from the issues identified, and to ensure it is procedurally compliant and 'sound', thus enabling its adoption.

The report seeks endorsement to produce an updated Deposit Revised LDP and for officers to prepare a revised Delivery Agreement in conjunction and agreement with Welsh Government with the updated Deposit Plan anticipated to be published for consultation in 2022 with a report presented to Council prior to its publication.

Note: the current adopted LDP will remain in force until it is superseded by the Revised LDP.

### **2. Background**

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

This Report follows the resolution of County Council on the 10th January 2018 to formally commence the preparation of a Revised (replacement) Local Development Plan (LDP). Members will recall that the County Council at its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 endorsed the Deposit Revised LDP 2018 - 2033 and its supporting documents (Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal) along with two draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the statutory 6-week public consultation. This commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and following an extension of over 2 weeks closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The above was supplemented by a subsequent 3-week consultation on the Deposit LDP and its supporting documents. This reflected the impact of the closure of public buildings on the



final few weeks of the original consultation and closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. The consultation responses received along with a series of proposed Focused Changes were considered and approved at the meeting of Council on the 13 January 2021.

Following the above Council approval, the Focused Changes were scheduled for publication in February 2021. However, the publication on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 of Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphate in watercourses, further to their assessment of the 9 riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Wales raised significant issues on the delivery of development and the progress of LDP's in areas affected by the phosphate guidance and prevented the consultation and the Plan making any further progress.

Further details on the implications on the phosphate guidance will be set out in this report.

### **3. Revised LDP – Key Issues**

The following section outlines some of those factors, issues and guidance that have emerged since the publication of the Deposit Plan and will impact on the progress of the Plan or need to be further considered in respect of its content:

- **Phosphates – Impact of NRW Guidance**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published new evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphate in watercourses, further to their assessment of the 9 riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Wales. This assessment (based on tighter targets for the water quality of watercourses) established that phosphorus breaches are widespread within Welsh SAC rivers with over 60% of waterbodies failing against the challenging targets.

As a result, NRW issued 'interim planning advice' to avoid further deterioration in environmental capacity. This advice relates to all Riverine SACs whose catchments extend into Carmarthenshire including, the Afon Teifi, Afon Tywi, River Wye and Afon Cleddau.

As a Local Planning Authority, the Council is required to have regard to the advice given by NRW when making planning decisions for both individual developments and Local Development Plans (LDP). Consequently, any proposed development within the river catchment that might result in an increase in phosphate levels will need to clearly evidence that the development can demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment in its design and/or its contribution to the river (water body).

In most cases there will be limited capacity to connect to the public sewerage system whereby it would not result in a deterioration. Consequently, an alternative solution will have to be found. This requirement on drainage considerations will impact on all development that increases the volume or concentration of wastewater. In this respect the issues faced are infrastructural as well as environmental, consequently it is a wider multi-agency approach. Further details on the work being undertaken notably by this authority and on the some of the future steps required is set out in the appended report.

A map identifying the extent of the affected area within Carmarthenshire is contained within the appended report. It should be noted at this stage only those areas identified are affected by the interim guidance.

In considering the impact on the preparation of the Revised LDP there are clear implications for its content, and the deliverability of its policies and provisions, as well as its compliance with legislation and national planning Policy and guidance.

The NRW guidance requires a re-screening of the content of the Plan and its proposed allocations and distribution of development under the habitat regulations. In this respect, any proposed development (including each allocated housing, employment etc) within the impacted areas would require consideration through an appropriate assessment on a case-by-case basis. In order for this assessment to be passed the site would be required to demonstrate no impact or neutrality/betterment. It is important to note that at this stage there is no known mitigation upon which many of those identified within the affected areas are likely to pass. The absence of any known mitigation means that any future benefit from mitigation cannot be relied on in undertaking the assessment.

This would inevitably raise clear questions around a number of procedural elements necessary in order for an LDP to proceed to adoption:

1. Compliance with our legal duties under the Habitat Regulations – As Competent Authority the Council has a statutory duty to consider whether a plan or project may have a likely significant effect on a SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. As Competent Authority the Council must carry out an appropriate assessment for all remaining aspects of the plan or project that it cannot 'screen out'. The identification or inclusion of any development which does not meet the provisions of the Regulations would result in the Plan being found non-compliant.
2. Tests of Soundness – In preparing an LDP it is required to demonstrate its soundness against a series of tests – a key one amongst which is deliverability. In this respect at examination each allocation and the distribution of growth will be required to demonstrate deliverability. The issues around phosphates and the absence of any solutions, investments or mitigation would result in the Plan being found unsound and unadoptable.

The appended Position Paper (Appendix 1 – December 2021) provides a breakdown of the implications on the Revised LDP's growth aspirations and its specific impacts on affected settlements, the creation of new homes and employment opportunities.

These implications are inevitably significant and may require de-allocation of a number of housing sites in the affected catchments. The Authority will not be in a definitive position to know which sites can be retained in the Plan until after additional evidence has been produced including that Dwr Cymru in terms of investments through the future AMP programme.

Proposals and allocations (including Planning applications) outside the identified catchment areas remain unaffected and will be subject to normal planning considerations.

Note: NRW published an update to their interim guidance on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the content of which and any future iterations will frame ongoing consideration.

- **Covid-19 Recovery**

The Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery and Delivery Plan (April 2021) sets out the short-term priorities and immediate actions over the next two years that protect jobs and safeguard businesses in Carmarthenshire. It also aligns with the Welsh Government's reconstruction priorities. The report in referencing the challenges faced identifies the pathway to recovering from the economic activity already lost and to generate growth and includes some 30 actions in support of business, people and place. The impact of the pandemic and the effects of Brexit need to be considered in any future amendments to the Revised LDP as do the strategic responses and interventions proposed. In this respect the Plan and its content needs to ensure it reflects the changes in economic and social circumstances.

There is a need to understand and reflect that High Streets and retail activity continue to change and as the effects of Covid-19 and the changes in retail patterns continue, evidence will be required to look at the changing shape of the retail sector and the resultant impact on our town centres. Regard will need to be had to the emerging Recovery Plans for Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli Town Centres as well as the Ten Towns Initiative which emerged from the Rural Task Force.

Future demographic updates on population and household projections will be required and will need to consider the new WG projections alongside a selection of growth scenarios which support various growth outcomes. Indeed, these growth outcomes will need to be considered and align with the Council's Covid recovery and the Housing and Regeneration Objectives.

Further evidence which has regard to the latest projections, the Council's and broader strategic objectives and the implications on the environment and linguistic sensitivities will be required, the implications of which will require consideration and potential changes to the Plan.

- **Net Zero Carbon and Decarbonisation Agenda**

Whilst the Deposit LDP places significant emphasis on the response to Climate Change with a proactive set of policies on a number of areas including electric charging points for vehicles as part of new developments, policies need to be reviewed to ensure they are UpToDate and reflective latest technologies and policy requirements.

Regard will need to be had to the provisions of Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales and ensure the LDP supports a low carbon economy and the decarbonisation of industry. It supports the growth of sustainable and renewable energy to help achieve this goal. The Plan and its evidence will need to ensure it responds appropriately to this agenda and the ambitions in relation to decarbonisation, green recovery, the circular economy and net-zero including the Council's policies and strategies.

In this respect the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in February 2019 saw a commitment to become a net zero Local Authority by 2030. The net zero carbon action plan was endorsed by full Council in February 2020 with the Revised LDP as a key contributor to delivering on its aims.

- **Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN15) and Revised NRW Flood Maps**

On the 28th September 2021 the Welsh Government undertook a soft launch of the latest version of TAN15 ahead of its introduction as policy on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. This was accompanied by the Flood Map for Planning, which builds on the Flood Risk Assessment Wales map and includes allowances for climate change. These were scheduled to replace the 2004 version of TAN 15 and the Development Advice Map (which does not include climate change allowances), as well as Technical Advice Note 14: Coastal Planning.

However, in her letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 the Minister suspended the introduction of the new TAN 15 and Flood Map for Planning until 1st June 2023. This was undertaken to enable local planning authorities to consider fully the impact of the climate change projections on their respective areas. The existing TAN 15, published in 2004, and the Development Advice Map will continue in the meantime as the framework for assessing flood risk. In making this provision the Minister states:

*“It is imperative that local planning authorities use the suspension to develop a more detailed understanding of the consequences of flooding, and therefore I require every local planning authority to complete work to review, within the next 12 months, the Strategic Flood Consequences Assessments (SFCAs) for their area, either individually or on a regional basis. I also require each local authority, working in partnership with other flood risk management authorities where appropriate to identify a pipeline of priority flood risk management schemes to address flood risk and vulnerability, as well as an assessment and specific assurances on the effective delivery of SuDS Approval Body functions.”*

In this respect the SFCA originally undertaken to inform the Revised LDP will need to be subject to substantive review having regard to the above requirements. This additional evidence may also need to consider relocation of infrastructure, site specific resilience measures or new green infrastructure. This will have a direct bearing on the content of the Revised LDP including the identification of sites and will need to be incorporated into its content.

Further details on the required methodology for undertaking this SFCA will be provided by the WG in due course.

It should be noted that this additional SFCA evidence will be required at a corporate level to support and inform the Council’s strategic objectives as well as to provide evidence in support of the Revised LDP.

Regard will be had to the regional context, with opportunities to work alongside neighbouring Authorities in the development of evidence embraced where possible. It should be noted the SFCA originally prepared in support of the Revised LDP was undertaken in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council. Further detailed evidential work in the Llanelli area was then undertaken by Carmarthenshire County Council. Moving forward, consideration will need to be given as to the intentions of neighbouring Authorities (including those to the East) in respect of the expectations emerging from the Minister’s letter of the 23 November 2021 in regards SFCAs.

- **Future Wales**

Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 was published in February 2021. Whilst the emerging Revised LDP took account of this emerging document, its publication – and subsequent implications – both in terms of the Revised LDP’s spatial strategy / growth and the policy framework requires detailed review.

Note: the requirement to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Southwest Wales region under the auspices of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) may present opportunities to develop strategic evidence at a regional level to ensure consistency and reduce duplication.

It should be noted that the preparation of the SDP is scheduled for commencement in 2022 through the production of a Delivery Agreement setting out the timetable for its preparation. It should be noted that the Revised LDP is required to be in conformity with Future Wales. Consequently, the policies and provisions of the Revised LDP will need to be reviewed where appropriate to ensure they have regard to its content.

Opportunities may also emerge for the development of locally distinctive evidence at community level in the form of Place Plans.

The preparation of the SDP doesn’t impact on the ability to prepare an LDP in parallel and the Revised LDP will be proceeding at an advanced stage compared with the SDP. Reference will need to be had to the emerging content of any SDP where appropriate.

#### **4. Next Steps**

The Authority was anticipating progressing to the next stage of Plan preparation in February 2021 including the publication of a set of recommended Focussed Changes following their consideration and approved at the meeting of Council on the 13 January 2021. Whilst these changes sought to address issues and changes in circumstances and guidance at that time, they were considered to be non-substantive and therefore falling within what is considered appropriate as a focused change and recognising that they are exceptional in nature and that changes after deposit should be avoided. In this respect they were identified with a recognition that they would not go to the heart of the Plan.

The scale of overall changes that may now be required to the Plan as a result of the above will in all likelihood now be more significant in number and scope. When considered in conjunction with the Focussed Changes originally proposed, this results in the level of change being higher than that which would be appropriate through a Focussed Changes consultation. As a result, it is recommended that these changes be consolidated into a second Deposit Plan and that this be published for a full public consultation in accordance with regulations.

Whilst this course of action will further delay the final adoption of the Revised LDP, it will ensure that the Authority produces an updated and robust document which reflects the significant contextual changes which have taken place since the publication of the Deposit LDP on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

It should be noted that the second Deposit will also be accompanied by a range of documents to support its preparation and the consultation. These will include revised versions (where required) of: Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment, topic papers, an Initial Consultation Report, and Soundness Self-Assessment, and is underpinned by a range of evidence and other background documents.

- **Phosphates – Nutrient Management Board**

In order to ensure compliance with the Authority's duties to enhance the environment under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to support sustainable development objectives in Carmarthenshire it is considered essential to establish a NMB for the Afon Tywi and to become members on the NMBs for the Teifi, Cleddau and Wye.

Section 8.7 of the appended Position Paper on phosphates provides details on the governance, membership and remits of the proposed NMBs. It should be noted that the establishment of NMB is seen as an important step in addressing the challenges facing these rivers and their communities.

In relation to the Tywi NMB representatives from Carmarthenshire would be Chair and offer Secretariat. This report proposes Cabinet Member for Planning in conjunction with the Director of Environment to establish the Tywi NMB and undertake in conjunction with that board preparation of a Nutrient Management Plan for the Tywi. It is proposed the Board itself will contain those bodies with regulatory responsibility for the condition of the Tywi – CCC (Responsible for local development plans, local planning decisions, environmental health (including monitoring private package treatment works and cess pits) and Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) consenting sustainable drainage in almost all new development).

Reference is made to Sections 6 and 7 of the appended Position Paper on phosphates which identifies the progress made and the work in progress in tackling the challenges posed by phosphates in the Riverine SACs. It also critically identifies the next steps including the NMBs.

- **Delivery Agreement**

The current Revised Delivery Agreement (DA) was approved by County Council on the 22 October 2020 with Welsh Government (WG) letter of approval received on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This sought to reflect the initial impacts arising from Covid-19 and identified the timeline for the preparation of the LDP with Adoption scheduled in July/August 2022.

However, whilst on target for adoption in accordance with the timetable the publication of the phosphate guidance has resulted in the progress of the Plan being held up with resultant slippage. Consequently, it is required that further revision to the DA be prepared and agreed with the Welsh Government.

The amended timetable will however be informed by the factors, issues and guidance highlighted in this report and as such a definitive timeline is as yet not available. To ensure that the preparation of the revised DA is progressed as quickly as possible delegated authority is sought for officers to amend its content and agree a revised timetable with WG officials with the updated Deposit Plan anticipated to be published for consultation in 2022.

Note: this delegation relates to changes to the timetable and not substantive changes to the DA or its community involvement scheme. It should be noted that any consultations timetabled in respect of the Revised LDP will not be undertaken until after the local elections.

## 5. Financial Requirements

In taking forward the recommendation to prepare a consolidated second Deposit there are essential new and updates to existing evidence as well as production costs. Whilst the majority of evidential work is undertaken internally there are areas where specialist input is required and is provided for through the current financial provisions, the anticipated approximate costs are as follows:

21/22 - £107,000

22/23 - £387,000\*

23/24 - £65,000

Specialist staffing, Examination and associated costs are projected as follows (note: this incorporates the potential costs for two Inspectors):

21/22 – £11,000 circa.

22/23 – £44,300 circa.

23/24 - £162,000 circa

24/25 – £134,000 circa

\*Includes estimated provision to address strategic issues associated with evidence for phosphate mitigation and solutions as well as the SFCA in accordance with the Ministers letter referred to above which may require additional sources of funding outside those budgeted for LDP production. Note: the requirements of the WG in relation to TAN15 and the SFCA are pending further information.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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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: R Griffiths

Head of Place and Sustainability

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>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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

The integration of sustainability as part of the preparation of the Plan is reflected in the undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment reflecting national and international legislative requirements. This iterative approach ensures sustainability is at the heart of the Plan and that it is reflective of the requirements emanating from the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 and the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan: The Carmarthenshire We Want – 2018 - 2023.

The LDP has full regard to the national legislative provisions and will relate and have regard to the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan. The Revised LDP is assessed against the National and local Well-being Objectives. The Revised LDP will ensure the requirements emanating from the Act are fully and appropriately considered with the Plan, reflective of its duties. In this respect the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Five Ways of Working through the formulation of its content and its iteration as part of the SA process: long term – The plan sets a framework for land use planning through to 2033 balancing short term needs with those of the long term. Prevention – balancing impacts and the implications of the Plans content. Integration – connects plans, strategies and balancing and measuring the impacts through effective integration. Collaboration – developed through collaboration across the Plan making process with a range of partners. Involvement – reflecting the Plan making's process focus on engagement and involvement, as set out in the Revised Delivery Agreement - Community Involvement Scheme.

Consideration needs to be given to the implications in relation to the forthcoming preparation of Strategic Development Plans within the region and its impact on local planning policy.



## **2. Legal**

The preparation of the Revised LDP reflects the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the requirements of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and secondary legislation in the form of the Local Development Plan (Regulations) Wales (As amended) 2015.

Its preparation also has appropriate regard to other sources of primary and secondary legislation including the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. It must also have regard to the provisions of the Habitat Regulations as transposed into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and our legal duties as competent authority.

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

Note: The Revised LDP will be required to comply with the provisions of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 (formerly the National Development Framework) which sets out a high-level spatial strategy for Wales. .

## **6. Finance**

Should the Planning Division Budget not be able to provide further funding necessary to meet the statutory requirements emerging from the specialist input necessary to address the phosphates impacts then an application will be made for a further funding. In addition we will look to share financial burden of such work with partners and seek financial assistance (where applicable) from the Welsh Government as well as maximising grant income (where available). Budgetary provisions within the financial projections within this report have sought to accommodate an allowance for phosphate evidential requirements.

## **6. Physical Assets**

Potential for implications on Council landholdings - the extent and nature of the potential impact to be confirmed.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

Whilst the progression of the Revised LDP will be delivered through current staffing provisions, any delay may require extensions to contracts of those temporary posts in place to support Plan preparation and delivery. Funding would be through current financial provisions and/or future growth items.

Future staffing requirements to address and implement solutions and mitigation associated with phosphates will be subject to future DoR's.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: R Griffiths

Head of Place and Sustainability

**(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)**

## **1. Scrutiny Committee**

The relevant Scrutiny Committee will be consulted as part of any future report on the amendments to the Revised LDP and Delivery Agreement.

## **2. Local Member(s)**

Members will be engaged throughout the remainder of the Plan making process.

## **3. Community / Town Council**

Town/Community Councils(s) are a specific consultee at statutory stages throughout the Plan making process.

## **4. Relevant Partners**

Contributions have and will continue to be sought throughout the revision process. A range of partners are identified as specific and general consultees throughout the Plan making process.

## **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

Internal and external contributions have and will continue to be sought throughout the Plan making process.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)  
AWARE/CONSULTED**

NO (consultation to take place w/c 31 January 2021 - TBC)

**Include any observations here**

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

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
<b>Deposit Revised LDP</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/deposit-plan/#.Ya5byaj7SUK">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/deposit-plan/#.Ya5byaj7SUK</a>
<b>Delivery Agreement</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/delivery-agreement/#.Ya5cTKj7SUK">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/delivery-agreement/#.Ya5cTKj7SUK</a>
<b>Revised LDP Evidence Base</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/development-of-an-evidence-base/#.Ya5ciaj7SUK">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/development-of-an-evidence-base/#.Ya5ciaj7SUK</a>
<b>Revised LDP Covid-19 Assessment</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1224020/covid-19-assessment-for-publication-eng.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1224020/covid-19-assessment-for-publication-eng.pdf</a>
<b>Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/sustainability-appraisal-and-habitats-regulations-assessment/#.Ya5c6qj7SUK">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/sustainability-appraisal-and-habitats-regulations-assessment/#.Ya5c6qj7SUK</a>
<b>Phosphates Webpage</b>		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/ecology-advice/new-phosphate-targets/#.Ya5dIKj7SUK">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/ecology-advice/new-phosphate-targets/#.Ya5dIKj7SUK</a>
<b>County Council meeting 13 of January 2021 (agenda item 7.4 refers)</b>		<a href="#">Agenda for County Council on Wednesday, 13th January, 2021, 10.00 am (gov.wales)</a>

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# Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033

## Appendix 1 Position Paper – Phosphates

February 2022

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

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## 1.0 Introduction and Purpose

### 1.1 Process and Timeline

1.1.1 The preparation of the Revised LDP reflects the Council's statutory responsibilities under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - setting out policies and proposals for future development and use of land for Carmarthenshire over the period to 2033. The Revised Delivery Agreement, as approved by County Council on the 22 October 2020 for submission to the Welsh Government (WG) for approval, identifies the timeline for the preparation of the LDP, with Adoption of the Plan scheduled in July/August 2022. Reference should be made to the main / cover report tabled in respect of the Revised LDP for further information.

1.1.2 The plan making process was suitably advancing in accordance with this timescale. [The Deposit Revised LDP was placed before full Council on the 13 January 2021](#), with the Council resolving as follows:

- (a) to endorse the officer recommendations on the consultation responses received to the Deposit Revised LDP, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Supplementary Planning Guidance;
- (b) to agree to the presentation of the schedule of Focused Changes to Executive Board for approval for a minimum 6-week public consultation;
- (c) to approve the submission of the Deposit LDP and its supporting documents, evidence and background documents as required to the Welsh Ministers for Examination;
- (d) to grant officers delegated authority to respond to recommendations and requests arising from the Inspector as part of the Examination and hearing sessions;
- (e) to resolve to adopt the SPG in relation to Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC and the Burry Inlet (subject to the outcome of the Examination) concurrent with the adoption of the Revised LDP;
- (f) to grant officers delegated authority to make non-substantive typographical, cartographical and/or factual amendments to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Revised Local Development Plan and its supporting documents.

1.1.3 During January 2021, officers were proceeding with actioning the above resolutions – notably the preparation of the Focused Changes for consultation. However, On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published evidence in relation to phosphate levels for riverine Special Area of Conservation (SACs) in Wales (including the Teifi, Tywi, Cleddau and Wye). This was accompanied by planning position statements/guidance. This should not be confused with The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021, albeit interested parties are advised to appraise themselves of these also to develop a rounded picture beyond the LDP itself. NRW published an update to their

interim guidance on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the content of which and any future iterations will frame ongoing consideration.

1.1.4 This Paper provides an overview of the NRW guidance and its implications on the Revised LDP. It sets out some high-level options with a view to feeding into the main / cover report being presented to CMT in regards the Revised LDP. It is accepted that the ‘phosphate issue’ has already had timescale implications upon Plan preparation, however (and as stated in the main / cover report) the ‘phosphate issue’ has been compounded by wider considerations to emerge. This Paper should be read with the knowledge that the situation is constantly evolving as new information emerges. Notwithstanding its impact on the Revised LDP, the ‘phosphate issue’ has potentially significant wider corporate and policy implications – most notably in terms of spatial implications and the potential impact within rural Carmarthenshire. It should be noted that an earlier iteration of this Paper was provided to CMT in May 2021.

1.1.5 To provide an appreciation of the implications of the phosphate issue on a regional (and potentially national basis) it can be noted that on the 21 October 2021, Ceredigion County Council resolved a temporary but as yet unspecified length pause for the replacement LDP to allow essential evidence and data to be gathered and mitigation options to be devised.

1.1.6 This paper seeks to play an informing role to the main report being presented to CMT on the 16 of December 2021. In this respect, commentary on options, risks etc should be read with the awareness that a ‘rounded’ discussion is set out in the main paper, along with any specific recommendations on how to proceed from an LDP point of view. **Any reference to ‘Options’ (notably within Section 4.0) is done with a view to facilitating a discussion only. It will be for subsequent reports and the Council to map a way ahead in regards the Revised LDP.**

## 2.0 Summary of Current Issues

2.1 Natural Resources Wales' advice for planning applications within the river Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) catchments (first guidance issued January 2021).

2.1.1 Carmarthenshire is characterised by its rich environmental qualities and is home to a number of areas and features designated for their environmental importance including the Afon Teifi and Afon Tywi riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

2.1.2 Following new evidence about the environmental impacts of phosphate in watercourses, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have assessed the 9 riverine SACs in Wales. This assessment based on tighter targets for the water quality of watercourses established that phosphorus breaches are widespread within Welsh SAC rivers with over 60% of waterbodies failing against the challenging targets.

2.1.3 As a result of this failure NRW have issued 'interim planning advice' to avoid further deterioration in environmental capacity. This 'advice' relates to all Riverine SACs whose catchments extend into Carmarthenshire namely, the Afon Teifi, Afon Tywi, River Wye and Afon Cleddau. As a Local Planning Authority (LPA), the Council is required to have regard to the advice given by NRW when making planning decisions (for both individual developments and Local Development Plans (LDP)). Consequently, any proposed development within the river catchment that might increase phosphate levels will need to clearly evidence that the development can demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment in its design and/or its contribution to the water body. In most cases there will be limited capacity to connect to the public sewerage system and an alternative solution will have to be found. This requirement on drainage considerations will impact on all development that increases the volume or concentration of wastewater.

2.1.4 A map to show the catchment area of the rivers within Carmarthenshire is set out in [figure 2](#).

2.1.5 Drainage proposals for developments are required to be given significant consideration within these catchment areas.

2.1.6 NRW provided [interim planning advice for developers](#). The guidance includes an outline of the type of development which is unlikely to have an impact on phosphate levels in the watercourses.

2.1.7 Subsequent iterations of the guidance have been published. The latest advice and more detailed information can also be [found directly on NRW's website](#).

2.1.8 The NRW advice note outlines, where a planning application within the catchment areas of the Afon Teifi, Afon Tywi, River Wye and Afon Cleddau cannot evidence that the development proposal would result in phosphate neutrality or betterment, that unfortunately the Local Planning Authority would not be able to support the application. This reflects the unacceptable impact on the water quality of the rivers which are sensitively designated as a SAC. This also has implications for the policies and proposals of the Development Plan (including site allocations).

2.1.9 Officers are working on understanding the full implications of NRW's guidance for current planning applications and the progress of the Revised LDP. The Council must ensure that development proposals do not harm the environmental capacity of our watercourses. Officers are also working collaboratively with NRW in understanding the wider issues and identifying the way forward for all proposals, to find solutions that comply with the requirements of the new interim planning advice.

## 2.2 Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW)

2.2.1 The position with regards WwTW phosphate permits is as follows. What is important to note however is that all the permitted works are located outside of the affected areas.

2.2.2 There are current phosphate permits at: Cross Hands, Garnswllt (Ammanford), Llanelli, Parc y Splott (Carmarthen) and Pontyberem.

2.2.3 The following are within the 2020 -2025 Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Asset Management Plan (AMP7) - Carway, Cwmgwili, Cwmtawel (Cross Hands), Pontyates, Pontyberem, Trimsaran and Llanedi.

2.2.4 Pontyberem is included twice above because there is a current permit, but it is understood that this is being amended in the current AMP (AMP7) to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)'s 'Good Status' driver. It is also understood that the permit at Cross Hands WwTW is being amended to meet the requirements of the WFDs 'Prevent Deterioration' driver.

2.2.5 With regard to future investment programmes, DCWW have an agreed two AMP programme (i.e., AMP7 & AMP8) with NRW. However, whilst AMP7 is known the schemes for inclusion in AMP8 are not yet at a stage where they've been finalised. It is understood that the location of WwTWs where phosphate permits are required to be introduced or tightened is guided by NRW's National Environment Programmes (NEP).

2.2.6 The current review of WwTW phosphate permits by NRW in light of the new JNCC conservation objectives may demonstrate inadequate permit levels in the settlements outside of the SAC catchments. If this is the case, there would be an immediate implication for development in growth areas / urbanised areas. It is anticipated that this information will inform investment for AMP8 (commencing 2025). However, in this scenario there is likely to be an implication for development (possibly for a period of 2-3 years) if solutions were solely dependent on DCWW infrastructure.

2.2.7 A phosphate permit limit is imposed on a respective DCWW WwTW by the Environmental Regulator (i.e. NRW in Wales). This essentially requires that DCWW ensures that they remove phosphates from wastewater to meet that limit. Phosphate permits are assessed over an average of all phosphate results in a rolling 12-month period. The typical method to remove phosphorous from a WwTW is to introduce ferric (iron) dosing and ‘strip’ the phosphate – the ferric reacts with the phosphate and forms solid precipitates which are then removed via a settlement tank.

2.2.8 It can be concluded that the issues faced are infrastructural as well as environmental in this regard. This also frames the discussion with an awareness of the wider role of multi-agency organisations – e.g., DCWW and NRW and in this regard the Council will be unable to address this matter in isolation. The issues faced are similar to those experienced in the Llanelli WwTW catchment over recent years and the solution is founded in the principles of partnership working, enabling policy provisions but also financial investment. Innovative and sustainable solutions, such as the [Rainscape approach in Llanelli](#), are noted.

2.2.9 DCWW are conducting source apportionment data in affected SAC catchments throughout Wales. The data collected will identify the source of pollution along the SAC rivers i.e., diffuse or point source pollution. An appreciation of pollution source will determine remediation strategies employed. Indicative timeline for completion of this work is the end of 2021.

## 2.3 Future Considerations

### 2.3.1 Multi-partnership working

2.3.1.1 The NRW phosphate guidelines have had immediate and significant implications for the development sector. As such, these issues have been responded to from an initial planning perspective. However, it is important to note that the implications extend far beyond the confines of the planning discipline (e.g. the agricultural sector). Under the current interpretation of the guidelines, there are implications for economic growth and provision of health and education settings. It is noted that the phosphate guidelines place a permanent environmental constraint on the County, and will be a consideration in any future plans or projects.

### 2.3.2 Marine SAC catchments

2.3.2.1 While Officers are responding to the implications of the river SAC phosphate guidelines, there is potential for further constraints to be imposed on the County. NRW have conducted a review of water quality in the Marine SAC areas. Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries is designated a SAC and is a large estuarine site, encompassing the estuaries of the Rivers Loughor, Tâf and Tywi (coastal plain estuaries) and the Gwendraeth (a bar-built estuary). These four estuaries form a single functional unit around the Burry Inlet. The environmental constraints placed on any development within these most populous areas of the County would have a significant effect that exceeds the current challenge faced by the river SAC constraints. The publication date of the Marine SAC guidelines has not been disclosed by NRW.

## 3.0 Implications for the Revised LDP

### 3.1 Residential: Allocations

3.1.1 A total of 527 allocated housing units (7.52% of all housing allocations within the county) are impacted. Most of the issues impact on Clusters 4 and 5 respectively as defined within the strategy of the Revised LDP.

3.1.2 Reference is made to [figures 1 and 2](#) together with [table 1](#) for more information and analysis.

3.1.3 Data analysis undertaken April 2021.

### 3.2 Residential: Other components of housing supply

3.2.1 In reference to the Plan's policy framework (notably HOM3) it should be noted that 217 of the allowance of up to 465 housing units in Tier 4 are affected. That is 46.6% of the small site allowance. Clusters 2 and 6 are unaffected, but clusters 4 and 5 are severely impacted. There is also an impact in Cluster 1 (21 of 92 units).

3.2.2 There are approximately 129 large windfall units within the affected areas.

3.2.3 Data analysis undertaken April 2021.

### 3.3 Employment Allocations

3.3.1 In total some 1.85 ha (2.4% of all employment allocations within the County) are impacted. All are located within Clusters 4 and 5. Of the 1.85 ha, 0.6 ha have full planning permissions.

3.3.2 It should be noted that the delivery of employment proposals across the County is also supported through policies which enable appropriate unallocated opportunities to come forward. Such opportunities may be adversely impacted.

3.3.3 Data analysis undertaken April 2021.

### 3.4 Mixed Use Allocations

3.4.1 In relation to the mixed-use allocations as defined under Policy SG1 – Regeneration and Mixed Use Sites - only SeC16/MU1 Beechwood Industrial Estate in Rhosmaen, Llandeilo is impacted. The total area of the mixed-use site is 1.61ha, however 0.75 ha has been identified for employment uses on this site and has been accounted for in the employment allocation figure. Data analysis undertaken April 2021.

### 3.5 The Settlement Framework (Strategic Policy SP16)

3.5.1 An analysis (April 2021) has been undertaken on those settlements that are included within the affected areas. Cluster 5 is entirely impacted, Cluster 4 almost entirely impacted – whilst there are impacts on settlements in Clusters 1, 3 and 6 also. Whilst not all these settlements are earmarked to receive growth (i.e., allocations), the implications are notable – including upon those criteria-based policies in the Plan – e.g., housing and employment.

### 3.6 Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.6.1 Dependent on the agreed way forward, there will be a need to review the SA/SEA in an iterative manner. Given the nature of the issues being discussed, there are likely to be social, economic, and environmental implications that will require review.

### 3.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment

3.7.1. Irrespective of the agreed way forward the emergence of the phosphate issue in relation to the freshwater SACs will require the Revised LDP to be subject to a further screening in relation to its potential impact on these designations. Dependent on the agreed way forward, this may require a full Appropriate Assessment being required for each development allocation where it may result in an impact on the SAC and its water quality. It should be noted that without deliverable and evidenced mitigation no site will pass a full Appropriate Assessment.

### 3.8 Other impact assessments / Plan Evidence Base

3.8.1. Dependent on the agreed way forward, there will be implications – notably those impact assessments underpinning the Plan's preparation. In extreme circumstances and subject to the scale and strategic nature of any change to the Plan there may be a requirement to revisit some of the earlier stages of the Plans preparatory process.

3.8.2 Those key pieces of evidence that are likely to require review include settlement role and function, spatial options, housing supply, viability (in the event of a developer pays option) and the Welsh language impact assessment. The scale and scope of the work will vary subject to the respective option and reflects the need for the Plan's evidence base to be iterative and responsive to changes in circumstances and the Plan's content. Reference should be made to the main / cover report provided.

### 3.9 Mitigation and other Solutions

3.9.1 The Revised LDP, in reflecting the issues associated with phosphates, will (irrespective of the way forward) require additional policies to mitigate (where appropriate) for the impact and potentially provide a pathway for acceptable developments to be considered and permitted. In order to deliver such policies, provisions and mechanisms will need to be developed which provide evidence and a framework for the implementation of these policies. Such approaches are further considered within this paper; however these are designed to facilitate discussion only – with detailed consideration required by future reporting and the input of the Council.





Figure 1. Revised LDP Key Diagram (with settlement names added to aid the reader).



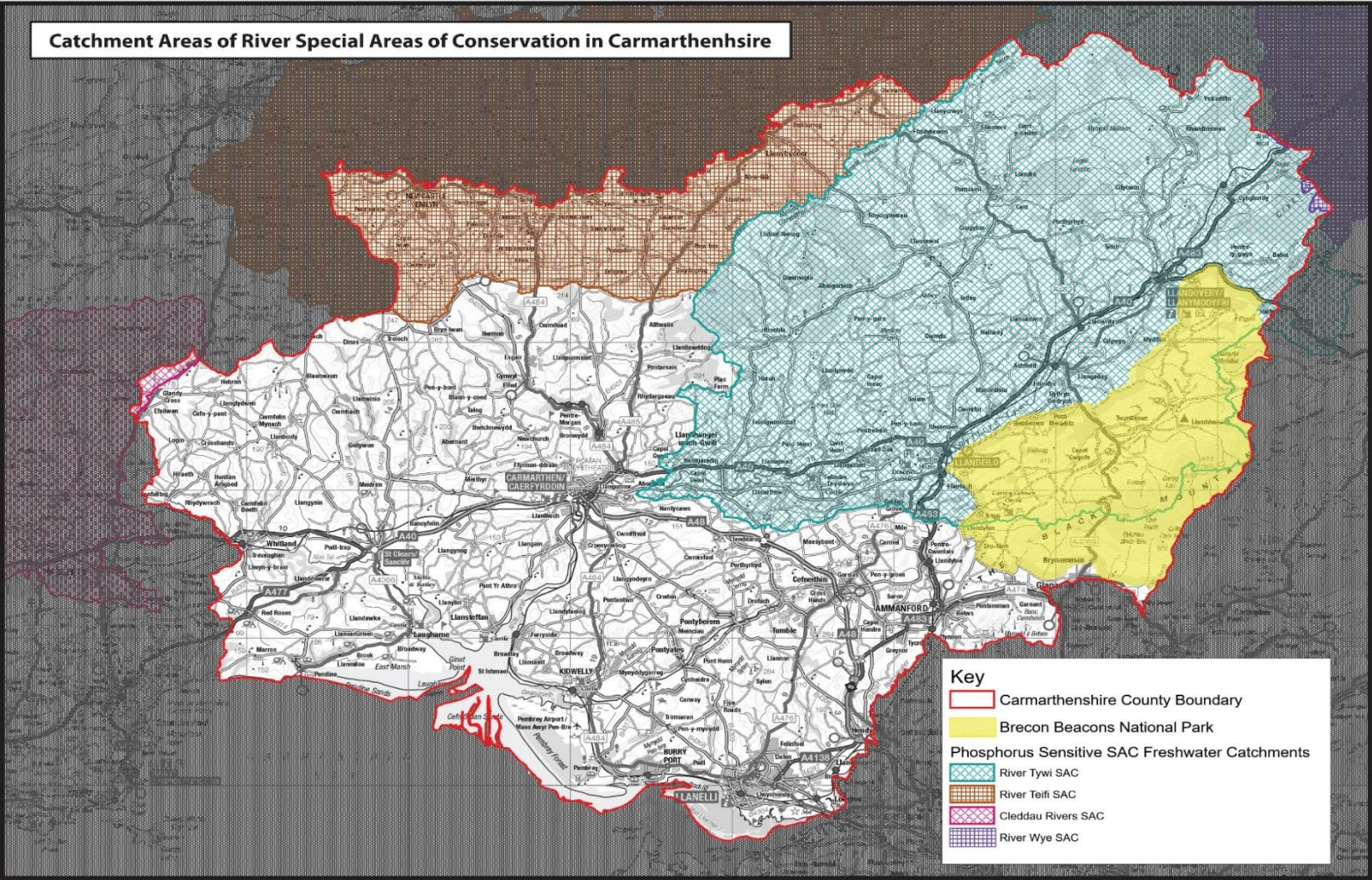


Figure 2. Catchment Areas of River Special Areas of Conservation in Carmarthenshire

	Allocated Units within the cluster	Allocated Units within the SAC area	Number of units within the SAC with planning permission (Full or RM)	Affected Units	Percentage affected	Number of units without public sewerage
<b>Cluster 1</b>	1655	53	21	32	60.38% of allocated units in the SAC area = <b>cluster total of 1.93%.</b>	8
<b>Cluster 2</b>	3047	0	0	0	0.00%	0
<b>Cluster 3</b>	1315	0	0	0	0.00%	
<b>Cluster 4</b>	405	397	12	385	96.98% of allocated units in SAC area= <b>cluster total of 95.06%</b>	22
<b>Cluster 5</b>	122	122	12	110	90.16% of allocated units in SAC area = <b>cluster total of 90.16%.</b>	0
<b>Cluster 6</b>	461	0	0	0	0.00%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7005</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>7.52% of all housing allocations within the County</b>	<b>30</b>

Note: Trelech is the only settlement within Cluster 4 outside the SAC – Its allocated site has planning permission for 8 units.

Table 1. Analysis of allocated housing sites (April 2021)

		Allocated Units within the SAC area	Allocated Units within the SAC with planning permission (Full or RM)	Affected Units	Number of units without public sewerage
<b>Cluster 1</b>	Capel Dewi	8	6	2	8
	Nantgaredig	30	0	30	0
	Pontargothi	15	15	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 2 Analysis of Allocated Housing Sites by settlement within the SAC – cluster 1 (April 2021)

		Allocated Units within the SAC area	Allocated Units within the SAC with planning permission (Full or RM)	Affected Units	Number of units without public sewerage
<b>Cluster 4</b>	Newcastle Emlyn	51	6	45	0
	Llanybydder	63	0	63	0
	Pencader	79	0	79	0
	Drefach Felindre	22	0	22	0
	Waungilwen	6	6	0	0
	Llangeler	5	0	5	0
	Pentrecwrt	14	0	14	0
	Saron / Rhos	35	0	35	0
	Llanllwni	22	0	22	22
	Cwmann	50	0	50	0

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	Capel Iwan	16	0	16	0
	Llanfihangel ar Arth	7	0	7	0
	Pontyweli	19	0	19	0
	New Inn	8	0	8	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 3 Analysis of Allocated Housing Sites by settlement within the SAC – cluster 4 (April 2021)

		<b>Allocated Units within the SAC area</b>	<b>Allocated Units within the SAC with planning permission (Full or RM)</b>	<b>Affected Units</b>	<b>Number of units without public sewerage</b>
<b>Cluster 5</b>	Llandovery	20	12	8	0
	Llandeilo	47	0	47	0
	Llangadog	24	0	24	0
	Talley	7	0	7	0
	Cwrt Henri	16	0	16	0
	Cwmifor	8	0	8	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 4 Analysis of Allocated Housing Sites by settlement within the SAC – cluster 5 (April 2021)



## 4.0 Options Appraisal (including SA/SEA and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA))

### 4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The following high-level options are provided to outline some of the considerations which will inform the future work in relation to the Revised LDP arising from phosphate implications. It should be noted that matters are evolving with the following intended to guide our understanding of the options available. This section should be read with the awareness that whilst there can be an emphasis on seeking to avoid the affected areas, there is still likely to be a need to identify solutions within the areas themselves as part of a forward-thinking approach. **It should be noted that in respect of the below (including the Risk Analysis, SA-SEA and HRA commentary) these should not be read in isolation of the main / cover report tabled in respect of the Revised LDP. As such, the purpose of this paper is to provide a supporting / informative role. No decisions have been made; it will be for the Council to determine such matters.**

### 4.2 Timescales

4.2.1 It is recognised that the issues of phosphates and the publication of the NRW Interim Guidance has had a wide-ranging impact on Planning across Wales. In this regard the preparation of an LDP is no different with clear implications upon the content and deliverability of its policies and provisions as well as its compliance with legislation and national planning Policy and guidance. Reference should be made to the main/cover report in respect of the Revised LDP being presented to CMT on the 16 of December 2021.

### 4.3 Option 1 – No Change

4.3.1 This would require the inclusion of mitigation policies and a robust monitoring framework to enable future delivery to occur when potential solutions emerge. Such policies could be included through the examination process - allowing the publication of the focused changes to proceed, and the Plan submission for examination. Alternatively, policy changes would be agreed at Council with full consultation undertaken prior to the Plan's submission.

4.3.2 However, whilst there is the potential to develop mitigation policies there remains a significant level of uncertainty on the deliverability of the Plan in those parts of the County identified in Figure 2. This raises significant risks in relation to the successful adoption of the Plan under this option. In addition, further risks include a failure to comply with the Council's duty as the Competent Authority under the Habitat Regulations (HRA). In this respect the content of the Revised LDP will require a further screening with allocated sites in the affected areas requiring an appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations.

4.3.3 This option is not considered to be realistic unless there are investments by DCWW programmed in advance of the Examination to Wastewater Treatment Works WwTW in the north / west of the County within the Plan period so that they are phosphate enabled and that development can be delivered by 2033. This would still result in the requirement to move much of the proposed development in the affected catchments to the end of the Plan period / trajectory which would call into question how realistic the Plan is, and its compliance with the Tests of Soundness. In terms of private investment through a ‘developer pays’ principle, it is highly unlikely to secure sufficient contributions to enable upgrading WwTW facilities. It is recommended that such a scenario is run through the high-level viability evidence which supports the Plan. Additional costs could render developments unviable or may necessitate a reduction in other planning contributions such as the provision of affordable housing and public open space etc. The emphasis would have to be on proactive monitoring, and it would have to be demonstrated that the mitigation is achievable and realistic.

#### 4.3.4 Risk Analysis:

##### ‘Con’s’:

- Risk of the authority acting unlawfully as the Competent Authority under the Habitat Regulations requirements.
- Deliverability of the Plan’s content given the constraints associated with phosphate levels – subsequent failure to adopt the Revised LDP in light of non-compliance with the Tests of Soundness.
- Potential reputational damage associated with either failure to meet legal duties or ejection/non adoption of the Plan - in that the Plan is unlikely to be considered deliverable at Examination; and,
- Financial implications –will incur costs leading up to the point of non-adoption.

##### ‘Pro’s’:

- The Plan’s content would reflect that approved by Council.
- Reflects the consensus building, consultation, and a robust evidence base.

4.3.5 Note: Potential changes would be required to ensure to the Plan reflects the issues associated with phosphates and the need for policy interventions to address known and emerging means of mitigation. There is a need for evidential proof of mitigation that is scientifically sound and accurate. This would require democratic approval if proposed for inclusion ahead of the examination.

4.3.6 **SA/SEA and HRA Analysis:** Proceeding with Option 1 would constitute non-compliance with the Statutory Duties of CCC under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) by failing to protect the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation (SACs). In light of the announcement by NRW on 01.02.2021, there is a statutory requirement to re-assess the affected allocations.

4.3.7 The potential for mitigation through DCWW investment in the catchment cannot form a basis for proceeding in an absence of a legally binding agreement demonstrating reasonable scientific certainty that adequate mitigation can be relied upon to underpin a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity.

4.3.8 Furthermore, Option 1 also fails to take account of the LDP's Sustainability requirements, including a requirement for development within environmental limits, and to promote sustainable economic growth.

#### 4.4 Option 2 – Constraint Led

4.4.1 This option would involve the removal of all development allocations (including housing and employment) within the affected areas from the Plan. Whilst this would address some of the legal and procedural issues in progressing the Plan, it would reduce the development opportunities arising in the affected areas. However, it should be recognised that the implications of the phosphate issue would de facto have this effect in any case. Whilst it would not necessarily see the settlements in the affected areas re-classified in terms of their position in the strategy, it would see their contribution in terms of growth downgraded. This constraint led approach would not be consistent with a number of corporate goals - including the '10 Towns' and Rural Regeneration Strategy.

4.4.2 The removal of development allocations from the affected area would result in a reduction in the Plans growth figures, notably in terms of new homes. Reference should be made to the main / cover report being provided to CMT in terms of population projection evidence. In terms of housing allocations, this would equate to over 500 units and their deletion from the Plan altogether would in all likelihood necessitate a review of the Plan's evidence base. Furthermore, there would be the loss of opportunities within those settlements without allocations and/or those which would be subject to criteria-based approaches – notably through policies HOM3 and HOM4 as set out within the deposit Plan.

4.4.3 It must however be noted that the real-world effect of the phosphate position in the affected areas significantly limits the potential for developments to come forward. This would be irrespective of their allocation within the Revised LDP. Further policies would be required in the Plan to allow for developments to come forward where the impact arising from the proposals could be mitigated. Such mitigation can, amongst others, form a mix of DCWW investment, technical solutions, development credits associated with offsetting impacts as well as dedicated area specific policies in the affected areas. This would ensure appropriate proposals could be permitted where justified (albeit not explicitly identified within the Plan) and as solutions and mitigation approaches are developed.

#### 4.4.4 Risk Analysis:

##### 'Con's':

- Requirement for updated evidence to reflect the reduction in the Plan's housing requirement from the 10,160 homes (note this includes a 15% flexibility allowance).
- Removal of housing and other allocations within the affected areas – reflecting the reduced potential for developments as a result of phosphates in these areas.

**‘Pro’s’:**

- Will allow for issues in regards site specific / appropriate assessment requirement for individual sites to be set aside.
- Would reduce the Plan’s requirement for new homes – this would need to be aligned with updated evidence.
- Would enable the Plan to proceed to submission and anticipated adoption.

**4.4.5 SA/SEA HRA Analysis:** In the light of the interim statement from NRW, and in the absence of a full appraisal of the facts and legally binding and scientifically proven measures to remove, mitigate or offset the phosphate load from qualifying developments, the ‘halting’ of development within the affected catchment would be compliant with the statutory duties of CCC under the Habitat Regulations.

4.4.6 Reference is made to the [Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward Report](#). This was approved at Full Council on the 11 September 2019. Of note is recommendation 10 *“That the Council ensures that the revised Local Development Plan: a. enables appropriate scale residential and business development in smaller community areas as needed b. enables appropriate tenure mix in residential developments, based on local housing need c. enables the appropriate allocation of affordable homes within rural areas d. enables tourism and business development in rural areas to support future development and diversification”*. In light of this, consideration will need to be given to the impact of the removal of 500 houses from the northern rural areas of Carmarthenshire in socio-economic terms – including the Welsh Language as well as house prices and availability of employment. The extent of this effect has not yet been determined.

4.4.7 This option has a positive alignment with the environmental considerations and requirements of the Revised LDP, and in its obligation to ensure that growth is sustainable.

#### 4.5 Option 3 – Redistribution of homes and jobs

4.5.1 This option would require the removal of the allocated sites in the affected areas. However, rather than deleting the numbers from the Plan, the growth would be redirected towards other sustainable locations. These ‘replacement’ allocations would not be within the affected riverine catchments and possess phosphate enabled WwTW (however refer to paragraphs 2.2.6, 4.5.11 and 4.5.12 of this Paper).

4.5.2 Three potential scenarios for redistribution have been identified. These are:

4.5.2.1 *Balanced Redistribution* – This would require the lost growth from the phosphate affected areas re-distributed across the settlement hierarchy. This would be reflective of the respective settlement’s sustainability credentials. Such areas could include the Gwendraeth, Amman, and the outskirts of Carmarthen reflecting their social, economic and environmental facets. Such facets include the Welsh language and particular employment sectors (noting the key role of the agricultural industry).



4.5.2.2 *Ten Towns* - A key recommendation emerging from Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward related to the rejuvenation and regeneration of Ten Towns across rural Carmarthenshire. Part of this initiative includes working with the local communities and stakeholders in ten identified rural towns (and their surrounding communities) to develop individual plans that aim to deliver long-term strategic visions to secure their economic, cultural, social, and environmental sustainability. In acknowledging the potential impact on rural areas, this Option provides a variation on the redistribution scenario by providing an opportunity to redistribute growth through the ten towns framework. Such an approach acknowledges environmental capacity, role and function and corporate focus on these settlements. An analysis of the position is as follows: Losing development allocations: Llandovery, Llandeilo and Llanybydder and Newcastle Emlyn. Option to 'move' growth to the remaining: St. Clears, Whitland, Laugharne, Kidwelly, Cwmamman and Cross Hands. It is clear that in developmental terms St Clears and Whitland exhibit many qualities, notably their location on the trunk road and lack of environmental constraints. Cwmamman and Cross Hands both exhibit higher levels of Welsh speakers and both have phosphate enabled WwTW serving them.

4.5.2.3 *Future Wales Approach* - Published on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Future Wales represents the development plan for Wales and along with the forthcoming regional Strategic Development Plans will shape the land use planning from a national to local level. This scenario in reflecting the provisions of Future Wales provides opportunities to realign any growth within the Swansea Bay City deal context. It would involve 'moving' the growth earmarked for the rural areas affected by the phosphate issues to the more urbanised southeast. This option would allow for a further emphasis on cluster 2 as a recognition of its strategic importance as a regional centre (notably Llanelli through to and including the Ammanford/Cross Hands area). This approach would allow for alignment with national policy. However, it would not conform in spatial terms with the balanced approach as identified within the Revised LDP and the Council rural regeneration initiatives. It should also be noted that cluster 2 already provides a notable contribution to the overall housing supply. Any realignment of growth to this area would need to be considered in light of the environmental and infrastructure constraints in this area. Reference should be made to the main / cover report in respect of the implications of the Revised TAN 15 (albeit this is now delayed until June 2023) notably the Llanelli area is impacted by flooding matters.

4.5.3 Note: Through the introduction of mitigation and dedicated policies in the affected areas themselves, this option will also seek to allow some scope for criteria-based approaches in the phosphate affected areas so that some development can take place as and where appropriate. Such mitigation can form a mix of DCWW investment, technical solutions, development credits associated with offsetting impacts as well as dedicated area specific policies in the affected areas. This would ensure appropriate proposals could be permitted where justified (albeit not identified within the Plan) and as solutions and mitigation approaches are developed.

#### 4.5.4 Risk Analysis:

##### 'Con's':

- Potential requirement to revisit the Deposit Revised LDP with cost and timetabling implications.
- Will still lead to a significant reduction of growth in the impacted rural areas, thus potentially impacting on investment, provision of jobs and homes.
- The re-location of growth would need to be supported by robust evidence of need for the development, the impact on infrastructure capacity and social implications.
- Deliverability within the plan period would also need to be robustly evidenced.
- Could result in a potential over provision of homes in certain areas, resulting in a negative impact on local communities and the Welsh language within them.

##### 'Pro's':

- Dependent of approach it could align with corporate objectives (subject to scenario selected).
- Maintain the level of growth identified in the Revised LDP.
- Potential to align with role and function of settlements and allow for recognition of the contribution of rural communities and their housing / employment need.
- Future Wales scenario ensures compliance with national policy.

**4.5.5 SA/SEA HRA Analysis:** At present there is an absence of information on headroom in phosphate enabled WwTW's. DCWW have not confirmed they have sufficient capacity in these areas for the additional wastewater of the additional housing or of the subsequent increased phosphate load that this will incur.

**4.5.6** This option removes known environmental risk from the northern end of the county. However, moving of allocations does not present a long-term sustainable solution, in that it fails to consider the long-term implications of increased phosphate loading in the absence of clarity or agreement on mitigation or remediation. Consideration will need to be given to the impact of the removal of 500 houses from the northern rural areas of Carmarthenshire in socio-economic terms – including the Welsh Language as well as house prices and availability of employment. It could however allow for a solution that facilitates the adoption of the Plan (the plan period runs up to 2033).

**4.5.7** Development in Welsh speaking rural communities would be reallocated to other areas of the County, with isolated potentially adverse effects on the northern portion of the county. However, those areas outlined above – notably the Amman and Gwendraeth areas – are traditional heartlands in terms of Welsh speakers and represent key spatial priority areas in this regard. A balance would need to be struck in terms of facilitating enough development to protect and enable the Welsh language to thrive in these areas, whilst care would be needed not to redistribute growth to a level which would be detrimental to the future of the language.

4.5.8 In relation to the reallocation of housing in the 10 town settlements, this seeks to promote a model of sustainable economic growth, with spatial allocations aligned with infrastructure investment, through appropriate siting of new developments with existing provision of public transport infrastructure. This aligns with the objectives of the emerging Transport Strategy for Wales: Llwybr Newydd. This also accords with Future Wales.

4.5.9 Future Wales does have a national growth plan for Llanelli linked to Swansea Bay. This is based on co-locating homes, jobs, and services. However, it also has a Regional Growth plan which includes Carmarthen, the Teifi Valley including Newcastle Emlyn, and Lampeter which is directly impacted by the phosphate issue.

4.5.10 It is noted that the Future Wales scenario would perform well in terms of the SA/SEA in terms of spatial sustainability, regards will need to be given to socio-economic impact in those affected areas. In HRA terms, its positive elements would need to be balanced against its potential impacts on the Marine SAC (i.e. the Burry Inlet).

4.5.11 If the removed allocations are directed to settlements that are served by a WwTW with phosphate stripping then the LA as competent authority we would first have to conduct an AA on the works. There would also be a potential need to reduce wastewater being sent to the works. The scale of this intervention and means of achieving these requirements have not yet been mapped out by officers.

4.5.12 It is also noted that there is ambiguity regarding the adequacy of the current phosphate permits of the WwTW. There is a need to determine if the current permits are valid for the current population, and proposed housing allocations in these non-SAC catchment areas.

#### 4.6 Option 4 – Pause

4.6.1 This option acknowledges the fact that the Council has an Adopted Plan in place and given the uncertainty with regards the ongoing emergence of the 'phosphate issue', the Council may consider it appropriate to pause with the preparation of the new Plan temporarily. As stated previously, there is a likelihood that there will be future focus on the estuarine areas, notably in terms of nutrients. It is understood that the existing Plan would carry on post the 'drop dead date'. The current Development Plan is still allowing for the consideration of development proposals in those areas that are not affected and as such key corporate developments (including the strategic / corporate development of significance in the growth areas) can be considered. However of course, there are significant issues in the affected areas of the County.

#### 4.6.2 Risk Analysis:

##### 'Con's':

- Timescale issues; the current Development Plan becomes increasingly out of date, albeit it can still be used.
- Failure to have an up to date adopted Plan would increasingly see applications considered in light of national policy with less local emphasis.

**‘Pro’s’:**

- Opportunity to focus on developing evidence and solutions in relation to phosphates and to seek to build consensus and to seek to develop a multi-agency approach to this matter. It should be noted that this issue affects many other Councils to varying degrees – notable of which within a cross border context is Ceredigion, Powys, Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire.

4.6.3 **SA/SEA HRA Analysis:** This option would allow a full assessment of implications on HRA and SA/SEA.

4.6.4 At present there are data gaps which are inhibiting informed choices. There is also an anticipation that further nutrient information relating to Nitrogen and/or Ammonia may be released from NRW. Option 4 will allow for a full appraisal of the phosphate situation, and potential combination effects to be made.

4.6.5 Any solution necessitates a cross-sector approach. At present, discussions are at a stage of infancy. Not all relevant partners have been engaged with. Any potential for mitigation under the Habitat Regulations will require a legally binding agreement demonstrating reasonable scientific certainty that adequate mitigation can be relied upon to underpin a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity of the SAC.

4.6.6 A complete analysis on the consequences is also required to present a proposal that ensures the Council is proceeding in its duty to act in a Sustainable manner.

4.6.7 A full appraisal of the adequacy of the WwTW phosphate permits within Carmarthenshire is required in order to determine the soundness of the plan. A full review of such permits is being conducted by NRW on a National basis. Consideration can be given to any timing issues in this regard with regards the Revised LDP.

#### 4.7 LDP Tests of Soundness

4.7.1 The process itself for the preparation of the LDP is set within statutory regulations, with further procedural guidance contained within the LDP Manual as prepared by the Welsh Government. The preparation and content of the LDP will be assessed against three tests of soundness namely: 1. Does the plan fit? 2. Is the plan appropriate? 3. Will the plan deliver? From an initial review, particularly from an evidential and procedural perspective, would indicate a preference for option 3 in terms of soundness. **However, this is a high level review and it should be noted that the purpose of these options is to simply facilitate discussion – this Paper does not seek to make any specific recommendations.**

4.7.2 Reference should be made to the main / cover report provided in respect of the Revised LDP to CMT where such issues are discussed in a rounded manner. This paper therefore seeks to inform that main report but is not intended to allow for detailed consideration of Revised LDP matters over and above scoping out the ‘phosphates issue’.

## 5.0 Potential Technical Solutions and Policy Based Approaches

### 5.1 Importance of identifying solutions

5.1.1 Whilst Section 4 of this Paper discusses ‘avoidance options’ at a macro scale, there will still be an expectation that solutions are identified within the affected areas themselves so as to allow suitable developments to proceed. Further research will be undertaken by officers in regards potential mitigation measures, however an outline of some initial outcomes follows below. Consideration will be given to introducing dedicated local policies for the areas affected and as such will require denoting on the Proposals Map. This is a similar approach to that within the Caeau Mynydd Mawr and Burry Inlet areas. It should be noted that the solutions identified will be subject to a multi-agency partnership-based approach.

5.1.2 It is important to note that the Revised LDP will only be part of the solution. In this regard, with a view to reviewing the risks facing the Council, there will be some matters which are outside the influence and scope of the Planning Service and indeed the Council itself. The scale of the issues, both in terms of spatial extent and cross agency responsibility, are likely to mean that a multi partnership approach will be required at a landscape scale – e.g., Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

5.1.3 In terms of limitations and to appreciate the scale of the issues facing the Council, reference is drawn to the position in the Brecon Beacons National Park. A report (ENC7Item 8) submitted to the [Planning, Access and Rights of Way Committee on Tuesday, 26th January, 2021](#) summarised the issues faced and these would be of relevance to Carmarthenshire also. Of particular note within the [Cover Report](#) is the following extract:

*“3.1 Restricting new planning permissions will only ever have a minimal impact on meeting phosphate targets and bringing the designated features back into favourable condition; significant factors that are largely outside the scope of planning control can have a much greater impact. Unfortunately, the situation has not been arrested sooner and we are uncertain as to how long ‘legacy phosphates’ and phosphate loading introduced by uncontrolled activities will mean that new permissions will need to be restricted. This may include certain agricultural developments that are submitted via the ‘prior notification’ procedure. At the very least, it is likely that ‘prior approval’ will be required in most circumstances to allow for the relevant assessments to take place. Officers are considering the potential impacts on other forms of permitted development, including homeowners’ rights to extend and make alterations to their property.*

*3.2 It is likely that a concerted cross-sector, landscape-scale effort to improve environmental quality and sectoral practices alongside regulation and enforcement will be required to improve water quality and build the ecological resilience of the River Wye so that the designated features it supports are returned to favourable condition. We are members of the River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board, its technical advisory group, and the Wye Catchment Partnership. Despite the best efforts of these bodies (and others) over the last 10 years, the issue is yet to be resolved.*

*3.3 Although a very difficult task, establishing the evidence-base, modelling and monitoring indicators needed to demonstrate environmental and ecological capacity to accept the loading of new development must be a priority.*

*3.4 The letter received from NRW and its enclosures were sent to agents on 21 December 2020, with a commitment to meeting with them in the near future. Officers have also been asked if they can contact those to whom pre-application advice has been given during the previous 6 months to alert them to the issue. A high-level meeting between representatives of the National Park Authority and MP's took place on 8th January. A verbal update on any developments regarding the issue can be provided at PAROW.*

*3.5 The development of landscape scale nature-based solutions to the issues identified within this report will be a matter for investigation within the next iteration of the Management Plan. This will take concerted partnership working with a range of stakeholders not least, NRW, DCWW and landowners/managers within the affected catchment. The first meeting of such a grouping is scheduled to take place on the 18th of January”.*

5.1.4 In noting that the provisions of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 are not directly related to the LDP, it further frames the cross sectoral dimension to the issues being faced. Members are therefore asked to note that the Council, as a corporate body, faces challenges in policy terms in terms of reconciling its commitment to nature conservation and its declaration of the climate emergency with the requirement to recognise and support those agricultural and rural communities which form a key component of the social fabric of the County.

5.1.5 Generally, there will be a requirement for strategic avoidance or mitigation solutions. Projects to convert agricultural land to open space/habitat and upgrading of WwTW have been evidenced as the primary success measures in England. It is also worth noting that surface water run-off appears to be emerging as a further phosphate load consideration, arising from garden fertilisers and road salt for example, in relation to protected habitats. [Reference is made to this website](#) for further information.

## 5.2 Technical Solutions

### 5.2.1 Immediate Measures

5.2.1.1 Any measures must be undertaken with full regard to the EU Court of Justice, 2018 ruling known as the ‘Dutch Case’. The judgement ruled that development must cause ‘no detriment’ to water quality. The Dutch case ruling applies to all stages of the planning process, in a catchment where water quality has been identified as an issue. While mitigation is allowed under this ruling the future benefit of mitigation measures cannot be relied upon in an appropriate assessment, where those benefits are uncertain at the time of the assessment. The primary short-term measure that has been employed in English counties to address this is the phosphate calculator. The calculator is used by developers to calculate the phosphate burden of a development, and this information is submitted as part of a planning application.

5.2.1.2 Development is only granted if phosphate neutrality is achieved or if certain and measurable mitigation can be secured. Following of land has been the primary mitigation response in the southern English counties to date. Other developer responses have included private wastewater treatment facilities on the development site, and developer investment in public WWTW. These have been recognised to be cost ineffective and not a viable long-term solution in the South of England. The financial unviability is likely to be more pronounced in the affected catchment areas of Carmarthenshire due to lower house prices, smaller profit margins, and the need for affordable housing.

### 5.2.2 Calculation of Phosphate Loading

5.2.2.1 For each qualifying planning application or LDP development allocation, an estimate of the additional phosphate load can be made. Phosphate loads are estimated on a rate of phosphate produced per dwelling assuming an average occupancy of 2.3 people per dwelling, unless there is clear evidence that a higher or lower number is appropriate for the type of residential development proposed. The phosphate load is calculated on the basis that residential development will be built to the highest water efficiency standards provided for by the building regulations. Each local planning authority will impose a planning condition on all planning permissions for one or more net additional new dwellings requiring construction to the optimum requirement. Natural England and the Environment Agency have provided evidence to justify this imposition within England.

### 5.2.3 Short-Interim Phosphate Mitigation Measures

5.2.3.1 The following mitigation measures (see overleaf) have been implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within English Counties e.g. Wiltshire.



- (i) - Diverting Surface Water Flows and groundwater ingress away from the Foul Sewage Network (long term);
- (ii) - Addressing misconnections (short term);
- (iii) - Reducing flows to the Foul Sewage Network through water efficiency measures (immediate);
- (iv) - Silt Traps and small farm wetlands on agricultural land (Short term –implemented in 1-2 years?);
- (v) - Taking land out of intensive agricultural (arable or grass) production through offsetting (Long-term);
- (vi) – Change land-use from intensive to Less intensive grass production i.e., dairy and pig farming to cattle (Short term 1-2 years);
- (vii) – Partnership funding for grant applications e.g., measures 4 and 8 (Short term) – potential for grant funding uncertain;
- (viii) - Diverting surface water flows and groundwater ingress away from the foul sewage network (Long term).

#### 5.2.4 Mid-long-term measures

5.2.4.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – This would take the form of a multi-agency agreement to ensure that development is ‘phosphate neutral’, and therefore will not have adverse effects upon the integrity of the affected SAC catchment area. A MoU describes where the parties will work together to help develop and implement appropriate phosphate controls and mitigation measures.

5.2.4.2 Nutrient Management Board/Plan – This would take the form of a multi-agency board to identify sources of nutrients that are entering the river and steps that can be taken to manage them. An example of this approach can be seen in Herefordshire. The aim of the plan is to manage nutrients in the affected SAC to enable growth in Carmarthenshire whilst conserving the river environment. The remit of the board is likely to include gathering an evidence base, appraising options and developing a local level action plan.



## 6.0 Progress Made

### 6.1 Immediate action taken

The following immediate action has been taken as part of a proactive approach by the Council.

#### 6.1.1 Procurement of specialist advice

6.1.1.1 Given the levels of complexity involved with these issues, it was identified that the procurement of specialist expertise would be needed to provide immediate and strategic advice and guidance on measurement and mitigation of phosphate within CCC. A procurement exercise was undertaken, and Ricardo Energy and Environment were appointed in July 2021 by the Council. The commission objectives are as follows.

- In conjunction with CCC, identify a list of multi sector stakeholders to attend a 'big tent event' whereby awareness of the phosphate issue raised, and solutions are discussed.
- To develop a phosphate calculator for Carmarthenshire.
- To formulate immediate and interim mitigation guidelines that can be used by developers within any Neutrality Assessments/Appropriate Assessments.
- Make recommendations on addressing the limited pool of expertise that exists (both within and outside of the Council), so that appropriate professional support mechanisms are available to assist developers in measurement of mitigation.

6.1.1.2 The cost of this consultation service was funded from the 2021/2022 LDP budget.

#### 6.1.2 Nutrient Management Officer

6.1.2.1 It was recognised that the creation of a full-time dedicated post and resource within the authority (including supplemental Officer time) to 'head up' a co-ordinated response to phosphates and the Nutrient Management Team was critical. A Nutrient Management Officer was recruited by the Council and has been in post since 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Nutrient Management officer will lead a strategic response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the phosphate guidance. It is anticipated that this post will evolve as the Authority advances its response.

#### 6.1.3 The 'Big Tent Event' Approach

6.1.3.1 Building on the experiences in Somerset, it was recognised that one of the most important aspects and roles for the Local Authority would be to raise awareness and facilitate discussion between stakeholders. A stakeholder engagement event was held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2021, facilitated by Ricardo, and introduced by Cllr. Mair Stephens, Deputy Leader of the Council. A range of stakeholders attended, and a constructive debate was held on potential solutions and complexities of implementation. It is intended that a Stakeholder Forum is created consisting of attendees and other relevant stakeholders that are able to contribute

towards solutions. A Terms of Reference document, which includes membership, will be created and ratified. It is envisaged that there will be a key role for elected representatives to lobby and raise awareness.

#### 6.1.4 Challenging inconsistencies

6.1.4.1 The Council recognised that there remained a number of areas where greater clarity was needed from the NRW following their issuing of guidance. Furthermore, it was felt that clarify was required in regards potential inconsistencies in the interpretation of the Habitat Regulations by Natural England and NRW. Officers have challenged these inconsistencies through procurement of legal advice, information sharing of legal advice procured by neighbouring LA's, and through legal opinion procured through the Planning Officers Society for Wales (POSW). Further points of clarity have been obtained via NRW officers, discussion and information sharing with various LA's, officer attendance at the all-Wales SAC Rivers Planning Subgroup Meeting, expression of views at an Oversight group and at attendance at ALGE Phosphate sub group.

6.1.4.2 In some instances, obtaining points of clarity has enabled the Authority to determine planning applications in SAC catchments e.g., permitting of extensions. However, there remain unanswered questions, and further legal advice, and HRA advice has been sought.

#### 6.1.5 Representations to Welsh Government

6.1.5.1 Representations were made to the Welsh Government, in the form of a letter to the first Minister of Wales Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. A response was received from Julie James AS/MS Minister for Climate Change on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

#### 6.1.6 Refined internal metrics

6.1.6.1 A review of applications affected by phosphates has been undertaken, and a 'RAG' rating system employed. The Arcus dashboard (an information management system deployed within planning services) now displays planning applications affected by phosphates, and separately identifies those applications whose determinations are solely dependent on a phosphate solution.

#### 6.1.7 Website and Leading role

6.1.7.1 A phosphate page has been created on the Council's website. The page provides a candid reflection of the issues, as well as providing information for developers and interested parties. This includes links to further information, and a FAQ section. The media message seeks to recognise that the Authority is trying to find solutions.

6.1.7.2 It can be argued that the Council is leading the way in Wales in seeking to find a way forward. It has been determined at all-Wales SAC Rivers Planning Subgroup Meeting that the CCC website information is adopted by all LA's across Wales.

#### 6.1.8 Briefing for Members

6.1.8.1 On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Members were briefed by the Nutrient Management Officer on the implications of the NRW phosphate guidance for Carmarthenshire. A copy of the presentation and briefing notes have been circulated to all Members.

## 7.0 Work in progress

### 7.1 Phosphate Calculator

7.1.1 The development of a Phosphate calculator is underway, with an indicative completion date of January 2022. The methodology and underlying assumptions of the calculator have been presented to NRW and have met with their approval. It is intended that this calculator will provide a clear and transparent approach in establishing the level of phosphate loading resulting from a development proposal within the scope of planning control.

7.1.2 The Carmarthenshire phosphate calculator will be the first phosphate calculator developed and used in Wales. NRW have indicated a desire to enter into a procurement relationship with CCC in order to roll-out the Carmarthenshire calculator on an all-Wales basis. Exploratory discussions are underway. Neighbouring LA's have also expressed an interest in procuring and adopting the calculator. In the interests of expediency, their use would not be contingent on prior ratification by NRW.

### 7.2 Developer Guidelines

7.2.1 The development of mitigation guidelines to assist developers is underway and the indicative timeline for completion is January 2022. The guidelines will be presented to NRW for their approval. In the interests of expediency, their use would not be contingent on prior ratification by NRW.

### 7.3 Nutrient Management Board

7.3.1 It is proposed that the scope and structure of a Nutrient Management Board (NMB) such as those that have been utilised in those English affected areas may be established. The NMB will be responsible for producing and monitoring a catchment based Nutrient Management Plan for each of the affected areas. CCC have proposed that consideration is given to the scope and remit of an all-Wales 'umbrella NMB' to avoid duplication of resources amongst LA's.

### 7.4 Review of Council land assets

7.4.1 A review of council owned assets is underway. It is envisaged that this will identify opportunity sites on a large scale that offer economic feasibility of larger scale mitigation (e.g., wetland). It is also considered that this can identify strategically placed sites (e.g., Council owned land next to WwTW for reed bed creation). Council officers are currently working on providing land ownership and suitability details within the catchment areas.

7.4.2 It is likely that there will be a need to work with landowners to access privately owned land for mitigation due to the level of requirements for successful on ground delivery mechanisms. Any estimation of ha/dwelling is subject to evidential testing, and site-specific context of mitigation/offsetting measures.

## 7.5 Legal Interpretation of the Habitat Regulations

7.5.1 Further clarity on legal interpretation of the Habitat Regulations is required. Legal advice has been sought, however further clarity is required. Further advice has been sought in the form of specialist HRA advice. The Council is in the process of procuring this key specialist opinion. This advice will provide clarity on several areas of uncertainty. It will also enable the Council to determine an approach on the screening of additional wastewater. This has implications for the determination of commercial applications within the affected catchments.

## 7.6 Formation of Additionality Group

7.6.1 The Council has established a working group, chaired by Forward Planning Manager, in order to reach a common understanding between LA's in the interpretation of guidance. The Council is leading the group, and the HRA advice being procured (see 7.5.1. above) can inform any decision making. A Statement of Common Ground will form the basis of any commonality of interpretation, and the application of this understanding in Development Management.

## 7.7 Land Management Techniques

7.7.1 The importance of the farming sector within Carmarthenshire is acknowledged. A positive working relationship has been sought with representatives of the agricultural sector. A communication agenda in conjunction with neighbouring LA's and environmental groups is being developed. A mutually beneficial long-term working arrangement with landowners will be critical both in enabling nutrient neutral development to proceed, and in order to remediate the unfavourable SAC status of the affected rivers.

## 7.8 Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy

7.8.1 Nature-based systems are the most effective forms of mitigating and offsetting in phosphate pollution. This has been acknowledged within the GBI strategy as an area of need. The GBI Strategy will seek to identify opportunities to utilise GBI in addressing phosphate pollution in the affected catchments. The GBI Strategy will be available in March 2022.

## 8.0 Next Steps

The below sets out an indicative framework for implementation in chronological order:

### 8.1 Obtain specialist HRA advice on inconsistencies in the regulations

8.1.1 Obtaining clarification on key points of interpretation in respect of the Habitats regulations will enable the determination of applications within the authority, with implications for commercial operations and public services including schools. The difficulty that officers have encountered in securing this advice reflects the complexity of the matters involved, and the lack of subject specialism. This advice is now being pursued via Ricardo and will require an extension of contract.

### 8.2 Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for the CCC led Additionality Group

8.2.1 Agreement with other Local Authorities in interpretation of the regulations (while not essential) is considered preferable. Once a specialist opinion on matters of uncertainty has been obtained, a SoCG will between LA's can be produced.

### 8.3 Publication and distribution of phosphate calculator

8.3.1 The indicative completion time for the phosphate calculator is January 2022. Ricardo technical officers are working on a method of avoiding some of the more complex modelling that would place a burden on single dwelling applications.

8.3.2. There will be a need to determine remuneration options and terms of use of the phosphate calculator amongst other SAC affected LA's. There is a clear advantage to using consistent calculations amongst neighbouring Authorities whereby river SAC's cross Authority boundaries. Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion have indicated a desire to acquire the CCC phosphate calculator. Whilst NRW has indicated a desire to roll-out the use of the Carmarthenshire phosphate calculator on an all Wales basis, this has not progressed beyond preliminary discussions.

8.3.3 While CCC officers (in conjunction with Ricardo) will seek ratification of the calculator from NRW, the publication and use of this key resource will not be a pre-requisite for its use.

8.3.4 The publication of the phosphate calculator will be resource intensive initially. There will be a need for awareness raising, along with an education programme and support.

8.3.5 It is proposed that the calculator is utilised initially on a pilot project at a scale that builds confidence in the efficacy of the calculator and the successful on ground delivery of nature-based systems.

### 8.4 Development Management

8.4.1 Further communication with applicants on phosphate issues, and requests for extension of time, will need to be made. There is a desire amongst SAC affected LA's to begin to refuse phosphate applications rather than hold in abeyance. It is anticipated that the publication of the phosphate calculator in January will render this option unnecessary for CCC.

8.4.2 In respect of any invitation of submissions of Neutrality Assessments from landowner/site proponents of revised LDP allocations within the affected areas, an efficient process for the consideration and assessment of planning applications along with their submitted proposals for mitigation/offsetting needs to be established. Consideration needs to be given to appropriate professional support mechanisms available to assist developers in submission of mitigation applications, and additional resource requirements of the authority.

## 8.5 Phosphate Stakeholder Forum

8.5.1 Following the Stakeholder Engagement Event, the establishment of a Phosphate Stakeholder Forum with ToR's will be made in order to implement solutions.

## 8.6 Review of Council land assets

8.6.1 Whilst there may be opportunities for mitigation on a site by site / case by case basis, it is clear that a high-level strategic approach to mitigation will be required longer term. In order to facilitate this, regional and pan Wales approaches should be adopted through shared approaches and integrated working. There is a need to identify opportunity sites on a large scale that offer economic feasibility of larger scale mitigation, and to also identify strategically placed sites e.g., Council owned land next to WwTW for reed bed/wetland creation. There is a need for support from CCC records team to providing land ownership details in the areas concerned.

8.6.2 There is an opportunity for synergistic interventions to address a number of the Authority's corporate and regulatory objectives including renewable energy, conservation, carbon sequestration, provision of amenity land and air quality. The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Ten Towns Initiative are noted. It is recommended that a co-ordinated response to maximise the benefit to be obtained from Council land assets should be considered, in collaboration with Corporate Property.

## 8.7 Catchment Scale Nutrient Management Board (NMB)

### 8.7.1 Overview and Governance

Note: the following in relation to the prospective governance arrangements for the prospective NMB's is subject to ongoing discussion with a view to identifying transparent and effective processes.

8.7.1.1 It is recommended that delegated powers be given to the Director of Environment to establish a Tywi Nutrient Management Board, with delegation to agree terms of reference for the group and prepare a Nutrient Management Plan. It is further recommended that CCC joins the membership board for the Teifi NMB, the Cleddau NMB and the Wye NMB. This is to ensure compliance with the Authority's duties to enhance the environment under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to support sustainable development objectives in Carmarthenshire.

8.7.1.2 Consideration needs to be given to the proper constitution of the NMB including ToR. In order to mitigate against legal risk to the Authorities involved accountability and delivery agreement considerations will need to be incorporated. This is particularly important in different regulators and cross border agreements. A MoU is proposed at this stage.

8.7.1.3 While a regional/sub regional Board has been considered, a board at a catchment level is preferable in order to define a strategy that is proportionate to the scale of the problem and also that accounts for the spatial issues that will determine where in the catchment actions should be targeted. This spatial issue, which is likely to manifest as areas of each SAC catchment where more actions are required relative to other areas of the catchment, will have an influence on who in an NMB is going to have to take more or less responsibility for issues within a catchment.

#### 8.7.2 Membership of NMB

8.7.2.1 The majority of the Tywi catchment falls within the CCC boundary, and therefore Carmarthenshire would be largely responsible for developing and implementing actions for this catchment. Similarly, Ceredigion County Council would form the lead LA for the Teifi, Pembrokeshire for the Cleddau, and Powys for the Wye.

8.7.2.2 In this way an Authority's role in an NMB for these catchments reflects the areas that are under their 'jurisdiction' to respond to causes of notable contributions to nutrient problems

8.7.2.3 The Council (as in Carmarthenshire County Council) would be Chair and offer Secretariat for the NMB for the Tywi. This report advises Cabinet that the Cabinet Member for Planning in conjunction with the Director of Environment will establish a NMB for the Tywi and undertake in conjunction with that board preparation of a Nutrient Management Plan for the Tywi. The Board itself will contain those bodies with regulatory responsibility for the condition of the Tywi – CCC (Responsible for local development plans, local planning decisions, environmental health (including monitoring private package treatment works and cess pits) and Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) consenting sustainable drainage in almost all new development.), Ceredigion County Council, Powys County Council, NRW, Dŵr Cymru and Welsh Government (Responsible for defining agricultural standards required for receipt of farming subsidy – the Sustainable Farming Scheme.)

8.7.2.4 The Board will contain both Members and Officers. The intention is to then support this with two further groups – a key stakeholder group with representatives from interest groups such as the National Farmers' Union, the Farmers Union for Wales, Afonydd Cymru and local Fisheries groups and a technical officers group with officers from the regulatory bodies.

#### 8.7.3 Remit of NMB

8.7.3.1 The remit of a proposed sub regional NMB would be to ensure nutrient neutral development within the affected catchments, whilst also addressing the unfavourable conservation status of the SAC's (statutory responsibility of the LA as the competent authority) It is recommended that the extent to which the NMB is accountable for these requirements is



laid out in ToR and MoU Documents. The primary mechanism for achieving this will be through the preparation and delivery of the Nutrient Management Plan.

8.7.3.2 It is proposed that these overarching requirements are attained through;

- (i) Ensuring the formulation of a Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) for each river SAC catchment.
- (ii) Producing a delivery agreement for mitigation interventions, including infrastructure development and land use changes.
- (iii) Providing advice on policy implications, and measures that can be adopted in a LDP to account for neutrality requirements.
- (iv) Work with the Technical Support Groups, Stakeholder Forum and regulators to overcoming barriers to implementation in the agricultural and developmental sectors
- (v) Utilising the key resource developed by Carmarthenshire County Council, the phosphate calculator.
- (vi) Credit trading
- (vii) Facilitating transformative outcomes taking into full account the environmental, economic and social implications of interventions on a catchment scale.

#### 8.7.4 Overarching Wales NMB

8.7.4.1 An overarching Wales NMB is considered important to eliminate unnecessary duplication of resources and time, act as an information and resource sharing, and provide a vehicle for cross border catchment agreements. The Council have proposed that an overarching Wales board is necessary to endure the following:

- (i) Providing leadership and coordinating an overarching strategy for each of the NMP's.
- (ii) Acting as a vehicle for addressing future needs such as may arise from any further water quality and neutrality guidelines such as Marine SAC's, Nitrogen, Ammonia, and Methane and facilitate an expedited response to the complexities of nutrient management.
- (iii) In addition to the NMP's the NMB will be responsible for securing legal opinions, and HRA advice, to ensure compliance with relevant Water, Agriculture and Environmental legislation including the Habitats Regulations and Water Framework Directive. Ensuring a commonality of approach in the interpretation of the regulations between LA's wherever possible. Accounting for differences of interpretation where they occur, and management of the implications on shared catchments where relevant.
- (iv) Formulating and updating of communication responses.
- (v) Ensurance of commonality in and guidelines.
- (vi) Establishment of a national approach to nutrient credit trading.

#### 8.7.5 Awareness Raising

8.7.5.1 There is a need for continued engagement with public bodies, and further representations to Welsh Government, and Senedd Members. This may be assisted by securing Cabinet support for the selection of Member 'Champion(s)' to assist in lobbying, constructive engagement with the agricultural sector and dissemination of information.

#### 8.7.6 Technical Officer Group

8.7.6.1 Establishment of a Technical Officers Group consisting of officers from the regulatory bodies, to support the NMB in conjunction with the Stakeholder Phosphate Forum.

#### 8.7.7 LDP Policy

8.7.7.1 At a strategic level, there will need to be an assessment of headroom data and potential future County-wide implications.

8.7.7.2 There is likely to be a requirement to identify large scale mitigation measure to enable the financial feasibility of offsetting.

8.7.7.3 Other interventions could include identifying land next to WwTW's for reedbeds. Criteria will need to be set for selecting nature based systems such as performance, cost, maintenance requirements and site conditions to identify the right intervention for the site specific context. Furthermore, there may be a requirement to allocate mitigation / offsetting land in the Development Plan. A further evidential facet would be to review the cost of mitigation / offsetting within a viability context.

8.7.7.4 The establishment of a credit trading scheme would be with a view to facilitating development. As part of this, there would be key operational requirements such as legal agreements, maintenance contracts etc. It should be noted that mitigation would need to be provided in perpetuity.

8.7.7.5 The Development Plan may require the inclusion of a water policy requirement for new developments to be built with a 100l/p/d water efficiency standard, and use of water harvesting systems.

8.7.7.6 A key step will be to determine the implications for Carmarthenshire as a result of the review of Appropriate Assessment (AA) permits of WwTW's. The last review of consents by NRW on WwTW was conducted in 2009/10. They were therefore reviewed against old conservation objectives. A new review by NRW is underway to determine if the current Phosphate stripping permits are adequate. There will be administrative implications for the Revised LDP to facilitate a AA of WwTW if the NRW review of consents is not taken by the time the deposit LDP is reviewed. CCC will therefore have to conduct the review themselves, an aspect not commonly undertaken by LA's as the usual procedure is for a LA to adopt the AA conducted by NRW. This is important, because many of the permitted WwTW are in those urban areas of the County where the largest quantum of development is likely to go.

8.7.7.7 In terms of developing a policy mechanisms, there will be a need to consider a structured format to optimise opportunities to meet multiple Corporate objectives in any

mitigation strategy. Such objectives can include net zero, amenity land (economic regeneration) air quality, biodiversity and habitat restoration and flood alleviation.

## 9.0 Financial Considerations

### 9.1 Overview

9.1.1 There are inevitable resource implications attached to a response to an area of such complexity. In addition to likely need for future staffing, there remains a number of complex areas that need addressing. In the absence of a leadership response by NRW/WG to these complexities the cost will need to be borne by Carmarthenshire in order for the Authority to make a fully informed decision on a number of issues.

9.1.2 Additional consultancy advice has been sought. The following projections are provided to inform the budgetary needs for 2022-2023. It should be noted that these are estimates.

#### Anticipated Consultancy requirements

HRA specialist advice	£15,000
Site specific mitigation/offsetting consultancy	£25,000
	<hr/>
	£40,000

#### Credit trading system

Administrative resource	(Core budget)
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#### LDP

HRA review of WwTW P permits	£30,000
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#### Legal Costs

Nutrient Management Boards	£10,000
Mitigation legal and maintenance agreements	(Cost to be borne by applicant)

<b>Total Projected Budgetary needs 2022-2023</b>	<b>£80,000</b>
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Figure 3 Projected Budgetary Needs 2022-2023

## 9.2 Credit trading system - Council owned assets

9.2.1 DCWW are investigating a potential all-Wales credit trading systems. There are efficiencies of scale to be made by a centralised administrative body responsible for the establishment, administration, and legality agreements necessary in establishing and monitoring a credit trading system. However, any offsetting/mitigation for a development must remain in the catchment of that development. The use of council owned assets for mitigation will allow the Authority to meet its development and housing needs in affected areas. However, the sale of the credits will also generate capital reserves for the Authority.

9.2.2 Any use of Council owned assets should examine the opportunity to stack benefits on mitigation land with biodiversity and carbon mitigation. Working in these additional facets should not increase the complexity of the scheme but presents an opportunity to add additional benefits.

## 10.0 Further information and contact

10.1 Further information is available from the Council's Forward Planning Section.

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