

WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND THE **MEETING OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 AM, ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JUNE, 2022** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

THE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ON THE AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK:-

<https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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

A G E N D A

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- 8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED).**
- 9. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:-**
 - 9 .1 THE LABOUR GROUP HAS NOMINATED COUNCILLOR ROB EVANS TO TAKE THEIR VACANT SEAT ON THE MID AND WEST WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**
- 10. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION (AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE WEBSITE)**
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 - 10 .2 EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY - 16TH MARCH 2022**
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 - 10 .4 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 11TH MARCH 2022**
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 - 10 .6 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 3RD MARCH 2022**
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10 .9 LICENSING COMMITTEE - 5TH APRIL 2022

10 .10 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 8TH MARCH 2022

10 .11 DYFED PENSION FUND COMMITTEE - 29TH MARCH 2022

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COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services;
R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services;
L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer;
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy;
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;
C.J. Warwick, Digital Support Engineer;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer (Assist);
R. Morris, Members Support Officer (Webcaster);
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer (Observer);
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer (Minute Taker).

Virtual Meeting: 10:00am – 1:45pm

[Note:

- At 12.40p.m the Council meeting adjourned for a comfort break and reconvened at 12.45p.m.
- At 12:45pm the Committee's attention was drawn to Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 9 – Duration of Meeting and, as the meeting would have been underway for three hours at 1:00pm, it was resolved to suspend standing orders, in accordance with CPR 23.1, to enable the Committee to complete the remaining business on the agenda.]

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Akhtar, S. Allen, L. Bowen, D. Cundy, P.E.M. Edwards, A. Fox, A. James, J. James, T.J. Jones and G. B. Thomas.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
C. Campbell	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Family members work for the Authority as teachers.
H.A.L. Evans	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Sister is Chief Executive of a Housing Association.
H.A.L. Evans	5.4 – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2022-25 - Carmarthenshire Housing Investment Programme	Sister is the Chief Executive of a Housing Association.
A. Davies	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2023/24 and Housing Rent Setting for 2022/23 Revenue and Capital	The Tywi Valley Cycle Path passes through their farmland.
J.A. Davies	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Son works for the Authority. as a teacher.
E. Dole	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Son works for the Authority.
E. Dole	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2022/23 to 2026/27	Son works for the Authority.
J. S. Edmunds	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Family member works for the Authority.
L.D. Evans	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Daughter works for the Authority as a teacher.
S.J.G Gilasbey	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Family member works as a teacher in one of the schools mentioned in the report and is an LA Governor at Ysgol Gwennllian.

S.J.G Gilasbey	5.2 – Five Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2022/23 to 2026/27	Family member works as a teacher in one of the schools mentioned in the report and is an LA Governor at Ysgol Gwennllian.
S.J.G. Gilasbey	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member is a council tenant.
S.J.G. Gilasbey	5.4 – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2022-25 - Carmarthenshire Housing Investment Programme	Family member is a council tenant.
B.W. Jones	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Son works for the Authority as a teacher.
K. Madge	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24	Daughter works in Social Care.
B.A.L. Roberts	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Family member works in Social Care
T. Higgins	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Niece works in the Library Service
P.M. Hughes	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Daughter works for the Authority
R. James	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Partner works in the Library Service.
A.D.T. Speake	5.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22 Revenue and Capital	Family member is a council tenant.
A. Vaughan Owen	5.1 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25	Wife works for the Authority as a teacher.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair, behalf of the Council, conveyed his condolences to the family of former Councillor Dilwyn Williams following his passing and informed Council members of the funeral arrangements.
- The Chair, on behalf of the Council, conveyed his condolences to former Councillor Peter Cooper, following the passing of his wife, Jennifer.
- The Chair stated that he had attended the production of Grease in the Lyric Theatre in Carmarthen in the company of the Town's Mayor. The show was thoroughly enjoyable.
- On Friday, 25th February, 2022 the Chair attended a charity event Cawl a Chên organised by Llanelli Rural Council. The event was the Chair of Llanelli Rural Council's last fundraising which was held in EJ's in Llanelli.

- The Chair announced that tomorrow (3rd March) he would be visiting Mrs Keir on her 110th Birthday. Mrs Keir currently resides in AwelTwyi, Llandeilo. Many Happy Returns would be extended to Mrs Keir on her birthday.
- The Chair invited the Vice Chair Councillor Ken Lloyd to make his announcements to Council. The Vice Chair informed the Council that on 20th February, 2022 he and his wife attended the Swansea City Council's Civic Service on behalf of the Chair and reported that it was a pleasure to be able to attend a physical event which had been postponed from May 2021.
- Councillor Handel Davies, with the Chair's permission announced that on 17th February 2022, he as Mayor of Llandovery had the pleasure of welcoming and congratulating Mathew Page's return to Llandovery following his fantastic achievement to become Llandovery's first ever Guinness World Record holder. Over six days, Mr Page had cycled over a thousand kilometres (625 miles) visiting sixty-seven castles across south Wales and the borders. The media and coverage raised the profile of Llandovery and especially the Llandovery Cycle Club, which had only been re-established in the last year under Mathew's leadership, would benefit the town and in the ambition in being known as a cycling friendly destination.
- The Leader, with the Chair's permission updated the Council on the efforts of the residents and businesses within Carmarthenshire in response to the recent Russian invasion on Ukraine. Over the past few days, the unbroken spirit of the people of Ukraine defending their independence, democracy and country has been witnessed through the depressing news and pictures of innocent people injured in attacks and fleeing the country with everything they can carry is not something should be happening in this modern world.

Since the beginning of the conflict, groups had gathered across Wales to show their unity with the people of Ukraine and that unity had been evident across Carmarthenshire over the weekend. Many scenes of generosity and solidarity had taken place with people collecting donations of clothes, toiletries, and medical supplies to support refugees who have had to flee from their homes. Local haulage and delivery companies were supporting the efforts by offering to deliver the donations.

In conclusion. the Leader stated that Carmarthenshire, as a proud County of sanctuary, which had already provided homes and safety for people fleeing the war in Syria and Afghanistan that the Council would be prepared once again to play its part if needed to do so by the UK and Welsh Governments. Until then thoughts and prayers were with the Ukrainian people and those residents of Carmarthenshire who were affected by the conflict.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 9th February, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

5. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

5.1. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2024/25

[NOTE:

1. The Monitoring Officer advised Councillors that if they had declared an earlier interest, they need not declare that interest again at this point as the report related to the Council's general Revenue Budget, and that they can remain in the meeting unless the discussion turns directly and specifically towards the matter of interest.
2. Councillors C. Campbell, J.A. Davies, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, L.D. Evans, S.J.G. Gilasbey, P.M. Hughes, B.W. Jones, B.A.L. Roberts, T. Higgins, A. Vaughan Owen and R. James earlier declared an interest that they had family members employed by the Authority.
3. Councillor K. Madge, repeated his earlier declaration.]

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 21st February, 2022 (Minute 5 refers) had considered the Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 and made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the report of the Director of Corporate Services, for Council's consideration.

Council received a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, on behalf of the Cabinet, in which he set out the background to the budget proposals being presented to the Council for consideration together with the responses received to the budget consultation. The full details of the provisional settlement were included within the report, but the headline was on all Wales basis, the funding for Local Government had increased by 9.4% on the 2021/22 settlement, with Carmarthenshire's allocation being 9.2% (£311.597m).

It was explained that with the Welsh Governments budget process being much later than normal, with the final settlement figures only being published the previous day (1st March). Members were able to view the latest summary of the budget which had been updated with the WG final settlement figures and had been published as an addition to the agenda as 'updated Table 1. It was reported that the final settlement figures provided an increase of £5,905 for Carmarthenshire which was as a result of a technical adjustment to the formula, it was proposed that the sum be added to the contingency in respect of COVID that had already been set aside.

It was noted that the Director of Corporate Services had made some adjustments to some of the other figures within the report, as part of the normal routine as clearer information had become available, with current total validation adding some £16.2m to the budget.

It was advised that the budget maintained the pay assumption of 4% allowance for 2022/23 for both NJC as well as teaching staff, and that this remained the most significant validation included within the assumptions, however it was in line with the general expectations of Authorities and acknowledged that inflation was escalating well above 5%.

It was reported that the original budget proposals consulted upon throughout January 2022 assumed validation of confirmed pay and inflationary pressures to schools, and that this remained the case for the final proposals. Furthermore, there were no savings allocated to delegated school budgets for 2022/23, enabling headteachers and all schools staff to continue to place a focus into helping Carmarthenshire's learners get back on track after what has been a disruptive 2 years.

It was advised that changes to some of the key assumptions such as energy price increases, and the release of last year's economic development capital contribution provided scope to make some changes with the following highlighted:

- an additional £50k to fund additional capacity in the public rights section
- an additional £190k for school meal costs, in response to a recent notification of supplier price increases.

It was reported that the following adjustments thereto, had been recommended by Cabinet and took into account the outcome of the consultation process and responding to the feedback from both public and councillors:

- removal of the proposed £15k reduction to 3rd sector grants,
- removal of the £95k staffing reduction to ICT,
- halt the plans introducing charges to additional car parks.

It was reported that with those changes sufficient funding would be available to cap the council tax increase at 2.5% for 2022/23. It was highlighted that the public's response had clearly indicated a majority favoured the lowest increase possible, and in recognising that the cost of living was rising rapidly, it was important to do as much as reasonably possible to support the residents of Carmarthenshire. Furthermore, it was highlighted that to set a Council Tax increase as low as 2.5%, was a great achievement considering that the many financial risks and pressures within the budget, including the recognition that inflation was running well in excess of 5%.

It was advised that should the budget proposals be adopted, it would allow the Council to set a fair and balanced budget which not only responded to the major concerns fed back from the consultation, but also recognised the significant inflationary pressures and the financial risks of any future response to Covid 19.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

- 5.1.1 That the Budget Strategy including the updated Table 1 for 2022/23, be approved;**
- 5.1.2 That the Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 be set at £1,396.04 (an increase of 2.50% for 2022/23);**
- 5.1.3 The removal of specific savings proposals as identified in paragraph 3.2.5 of the report and detailed above;**
- 5.1.4 That the budget amendments as summarised in paragraph 4.1.4 of the report taking into account the range of responses received during the consultation process and the additional pressures as identified in the report be approved;**
- 5.1.5 That the provisional Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a basis for future years financial planning;**
- 5.1.6 That the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, be delegated authority to make any amendment necessary as a consequence of the Welsh Government final settlement due on the 1st March 2022.**

5.2. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) - 2022/23 TO 2026/27

(NOTE: Councillors S.J.G Gilasbey and A. Davies having earlier made declarations on this item repeated those declarations)

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented to the Council, on behalf of the Cabinet, the Five-Year Capital Programme (Council Fund) 2022/23 to 2026/2027, which took into account the consultation exercise undertaken. The Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 21st February, 2022 [minute 6 refers] had considered the Programme and had made a number of recommendations for Council's consideration.

The new programme would see £275m of investment over five years. The programme would be supported by funding from Welsh Government, the UK Government, and the council's own resources.

It was noted that the detailed provisional capital programme was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2nd February 2022 for consultation. Following concerns raised regarding the lack of Welsh Government grant funding available for highways, the programme had been revised to include further commitments in this area. An extract from the relevant minute of the meeting was appended to the report as Appendix B for information.

It was reported that the programme included two new transformational projects. The first, a £19.6m hub at the heart of Carmarthen Town Centre and the second being a £19m investment to complete the Tywi Valley Path between Carmarthen and Llandeilo. As part of the project, £366k would be available to upgrade parking provision. Furthermore, an additional funding of £16m would be made available for Zone 1 of the Pentre Awel development in Llanelli, bringing the total investment on the project to £87m.

Council was advised that in addition to the above there was continued support for the following:

- £2.5m for Disability Facilities Grants
- £250k to improve Road Safety
- £600k for ongoing Highway Refurbishment
- £400k for Public Lighting
- £3m for Capital Maintenance for investment in property estate.

The creation of a new annual award of £250k starting in 2022/23 for highway drainage infrastructure would help make the highway network more resilient to future weather events and reduce flood risks. 2026/27 also saw the proposed continuation of the £66k annual allocation to Rights of Ways and Byways.

It was reported that further investments would be made across the programme:

- Education would see funds made available to complete the replacement bus bays at Ysgol Dyffryn Taf, and the introduction of a £500k annual award for general education works.
- Communities would be provided with a Disability Facilities Grants with an uplifted 2025/26 investment by £500k to £2.5m per annum, bringing the total investment over the 5 years to £10.5m. Within the leisure portfolio an uplift of £1m in funding was proposed for the upgrade of the 3G pitch at Amman Valley Leisure Centre bringing the total funding available for the project to £2m.

- In Environment, £150k across 2022/23 and 2023/24 to match fund flood management and flood mitigation works was planned. £4.7m for the replacement of refuse and recycling vehicles, together with an additional £1m from reserves as the Authority's match funding contribution to the Waste Strategy which would see the rollout of kerbside sorting for recycling collections.

Council was advised that to mitigate for the lack of Welsh Government support specifically for investment in highways the programme included £2.4m of new money funded from the council's reserves. This would be in addition to the £600k in the annual rolling programme. It was confirmed that £1.3m of hypothecated general capital funding that had been made available to the Authority late in the current financial year 2021-22 had also been earmarked for highway improvements. Taken together this was the biggest single investment of £4.3m in local highway infrastructure by the Council in recent years.

An estimated award of £1.34m funding from Welsh Government from 2023/24 onwards was anticipated to fund decarbonisation projects and therefore included in the programme. However, given that this funding would not be available until the second year of the programme it was proposed to provide £500k from council reserves in 2022/23 to kickstart decarbonisation measures across the built estate.

£2.7m allocated for Information Communication Technology (ICT) across the programme would be maintained, including annual funding of £200k to support digital transformational projects across council services.

It was highlighted that the County Council funding available for this programme was currently estimated at £141m and included borrowing, both supported and short-term unsupported, reserves, private finance and direct revenue funding. Capital grants and contributions of £134m would come from external grant funding bodies.

As part of this year's settlement Welsh Government provided indicative general capital funding figures up to 2024/25 which was reflected in the programme. Funding for years four and five of the programme was based on an assumed level of support equivalent to that received in 2024/25 going forward. It was noted that Welsh Government funding for 2022/23 was £1.8m less than that received in 2021/22 which was unexpected. Given the significant investments in years 1 and 2 of the programme and the reduced capital settlement from Welsh Government it was proposed to make use of unsupported borrowing, short-term, to prevent what would otherwise be a shortfall in funding at the start of the programme. This would be repaid in years 3, 4 and 5 of the programme.

Appendix A appended to the report detailed the full programme, which was fully funded for the five years.

It was noted that as required by the prudential code of capital finance the Council's Capital Strategy document was appended as Appendix C. This document sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions were made and gave due consideration to both risk and reward and the impact on achievement of priority outcomes.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

- 5.2.1 The Five-Year Capital Programme and its funding detailed in Appendix A to the report with 2022/23 being a hard budget and 2023/24 to 2026/27 soft/indicative budgets be approved;**
- 5.2.2 The programme be reviewed, as usual, if anticipated external or County Council funding did not materialise;**
- 5.2.3 The Capital Strategy, as detailed in Appendix C be approved;**
- 5.2.4 The Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources be delegated authority to make any adjustments necessary as a consequence of the Welsh Governments final settlement due on the 1st March 2022.**

At 12.40p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a comfort break and reconvened at 12.45 p.m.

**5.3. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2022/23 TO 2024/25
REVENUE AND CAPITAL AND HOUSING RENT SETTING FOR 2022/23**

DURATION OF MEETING

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

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

[NOTE: Councillors, S.J.G. Gilasbey, H.A.L. Evans, having earlier declared an interest in this item, reiterated those declarations and left the meeting during its consideration]

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 21st February, 2022 [minute 7 refers] had considered the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Housing Rent Setting for 2022/23 and had made a number of recommendations, as detailed within the Director of Corporate Services' report, for Council's consideration. It was noted that the report had also been considered, and endorsed, by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 31st January 2022 as part of the budget consultation process.

The report had been prepared reflecting the latest proposals contained in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, being the primary financial planning tool for delivering the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard *Plus* (CHS+) for the future.

It was advised that capital investment in the region of £231m had delivered the Carmarthenshire Home Standard for tenants and more recently, up to the end of this financial year a further £83m had been spent on maintaining the CHS+ home standard for properties and tenants. Over the next 3 years a further £64m was expected to be spent in maintaining and upgrading the housing stock.

The budget also provided funding of some £56m over the next 3 years to maintain the CHS+ and £56m to support the Housing Development Programme.

The Council was reminded that since 2015 the Authority had been required to adopt the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rent Harmonisation, meaning that the proposed rent increase was prescribed by Welsh Government guidance and provided an equitable distribution of the rents for the social sector tenants. While that policy ended in 2018/19, and an interim policy applied for 2019/20 the Welsh Government had subsequently developed a new policy for implementation in 2020/21 to apply for a period of 5 years from 2020/21 and contained some additional/amended requirements, as detailed within the report.

The main elements of that policy allowed Local Authorities to uplift the total rent envelope by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) +1% for each of the five years to 2024/25. It also allowed for the level of rent for individual tenants to rise by up to an additional £2 over and above CPI +1% for rent harmonisation, on condition that total rental income collected by the social landlord increased by no more than CPI +1%.

However, it was advised that should the CPI fall outside the range of 0% to 3%, the policy provided for the Minister with responsibility for Housing to determine the appropriate change to rent levels to be applied for that year only. As CPI was 3.1% in September 2021 this clause had been activated this year and the Government Minister for Climate Change had instructed that the maximum increase in the rent envelope for any local authority should not exceed 3.1%

Furthermore, this current policy would apply until 2024/25 and contained some additional criteria around tenant satisfaction, space standards, minimising evictions and energy efficiency. The Welsh Government recognises the need to decarbonise social housing stock, which would be a major investment for local Authorities and a priority for this Authority.

The Council was advised that setting the rent within the current Government policy, recognised the need to set the rent at an affordable level for tenants, delivering on the aspirations and trying to ensure the previous commitment to tenants of implementing the harmonisation policy and establishing a fairer rent level for all tenants was a fine balance to achieve.

In response to the priorities and balancing the business plan, the rent increase at an overall increase of 2.9%, would produce an average rent of £94.26 for tenants.

Included within the overall rent increase envelope it was proposed that the Authority continues with the rent progression set at a maximum of £1 for properties below target rent. This would produce an increase on the average housing rent of £2.66 per week, which is below the Welsh Government maximum increase level and would produce a rent level which would be one of the lowest rent levels set across the eleven housing stock retaining Welsh Authorities.

Furthermore, the report also provided Council with the proposal that the garage rents were maintained at £9.00 per week with no increase and that the Service Charge policy continued to be implemented where the charges are set to cover the additional services that are provided at certain locations and not covered by the rent.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

5.3.1 To increase the average housing rent as per the Welsh Government's Social Housing Rents Policy:-

- a) Properties at target rents to increase by 2.74%**
- b) Properties where rent was below target rent, rent to increase by 2.74% plus a maximum progression of £1.00**
- c) Those rents above target rent be frozen until such time as they met the target**
- d) This will produce an increase on the average housing rent of 2.9% or £2.66 per week**

Thereby producing a sustainable Business Plan, maintain CHS+, resource our Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan and was supported by the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team.

5.3.2 To implement a maximum progression of £1.00 for rents below target, until target rents were achieved;

5.3.3 To maintain garage rents at £9.00 per week and garage bases at £2.25 per week;

5.3.4 To apply the service charge policy to ensure tenants who received the benefit from specific services paid for those services;

- 5.3.5 To increase charges for using the Council's sewerage treatment works in line with the rent increases;
- 5.3.6 To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23 (with 2023/24 and 2024/25 being soft budgets) as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- 5.3.7 To approve the proposed Capital Programme and applicable funding for 2022/23 and the indicative spends for 2023/24 to 2024/25, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

5.4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2022-25 - CARMARTHENSHIRE HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

(NOTE: Councillors H.A.L. Evans and S.J.G. Gilasbey having earlier declared an interest in this item was not in attendance during the consideration or voting of this item.)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 21st February 2022 (Minute 8 refers) had considered the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2022-2025, the purpose of which was to:-

- Explain the vision and detail of the housing investment programme over the next three years, including housing stock improvement plans, the new build programme, plans to become net zero carbon and what this meant for tenants.
- To confirm the income received from tenants and other funding sources afforded a capital programme of £120m over the next three years to:
 - Improve and maintain the existing stock;
 - Support the delivery of over 2,000 new homes in communities;
 - Support the Councils Net Zero Carbon Principles, creating energy efficient homes, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for tenants;
 - Help stimulate economic growth and recovery following the Covid 19 pandemic;
 - Help build strong sustainable communities – places where people are proud to call home.
- To confirm the financial profile, based on current assumptions, for the delivery of housing investment programme and Council new build over the next three years.
- Produce a business plan for the annual application to Welsh Government for Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant for 2022/23, equating to £6.2m.

It was advised the report was divided into the following five key themes aimed at driving the business forward for the next three years:-

1. Theme 1 – Supporting Tenants and Residents;
2. Theme 2 – Investing in Homes and Surrounding Areas;
3. Theme 3 – Providing More Homes
4. Theme 4 – Decarbonisation of Housing Stock
5. Theme 5 – The Local Economy, Community Benefits & Procurement

In conclusion, the Plan supported the Councils existing tenants as well as prospective tenants and balances what tenants need now and what will be needed in the future.

The following amendment was proposed and seconded to the first recommendation within the report:

‘To confirm the vision for our housing investment programmes over the next three years and to introduce a Council bungalow programme throughout the Councils member wards in Carmarthenshire. This will free up 3 Bedroom housing for young families. In addition, we need to identify land in members wards for new bungalows in the Carmarthenshire Housing investment programme for 2022-27.

The Proposer outlined the rationale for the amendment

Following a debate and a vote, it was

RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be not supported.

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

RESOLVED that the Motion and the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

- 5.4.1 The vision of the housing investment programmes over the next three years be confirmed;**
- 5.4.2 The 2022/23 Business Plan be submitted to the Welsh Government;**
- 5.4.3 The contribution the Plan makes to the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan in supporting the delivery of over 2000 homes be noted;**
- 5.4.4 The principles behind moving towards net carbon homes and developing a Decarbonisation and Affordable Warmth Strategy to support that be noted;**
- 5.4.5 The importance of the investment included in the plan and its role in stimulating the local economy and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic be noted.**

5.5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2022-23

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 21st February, 2022 (minute 9 refers) had considered the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2022/23.

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report to Council and reminded Members that as part of the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017, the Council had agreed to maintain a Treasury Management Policy detailing the policies and objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities. It was also a requirement that the Council approve a Treasury Management Strategy annually before the start of the financial year to which it related. In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003, the Council was required to approve the Treasury Management Indicators for the coming year.

It was highlighted that the Treasury Management Practices appended to the report as Appendix A set out how the Council would seek to achieve its Treasury policies and objectives and recommended how it would manage and control those activities.

It was reported that the treasury management function ensured that cash flow was adequately planned with cash being made available when needed. Surplus monies were invested in low-risk counterparties appropriate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity before considering investment return, as set out in Appendix B of the report.

The Authority in maintaining a counterparty list must comply with the risk criteria taking account of security, liquidity and yield, with security being the primary principle. The current counterparty list was appended to the report as Appendix C.

In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003 the Council was required to approve the Treasury Management Indicators for 2022/23 which are detailed in Appendix D appended to the report.

The details of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement was provided in Appendix E appended to the report.

It was reported that the Policy and Strategy also took into account of the likely borrowing required for the Swansea Bay City Deal projects led by Carmarthenshire County Council. The Council was expected to borrow £39.1m over the period 2022-23 to 2024-25.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

5.5.1 The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022-23 and the recommendations contained therein be approved;

5.5.2 The Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein be approved.

6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 31ST JANUARY 2022

In reference to Minute 8, of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 31st January, 2022 regarding the 2022-2032 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), a concern was expressed regarding an issue that had arisen in relation to a number of inaccurate statements which had been circulating on social media in connection to the WESP. It was requested that the Cabinet Member for Education and Children address this emerging matter with urgency.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Education and Children explained the purpose of WESP which sets out the Councils 10-year vision to create an improved planning system for Welsh-medium education.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 31st January 2022 be received.

7. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION

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

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no questions from the public had been received.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED)

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

10. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

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

CHAIR

DATE

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
 P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
 J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
 A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services
 S. Davies, Head of Access to Education
 G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
 A. Wood, People Services Manager
 I.R. Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager
 S. Burford, Project Manager
 S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
 E. Jones, Licensing Lead
 E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer
 M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
 E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer
 K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

(Note:

- At 12:55pm the Council's attention was drawn to Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 9 – Duration of Meeting and, as the meeting would have been underway for three hours at 1:00pm, it was resolved to suspend standing orders, in accordance with

CPR 23.1, to enable the Committee to complete the remaining business on the agenda.]

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 1.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Campbell, P. Edwards, A. Fox, C. Harris, T.J. Jones, S. Najmi, D. Nicholas and A. Speake

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
H.A.L. Evans	7.1 – Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027)	Sister is the Chief Executive of a Housing Association
B. Thomas	7.6 – Modernising Education Programme proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Y Felin	LEA appointed School Governor
K. Lloyd	8.3 – Cabinet Minutes 28 th February 2022 – Minute 6 – Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023	Shareholder in Carmarthenshire Energy – Has dispensation to speak, but not vote
E. Dole	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Son works in the Regeneration Department
T.A.J. Davies	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Sister-in-Law is a Head of Service
S.J.G. Gilasbey	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family member works as a Teacher
S.J.G. Gilasbey	8.2 Cabinet Minutes 21 st February 2022 – Minute 7 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 Revenue and Capital and Housing Rent Setting for 2022/23	Family member is a Council Tenant
R. James	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Partner works in Llanelli Library
L. Bowen	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Wife works in the Translation Department
D. Cundy	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Relatives work for the Council
J.S. Edmunds	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family work for the Council

T.M. Higgins	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Niece works in the library service
K. Madge	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter works in Social Care
H.I. Jones	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter-in-Law works in Social Services Grand Daughter works in the Legal Department
S.M. Allen	7.1 – Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027)	Voluntary member of the Board of a Housing Association mentioned in the report
D.C. Evans	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Wife works for the Council
B.A.L. Roberts	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
P.M. Hughes	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
G. John	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
R. Evans	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter works for the Library Service
M. Charles	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Sister works for the Authority
W.S. Walters – on behalf of all officers attending the meeting	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Employed by the Authority
W.S. Walters	7.4 – Review of Election Fees payable at the County Council and Town/Community Council Elections	Returning Officer
C. Moore	7.4 – Review of Election Fees payable at the County Council and Town/Community Council Elections	Will be working in the elections

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair announced the the following visits/events he had recently attended/ would be attending:-
 - March 3rd – the 110th Birthday of a resident in Awel Twyi, Llandeilo
 - March 5th – Carmarthen St David's Day Parade
 - March 8th – Celebrating Culture at Ffwrnes Theatre
 - March 10th – Actif Sports Awards at Ffwrnes Theatre

- The Leader, with the Chair's permission, updated the Council on the current position on the Covid Pandemic in Carmarthenshire and on the Welsh Government's recent easing of restrictions on mask wearing and social distancing. It was likely further reductions in those restrictions could occur later in March with the First Minister, in his recent address, stating that if the situation were to remain stable, the remaining restrictions would be removed from the 28th March 2022

The Leader then provided a further update to his address to Council at its meeting on the 2nd March on the situation in the Ukraine and its impact on its residents. He outlined the local efforts being taken to deliver donations to the Ukraine and its neighbouring countries and to the various avenues available to people to make financial contributions to various charitable organisations.

The Leader advised that, as with previously providing homes and safety for people fleeing the wars in Syria and Afghanistan, the Council was again preparing to play its part when needed to by the UK and Welsh Governments for Ukrainians fleeing to the U.K.

In conclusion, the Leader stated that the Council stands in unity with the people of Ukraine and when the time comes there will be a warm welcome for them in Carmarthenshire and there was a home for them here for as long as needed.

4. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

The Council received a report setting out the financial details relevant to the setting of the Council Tax for the 2022/2023 financial year together with the Council Tax amounts in respect of the different Council Tax Valuation Bands, as applicable to each of the individual Community and Town Council areas.

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

The Council was also advised of a correction to note 4(a) in that the total of Community Council precepts included in the £662,792,890 was £7,000,517, as per note 4(f) and not £6,863,055, as stated in the narrative of note 4(a)

RESOLVED that, subject to the above correction and in order for the Council to comply with legislative requirements, the report and recommendations of the Director of Corporate Services on the setting of the Council Tax for the financial year 2022/23 be adopted.

5. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

[NOTE:

1. Councillors L.R. Bowen, M. Charles, D.M. Cundy, T.A.J. Davies, E. Dole, D.C.

Evans, J.S. Edmunds, R. Evans, S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, P.M. Hughes, G. John, H.I. Jones, R. James, K. Madge and B.A.L. Roberts had earlier declared interests in this item and, left the meeting;

2. All officers in attendance were deemed to have a personal interest in this item and left the meeting prior to its consideration with the exception of the People Services Manager who remained in the meeting to respond to any questions arising on the report and officers who were facilitating the webcasting of the meeting.
3. As the Cabinet Member for Public Protection had declared an interest in this item and left the meeting, the People Services Manager presented the report on his behalf)

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

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

The Council was advised that information was still being updated within the some of the appendices, for example, the recent pay awards and those would be updated prior to the Statements' publication.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved in compliance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011

6. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-

6.1. DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY ACTION PLAN

The Council was reminded that at its meeting held on the 14th July 2021 (minute 5 refers) it had resolved to commit to being a 'Diverse Council' and endorsed the WLGA's Council Diversity in Democracy Declaration. Additionally, it had tasked the Democratic Services Committee with developing an action plan in advance of the 2022 Local Government Elections. In accordance with that decision, the Council received for consideration the Draft Diversity in Democracy Action Plan (detailed in Appendix A to the report) with the objectives therein being based on those suggested by Welsh Government. It also noted that additional objectives could be added, if so desired

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Diversity in Democracy Action Plan be approved

6.2. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE - TASK & FINISH FINAL REPORT - DEMOCRATIC PROCESS - NEW WAYS OF WORKING

The Council considered the Democratic Services Committee's Task and Finish Group's Final report on the Democratic Process – New Ways of Working. It noted that the Group had been established to review member requirements in order to determine their needs in driving the new way of working for the democratic services function and had formulated 5 recommendations for Council's consideration.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report and recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee's Task and Finish Group on New Ways of Working be approved

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

7.1. HOUSING REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT - FIVE YEAR DELIVERY PLAN (2022 - 2027)

(NOTE: Councillors H.A.L. Evans and S.M. Allen having earlier declared an interest in this item, re-declared that interest and left the meeting during its consideration)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 14th February 2022 (Minute 6 refers) had considered the Housing Regeneration and Development Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027) that set out the Authority's plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years. If adopted, the Plan would build on the success of the current affordable housing delivery plans, would support economic growth by investing over £300m into communities and directly support the actions in the Economic Recovery Plan, supporting business, people and places.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

- “6.1 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 Council's Net Zero Carbon Principles;**
- 6.2 To agree that the authority 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 be delegated to the Head of Regeneration in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team;**
- 6.3 To agree that the Plan would 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.
- 6.4 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;
- 6.5 To agree that the Plan would include providing new flexible, innovative, mixed tenure housing solutions that meet the needs of an aging population;
- 6.6 To agree that the Plan would support the delivery of the Council's 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.
- 6.7 To confirm that the homes supported through the plan would be delivered using a range of delivery vehicles that offer flexibility, scale and place;
- 6.8 To agree that the county-wide delivery of homes in the plan would follow the affordable housing action areas, building up wards in the County into distinctive areas which link geographically and culturally."

7.2. REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN NEXT STEPS AND REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 14th February, 2022 (Minute 9 refers) had considered an update report on the progress of the Revised Local development Plan (LDP) and, notably, the impact of a series of factors, issues and guidance on the progress and/or future Plan content. In detailing those areas, the report proposed a series of next steps and sought endorsement of the recommendations to prepare a further Revised Deposit LDP to address and mitigate the implications arising from the identified issues and to ensure it was procedurally compliant and 'sound' thus enabling its adoption.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

- "9.1 To provide delegated authority to officers to amend the Revised Delivery Agreement timetable and agree its content with the Welsh Government;
- 9.2 To consider the content of the report and endorse the need to prepare a consolidated second Deposit Revised LDP and associated documents;
- 9.3 To 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;
- 9.4 In conjunction with other key public bodies, to join the membership board for the Afon Teifi, Afon Cleddau and River Wye NMB's"

7.3. REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 7 refers) had considered a proposed revised Gambling Policy document which reflected the results of the consultation and review process and complied with relevant legislation and guidance. The Council's Licensing Committee had considered the report and unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet its approval.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“to approve the amended Gambling Policy”

7.4. REVIEW OF ELECTION FEES PAYABLE AT THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(NOTE: W.S. Walters and C. Moore having earlier declared an interest in this item re-declared that interest and left the meeting during its consideration)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 13 refers) had considered a report on the level of fees to be payable to the Returning Officer in respect of the forthcoming local elections

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“13.1 that the fees payable to the Returning Officer, which is inclusive of payments to those undertaking the role of Deputy Returning Officers and other key personnel involved in the planning and oversight of the County Council and Town / Community Councils, be as follows:

- a) £170.00 per contested election;**
- b) £56.61 per uncontested election;**

13.2. that the Chief Executive, as the Council's Returning Officer, be authorised to:

- a) make arrangements for the employment of persons to assist with the Local Elections;**
- b) determine the level of fees and payments to those employed on Election duties, subject to the total amount payable being within the available resources set to cover the cost of these elections;**

13.3 to note that there will be full cost recovery for any costs incurred for Town/Community Council elections”.

7.5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL SWISS VALLEY FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 9 refers) had considered a report on proposals to change the age range of Ysgol Swiss Valley from 4-11 to 3-11.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

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

7.6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y FELIN

(NOTE: Councillor B. Thomas having earlier declared an interest in this item re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 8 refers) had considered an objection report that summarised objections received and the local Authority's responses thereto on proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol y Felin to Welsh Medium education from 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

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

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

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 10 refers) had considered a report on proposals to reconfigure and remodel Behaviour Support Services at Ysgol Rhydygors to improve provision for children and Young People.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

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

7.8. PENTRE AWEL

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February 2022 (Minute 14 refers) had considered a report providing an update statement on Pentre Awel including the procurement of a contractor for Zone 1. The report detailed:-

- progress of the design of Zone 1 and the maximum cost of the construction;
- progress on securing tenants for Zone 1;
- progress in design development Zone 3;
- associated progress including Schools networking and Third Sector policy.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“14.1 that the report of the process undertaken to progress the first phase of the two-stage design and build contract to deliver Pentre Awel Zone 1 be noted;

14.2 to receive the maximum cost (£87.07m) for the construction provided by Bouyges UK and to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services and the Chief Executive to agree the final cost envelope and confirm affordability in consultation with the Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for Resources;

14.3 to note the progress in securing tenancy agreements and to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to agree to progress to construction on achieving suitable assurance of rental income and to note that the delivery of Innovation and Business Development and therefore the shell and core space being developed is in advance of final plans and therefore at risk;

14.4 to approve the policy setting out the principles to be adopted for inclusion of Third Sector organisations within Pentre Awel;

14.5 to note the progress across other zones and associated discussions and impact beyond the immediate project boundaries.”

DURATION OF MEETING

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

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

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

8.1. 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th February, 2022 be received.

8.2. 21ST FEBRUARY 2022

(NOTE: Councillor S.J.G. Gilasbey having earlier declared an interest in minute 7 of the meeting, re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 21st February, 2022 be received.

8.3. 28TH FEBRUARY, 2022

(NOTE: Councillor K. Lloyd having earlier declared an interest in Minute 6 of the minutes re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 28th February, 2022 be received.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

10.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY TO COUNCILLOR EMLYN DOLE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

“March 23rd will mark two years since the first national lockdown, a period that saw significant changes to our way of life and work.

As we move forward, could the Leader say what Carmarthenshire residents and businesses can expect in the next phase as regards recovery and support?

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole – Leader of the Council:-

Thank you very much Alun and despite the fact it's coming at the end of the meeting, it's very timely and I'm very willing to answer this. I did say in the update at the beginning that it looks as if this pandemic has gone slightly but, of course its impact is going to be with us for quite some time. There have been many economic shocks as a result of the situation in Ukraine. The cost of fuel is increasing already, and National Insurance is going to increase as well. In order to give the best opportunity to Carmarthenshire to be able to mitigate the impact of the economic affect, we did develop a recovery plan that was a very detailed strategy as to how the economy of the county could recover as quickly as possibly from the impacts of Covid and I had an opportunity to share that update at the Cabinet meeting last week and here are some of the updates:-

- The Economic Recovery Plan update identified that more than 800 jobs have already been created and almost 700 jobs safeguarded as we implement the recovery plan.

- The Council's economic development team has engaged with well over 2,000 local businesses and provided around 250 people already with training support
- One of the key areas of targeted intervention is supporting people to improve digital skills so they have better employment prospects, and more than 200 people have received that training.
- Over the next 18-24 months, the council we'll provide employment support to some 3,000 people, helping a further 850 individuals into full time employment. We will also maximise the community benefits that arise from development schemes such as the multi-million-pound Pentre Awel scheme, we've just referred to, which is the first development of its scope and size in Wales providing world-class medical research and health care delivery and supporting and encouraging people to lead active and healthy lives, providing supply chain opportunities, as we've said to local businesses together with recruitment, training and work experience placements.
- It is estimated that 1850 jobs will be created from the entire development proposed, of which 750 – 950 jobs will be directly attributed to phase 1. Phase 1 construction is scheduled for completion early 2024, the new leisure centre for Llanelli
- We are currently offering business support grants and property development grants as well as business renewable energy grants. In total this grant support amounts to some £6m, which will lever in a further £5m of investment.
- The council has also committed to deliver 13 major projects, investing more than £140million, Creating and Accommodating 1250+ Jobs and providing opportunities for local business growth
- Supporting the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes, as we've said including bungalow across the County over the next five years, promoting economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities. This level of investment is estimated to safeguard some 700 jobs over the next 5 years.
- We have recovery plans in place for the County's 3 primary towns – Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford – which highlight key issues and opportunities to provide a delivery framework of interventions that are specific to the individual town centres.
- Growth plans have been developed for out 10 market towns as well and we have committed £1m of capital funding to support delivery of prioritised projects across those ten towns
- This Council is leading on the £55 million Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure programme, estimated to be worth £318 million to the regional economy over the next 15 years and bringing an estimated £30m of inward investment into us in the next 5 years.
- We are also leading on the SBCD Skills and Talent Programme which aims to create 3,000 apprenticeships across the region.
- We recognise, of course, that we can't do this on our own – it'll take the ambitions and commitment of everyone in Carmarthenshire - from public sector partners and organisations, the private sector, to local businesses and local people. We really hope that we can all work to do that to develop Carmarthenshire.

- We are determined to take every advantage of every opportunity to accelerate Carmarthenshire's growth and enable the economic success that Carmarthenshire can achieve and deserves. This includes maximising opportunities to draw down additional external funding, including UK and Welsh government funding to add value to the activity already planned. For example, In the autumn, the Authority welcomed the announcements from UK Government that it we secured nearly £20m, jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council, creating two town centre hubs and a further £16.7m for the Tywi Valley Initiative. Both will be funded through that first round of the Levelling Up Fund. The Authority also welcomed further £2.97m funding from the Community Renewal Fund for projects that include upskilling, business support and town centre development – all of which will greatly contribute to the economic recovery of Carmarthenshire.

Thank you for the question Alun. Much appreciated

Supplementary Question By Councillor Alun Lenny:-

Thank you Leader for that detailed answer. You have detailed already about the excellent development at Pentre Awel. A development which was prevented by Labour members during the process that wanted to be 'called in' at the time but, this is part of the five year capital programme of the Council that reflects the ambition of the Administration to continue with the regeneration programme for Carmarthenshire. Can you tell us a bit more please Leader

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole – Leader of the Council:-

Yes, thank you Alun. Yes. I'm very pleased to do so and very confident of presenting a very ambitious programme. That is something that has defined this administration from the very first day and, it was a priority for us, and it's been set out completely clearly and has been implemented throughout the administration. That goodwill to go for it and to move ahead with the plans. I've already referred to some of the regeneration plans that were in that capital programme and there are more than that and, as an example, the 3G pitch in Amman Valley Leisure Centre and the schools in Ammanford and Llanelli.

At Council last week you will recall we voted on the capital programme for 2022/23 up to 2026/27. A very ambitious programme as you say but one we are very confident we will deliver on. Now I appreciate that the scale and ambition of the capital programme may frighten some members of the opposition. Frighten them enough that they would vote against it. Which is what they did, against the capital programme that included a leisure centre in Llanelli, within Pentre Awel, against investments in infrastructure, sport and leisure. (I'm sorry I'm being talked across) I'm just referring to the capital programme that was opposed that includes voting against the waste management the public transport infrastructure, the schools and I could go on but I won't, I don't want to cause any further embarrassment to the members of the Labour Group.

Thank you Alun for the question and to the Chair for your patience. It's very much appreciated.

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

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

Following conclusion of this Item, the Chief Executive, Group Leaders and the Chair were afforded the opportunity of reflecting on the challenging last five years faced by the Council. Best wishes were also expressed to those members seeking re-election and those not standing.

CHAIR

DATE

WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022

PRESENT: Retiring Chair and former Councillor J.E. Williams

Councillors (In Person):

K.V. Broom	J.M. Charles	P. Cooper	D.M. Cundy
C.A. Davies	B. Davies	C. Davies	G. Davies
K. Davies	L. Davies	S.L. Davies	T. Davies
L.D. Evans	N. Evans	R.E. Evans	W.T. Evans
S. Godfrey-Coles	J.P. Hart	J.K. Howell	P.M. Hughes
J.D. James	R. James	G.H. John	D. Jones
H. Jones	A. Leyshon	D. Nicholas	M. Palfreman
B.D.J. Phillips	B.A.L. Roberts	D. Thomas	E.G. Thomas
G.B. Thomas	M. Thomas	J. Tremlett	F. Walters
D.E. Williams			

Councillors (Virtually):

S.M. Allen	L.R. Bowen	M.D. Cranham	S.A. Curry
A. Davies	W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies	H.L. Davies
L.M. Davies	M. Donoghue	A. Evans	D.C. Evans
H.A.L. Evans	A.D. Harries	T.M. Higgins	P. Hughes-Griffiths
M. James	J.P. Jenkins	B.W. Jones	A.C. Jones
A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis	N. Lewis	K. Madge
A.G. Morgan	D. Owen	D. Price	E. Rees
S.L. Rees	E.M.J.G. Schiavone	J. Seward	H.B. Shepardson
E. Skinner	R. Sparks	A. Vaughan Owen	P.T. Warlow
J. Williams			

Also Present (In Person):

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
 N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy;
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
 P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
 A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;
 E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
 S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
 J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer;
 K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer;
 M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer;

Also Present (Virtually):

G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services;
 M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G.R. Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. PERSONAL MATTERS / OUTGOING CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Retiring Chair, former Councillor Eirwyn Williams, welcomed distinguished guests, Councillors, staff and friends to the meeting. He thereupon reflected on his year in office and the events and celebrations he had attended with his consort Mrs. Joyce Williams. He thanked the retiring Vice Chair, former Councillor Ken Lloyd, and his consort, Mrs Katherine Lloyd, for their support and invited former Councillor Lloyd to say a few words.

The retiring Vice Chair, former Councillor Ken Lloyd, paid tribute to the retiring Chair, former Councillor J.E. Williams and his consort, Mrs. Joyce Williams, and wished both the Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect well during their term of office. He expressed his gratitude to all Councillors and staff for their support not only during his term of office as Vice Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council but also over the last 5 years. Finally, he paid tribute to his consort, Mrs. Katherine Lloyd, and thanked her formally for all her support.

The Retiring Chair thanked former Councillor Ken Lloyd for his kind words and wished both he and Mrs Lloyd a happy retirement. He then expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for her advice and professional guidance, and to Directors, particularly Chris Moore who had assisted with the Chair's fundraising, and staff of the authority who had supported the work of the Chair. He thanked his driver Jeff Jones and Eira Evans for her professional and personal support, arranging his events and making sure that everything always ran smoothly. He paid tribute to his consort, Mrs. Joyce Williams, who had been at his side for the last 12 months and thanked her formally for her support. Finally he wished the Chair-elect Councillor Rob Evans and his consort Councillor Nysia Evans well in his year of office.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by the retiring Chair former Councillor J.E. Williams and seconded by Councillor R. James and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor R. Evans be elected Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Former Councillor J.E. Williams congratulated Councillor Evans on his election.

Councillor Rob Evans made his declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Councillor Evans expressed his gratitude to all Councillors for their support in appointing him as Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council and that he was looking forward to his year in office representing the Council. Councillor Evans also paid tribute to the retiring Chair, former Councillor J.E. Williams, and presented the Retiring Chair with a Past Chair's Commemorative Pendant.

The retiring Chair's consort Mrs Joyce Williams thereupon presented Councillor Nysia Evans with her Chain of Office and Councillor Nysia Evans presented Mrs Joyce Williams with a Past Chair's Consort's Commemorative Pendant.

Tributes were also paid to the Retiring Chair by the Leaders of the Plaid Cymru, Independent and Labour Groups for the excellent service he had given to the Council during his year of office.

The Chief Executive also paid tribute, on behalf of the Authority's staff, to the retiring Chair and his consort (former Councillor Eirwyn Williams and Mrs Joyce Williams) who had fulfilled his role with great professionalism and been very active and supportive of the work of the Council. She congratulated the newly elected Chair and Consort (Councillor Rob Evans and Councillor Nysia Evans), and the incoming Vice Chair and Consort (Councillor Louvain Roberts and Mrs Vanessa Rees) on their appointments and wished them a very happy and successful year in office.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor J. Tremlett, seconded by Councillor S. Davies and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Louvain Roberts be elected Vice-Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Councillor Louvain Roberts was invested by the former Vice-Chair, Ken Lloyd, with the Chain of Office and made her declaration of acceptance of office. The Vice-Chair expressed her appreciation to the Council on her appointment.

The Vice-Chair's consort, Vanessa Rees, was presented with a Chain of Office by the former Vice-Chair's consort Mrs. Katherine Lloyd.

The Chair congratulated the Vice Chair and her Consort on their appointments.

6. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Darren Price be elected Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Darren Price be elected Leader of the Council.

7. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE CABINET

The Leader reported that he had considered the appointment of members to serve on the Cabinet and informed Council of the following appointments to each of the portfolios indicated:-

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Linda Evans	Deputy Leader and Homes
Ann Davies	Rural Affairs and Planning Policy

Glynog Davies	Education and Welsh Language
Philip Hughes	Organisation and Workforce
Gareth John	Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism
Alun Lenny	Resources
Edward Thomas	Transport, Waste & Infrastructure Services
Jane Tremlett	Health & Social Services
Aled Vaughan Owen	Climate Change, Decarbonisation & Sustainability

NOTED.

8. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

In presenting his Annual Report to the Council covering the period 2021/22 the Leader spoke of the need to reflect on what had been achieved to date and consider what still needed to be done. He commented that it was his belief that no individual political party or group had the monopoly on good ideas and that each and every member had a role to play in contributing to the council's corporate vision. He spoke of the need to have systems in place which enabled good ideas, from whatever source, to see the light of day. Over the next few years he was keen to engage with members from across the chamber on a regular basis to discuss their ideas and concerns and to work together for the common good. He added that he had already met with the leaders of the Labour Group, New Independent Group and each of the unaffiliated members of council setting out his wish to develop an engaging and co-operative relationship.

The Leader suggested that it was the wish of everyone to see Carmarthenshire flourish and that it was the duty of all members to find ways of working effectively together in order to deliver shared objectives.

He commented that it was the administration's wish to tackle climate change, the cost of living crisis, regenerate the county's economy and town centres, provide quality housing, raise educational standards, ensure social care support to the most vulnerable, improve public transport, see cleaner streets and deliver quality and effective council services. Whilst these were matters, he added, that were important to all members and needed to be pursued together over the next 5 years he emphasised that much had already been achieved which he outlined as follows:

Economic Recovery

Early in the pandemic it had been recognised that alongside facing the day-to-day challenges a recovery plan was required. A comprehensive recovery plan had therefore been presented for supporting businesses, people, and communities. Covid-19 had had an impact on the local economy, but there were positive signs of a quicker recovery than originally anticipated and the Leader felt confident that Carmarthenshire's economy could recover to become one that was even more productive than before.

He considered that the economic recovery plan was unashamedly ambitious – and was determined to do everything to keep Carmarthenshire on track and continuing its journey of growth. The plan realised the ambition to help businesses replace more than 3,000 jobs lost during the pandemic: safeguarding and replacing up to 10,000 at-risk jobs and creating around 1,700 new jobs - as well as supporting thousands of local businesses. Key to the plan was supporting

the county's foundational economy and supporting local people to grow skills and talent in targeted areas so that there was a strong and resilient local workforce. The town centre recovery plans for Ammanford, Llanelli and Carmarthen would also be delivered - each of them highlighting key issues, opportunities, and specific interventions for the individual towns. The ten towns initiative continued to go from strength to strength with an agenda for change set for each of the identified towns and their wider communities. Consultation and development had taken place at all ten towns already - In Cross Hands; Cwmaman; Kidwelly; Laugharne; Llandeilo; Llandovery; Llanybydder; Newcastle Emlyn; St.Clears; and Whitland.

The drive to shop local had also continued with 100% Sir Gar. Our pop-up shops have been popping up across the county offering free retail space to local independent businesses. We've seen thousands of people shop locally keeping the Carmarthenshire pound in Carmarthenshire.

Swansea Bay City Deal

As well as making progress on the Pentre Awel scheme in Llanelli which, it was considered, would deliver thousands of jobs to the area Carmarthenshire continue to benefit from Swansea Bay City Deal. Two significant schemes within the City Deal had been launched this year. The Skills and Talent Programme had been approved by UK and Welsh Government and would provide opportunities for thousands of people to access skills opportunities and support businesses to grow through developing a talented workforce across the Swansea Bay Region focussing on industries with high demand for workers.

The Regional Digital Programme had also received government approval this year. The scheme was being led by Carmarthenshire and was estimated to be worth £318m to the region in the coming years. The programme had three elements all of which, it was anticipated, would benefit the communities of Carmarthenshire:

- Connected Places: Ensuring the region's cities, towns and business parks have competitive access to full-fibre connectivity;
- Rural: Improving access to broadband in the region's rural communities;
- Next generation wireless: Paving the way for the region to benefit from 5G and 'Internet of Things' innovation

Rural (Mart)

Carmarthen Mart had re-opened in March this year following a significant refurbishment and the creation of more rural jobs. Agriculture played a crucial role in rural development by supporting employment, ancillary businesses, and environmental services. Farming was the backbone of rural life and the Leader expressed delight that the Council had been able to support this and secure the future of Carmarthen Mart.

Roads and Infrastructure

A superfast charging hub, the first of its kind in Wales, had opened in Cross Hands providing four 50KW rapid chargers and one 150KW super rapid charger. The chargers would provide a source of clean energy and help reduce draw from the national grid. The hub complemented the Council's ten-year Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and its vision of developing the infrastructure required to

enable employees, residents, communities, visitors, businesses, and other organisations to use Electric Vehicles as part of their everyday routine.

The development and promotion of a network of electric charging points would continue to future proof the county's transport network as well as contributing to local and global pollution reduction target.

The Council had eight years before the 2030 goal was reached to become net zero carbon and the Leader considered that the appointment of a dedicated Cabinet member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability clearly demonstrated the importance that this administration placed on this particular agenda.

Housing

The Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan had been approved by Council this year and the plan aimed to deliver over 2,000 additional new and affordable homes across the county over the next five years. The vision and investment, however, were not just about housing but supporting the development of strong sustainable communities – places where people wished to live and work and giving people quality homes that were energy efficient and affordable to run. It was considered that the investment would have a huge impact in stimulating the economy, creating jobs for local people and supporting the county's recovery from the pandemic.

The right homes needed to be delivered in the right places, and this included providing affordable homes for young and working aged people in both rural and urban areas, helping them to remain in the county, increasing footfall in the County's towns and protecting the Welsh language and culture in rural areas. Work had already started on the Transforming Tyisha project which would deliver new mixed-tenure modern homes in the community.

Social care

People's health and wellbeing would be supported and the social care teams continued to deliver a high standard of service under very difficult circumstances. The Council would continue to work with the Health Board and local partners to continuously improve Social Care across Carmarthenshire.

Education

To ensure that future communities were vibrant communities and the future economy was a prosperous economy investment in providing children with access to the best education possible would continue. To support this vision an ambitious ten-year strategy had been launch outlining the future vision for education in Carmarthenshire. The plan established the council's aspirations for learners and staff for the next 10 years.

The strategy also included a commitment to continued investment in schools so that they were fit for 21st century learning and teaching, and in offering a high standard of bilingual education.

To date, the council's Modernising Education Programme had invested more than £300m in schools across Carmarthenshire which included the building of 12 new primary schools, two new secondary schools, and 48 major refurbishments and extensions benefitting more than 16,000 children throughout the county. Recently a new school in Ysgol Pum Heol had opened following a £4.5 million-pound investment. A similar sum had been invested to transform Ysgol Llangadog and £4.3m on Ysgol Rhys Pritchard. Work had also started on

building a new primary school in Pembrey with an investment of £8.25 million pounds.

Leisure

The pandemic had brought into focus health and wellbeing and led to investment in the County's Leisure facilities.

Amman Valley Leisure Centre had already benefitted from more than £600,000 of upgrading work inside the building and earlier this year there had been a commitment to develop the 3G all-weather pitch and enhance athletics facilities.

Major improvements had also been carried out at Newcastle Emlyn Leisure Centre, and almost a year ago a new leisure centre had been opened at the former Ysgol Pantycelyn site in Llandovery bringing a state-of-the-art gym, sports hall, dance studio and community facilities to the area in addition to the existing swimming pool. The Leader commented that this administration was determined to ensure continued investment in leisure facilities across the county.

Looking forward

The Leader commented that there was much to look forward to. Earlier this year the Tywi Valley Cycle Path project had been awarded £16.7million as part of the UK Government's new Levelling Up fund. The project would create a 20km off-road walking and cycling route linking Carmarthen to Llandeilo running alongside the River Tywi through stunning scenery past castles, country parks and historical estates as well as attractions including the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and Aberglasney Gardens.

In conclusion the Leader stated that his report was just a quick snapshot of the work this council was doing on so many fronts to try and improve the lives of the people of Carmarthenshire. The task now, he added, was to build on those firm foundations and realise the ambitions for this county. He looked forward to working with all members over the next 5 years in order to do just that and thanked members.

The Leaders of the Independent Group and Labour Group were afforded the opportunity of commenting on the Leader's report.

RESOLVED that the Leader's 2021/22 Annual Report be noted.

9. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY, REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM

The Council considered the composition of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels and the membership of those committees.

The Chair advised that there was now a vacant Unaffiliated member seat on the Planning Committee by virtue of Councillor Michael Cranham not taking up the seat and that Councillor Fiona Walters had been put forward by the Independent Group for one of the two Independent seats on the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that as no nominations to these two vacant seats were proposed at the meeting nominations for all vacant seats would be brought to a future meeting for confirmation.

It was duly moved and seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

9.1 to confirm the allocation of 168 seats on the new Council to be split into 67 Scrutiny and 101 Regulatory and other seats;

9.2 to approve the composition of committees as detailed within the circulated report and the appointment of members to Regulatory, Scrutiny and Other Committees as set out within Appendix 1 of the report or reported at the meeting.

10. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND TO ELECT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR THE COMMITTEES / PANELS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Council, in accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 1.1 (n), considered nominations which had been received for the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

It was duly moved and seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following appointments to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels be made for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:-

<u>COMMITTEE / PANEL</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>VICE CHAIR</u>
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. D.M. Cundy	Cllr. B.W. Jones
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. C. Jones	Cllr. S.M. Allen
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. J.D. James	Cllr. K. Davies
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. A.G. Morgan	Cllr. K.V. Broom
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. H.A.L. Evans	To be confirmed
Appeals Committee	Cllr. J.K. Howell	Cllr. L. Davies
Appointments Committee A - Directors	Cllr. D. Price	Cllr. S.M. Allen
Appointments Committee B - Heads of Service	Cllr. J. Tremlett	Cllr. D. Price
Democratic Services Committee	Cllr. L. Davies	Cllr. W.T. Evans
Licensing Committee	Cllr. J.M. Charles	Cllr. D. Phillips
Member Appointments Committee	Cllr. J. Lewis	Cllr. W.R.A. Davies
Planning Committee	Cllr. W.T. Evans	Cllr. C. Jones
Housing Review Panel	Cllr. B.W. Jones	Cllr. G.B. Thomas
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee	Cllr. D.E. Williams	Not required

11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Council was reminded of the requirement for it to review its Constitution on an annual basis and that as part of that process it had established a Constitutional Review Working Group [CRWG] to present any recommended changes.

It was reported that the Constitutional Review Working Group of the previous Council had recommended that the Council should, at its Annual Meeting, consider a report on the possibility of appointing a presiding member. However, it was suggested that this be considered at a future meeting to allow initial discussions to be held with the Constitutional Review Working Group of the new Council in the first instance.

It was further reported that whilst no legislation requiring changes to the Council's Constitution had been introduced during 2021/22 there was a need for Part 6.1 thereof to be amended to reflect the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' (IRPW) prescribed amounts to be paid to Councillors for 2020/21, as detailed within the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

11.1 in accordance with the determinations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, to adopt the Councillors' and Co-opted

Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2022-2023, as detailed within Part 6.1 of the Constitution;

11.2 to adopt the Council Constitution for 2022-2023 subject to any necessary changes to the Constitution arising from decisions made earlier in the meeting;

11.3 that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any minor amendments, correct typographical or drafting errors and ensure all cross-references within the Constitution are correct and that these be reported to the Constitutional Review Working Group as and when necessary.

12. APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL'S ADVISORY PANELS, STATUTORY OUTSIDE BODIES AND JOINT COMMITTEES

Council considered nominations received in respect of the appointment of members to serve on Statutory outside bodies, Joint Committees and the Council's Advisory Panels.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:

<u>OUTSIDE BODY</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED</u>
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Cllr. A. Davies
Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Panel	Cllr. K. Davies Cllr. J.K. Howell Cllr. D. Jones
Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority	Cllr. K. Broom Cllr. K. Madge Cllr. G.B. Thomas Cllr. D.E. Williams 1 x seat to be confirmed
Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. R. James Cllr. A.G. Morgan Cllr. R. Sparks
South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance and Audit Sub Committee	Cllr. R. James Cllr. D. Thomas
South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee	Cllr. R. James Cllr. E. Schiavone Cllr. R. Sparks
Y Partneriaeth – Grwp Craffu /Scrutiny Group	Chair and Vice Chair of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee
Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee	Chair of the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee

COUNCIL PANELS	REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED
Cross Party Constitutional Review Working Group [CRWG]	Cllr. D. Price Cllr. L. Evans Cllr. A. Lenny Cllr. K. Broom Cllr. W.T.Evans Cllr. D.M. Cundy Cllr. R. James Cllr. D. Jones Cllr. A.G. Morgan Cllr. J.P. Jenkins
Pay Policy Advisory Panel	Cllr. D. Price Cllr. A. Lenny Cllr. G. John Cllr. D.M. Cundy Cllr. R. James Cllr. A.G. Morgan

13. APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Further to minute 6 of Council held on the 19th January 2022 it was reported that the Governance & Audit Committee had recommended, following the application process and interviews, that Mrs. Julie James, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald and Mr. David MacGregor be appointed to the positions of Lay Persons of the Governance & Audit Committee for the period 25th May 2022 to 24th May 2027 in order to satisfy the requirement of the Council's Constitution.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

13.1 to approve the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee to appoint the following lay persons to the Governance and Audit Committee for the period 25th May 2022 to 24th May 2027:

**Mrs. Julie James;
Mr. Malcolm MacDonald;
Mr. David MacGregor;**

13.2 to note that the Authority would re-advertise for the remaining Lay Person vacancy.

CHAIR

DATE

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COUNCIL 22ND JUNE 2022

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE		
Recommendations / key decisions required: To re-appoint Town Councillor Philip Rogers of St. Clears Town Council as the Community Committee Member of the Standards Committee until the end of his current term of office as a Town Councillor.		
Reasons: Councillor Roger's previous term of office as a member of the Standards Committee came to an end on the 5 th May 2022		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO		
Include date of Cttee (if known and any observations here <u>or</u> within the Consultations section)		
Exec. Board Decision Required		NO
Council Decision Required		YES
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: - Councillor Linda Evans		
Directorate: Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones Report Author: Robert Edgecombe	Designations: <div style="text-align: center;">Head of Administration and Law</div> Legal Services Manager	Tel: 01267 224018 Email addresses: rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNCIL
22ND JUNE 2022**

**APPOINTMENT OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Regulation 4 of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 ('the 2001 Regulations') requires a Standards Committee to have a Community Committee Member.

Town Councillor Philip Rogers of St Clears Town Council was appointed to this role in 2017 until the end of his of office as a Town Councillor.

Town Councillor Rogers therefore ceased to be the Community Committee Member of the Standards Committee on the 5th May 2022.

Town Councillor Rogers was returned unopposed as a Town Councillor in the May local government elections.

Regulation 21A of the 2001 Regulations (as amended) permits a Community Committee Member to be re-appointed for a further term of office subject to Town and Community Councils in the area being consulted.

This consultation has taken place and the responses received support the re-appointment of Town Councillor Rogers.

Full Council is therefore requested to re-appoint Town Councillor Phillip Rogers at a Community Member of the Standards Committee until the end of his current term of office as a Town Councillor.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: *Linda Rees-Jones*

Head of Administration and Law

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

1. Legal Implications

Regulation 4 of the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001('the 2001 Regulations') requires a Standards Committee to have a Community Committee Member.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *Linda Rees-Jones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

2. Local Member(s)

Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council

All Town and Community Councils in the County and One Voice Wales have been consulted about the proposed action. The responses received are overwhelmingly supportive of it.

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable

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

No

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal Services file	DPSC-0000	County Hall Carmarthen

CABINET

14 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillors D.M. Cundy and R. James

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;
M. Roberts, Policy and Strategy Officer, Environmental and Enforcement;
L. Morris, Senior Press Officer;
L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer;
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer (Observer);
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer (Minute Taker).

Virtual Meeting:- 10:00am - 10:42am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
Emlyn Dole	9 - Business Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23	He owns a hairdressing salon and a holiday let
Hazel Evans	9 - Business Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23	A close member of her family has a business in the County.
Philip Hughes	9 - Business Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23	He owns a Bed and Breakfast Guest House in the County.

Jane Tremlett	9 - Business Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23	She has a business within the County.
Linda Evans	9 - Business Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23	A close member of her family has a business in the County.

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

3.1. 21ST FEBRUARY 2022

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 21st February, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

3.2. 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 28th February, 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. EXTENSION OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS)

The Cabinet received a report in respect of extending the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which was due to expire at the end of June for a further 3 years.

The report stated that subject to a number of exemptions and restrictions, the Original Order required that people:-

- Clean up after their dogs on all public land in the County.
- Put and keep their dog on a lead by direction.
- Not to take their dog onto or permits their dog to enter or remain on any enclosed children's play areas in the County.

A targeted consultation period on the extension of the PSPO had taken place with a number of statutory consultees and other relevant stakeholders, a list of which was included within the report. It was reported that 43 responses had been received with 85% of those respondents supporting the extension of the current PSPO for a period of 3 years.

Cabinet Members noted that a number of respondents had made suggestions comments through the consultation exercise and that the comments and responses were appended to the report at Appendix 8 of the report as well as a comprehensive response from the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust which was also appended to the report at appendix 5 & 6 respectively.

The report sought to extend the duration of the 2016 Order whereby a new Extension Order would need to be made, a draft order was appended to the report at Appendix 2. It was reported that the Authority, subject to a separate consultation, would be able to consider additional controls and conditions to be added to the current PSPO in future and that an engagement exercise was currently being carried out to seek wider views.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 6.1 the duration of the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 be extended for a further period of 3 years with effect from the 1st July 2022;**
- 6.2 the Council makes an Extension Order to give effect to the above extension;**
- 6.3 the 2016 Order with suitable wording to reflect the fact that the duration of the 2016 order has been extended be endorsed.**

7. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Cabinet considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided the latest budgetary position as at 31st December 2021, in respect of 2021/2022. Whilst the scale of Covid-19 response was reducing, the budget position recognised the ongoing financial pressures faced by the Authority as well as the additional funding support provided by Welsh Government.

Overall, the monitoring report forecast an underspend for the year at departmental level of £3,702k with a forecast underspend on the Authority's net revenue budget of £2,901k. At a high level, this was due to a combination of:

- additional COVID19 related costs and lost income being largely refunded under the Welsh Government hardship scheme;
- some services still paused or impacted by lockdown measures and social distancing during Quarter 1;
- Utilisation of some capital financing underspends, due to some significant pressure points on in-year capital project budgets, which was approved as part of a separate report.

Cabinet Members noted that the full year forecast continued to remain sensitive to any future worsening of the pandemic, in particular if any reintroduction of public restrictions were required. Furthermore, during the first half of the year (April-September), additional expenditure and income loss totalling approximately £13 million had been claimed under the Welsh Government hardship scheme.

The Housing Revenue Account reported a predicted underspend of £1,826k for 2021/22, details of which were provided within Appendix B appended to the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 7.1 The Budget Monitoring report be received, and the budgetary position and appropriate corrective action taken be noted.**
- 7.2 Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review options available to them to limit the forecasted overspend of budgets, whilst recognising the ongoing impact which Covid-19 measures has placed on the Authority's overall budget.**

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 UPDATE

The Cabinet received a report which provided the latest budgetary position for the 2021/22 capital programme, as at the 31st December 2021 and detailed new projects for noting and Cabinet approval.

It was reported that departmentally, a net spend of £56,526k was forecast compared with a working net budget of £104,923k giving a -£48,397k variance.

The net budget included the original H.R.A. and General Fund capital programmes approved by Council on the 3rd March, 2021 and slippage from 2020/21 and amendments approved by Cabinet on 25th October, 2021. It was noted that some budgets had also been amended to account for differences in actual grant allocations compared with the anticipated allocations at the time the programme was approved.

It was noted that Appendix B detailed the main variances within each department.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 8.1 the capital programme update report 2021/22 be received;**
- 8.2. the new projects as detailed within the report be noted and agreed.**

9. BUSINESS RATES - RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2022/23

Note: Councillors E. Dole, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, P.M. Hughes, J. Tremlett having earlier declared an interest in this item, repeated their declarations and left the meeting throughout the deliberation and voting of this item.]

At this point, as both the Leader and Deputy Leader had left the meeting following their Declarations of Interest, the Cabinet **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to appoint Councillor David Jenkins as the temporary Chair for this item.**

The Cabinet considered a report which provided information on the adoption of a rate relief scheme being made available to billing Authorities by Welsh Government for 2022/23. The report recommended that the Cabinet adopt the 2022/23 Retail Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme as outlined in the report.

In response to the Coronavirus emergency in 2020/21, the Welsh Government announced that it would introduce the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to increase the discount to 100%. This scheme also applied in 2021/22 and in addition to retail sector it was extended to include leisure and hospitality sectors for example shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels.

It was reported that for 2022-23 the Welsh Government had confirmed it would provide grant funding to all 22 local authorities in Wales to provide the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to eligible businesses. The scheme aimed to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 50% on the non-domestic rates bill for a property, to all eligible premises.

The Welsh Government had provided the types of business that they considered appropriate for this relief scheme, as well as those which were not. The non-exhaustive list of business types was appended to the report at Appendix A.

Cabinet Members noted that as this was a temporary measure and that the Welsh Government would be providing the relief by reimbursing Local Authorities that use their discretionary powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, it was appropriate for the scheme to be formally adopted.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT

- 9.1 the Retail Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme be adopted for 2022/23;**
- 9.2 the Relief be granted in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines;**
- 9.3 the applications that are not specifically covered by the guidelines or otherwise require specific consideration, to be determined by the Cabinet Member for Resources.**

10. NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES

[Note: From this point, Councillor Emlyn Dole Chaired the remainder of business.]

The Cabinet considered a report which provided information in respect of the existing loan / lease arrangements, which came to an end on 30 September 2021. The report sought the Cabinet approval to extend the arrangements by a further 6 months on the same conditions as existing agreements whilst the National Botanical Gardens finalised the structure for the repayment of the loan.

The Cabinet noted that the County Council's had a long history in support for the Garden since the project's inception in the 1990's. The report provided a list of previous resolutions dating back to 2005 in respect of the financial support including the Welsh Government and the Millennium Commission in securing a viable and long-term future for the Garden and was relevant to today's ongoing discussions.

It was reported that the Gardens in 2020, had engaged dialogue with Welsh Government in respect of finding a sustainable solution to the ongoing long-term future of the Gardens. This dialogue had continued throughout the current period of the loan and was still ongoing, although it had been delayed due to accommodate for the Covid response priorities.

The Loan Agreement, originally signed in 2005, included an additional Conditional option agreement which provided for the farmhouses known as Gorswen, Alltgoch, Pantwgan and Bryncrwys to be transferred (freehold) to the National Botanic Garden of Wales, subject to the repayment of the whole of the loan. Furthermore, in order for the Garden to further develop, the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the Welsh Government were keen to obtain the freehold interest of the farmhouses. It was reported that total loan currently stood at £1,350,000 and was currently interest free.

It was reported that by way of a support package from the Welsh Government, it was likely that the Gardens would be in a position to repay the loan to the County Council in full by the 31st March 2022.

The report proposed that the Cabinet formally extend the loan to the 31st March 2022, in order to activate the option agreement.

Cabinet members raised that they were in support of further development of the Garden.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 10.1 to extend the Authority's interest free loan to the Garden for a further 6 months to 31st March 2022 (including the option agreement on the farmhouse);**
- 10.2. to allow the Garden to continued occupation of three of the four farmhouses on a tenancy basis for a further 6 months to 31st March 2022;**
- 10.3. to note the expected repayment of the Loan in full before the 31st March 2022.**

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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

CHAIR

DATE

CABINET

Monday, 28 March 2022

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor D.M. Cundy

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

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

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

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

N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

J. Jones, Head of Regeneration

J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities

L. Morris, Senior Press Officer

L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer

M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer

E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer

K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 - 10.12 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 14TH MARCH 2022

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th March 2022 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED)

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. 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.

7. 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 item as the report contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

8. ASSET PURCHASE - PENDINE SLIPWAY CARPARK AND WINCH HOUSE

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 7 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act). The public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as disclosure would reveal the Council's negotiating stance to other potential bidders leading to higher rival bids and an overall increase in costs to the Council.

Cabinet considered a report detailing a proposal to acquire Pendine Slipway, car park and former winch house.

UNANIMOUSLY Resolved:

- 8.1 That the negotiations to purchase the car park, former winch house and slipway (to the beach) in Pendine be supported.**
- 8.2 That funding proposals, as detailed in the report, be approved.**

CHAIR

DATE

CABINET

Monday, 11 April 2022

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair);

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor D.M. Cundy;

The following Officers were in attendance:

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy;
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
A. Thomas, Head of Education Services and Inclusion;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting: 10.00 am - 10.15 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / PERSONAL MATTERS

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair advised that both Wendy Walters, Chief Executive, and Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services, were currently unwell and wished them a speedy recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3. MINUTES - 28TH MARCH 2022

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 28th March, 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. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021

The Cabinet considered an update report on the treasury management activities and the prudential indicators for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021.

It was highlighted that current investment level was significantly higher than would normally be expected at this point in time with a balance of £181.1m invested as at 8th April 2022. With further monies due in the short term to include a second RSG payment for April 2022 (£20.1m), the cost-of-living grant (11.05m), payments for social care workers grant (£7.1m) and additional funding for the Swansea Bay City Deal project (£23m), it was anticipated that the cash position would rise above the Authority's current counterparty limits.

In light of the above the Director of Corporate Services deemed it prudent to use his delegated powers to increase the limits on some of the Counterparties thereby ensuring the cash funds could be invested safely. Consequently he would be increasing the Debt Management Office (DMO) facility from £100m to £125m, and the Money Market Funds from £5m to £10m per counterparty (5 Money Market Funds were held currently). It was considered that these changes should provide the Authority with the capacity to manage the anticipated increased investment level required over the forthcoming weeks.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

6.1 that the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021 be received;

6.2 to support the action to be taken by the Director of Corporate Services in respect of the increases in the Counterparty limits;

6.3 UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that it ratifies the above decision [6.2] when it receives the Treasury Management Annual Report for approval in due course.

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

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

CHAIR

DATE