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WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND THE **MULTI LOCATION 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, 1ST MARCH, 2023** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Kevin Thomas
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224027
E-Mail:	kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

THE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ON THE AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK:-
<https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.
3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.
4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH JANUARY 2023 5 - 14
5. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
 - 5.1 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 - 2025/26 15 - 134
 - 5.2 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) 2023/24 - 2027/28 135 - 170
 - 5.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2023-24 171 - 222
 - 5.4 CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022-27 223 - 262
6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE:-
 - 6.1 30TH JANUARY 2023 263 - 268
 - 6.2 13TH FEBRUARY 2023 269 - 278
7. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION:-
 - 7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLORS ROB JAMES, DERYK CUNDY, ANDREW DAVIES AND ARWEL DAVIES

“That Carmarthenshire County Council supports residents' and local businesses' concerns regarding the proposal to erect pylons to link Mithil Energy Park to the National Grid in Carmarthenshire; believes that Bute Energy should work with landowners to place the cables underground; and that we, as an Authority, writes formally to the energy firm to support the concerns raised.”
 - 7.2 NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLORS GARETH THOMAS, ANN DAVIES, ROB JAMES AND CRISH DAVIES

“An effective eradication strategy for Bovine TB

This council requests that Welsh Government uses the opportunity presented by the refreshed BovineTB eradication strategy to establish its effectiveness in respect of animal welfare (both wildlife and livestock), public health and cost.

Persistently high infection levels, its impact on both animal welfare and public health combined with an ever increasing cost to the public purse suggest that existing measures are not fit for purpose.

We ask Welsh Government to note and take action on the following points :-

- Bovine TB is a communicable disease that should be addressed holistically as both a wildlife and farmed animal welfare issue, using a comprehensive suite of measures, guided by the best scientific advice available.
- The requirement to frequently test cattle raises stress to livestock and presents a high risk of injury and even fatalities for those involved in conducting tests for Bovine TB.
- The continuous failure to address Bovine TB triggers significant levels of mental health issues among farming families and persons in associated roles.
- Disease outbreaks on holdings need to be dealt with sensitively with effective and simplified communication.
- The eradication programme board should have a balanced representation including all impacted stakeholders.”

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED)

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

10 .1 LICENSING COMMITTEE - 10TH JANUARY 2023

10 .2 EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD JANUARY 2023

10 .3 PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD JANUARY 2023

10 .4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 24TH JANUARY 2023

10 .5 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 24TH JANUARY 2023

10 .6 COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26TH JANUARY 2023

10 .7 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30TH JANUARY 2023

10 .8 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 2ND FEBRUARY 2023

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WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor R.E. Evans (Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

S.M. Allen	P. Cooper	D.M. Cundy	C.A. Davies
B. Davies	G. Davies	L. Davies	L.D. Evans
N. Evans	P.M. Hughes	J.D. James	R. James
G.H. John	B.W. Jones	D. Jones	H. Jones
A. Lenny	N. Lewis	A. Leyshon	K. Madge
D. Nicholas	D. Owen	D. Price	E. Rees
B.A.L. Roberts	H.B. Shepardson	E. Skinner	D. Thomas
E.G. Thomas	M. Thomas	J. Tremlett	A. Vaughan Owen

Councillors (Virtually):

L.R. Bowen	K.V. Broom	J.M. Charles	M.D. Cranham
S.A. Curry	A. Davies	W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies
C. Davies	H.L. Davies	K. Davies	L.M. Davies
S.L. Davies	T. Davies	A. Evans	H.A.L. Evans
W.T. Evans	A.D. Harries	J.P. Hart	T.M. Higgins
J.K. Howell	P. Hughes-Griffiths	J.P. Jenkins	A.C. Jones
A.G. Morgan	M. Palfreman	B.D.J. Phillips	S.L. Rees
E.M.J.G. Schiavone	J. Seward	R. Sparks	G.B. Thomas
F. Walters	P.T. Warlow	D.E. Williams	J. Williams

Also Present (In Person):

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
A. Williams, Director of Place and Infrastructure;
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
S. Burford, Project Manager;
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services;
C. Higginson, Media Manager;
S. Jenkins, Economic Development Area Manager;
A. Eynon, Principal Translator;
L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer;

Also Present (Virtually):

I. Jones, Head of Leisure
A. Thomas, Head of Education Services and Inclusion;
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely: 10.00 am - 12.45 pm

[Note: The Chair, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(3) reconfigured the order of business on the agenda to enable Agenda Item 8 to be considered earlier in the meeting].

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Godfrey-Coles, D.C. Evans, M. James, G.R. Jones and M.J.A. Lewis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
J. James	5.3 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26 Revenue and Capital and Housing Rent Setting for 2023/24;	Daughters are council house tenants;
D. Price	5.3 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26 Revenue and Capital and Housing Rent Setting for 2023/24;	Family member is council house tenant.

3. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair stated that he and his Consort, Cllr. Nysia Evans, had attended a very successful Pembrey Walrus Dip on Boxing Day to raise money for charity. He thanked staff for their assistance at the event;
- The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, with the Chair’s permission, informed Council that on the 19th January 2023 the Government had announced the successful bids in Round 2 of the Levelling-Up Fund. 525 bid applications had been received with 111 projects having been awarded funding amounting in the region of £2billion. Members were reminded that Carmarthenshire had submitted applications relating to the regeneration of Llanelli and the Llanelli Interchange Plus. Regrettably notification had been received that both applications had been unsuccessful. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism commented that the news was disappointing, particularly given the clear need and the strength and the quality of the submissions and the vast amount of time and effort invested in submitting the applications. He thanked officers for the work they had undertaken in connection with the applications adding that the Authority had requested, and been promised, written feedback which could support future proposals and submissions bearing in mind that there would be a third round of the Levelling Up Fund in due course. Analysis of the round two awards had, he added, indicated that no authority had had success in both rounds. Only 4 local authorities in Wales had had no success after both rounds and, taking both rounds together, Carmarthenshire was second only to Cardiff on the total level of funding allocated to date. In conclusion he reiterated that the formal feedback was awaited with interest and there would be no further comment until then.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 7th December, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

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

5.1. MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th November 2022 [minute 7 thereof refers], had, in accordance with the 2022/23 Treasury Management Policy and Strategy (adopted by Council on the 2nd March 2022), approved an update on the treasury management activities from the 1st April 2022 to the 30th September 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that the investment balance at 30th September 2022 had stood at £195m and the total investments made and repaid had amounted to more than one billion pounds – being £1,060.5m. Gross interest earned for the period had been £920,000. The current investment level, was, he added, still significant with a balance of £210.5m. With respect to the Authority's borrowing activity within the reported period the total loans outstanding stood at £411.72m. Four new loans from the Public Works Loan Board had been taken during the period amounting to £20m. Interest paid during the period was £8.18m. The interest rate exposure indicator had been increased from 125% to 150% to accommodate the Authority's continued increased level of investment balances. In conclusion the Cabinet Member for Resources stated that all other Prudential Indicators were within the limits set by the Budget 2022-23 and the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for this financial year.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:

'that the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Update Report for 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022, including changes to the limits for Interest Rate Exposure, be approved.'

5.2. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/24

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023 [minute 9 thereof refers], had considered a report which outlined information in regard to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24. The report had sought formal adoption of the Council Tax Reduction scheme (which replaced Council Tax Benefit in April 2013) for 2023/24. It was noted that subsequent to the Cabinet meeting the scheme regulations had been approved by Welsh Government and had come into force on 20th January 2023.

In presenting the report the Cabinet Member for Resources stated that the scheme itself was materially unchanged for 2023/24. However, in addition to the normal annual up-rating of certain financial figures used for assessing individual

entitlement and some technical adjustments the statutory instrument made a number of other smaller amendments which included amendments in respect of people from Ukraine, Ukrainian Hosts and European Economic Area citizens as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

‘that (Council):-

- 5.2.1. Formally adopts the standard all-Wales Council Tax Reduction scheme provided for in the a. Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013, and**
- 5.2.2. Implements the annual up-rating figures (used in entitlement calculations) and other technical amendments, included in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 due to come into effect 20th January 2023 and these Regulations apply in relation to a council tax reduction scheme made for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2023;**
- 5.2.3. Continues to exercise its discretion with regard to the limited discretionary elements of the prescribed scheme as outlined in the Executive Summary.’**

**5.3. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2023/24 TO 2025/26
REVENUE AND CAPITAL AND HOUSING RENT SETTING FOR
2023/24**

[NOTE: Cllrs. J. James and D. Price had earlier declared interests in this item and left the meeting during consideration thereof].

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023 [minute 10 thereof refers], had considered the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26 and Housing Rent Setting proposals for 2023/24 prior to the consideration of Council. The report, prepared by the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with officers from the Communities Department, brought together the latest proposals for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for the Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 to 2025/26. It was noted the report had also been considered, and endorsed, by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 19th December, 2022 as part of the budget consultation process.

In presenting the report the Cabinet Member for Resources reiterated the comments he had made at the meeting of Cabinet on 9th January 2023 [as detailed in minute 10 thereof] adding that he was sure the Council would appreciate the difficulty of achieving the fine balance of setting the rent within current Government policy at an affordable level for tenants whilst delivering on its housing aspirations. He emphasised that if the Cabinet’s recommendations were adopted by Council the average rental for its tenants would still be under £100 a week - one of the lowest rent levels out of the 11 stock-retaining Welsh Authorities, and significantly below the private sector.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

5.3.1 'To increase average housing rent by 5.5% (£5.18) per dwelling per week as per WG Social Housing Rents Policy;

- **Properties at target rents will increase by 5.36%, and;**
- **Properties where rent is below target rent, rent will increase by 5.36% plus a maximum progression of £1.00;**
- **Those rents above target are frozen until such time that they meet the target.**

This will produce a sustainable Business Plan, maintain CHS+, resource our Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan and is supported by Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team;

5.3.2. To maintain garage rents at £9.00 and garage bases at £2.25;

5.3.3. Apply the Service Charge Policy to ensure tenants who receive the benefit from specific services pay for those services;

5.3.4. To increase charges for using our sewerage treatment works in line with rent increase;

5.3.5. To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/26 (2024/25 & 2025/26 being soft budgets) as set out in Appendix A;

5.3.6. To approve the proposed Capital Programme and applicable funding for 2023/24 and the indicative spends for 2024/25 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix B.'

5.4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2023-26 CARMARTHENSHIRE'S HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023 [minute 11 thereof refers], had considered the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-26 Carmarthenshire's Housing Investment Programme which explained the vision and detail of the Council's Housing Investment Programme over the next three years, including the housing stock improvement plans, the new build programme and the plans to become net zero carbon.

The Cabinet member for Homes, in presenting the report, stated that the Plan outlined that the Council would continue to deliver a comprehensive programme of works to homes and maintain services to all of its tenants. In particular the income received from tenants' rents and other funding sources over the next three years would enable the Authority to develop a capital programme exceeding £103m, which would:

- improve and maintain the existing housing stock, reduce the number of empty Council homes and deal with the backlog of repairs, keeping tenants informed of progress;
- support the delivery of over 2,000 new affordable homes to ensure more homes were available for those in need;

- support the Council's Net Zero Carbon principles, creating energy efficient homes, minimising carbon emissions and promoting affordable warmth for tenants to reduce the cost of maintaining a home;
- help stimulate economic growth, creating jobs and training opportunities in the county; and
- help build strong sustainable communities – places people were proud to call home.

She expressed the hope that members would agree that the Plan was comprehensive and ambitious and would allow the Authority to achieve key priorities for the Council's tenants and vulnerable families. In conclusion she stated that this was a huge investment programme and thanked everyone who had contributed to its development and the staff who were always willing to help others.

In response to concerns over the proposed decrease in the budget for all internal works to council houses and voids and major works to homes, and whether the amount was sufficient to deal with the current backlog of work, the Cabinet member for Homes expressed confidence that the budget was sufficient but assured Council that the situation was reviewed regularly. She added that every effort was being made to attract builders etc to enter into the employ of the Council so that it had its own teams to carry out such work.

It was commented that the installation of solar panels on council homes could greatly help households facing increased heating costs.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

'To

5.4.1 Confirm the vision for our housing investment programmes over the next three years;

5.4.2 Agree that the 2023-26 Business Plan can be submitted to Welsh Government;

5.4.3 Note the contribution the Plan makes to the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan in supporting the delivery of over 2000 homes;

5.4.4 Note the importance of the investment included in this plan and its role in stimulating the local economy and creating local jobs and training opportunities.'

5.5. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023 [minute 14 thereof refers], had considered the Council's draft Annual Report for 2021/22, which had been produced in accordance with the requirements of both the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 requiring the Council to produce an

Annual report on its Well Being objectives and to report on performance, based on a self-assessment approach.

The Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce presented the report which reflected feedback received during the rigorous consultation process which the report had undergone.

Arising from the decrease in recycling rates reference was made to the recent launch of the new recycling/kerbside glass collection schedules and what appeared to be confusion by the public, in spite of the publicity, as to when their blue/black bags and glass were due to be collected. The Director of Place and Infrastructure responded that the failure to achieve the 64% recycling rate in 2021/21 had been principally due to the fire in the CWM Nany y Caws recycling centre and the need to make alternative arrangements. The current recycling rate was 65% and it was hoped to continue on that trajectory. In regard to the new collection schedules these were being introduced on a phased basis and it was anticipated that the current issues being experienced would eventually be resolved.

Reference was made to the need, following consultation on any issue, to report outcomes to anyone, including members, who engaged in a consultation exercise and the Chief Executive agreed to ensure that this was the case. In this regard clarification was sought as to when the consultation on the A484 Sandy Road Corridor Improvements referred to in the Annual Report had taken place and the question was asked as to whether any analysis of the results of the consultation was publicly available. The Director of Place and Infrastructure Cabinet agreed to follow the matter up.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:

‘that the Carmarthenshire County Council’s Draft Annual Report for 2021/22 be received.’

6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

6.1. 28TH NOVEMBER 2022

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

6.2. 12TH DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 12th December, 2022 be received.

6.3. 9TH JANUARY 2023

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 9th January, 2023 be received.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

8.1. PETITION TO CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO STOP BANKING WITH BARCLAYS

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr. M. Reed who had been invited to present to, and address the Council on, the following petition relating to Barclays Bank:

'We call on Carmarthenshire County Council to:

- remove their business from Barclays at the earliest possible time and transfer to an ethical bank (or should there be no ethical bank able to deal with their corporate needs, move to the least worst bank in sector);
- apply pressure on Barclays to change their investments policies to those that prioritise the needs of the climate and future generations.'

Mr. Reed outlined to the Council the rationale for the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Resources advised that the issues raised in the petition would be investigated by the department and a report would then be presented to a future meeting of the Council's Cabinet. Following the presentation, Mr. Reed formally handed the petition to the Council.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

8.2. PETITION TO CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE DETERIORATION OF BURRY PORT HARBOUR

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. Williams who had been invited to present to, and address the Council on, the following petition relating to Burry Port Harbour:

'We the undersigned electors in the County of Carmarthenshire petition the Carmarthenshire County Council:

- To recognise that the condition of Burry Port harbour and marina has steadily deteriorated to what is essentially an unworkable state despite the long term lease to a private marina operator, and we register our deep concern and dissatisfaction.
- To ensure, as Landlord and Statutory Harbour Authority, all terms of that lease are fully enforced without further delay.
- To inspect the property and issue notices of any breaches of these terms within the next month, and if the leaseholder fails to take appropriate and effective action, to pursue your rights under the lease.
- To take note that we have no faith or confidence that the Water Injection Dredging method will clear the harbour of the heavy sand that needs removing, which makes up the vast bulk of the accumulated sediment, and we do not consider this to be an appropriate or effective action.
- We want to see the harbour and marina return to the best possible condition, to be a safe, functioning, attractive facility that is a genuine benefit for both the harbour users and our whole community.'

Mr. Williams outlined to the Council the rationale for the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism advised that the issues raised in the petition would be investigated by the department and a report would then be presented to a future meeting of the Council's Cabinet. Following the presentation, Mr. Williams formally handed the petition to the Council.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

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

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda under 10.1 – 10.10 were available for information on the Council website.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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.

12. PENTRE AWEL

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

The report contained details about potential academic partners who had not as yet signed memoranda of Understanding with the Authority. Although the public interest would normally favour transparency and openness, this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in this case until the MOUs have been signed.

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 9th January 2023 (minute 18 thereof refers), had considered a report which provided an update on the construction contract and affordability of Zone 1 of Pentre Awel.

In presenting the report the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism advised that the summary table referred to in the Cabinet's recommendations [minute 18.4 thereof] would not need to be presented to Cabinet.

Members reemphasised the importance of ensuring that Welsh and local companies and businesses had the opportunity to benefit from the construction of Pentre Awel and thereafter. The Director of Corporate Services gave an assurance that this was an important element of the project and was being monitored.

The Chief Executive suggested that arrangements be made to convene an informal session for members to be updated on the Pentre Awel scheme particularly in view of the number of new members.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:

- 12.1 'To receive and note the conclusion and outcomes of the first phase of the two-stage design and build contract to deliver Pentre Awel Zone 1';**
- 12.2 'To proceed to the second phase of the contract with Bouygues, Construction, as per the recommendation in the report';**
- 12.3. 'To note the progress in securing tenancy agreements';**
- 12.4. 'That any shortfall in funding will be provided through a combination of external funder additional contribution, County Council Pentre Awel (City Deal) contingency funding and additional funding from the market. Upon finalisation of Bouygues' price, a summary table will be shared with Cabinet Members ~~presented to Cabinet~~. A programme of ongoing Value Engineering will be undertaken with Bouygues throughout the duration of the contract to ensure robust cost management';**
- 12.5 'To delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services and Chief Executive to continue to negotiate the final contract price and agree this price in conjunction with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism and Cabinet Member for Resources.'**

CHAIR

DATE

COUNTY COUNCIL

1st MARCH 2023

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. That the Council approve:

- a) The Budget Strategy for 2023/24, which includes the amendments at paragraph 4.1.4;
- b) The Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 be set at £1,490.97 (an increase of 6.8%);
- c) The removal of specific savings proposals as identified in paragraph 3.2.5; with the following amendments:
 - i) To defer until 2024/25 the introduction of new charges at 9 car parks that are currently free, to allow the authority to assess and consider the wider impact on the individual areas on a case-by-case basis. The value of deferment in year 1 is £10k.
 - ii) To remove the £22k Welsh Language saving from the Corporate Policy budget.
- d) The restriction of income uplifts to school meals and car parks as identified in paragraph 3.2.5;
- e) The discretionary allocation of pressures funding to highways and town centres as identified in paragraph 3.2.5, amended to a value of £262k to accommodate the two changes proposed by Cabinet; and
- f) The Medium Term Financial Plan which will form the basis of future years planning.

2. That County Council delegates to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, to make any amendments necessary as a consequence of the WG settlement due on 1st March 2023.

Reasons:

To enable the Authority to set its Revenue Budget for the Council Fund and resultant Council Tax for 2023/24.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr. Alun Lenny – Cabinet Member for Resources

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designations:	Tel: (01267) 224886
Name of Head of Service: Randal Hemingway	Head of Financial Services	Email addresses: rhemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Randal Hemingway		

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNTY COUNCIL
1st MARCH 2023**

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26

This report brings together the latest proposals for the Revenue Budget 2023/24 with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

It summarises the latest Budgetary position giving an update on the budget validation, spending pressures, the Welsh Government final settlement and the responses from the budget consultation.

Members are required to consider the proposals within this report and make recommendations in accordance with Council Policy.

Documents Attached:

- Report of the Director of Corporate Services
- Table 1 – Council Fund Summary
- Appendix A – Consultation Report
- Appendix B – Budget reduction proposals
- Appendix C – Budget pressures

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **Randal Hemingway** **Head of Financial Services**

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The budget has been prepared having regard for the Council's Corporate Strategy, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Equalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken on the budget proposals in order to consider and assess the potential impact with respect to protected characteristic groups. The Equalities Impact Assessments will be further developed following consideration of possible mitigation measures.

3. Finance

The implications on the latest proposals as set out in the report are as follows:

- Proposed Net County Council Budget of £450.333m
- Proposed Council Tax increase of 6.80% for 2023/24 – Band D of £1,490.97

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **C. Moore** **Director of Corporate Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination

YES/NO/N/A – Delete as appropriate

If yes include the following information: -

Scrutiny Committee

Date the report was considered:

Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:

Consultation with all Scrutiny committees undertaken.

2. Local Member(s)

Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Consultation with the Town & Community Council Forum undertaken

4. Relevant Partners

Consultation with relevant partners will be undertaken

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Consultation with Representatives undertaken

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

YES

Include any observations here

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2022/23 3 year Revenue Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
2023/24 3 year Revenue Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
WG Provisional Settlement		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Council

1st March 2023

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 to 2025/26

DESIGNATION:	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Cabinet in January 2023 considered and endorsed the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 for consultation. The report indicated, after taking account of the provisional settlement, a Council tax increase of 7.00%. The Cabinet, in endorsing the report for consultation, specifically sought comments from consultees on the detailed efficiency proposals appended to the report.

1.2. This report updates members on the latest position for the Revenue Budget including:

- Budget Consultation Results
- The Medium Term Spending Plans
- Implication and proposal on the Council Tax for 2023/2024.

The final proposals have endeavoured to meet the aspirations of the Authority, whilst recognising the extraordinary inflationary environment prevailing at this time. They address specific demands in certain service areas whilst seeking to balance the impact on service delivery and local taxpayers.

1.3. There are inherent risks attached to this Budget Strategy and they are detailed within the body of this report, however the Director of Corporate Services confirms that the proposed Budget has been prepared in a robust manner.

1.4. The Cabinet needs to consider these detailed proposals and make recommendations to County Council in accordance with Council policy.

- 1.5. The provisional settlement was more favourable than expected, however there remains considerable uncertainty facing local authority finances, as outlined in this report. Local Government financing remains on a precarious footing and is likely to remain so for a number of years. Yet again, decisions have had to be made in respect of prioritisation of services and the inclusion of further budget reductions in order to achieve what hopefully is an acceptable Council Tax increase.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1. The original proposals have been subjected to a wide ranging consultation exercise since the Budget Strategy. In order to seek the widest possible response, the public consultation was launched on 21st December 2022, ahead of the budget reports presented to the Cabinet on the 9th January 2023. with the groups and committees being invited to comment:-

- Public Consultation
- Town and Community Councils
- School Budget Forum
- Member Seminars
- Scrutiny Committees
- Trade Union meetings
- Secondary Schools Insight Day

A detailed report on the consultation results for each of the above is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2023/24

3.1. Current Year Performance (2022/23) and Pay award Impact

- 3.1.1. As the Authority's core spending requirements remains constant year on year, a review of current year's performance is important in identifying whether there are any underlying problems within the base budget.
- 3.1.2. The current projection for the Revenue Outturn for 2022/23 (based on the October 2022 monitoring) is as follows:

Service	Approved Budget £'000	Total Expenditure Forecast £'000	Variance Forecast For Year £'000
Chief Executive	17,218	16,687	-531
Communities	119,589	122,223	2,634
Corporate Services	29,116	28,235	-881
Education and Children's Services	187,394	191,091	3,697
Environment	65,784	65,709	-75
Departmental Expenditure	419,101	423,945	4,844
Unfunded Pay offers		6,300	6,300
Corporate contingency	3,000	200	-2,800
Capital Charges	-17,694	-20,194	-2,500
Levies and Contributions	11,479	11,477	-2
Transfer to/ from Reserves	0	-2,370	-2,370
Net Expenditure	415,885	419,358	3,473

The main reasons for the departmental variances are as follows:

- Chief Executive's Department: underspends on member pay and travelling, registrars and vacant posts across the department, offset by People Management overspends
- Education and Children's Services: Significant overspends in Children's services due to increased demand and agency costs, overspends in ALN budgets and School Meals Service, offset by additional grants in Early Years non-maintained provision.
- Communities Department: underspends in Older Peoples and Physical Disabilities budgets are offset by overspends in Learning Disabilities and Mental Health divisions. Additionally, Leisure income levels have been gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels, however this creates an in-year overspend. It should also be noted that without the sectoral staffing shortages in social care, the overspend could be significantly higher.
- Corporate Services: there are underspends on pre-Local Government Reorganisation pension costs, and Council Tax Reduction, partially offset by an overspend in Rent Allowances.
- Environment Department: Overspends in waste services, school transport and reduced car park usage post-pandemic,

offset by vacant posts and reduced property maintenance activity due to contractor capacity.

The teachers enhanced pay offer made by Welsh Government is not included in the above figures however it is assumed that in respect of 2022/23 it will be funded.

3.1.3. In planning for next year’s budget and the medium term, the single largest financial risk is the level of inflation, including how it affects the level of nationally agreed pay awards and the cost of purchasing 3rd party goods and services, in particular commissioned care.

Validation

3.1.4. Validation reflects the changes in expenditure requirements to deliver the **current level** of services in future years. Primarily this is inflation, but also includes some service specific changes.

3.1.5. At the time of last year’s report, CPI inflation was at 5.4% and was forecast by the Bank of England to peak at over 7% and then reduce. Against this, CPI reached 11.1% in October 2022 and has remained above 9% since last April. In line with its overarching mandate to target a 2% level, the Bank of England has responded with multiple interest rate rises, most recently to 4%. Given the current uncertainty, our budget strategy is to set inflationary assumptions for next year at 5% generally, with specifically higher allowances for energy, transport fuel and food purchases. Further ahead, we have assumed a gradual easing over years 2 and 3 of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This provides departments with an element of protection against price movements, however this is recognised as a key risk. The proposed validation factors are detailed below:

	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Original</u>	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25	2025/26
General inflation - Expenditure	3.0%	5.0%	3.0%	2.0%
General inflation - Fees & Charges	2.5%	10.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Electricity & Gas	5.0%	£8.4m	-10.0%	0.0%
Fuel	5.0%	50.0%	3.0%	5.0%
Pay Inflation - non teaching	2.5%	5.0%	3.0%	2.5%
Pay Inflation - Teaching	2.5%	5.0%	3.0%	2.5%
NI increase	nil	-1.25%	nil	nil
Levies (see para 3.2.9)	2.5%	16.5%	3.0%	2.0%
Pension Contributions	nil	-1.8%	nil	nil
Capital Charges	£500k	nil	£500k	£500k

When considering changes to the final budget, members should note that the whilst the 10% income validation was set as a

corporate approach where possible, individual service changes are expected to follow the detail charging digests provided to scrutiny committees as part of the consultation process. Many of our charges are not able to be varied from nationally set levels or caps. On this basis, income was estimated on a conservative basis in the draft budget, and following more detailed calculations, can now be uplifted by £850k.

3.1.6. It is proposed that for 2023/24, the requirement to increase capital charges can be removed. Challenging contractor capacity constraints have caused delays to existing capital schemes, which has lessened our need to borrow, and there is currently an increased offset from the increased investment income generated from positive cash balances. This is however expected to be only temporary, as interest rates are expected to reduce again over the medium term, and industry capacity issues ease, leading to greater delivery, not least of which is our investment in the coming years as part of the Swansea Bay City Region.

3.1.7. The Swansea Bay City Region is responsible for 9 projects and is reliant upon £241m of UK and Welsh Government Funding. During 2018/19 a joint agreement was approved by all four Local Authorities and a Joint Committee was created. The principle behind the funding structure of the City Deal is that each Local Authority will be required to borrow the value of the funding allocated to their project and the UK and Welsh Government will repay this debt over a period of up to 15 years. The County Council is the Accountable Body for the whole City Deal and also has ownership of four projects: Yr Egin; Pentre Awel (Wellness & Life Science Village); Skills and Talent programme; and Digital Infrastructure – the last two being regional projects.

Phase 1 of Y Egin project is complete and ideas for Phase 2 are being developed. The Pentre Awel project, which is the County Council's main strategic project is at an exciting position, where enabling works has commenced and the main contractor for the Zone 1 contract is imminently due to be signed for the delivery of the core elements of the project including the Leisure, Health and Academic elements of the build. This key development is due to be completed and occupied in Autumn 2024.

The value of the Pentre Awel project (Zone 1) and the funding has been included within the Capital Programme, as the County Council will be required to borrow against this scheme.

3.1.8. In large part driven by inflationary forces, there is significant uncertainty in the budget which relates to pay costs for all staff.

This final budget maintains the budget strategy assumption of a 5% award for our NJC staff in April 2023.

For staff on NJC terms and conditions, the nationally set April 2022 award of a fixed cash sum of £1,925 was predicated on the need to deliver against a substantial increase in the National Living Wage. In order to maintain pay differentials between spinal pay points, the fixed sum was for employers the most affordable way to achieve this, and delivered an increase of more than 10% at the lowest point, with the percentage reducing gradually, the higher the grade.

It is possible that a similar approach may again be applied next year – should this be the case, our 5% assumption would allow for an increase of around £1,400 - £1,500 – anything above this would represent an unfunded budget pressure.

Calculations on our pay budgets this year have been particularly detailed – in addition to the normal uplifts, the following amendments have been incorporated:

- The required budgetary “catchup” for the April 2022 award, previously estimated at an additional 3.1%
- Application of reductions from top of scale budgeting to exact pay points, including incremental drift for around 1,500 staff, and adjustments for income generating services, Housing Revenue Account funded roles and capitalised salaries
- Applying the reversal of the health and social care levy of 1.25% National Insurance
- A reduction of 1.8% to Employer pension contributions

3.1.9. For teachers pay, the picture is likewise complicated:

- There is a similar need to build in “budgetary catchup” for the full year effect of the September 2022 pay award. The previous offer was 5% versus a 4% assumption – i.e. a 1% catchup.
- However, less than a fortnight ago, an improved offer of 6.5% was made by Welsh Government plus a one-off sum of 1.5% extra. Our budget assumption is that additional funding will be forthcoming from Welsh

Government to meet this additional cost, either through specific grants or increased Aggregate External Finance.

- Looking ahead to the September 2023 award, the recommendation of the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body was an increase of 3.5%, which would raise teachers starting salaries to above £30,000. However, media outlets are now reporting that Ministers have agreed to relook at this as part of current pay negotiations with Unions. Given this, it is questionable how deliverable the 3.5% now is. As such it seems prudent to maintain our 5% assumption.

3.1.10. The budget strategy provided for an increase in the Fire Levy of 13%, as well as an explicit pressure in respect of Welsh Government withdrawal of grants. The Fire Authority has now agreed its final budget, including the reserve funding to meet additional costs arising from the cessation of the Emergency Services Network grant, but have increased the Levy to cover the the redesignation of a pensions grant by Welsh Government – we are informed that this will be added into the final Local Authority settlement. Pending formal confirmation of figures, our assumption is that the original £150k pressure allowed for will be sufficient to meet any shortfall, but this will not be clear until the final settlement is received on 1 March.

There are minor changes to the Levies of the Brecon Beacons National Park Levy and South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

3.1.11. There is a clear risk to the Budget Strategy as departments may find it difficult to manage their expenditure within these parameters, especially where service specific inflationary increases may differ to the global validation rates. Following the removal of £1.5m from the corporate contingency as proposed in the budget strategy report, this budget currently stands at £1.3m pending any future allocations. This risk is something that will require close monitoring during the year.

3.1.12. In total validation adds £30.3m onto the current year's budget.

3.2. **Cost Reduction Programme**

3.2.1. As detailed in the report to Cabinet on 9th January 2023, in anticipation of the settlement not being sufficient to cover demand pressures and inflationary factors, significant work in identifying further service efficiencies/ rationalisation proposals

had been undertaken and more than 100 individual savings proposals were included for consideration.

3.2.2. The current proposals are attached in **Appendix B** and are categorised as follows:

Managerial – cost reductions that result in no perceivable change to the overall level of service delivery or Council policy

Policy – Efficiency or service rationalisation proposals that will directly affect service delivery (generally frontline).

3.2.3. Equality Impact Assessments have been conducted on new policy proposals. These are intended to identify whether these savings could have a disproportionate impact on one or more groups. Where this is the case appropriate consultation with representatives of such groups will be conducted and measures to mitigate the impact will be considered where possible.

3.2.4. All ‘existing policy’ proposals have undergone public consultation and Equality Impact Assessments have been prepared in previous years, and updated where necessary.

3.2.5. The cost reductions included in the draft budget strategy were as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Managerial	6.136	3.641	2.755
Existing Policy	Nil	0.200	0.952
New Policy	3.241	0.543	0.289
Total	9.377	4.384	3.996
Shortfall	Nil	2.064	0.535

Following feedback from the budget consultation activities undertaken, it is recommended that the following amendments are made to the budget:

Proposal	2023-24 Value (£000)	Recommendation
Rising 4s Policy	Nil	Recognising concerns from both Public and Members, defer proposed implementation from September 2024 to September

		2025, allowing for wider consultation and full evaluation of different operating models
Youth Support Services	100	Withdraw saving proposal following concerns raised by councillors and public
School Music Service	35	Recognising member seminar comments, split saving over two years (defer £35k to Y2) to allow impact to be monitored/mitigated where possible
Children & Communities Grant	150	Withdraw saving proposal, recognising member comments regarding the importance of early intervention & prevention
St Clears Leisure Centre	35	Defer proposal by a year to give time for local community/ sports clubs to increase usage/ improve financial viability of the centre
Civic vehicles	19	Remove saving pending a report on a wider review of civic vehicles and better use of pool cars
Citizens Advice Bureau	10	Withdraw saving given increased demand for the service at the current time
Supported Living	250	Reduce saving target on the basis of current deliverability delays, as the service has not yet caught up following successive lockdowns impact assessments and construction capacity issues (these have delayed the planned reduction of residential care placements)
Delegated schools budgets	700	Lower proposed reduction from £2.7m to £2.0m, recognising this was the most negative response arising from the public consultation

	1,299	TOTAL SAVINGS ADJUSTMENTS
OTHER CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION		
Car park charges	135	Restrict the parking charges increase to 5%
School Meals prices	250	Restrict the School Meals price increase to 5%
	385	TOTAL CHARGES ADJUSTMENTS
Highways & Town Centres	294	Recognise concerns raised by Members regarding the year on year reductions which have been borne by this service since the start of austerity
	294	TOTAL PRESSURES ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments to savings proposals have been reflected in the detailed list provided in **Appendix B**, giving a revised total for 2023/24 of £8.078m.

3.3. New Expenditure Pressures

- 3.3.1. New expenditure pressures are the combination of additional cost to meet existing service needs e.g. increased client base/greater service take up and the costs of meeting change in service provision e.g. policy changes.
- 3.3.2. The draft budget provided £12.150m of funding towards known and unavoidable service pressures. This included a sum of £250k unallocated, to provide for any new risks that were identified. As this has not been the case, this sum can now be released.

A full list of core funded pressures is provided at **Appendix C**.

- 3.3.3. After pay awards, the single largest budget increase for the authority next year is the uplift in energy costs. At the time of

draft budget preparation, around two thirds of energy volumes had been secured by Crown Commercial Services, with a forecast increase of £9.5m required. Now that almost all purchases have been completed for next year, a reduction in wholesale market prices over recent months has reduced this sum to £8.4m, reducing the budget requirement by £1.1m.

In addition, members should note that there were increases to specific grant funding allocations made by Welsh Government alongside the provisional settlement in respect of Additional Learning Needs, Pupil Development Grant, and Recruit Recover Raise Standards funding.

3.4. Schools Delegated Budgets

3.4.1. The draft budget was constructed on the basis of full funding to schools for known and unavoidable pay, pensions and inflationary increases. Against this, an explicit reduction of £2.7m (2.1%) was proposed, which recognised the scale of overall budget shortfall and the need for all areas of Council services to find efficiencies. As referenced in the table at paragraph 3.2.5 above and in appendix C, this sum has been reduced by £700k to £2.0m in recognition of the public consultation responses.

3.4.2. With teachers pay representing the largest line item in school budgets, there remains continued financial risk over pay rises, and the funding required by schools to meet them. As identified in paragraph 3.1.3 above, there is this year a double risk with not only uncertainty about the September 2023 award, but the current negotiations regarding the September 2022 award. This remains a considerable risk to school finances. Should any further increase agreed by Welsh Government not be accompanied by additional funding, this would fall upon Council/school budgets.

4. FUNDING

4.1. Revenue Settlement 2023/24

4.1.1. WG are not due to publish the final local government settlement for 2023/24 until 1st March 2023.

4.1.2. Consequently, this paper is based on information already released in relating to specific funding elements as well as officers' assumptions where appropriate. Our working assumption is that the only change WG will make to the headline level of funding is the transfer in of the firefighters pension funding as explained in paragraph 3.1.4 above. This

sum, calculated at £383k, has been added to our provisional settlement for final budget calculations.

- 4.1.3. Our draft budget was based on the actual increase of 0.50% to the tax base in 2023/24, increasing budgeted Council Tax receipts by around £0.5m when compared to the current year.
- 4.1.4. When added to the contingency sum in the draft budget, the items highlighted in the report create total budget headroom of £1.790m as set out below:

Paragraph		£000s
	Draft budget – unallocated sum	716
3.1.6	Capital Charges	500
3.1.8 & 3.1.9	Pay calculations	(1,257)
3.1.5	Income calculations	850
3.3.2	Pressures contingency removal	250
3.3.3	Energy calculations	1,100
3.1.10	Changes to Levies (MAWWFRS, BBNPA, SWWCJC)	(369)
	Total	1,790

Bringing together all the proposals contained in the paper, the final budget amendments are summarised below:

	£000s
Total Budget Headroom	1,790
Assumed increase in WG funding for Firefighter Pensions	383
Savings proposals removed from 2023/24	(1,299)
Charges capped at 5%	(385)
Discretionary pressures funded (highways &	(294)

town centres)	
Budget headroom remaining	195

Taking account of the budget amendments outlined above responding to individual pressure points and consultation feedback, it is recommended that the remaining sum be applied to Council Tax. The outcome would allow members to reduce the planned increase slightly to 6.8% in response to the clear consultation feedback from the public. Whilst this is higher than desirable, this is nevertheless considerably lower than the prevailing level of inflation at this time, and represents a reasonable balance between Council Tax and the need to protect essential daily services.

Taking account of any recommendations made by Cabinet to County Council, the Director of Corporate Services will need to make any future changes necessary in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Resources, following receipt of the Final Settlement information from WG on 1st March.

- 4.1.5. Based on the provisional information, the salient points of next year's settlement are noted below:
- 4.1.6. The draft settlement for 2023/24 gave an increase in Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) for Carmarthenshire of £28.0m (6.6%) with a similar increase on an all Wales basis reflecting the significant pressures the sector is facing.
- 4.1.7. There remains considerable uncertainty in future years. Whilst Welsh Government did announce an uplift from 2.4% to 3.0% for 2024/25, this change is dwarfed by other figures such as pay awards, inflation, and even the variation between individual local authorities. As we do not know what these assumptions are, it is hard to assess how generous the uplift is.
- 4.1.8. Welsh Government confirmed in its draft budget on 20th December that Business Rate Poundage is to be frozen at the current rate of 53.5p, providing at least some budgetary relief, the Authority's own business rates bill is c. £6m, with the lion's share of costs borne by schools, car parks and leisure centres.

4.1.9. The table below provides a summary of the overall position for this authority after the final settlement:

	2022/23 Settlement £m	2023/24 Original Notification £m	2023/24 Final Settlement £m
Standard Spending Assessment	422.884	450.911	Available 1 st March
Aggregate External Finance	311.603	338.017	Available 1 st March
Difference	111.281	112.893	

The difference represents the sum which WG estimates Local Authorities will need to raise through taxation or charging. The SSA update this year has incorporated some unusual changes, including a 7% reduction in the assumed cost of debt financing (vs rising interest rates) and a fire levy uplift assumption of 3%, versus 16.5% notified.

Internal Funding

4.1.10. Generally speaking, whilst the use of reserves to support annual budgets should not be summarily discounted, it must be treated with caution. Funding on-going expenditure from such funds merely defers and compounds difficult financial problems to the following year. One-off items of expenditure within any budget proposal lend themselves better for such funding support.

4.1.11. In deliberating this point however, members must bear in mind any **inherent risks** that may be built into the budget strategy. These include:

- Sustained high level of inflation, which may take longer to come down than current Bank of England forecasts
- Significant uncertainty over the level of future pay awards (linked to inflation)
- Welsh Government may not be able to fully fund revised Teachers pay offer
- Schools' ability to deliver efficiency savings
- Continued challenges recruiting staff due to a challenging labour market. In particular this may continue to negatively affect social care delivery
- The need to deliver challenging efficiency targets
- Additional pressure on demand lead services, particularly Childrens services and Education
- Schools' ability to deliver efficiency savings

- Confirmation of final WG settlement

Sensitivity impact analysis:

Budget element	Movement	Annual Impact £m
Pay inflation	1%	2.6
General inflation	1% (expenditure only)	2.4
General inflation	1% (income only)	-1.5
WG Settlement	1%	3.4
Specific Grants	1%	1.0
Council Tax	1%	0.97

4.1.12. The following table summarises the main categories of reserves held by the Authority.

	1st Apr 2022 £'000	31st Mch 2023 £'000	31st Mch 2024 £'000	31st Mch 2025 £'000
Schools Reserves	15,205	7,815	7,815	7,815
General Reserves	13,468	9,995	9,995	9,995
Earmarked Reserves	139,328	112,131	77,955	61,744

4.2. School Reserves

4.2.1. Schools have delegated responsibility for the management of their own finances. The level of reserves held by an individual school at any point in time will depend on a number of factors including the level of contingency fund that the school governing body considers appropriate and the particular plans each school has for expenditure. The forward forecast is based on the current year budget monitoring and an expectation of multi-year deficit recovery plans to be finalised.

4.2.2. Legislation allows schools to carry forward reserves from one financial period to another. Current guidance requires schools to limit their carry forward to £50,000 for Primary Schools and £100,000 for Secondary Schools or 5% of their budget dependent on what is greater. School Improvement officers continually work with schools to ensure they comply with the

guidance. As at 31st March 2022, 17 primary, 2 secondary and one special school were in deficit.

5. GENERAL RESERVES

- 5.1.1. In the changeable and challenging environment currently facing Local Government the Authority is committed to maintaining a reasonable level of General Reserves or Balances. Whilst there is no prescribed minimum level for Balances, the Authority has previously deemed 3% of net expenditure as being a prudent level, which has been accepted by our Auditors as being reasonable. As at 31st March 2022, General Reserves stood at £13.468m, or 3.2% of the 2022/23 net revenue budget.
- 5.1.2. The overall level of Balances is taken into consideration each year when the annual budget is set and has on occasions been utilised to augment expenditure/reduce Council Tax. The 2022/23 budget was set on the basis of a nil transfer from General Reserves.
- 5.1.3. As outlined in paragraph 3.1.2, the current year forecast is indicating an overspend position of £3.5m. This prudently assumed an in-year overspend on grant funded posts which would need to be met from core budgets – as such the overspend is expected to reduce somewhat, though it is likely an overspend position will remain. On this basis it is deemed imprudent at this stage to assume any further support for future years budgets from the current General Reserves.

5.2. Earmarked Reserves

- 5.2.1. The Authority holds earmarked reserves which have been set up to finance the delivery of specific projects, or in protecting the authority against future liabilities or issues. The reserves can be summarised as follows:

Reserve	March 2022 £'000	March 2023 £'000	March 2024 £'000	March 2025 £'000	March 2026 £'000
Insurance	13,536	14,286	15,536	15,536	15,536
Capital Funds	47,557	38,896	19,681	15,202	9,702
Development Fund (inc Schools Dev Fund)	1,033	1,131	2,185	2,191	2,191
Corporate Retirement Fund	6,171	6,493	6,108	5,747	5,403
Joint Ventures	1,538	1,504	1,455	1,406	1,387
Other	69,492	49,819	32,989	21,661	15,694
TOTAL	139,328	112,131	77,955	61,744	49,915

5.2.2. As can be seen from the table above the level of earmarked reserves fluctuates greatly year on year, and whilst the level in each fund is not an exact science it is based on an informed estimate and past experience of the likely call on the authority in future years in line with the intended purpose of each reserve. Great care must therefore be taken when considering utilising such funds for purposes other than those which they were created as this could lead to the authority being faced with substantial unfunded liabilities in the future.

5.2.3. Taking account of the proposals within this report, including the use of reserves, the Director of Corporate Services confirms that overall the estimated level of financial reserves (as indicated above) is adequate for the financial year 2023/24, with the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 5.1.1 being at the minimum that could be supported.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

6.1. In considering the budget proposals, members need to take into consideration the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act requires that we must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

‘... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

6.2. In doing so, we must demonstrate the following 5 ways of working:

- Looking at the long-term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Understanding the root causes of the issues to prevent them recurring
- Taking an integrated approach so that we look at all well-being goals and objectives of other services and partners
- Collaboration – Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involving a diversity of population in decisions that affect them

6.3. Carmarthenshire's Well Being objectives were updated in April 2021:

Start Well

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
2. Help children live healthy lifestyles

Live Well

3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners
4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty
5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county
6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
8. Support community cohesion, resilience and safety

Age Well

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

In a Healthy and Safe Environment

10. Look after the environment now and for the future
11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture

Corporate governance

13. Better Governance and use of Resources

7. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL TAX PROPOSAL 2023/24

7.1. The table below provides members with a summary of the latest position which reflects the contents of this report.

Assuming that the Council Tax increase is set to 6.8%, this will give an estimated income from Council Tax of £111.930m which when added to the Welsh Government settlement will provide a net available expenditure budget for the Authority of £450.330m.

	2023 - 2024 £'000	2024 - 2025 £'000	2025 - 2026 £'000
Previous Years Budget	415,885	450,330	463,357
Validations/Adjustments	42,523	19,475	17,049
Validated Budget	458,408	469,805	480,406
less			
Efficiency/Service Rationalisation	-8,078	-6,448	-4,445
Projected Budget	450,330	463,357	475,961
Potential sum available			
	450,330	463,357	475,961
WG Settlement			
RSG & NNDR	-338,400	-346,522	-355,179
Earmarked reserve funded expenditure			
Call on Council Tax	111,930	116,835	120,783
Tax Base	75,072	75,348	75,624
Council Tax Rate (Band D)	£ 1,490.97	£ 1,550.62	£ 1,597.14
Council Tax Increase	6.80%	4.00%	3.00%

A full summary of the Budget Build up can be seen in **Table 1**.

7.1.1. Years 2 and 3 of the Medium Term Financial Plan assume the identification of a further £2.329m and £0.314m savings proposals in 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively, and delivery of all proposals in full in order to achieve a balanced budget. These will be re-visited when we are preparing the following years draft budget strategy

7.1.2. It must be emphasised that the figures for the outer two years of the plan are indicative only and must therefore be treated with caution as the settlement figures, growth pressures and the inflation assumptions contained therein will all be subject to revision as the year progresses and firmer data becomes available.

Recommendations

- 7.2. That Cabinet consider and recommend to County Council:
 - 7.2.1. The Budget Strategy for 2023/24, which includes the amendments at paragraph 4.1.4;
 - 7.2.2. The Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 of £1,490.97 (an increase of 6.80%);
 - 7.2.3. The removal of specific savings proposals as identified in paragraph 3.2.5
 - 7.2.4. The restriction of income uplifts to school meals and car parks as identified in paragraph 3.2.5
 - 7.2.5. The discretionary allocation of pressures funding to highways and town centres as identified in paragraph 3.2.5
 - 7.2.6. The Medium Term Financial Plan which will form the basis for future years financial planning;
- 7.3. That Cabinet/County Council delegates to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, to make any amendments necessary as a consequence of the WG final settlement due on 1st March 2023.

REVENUE BUDGET 2023 - 2026

CONSULTATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023

carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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INTRODUCTION

A mixed-methods approach to ascertaining views on the 2023-26 budget took place during the period from 21 December 2022 to 29 January 2023.

In making savings, the Council is concerned to minimise the impact upon service delivery. In meeting the challenge of bridging the budget shortfall of over £20 million, many savings are being made through internal service changes. It is however recognised that some savings proposals will potentially have an impact on service delivery. These are known as 'policy' proposals and 17 proposals (with a total value of £4.8 million) are being considered by the Council in balancing its budget for 2023-26.

There are a variety of legal and policy reasons why the Council must undertake full and meaningful consultation, where service changes are under consideration.¹ Ultimately, a flawed approach can be a means whereby decisions can be challenged through the courts, through a process of Judicial Review. A decision against the Council would prevent the saving being delivered, as well as damage the reputation of Council, at a time when it needs to focus on responding to its challenging financial position.

This report:

1. Outlines the **consultation approach** and the different consultation methods deployed;
2. Describes the **demographic characteristics** of those who took part
3. Summarises the **key findings**;
4. Details the **specific consultation findings** in relation to each of the 14 proposals; and
5. Collates **minutes of meeting** in which the budget was discussed

1) OUTLINE OF APPROACH AND CONSULTATION METHODS

Whilst the settlement provided by Welsh Government was much more favourable than expected, inflation, rising costs, demographic pressures and increased statutory obligations have required the Council to make significant cost reductions, which remains challenging following the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, Council departments identified proposals for making savings and a consultation exercise was undertaken to elicit views on levels of agreement, possible impacts and ways the impacts could be minimised (mitigation).

Councillor involvement

A series of departmental seminars for all county councillors took place over a five-day period: 16th January 2023 and 20th January 2023.² Efficiencies across departments were considered in detail and feedback sought. Bullet points below provide an outlook

¹ The 2010 Equality Act and the Council's Strategic Equality Plan require that 'due regard' be given to the views of designated groups in making decisions. In terms of consultation, a body of case law points to the need for public authorities to properly gather and consider the views of the public in reaching decisions.

² As democratically elected representatives, councillor views are of central importance. This is of course in addition to their decision making role, as Council, in deciding the budget.

of their views and further suggestions on efficiencies. Councillor feedback regarding the public consultation can be found against the relevant proposals.

Alongside councillor engagement, public consultation took place in the following ways:

Survey

The survey provided financial and service information on each of the 17 policy proposals and asked respondents to express a view on the degree to which they supported the proposal.³ Views were also sought regarding the potential impact of implementing the proposal on people and communities.⁴

The survey was administered in two principal ways:

- 1) Electronically via the Council's online consultation page on the website
- 2) Hard copies were available on request in order to maximise the response rate.

A total of **2161 responses** were received from various sections of the community, including individuals, businesses, town and community councils and groups and organisations. A demographic breakdown is provided in section 2.

Insight

Teams from 10 secondary schools across Carmarthenshire have given their views on proposals in the Council's budget as part of an event designed to engage with young people. The Council's annual Insight event is open to all secondary schools in the county and gives pupils the chance to put themselves in the roles of the Council's Cabinet and discuss their opinions on the proposed budget. The aim of the event is to introduce young people to local government and give them an insight into the challenges on a day-to-day basis. It is also an opportunity for Cabinet Members to hear pupils' views and discuss with them directly about issues that matter to them.

This year, pupils from years 10-13 from Ysgol y Strade, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, QE High, Dyffryn Taf, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Coedcae, Bryngwyn, Glan-y-Mor, Dyffryn Aman, Ysgol Bro Dinefwr took part in the event on Thursday January 26 at County Hall in Carmarthen.

The results are outlined in Chapter 5.

Other [Email responses received]

5 emails and letters were submitted to the Council during the budget consultation period. These emails have been included in the overall analysis of the budget consultation.

Publicity

Local and regional press and local radio advertisements were used to inform the public how to become involved and obtain further information on the budget consultation. Carmarthenshire County council staff were also encouraged to take part in the Budget consultation via internal newsletter. Information was also highlighted on the council, and on the newsroom throughout the consultation period and generated 2250 views

³ The format of the survey was identical to the previous budget survey, to ensure comparability of results for all 17 proposals.

⁴ The responses are important in establishing the impact of Council proposals on people – a key consideration in undertaking good decision making based on evidence, and a requirement of the 2010 Equality Act.

on the budget consultation page. Relevant information was posted on social media (Twitter and Facebook) which reached 46,116 pages.

In addition, the consultation was publicised through relevant equality groups, including Equality Carmarthenshire, Ageing Well Carmarthenshire and the Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition for Action. In addition, All Town and Community Councils were asked to take part using the online consultation.

The public consultation phase ran from 21 December 2022 to 29 January 2023. In total, 2161 responses were received, only 1 were paper based.

About Average Index Score (AIS). Sometimes known as a 'weighted average', the AIS is a way of distilling the 'balance and strength of opinion' down into one number. Useful for questions with options to 'strongly agree', 'disagree', etc., the technique is used throughout the report. Values range from 2 (*everyone* strongly agrees) to minus 2 (*everyone* strongly disagrees).

Example

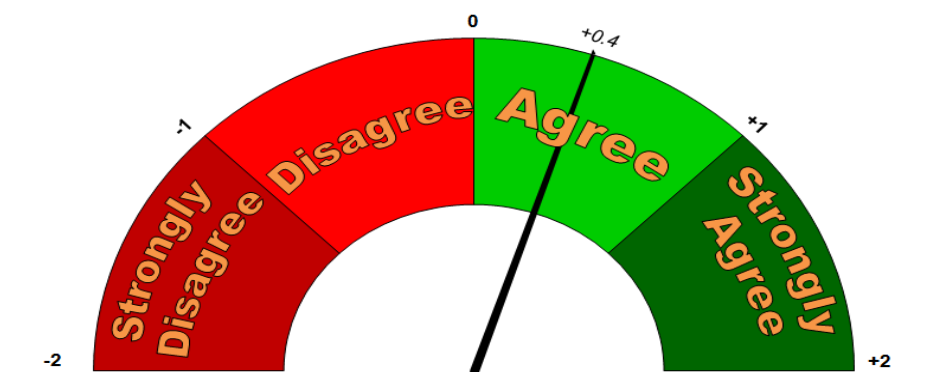
10 people are asked whether they 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'have no opinion', 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' that Wales will win the six nations.

Results...

- 3 strongly agree (each response worth 2, so=**6**)
- 3 agree (each response worth 1, so=**3**)
- 1 no opinion (each response worth 0, so=**0**)
- 1 disagree (each response worth -1, so= **-1**)
- 2 strongly disagree (each response worth -2, so=**-4**)

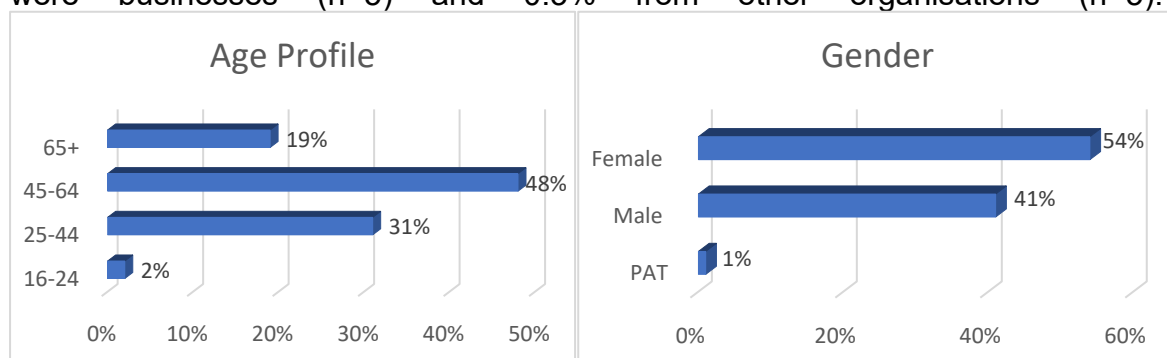
The AIS is calculated by adding all the numbers in bold: so, $6+3+0-1-4=4$;

Then dividing by the number of responses (10 in this case). The average index score is: $4\div 10=$ **0.4** (shown graphically below)



2) RESPONDENT PROFILE

Of the 1949 respondents who gave completed answers to demographic questions: 99% were from individuals, 0.4% from Town and Community Councils (n=7), 0.3% were businesses (n=5) and 0.3% from other organisations (n=5).⁵



Demographic Characteristic	Overall %
Transgender	9%
PNTS	6%
Relationship status	
Single	16%
Married	63%
Separated/Divorced	6%
Widowed	3%
Civil partnership	3%
PNTS	9%
Sexual orientation	
Straight	86%
LGB	3%
PNTS	11%
Religion	
Yes	52%
PNTS	8%
Caring responsibilities	
Yes	21%
PNTS	5%

Demographic Characteristic	Overall %
Ethnicity	
White	92%
BME	2%
Other	<1%
PNTS	6%
Disability	
Yes	13%
No	81%
PNTS	6%
Preferred language	
Welsh	21%
English	82%
Other	1%
Income	
<£15,000	8%
£15,000 – £29,999	22%
£30,000 – £44,999	21%
Over £45000	30%
PNTS	19%

A total of 1,911 respondents included their post codes. These have been grouped into six community areas for analytical purposes. Appendix 1 maps out the community area boundaries and their constituent postcodes.

	Community Area 1	Community Area 2	Community Area 3	Community Area 4	Community Area 5	Community Area 6
% Responses	31%	11%	25%	12%	11%	11%
Number of Responses	592	201	479	229	208	202

⁵ Unnamed Secondary School, Kidwelly Market, BLUE MARBLE REFILL, Corvus inn, St Ishmael Community Council, St Clears Council, Daniel Elias, Ysgol Dyffryn Taf School Council, Llandeilo Town Council, Quicksilver jewellery

3) SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Headline results – all 17 proposals

The table below shows the results from the budget consultation survey. It shows details of the proposal, then gives results for the question: 'how strongly do you agree, or disagree, with this proposal'.⁶ The table is ranked in order by AIS score. Those proposals with higher levels of support, reflected in higher AIS scores, appear first.⁷

Rank	Ranking	3 Year Saving	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neither (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Average Index Score
1	Commercial charge of Car park use	£10000	50%	35%	6%	4%	5%	1.2
2	Parking permits	£25000	49%	34%	7%	4%	5%	1.17
3	Publications of planning applications	£20000	50%	33%	8%	4%	6%	1.15
4	HWRC	£63000	40%	43%	7%	5%	7%	1.04
5	Music Service	£75000	22%	28%	16%	17%	16%	0.99
6	Nant-y-ci Park and Ride	£40000	34%	32%	16%	10%	8%	0.73
7	School rationalisation	£750000	28%	37%	14%	9%	12%	0.61
8	Charging at 9 car parks	£90000	32%	33%	7%	10%	18%	0.5
9	School crossing patrol	£16000	27%	32%	12%	15%	13%	0.45
10	Countryside access	£15000	30%	28%	12%	16%	14%	0.44
11	Pendine	£180000	28%	29%	15%	15%	13%	0.43
12	St Clears Asset transfer	£75000	21%	30%	22%	10%	16%	0.31
13	Litter bins	£100000	24%	30%	12%	17%	16%	0.29
14	Rising 4s policy	£500000	24%	29%	14%	12%	21%	0.22
15	Close St Clears Leisure centre	£75000	23%	25%	17%	14%	21%	0.19
16	Library services	£64000	22%	29%	12%	17%	20%	0.16
17	Youth club support withdrawal	£16000	15%	20%	16%	27%	22%	-0.2
18	Reduction of Youth workers 0.8FTE	£84000	13%	21%	20%	24%	22%	-0.2
19	Delegated school budget	£2.7mil	17%	22%	10%	18%	32%	-0.25

⁶ The survey itself gave summary information about each proposal to inform the decisions of respondents.

⁷ Values near to zero may indicate no clear consensus or may reflect apathy in relation to the proposal.

4) CONSULTATION FINDINGS – ALL PROPOSALS

Below, all 17 proposals are considered individually, in turn, in order to lay out a *comprehensive summary* of relevant consultation information.

Each summary begins by detailing relevant facts and figures, including the value of the proposal, its average index score (AIS), and its AIS rank against other proposals. It also gives an AIS for selected categories of respondent, for comparative purposes, and also to help meet our Equality Duty of demonstrating ‘due regard’ to equality. It is important to recognise that some proposals will be of specific relevance to people in certain categories. This must be taken in account in reaching decisions.

Views expressed through the public consultation have been considered together and themes identified.

The ‘other relevant information’ section includes information from *specific* sources, such as representations and organisational responses.

The views of councillors, (as expressed through budget seminars or scrutiny committees) are included under the ‘councillor engagement’ heading.

In the AIS charts that follow for each proposal, negative values are highlighted to show where results are, on balance, in opposition.

In order to strengthen the decision-making process, where a proposal has formed part of a previous budget consultation, these results are also included, for comparative purposes.

Information on all Equality impact assessments for each of the 17 proposals are available on request.

1. St Clears Leisure Centre

3 Year Savings: £75,000

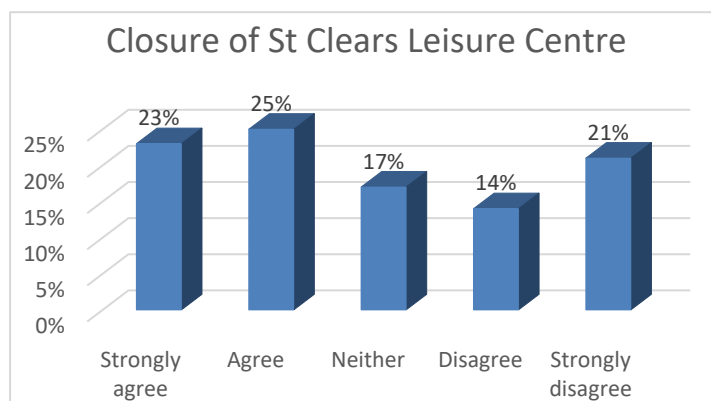
Information on savings proposal:

Based on usage (income/running costs) and its location we are looking to close the St Clears Leisure centre or asset transfer. To mitigate against this efficiency, we will continue to provide a full service at Carmarthen Leisure Centre which is approximately 10 miles away. In addition, there are several private leisure facilities in places such as Whitland, Llangynin and Carmarthen.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.07%

Closure of St Clears Leisure Centre

Average Index Score: 0.19
Overall Rank (of 19): 15
Sample Size: 1807



Closure of St Clears Leisure Centre

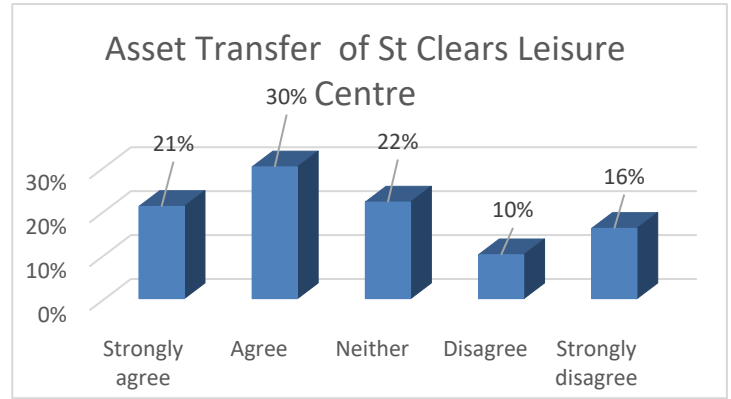
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.49	0.14	0.25	0.08	0.3	0.08	0.14	0.24	0.24	0.16
Sample	39	565	868	335	23	13	1001	753	234	165

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.19	0.34	0.76	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.33	-0.01	0.2	0.42
Sample	381	59	25	611	902	543	915	344	375	141

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.4	0.54	0.4	0.47	0.67	0.68
Sample	584	196	464	214	201	202

St Clears Leisure Centre Asset Transfer

Average Index Score: 0.31
Overall Rank (of 19): 12
Sample Size: 1807



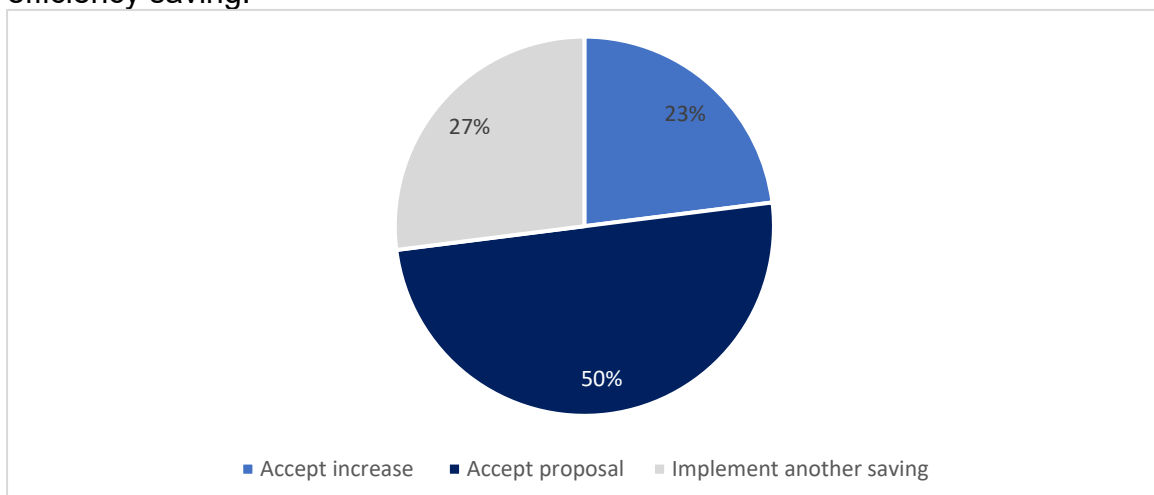
St Clears Leisure Centre Asset Transfer

	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.54	0.32	0.39	0.3	0.83	-0.15	0.29	0.45	0.27	0.39
Sample	37	558	857	330	23	13	987	742	228	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.33	0.56	0.44	0.34	0.37	0.3	0.47	0.2	0.42	0.4
Sample	374	57	25	605	893	535	902	340	369	136

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.1	0.61	0.56	0.58	0.77	0.68
Sample	574	192	463	212	204	198

Response to accepting a 0.07% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



90 comments were received on the proposal.

Impact

- Many expressed their disagreement with the proposal to close or asset transfer St Clears Leisure Centre, citing it would have detrimental impact on local users and the local community at large
- Related comments highlighted that the leisure centre accommodates a number of active clubs (e.g. badminton, rugby and football) who would be displaced by the closure, with many unable to travel to alternative facilities
- It was noted that alternative provision through private facilities was not comparable and, often, more expensive
- Some respondents pointed to the correlation between leisure and health noting that a reduction in leisure services could undermine the wellbeing of the local population. Concern that rising obesity rates will increase cost and service pressures on the NHS, with the resultant cost outweighing any savings yielded by the proposal
- Some observed that St Clears has a growing population with potential for increased future demand for leisure services owing to current and pipeline infrastructure projects, including housing developments and a new hospital
- Proposal will increase travelling costs and discourage some users from keeping healthy and active. Environmental impacts were also noted
- Recognition that difficult decisions must be made in the current economic climate. Proposal merits consideration if it is not economically viable to maintain the current facilities and there is alternative provision within a reasonable travelling distance
- Reference was made to leisure centres being a non-statutory service

Mitigation

- Co-use of facilities - bringing St Clears library service into the leisure centre could increase footfall and generate efficiency savings whilst maintaining a similar level of service provision
- Some highlighted success stories of community-run leisure facilities
- Others put forward a view that private sector operators are more efficient
- Extend the 'warm places' scheme to the leisure centre
- Deprioritise the Carmarthen Hwb scheme
- Several respondents did not wish to provide comment as they were not users of the leisure centre and instead encouraged further consultation with facility users.

2. Pendine Outdoor Education Centre

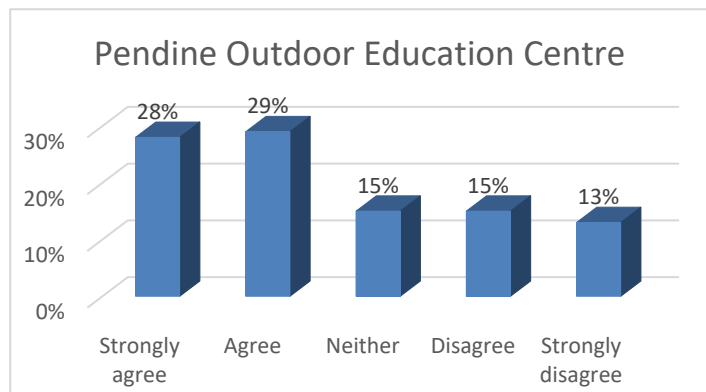
3 Year Savings: £180,000

Description:

The age of the infrastructure on site is of concern for the future and requires continued maintenance which is no longer viable. The proposal is to close Pendine education centre and look at providing an alternative facility within the county.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.17%

Average Index Score: 0.49
Overall Rank (of 19): 11
Sample Size: 2029

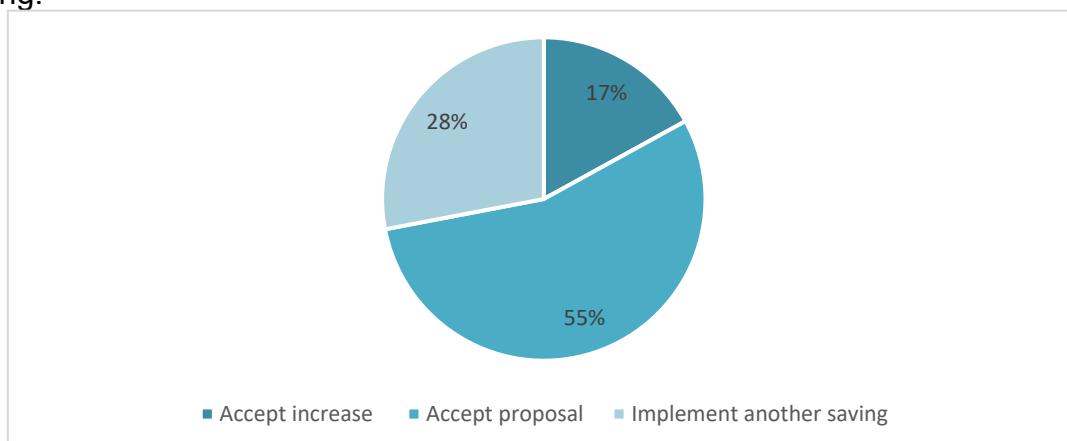


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.54	0.32	0.39	0.3	0.83	-0.15	0.29	0.45	0.27	0.39
Sample	37	558	857	330	23	13	987	742	228	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.33	0.56	0.44	0.34	0.37	0.3	0.47	0.2	0.42	0.4
Sample	374	57	25	605	893	535	902	340	369	136

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.1	0.61	0.56	0.58	0.77	0.68
Sample	574	192	463	212	204	198

Response to accepting a 0.17% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



49 comments related to the POEC proposal

Impact

- A widely held view that outdoor pursuits / residential experiences are crucial to younger people's learning and developmental journey, acquiring important skills and nurturing interests outside of the traditional school environment
- Concern on the impact of the proposal on the health and wellbeing of school pupils
- Economic impact emphasised – loss of jobs and increased spend in other counties (e.g. Llangrannog in Ceredigion)
- Some support for the proposal on the grounds that the Centre is not on par with other outdoor facilities, does not warrant continued maintenance and a replacement facility would improve on the current offering

Mitigation

- Ensure replacement facility is in operation before closing the Centre
- Private ownership or asset transfer

3. Library Service

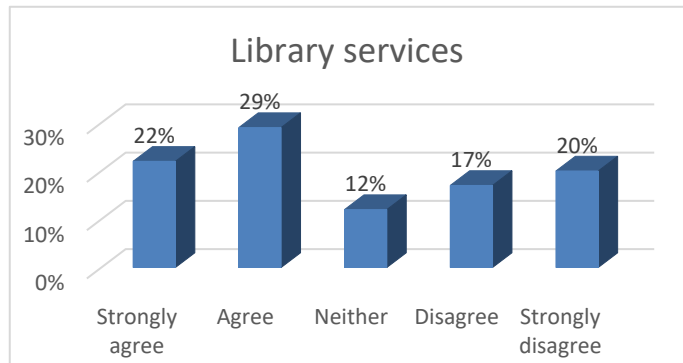
3 Year Savings: £64,000

Description:

Look for opportunities to asset transfer our smaller, least utilised branch libraries. If an asset transfer cannot be found, these branch libraries will be closed but alternative outreach provision will be considered.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.06%

Average Index Score: 0.16
Overall Rank (of 19): 16
Sample Size: 2027

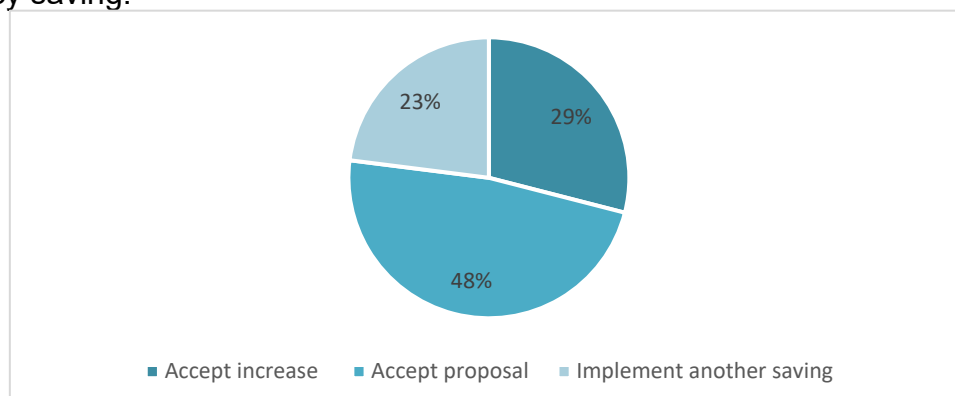


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.79	0.28	0.21	-0.09	0.39	0	0.07	0.35	0.17	0.38
Sample	39	558	862	334	23	13	995	749	228	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.06	-0.05	0.19	0.11	0.22	0.1	0.31	0.01	0.3	0.21
Sample	377	59	26	605	897	540	915	337	370	141

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.02	0.46	0.22	0.21	0.51	0.26
Sample	582	196	462	215	198	201

Response to accepting a 0.06% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



The libraries proposal generated **300** comments

Impact

- A wide-ranging view that the proposal is proportionate given the costs of running and maintaining an underutilised facility during a period of exceptional budgetary pressures. In addition, many were amenable to the proposal if it helped safeguard library services in core (main) facilities
- Proposal is reasonable given the increasing shift to digital media and change in consumption habits
- Some commended the Borrow Box & PORI apps as a means to access library services online
- Proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on Carmarthenshire's older demographic, rural residents and those who are transport poor
- Libraries are a critical resource, providing access to recreational, informational and educational/developmental resources that play an important role in people's wellbeing
- The 'social' function of libraries was emphasised, providing a designated warm space for users to engage with other people. Also promotes good mental wellbeing and combats loneliness and isolation
- Poor broadband connectivity may discourage people from accessing e-books and media at home
- Many views that the 3-year saving does not warrant the negative impacts that could be brought to bear by implementing the proposal – potential negative impacts are not commensurate to the value of savings the proposal will yield
- Proposal runs counter to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
- A number of respondents requested further information on which branch libraries were at risk in order to make a fully informed comment

Mitigation

- Preserve full service offering at core libraries supplemented by an extensive mobile service
- Mobile service will help mitigate the effects for older adults and disabled users
- Maintain less utilised facilities through volunteering and self-service
- Diversification – look at accommodating café/catering facilities
- Pooling of resources to create one multi-purpose community facility with access to key services
- Income generation by offering space/room to community groups
- Consider an annual membership charge for a greater selection of e-books, audiobooks and films
- Rural broadband initiatives to improve connectivity

Other comments relating to Communities Department

Particular concern was expressed in relation to the geographical impact of the proposals with many suggesting that the effects of the budgetary savings will be more pronounced in smaller, rural towns such as St Clears.

Other comments covered:

- the Council's staffing and wage structure
- repurposing of lesser used council buildings
- sale of Council assets to private developers
- need for a longer-term strategic vision for Carmarthenshire to implement more efficient and sustainable cost-saving measures
- a view that proposals are too narrow
- challenges of households meeting any service or council tax increases
- query on whether other council facilities provide value for money – reference made to Dylan Thomas' Boathouse and Y Gat

Members engagement: Communities Department

- Suggest that there is positive engagement with St Clears community on the leisure centre – can it be taken over and/or proven increase in usage otherwise it will need to be closed
- Members felt that greater certainty was needed over the alternative offering for Pendine in order to support closure
- Difficult to decide on library closures without knowing specifically which ones
- Some Believed that Pembrey County Park should not be over commercialised
- Suggestion that season tickets could apply to multiple parks – e.g. PCP and LLO
- Support to introduce car park charges at leisure centres
- Support increased equipment use to reduce domiciliary care visits
- Reduce residential care through use of extra care
- Support for Cwm Aur proposal
- Suggest introducing support for families that are providing care at home to prolong this approach
- Support for supported living approach
- Concern over increased demand for mental health services post COVID
- Belief that more adult services provision is needed in rural areas
- Suggestion that some council house stock could be converted into supported living
- Support for reducing B&Bs for temporary accommodation
- Suggestion that pest control could raise income for the council
- Support for raising Licencing charges
- Suggestion that school kitchens could provide catering for adult services
- Discussion over the viability of Llesiant Delta Wellbeing taking more calls – members reported concerns over existing capacity to respond to current service levels

4. Parking Services - Introduce charging at 9 car parks

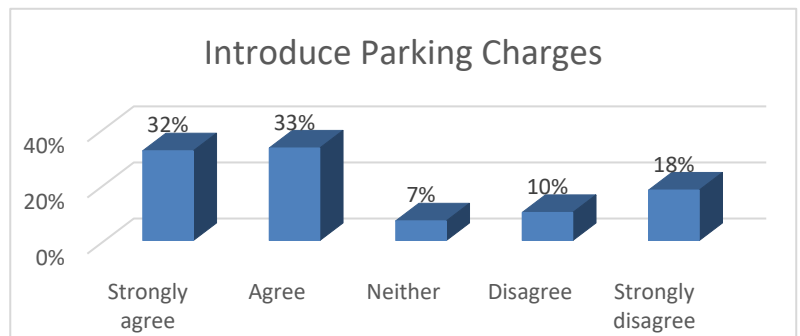
3 Year Savings: £90,000

Description: We are proposing to introduce a charge at 9 car parks which are currently free:

- Pottery Street, Llanelli
- Waunllanyrafon, Llanelli
- Eva Terrace, Ferryside
- Llanybydder
- Station Car park, Burry Port
- Seaview Terrace, Burry Port
- Glanyrafon, Kidwelly
- Station Road, Kidwelly
- Llansteffan.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.09%

Average Index Score: 0.50
Overall Rank (of 19): 8
Sample Size: 2062

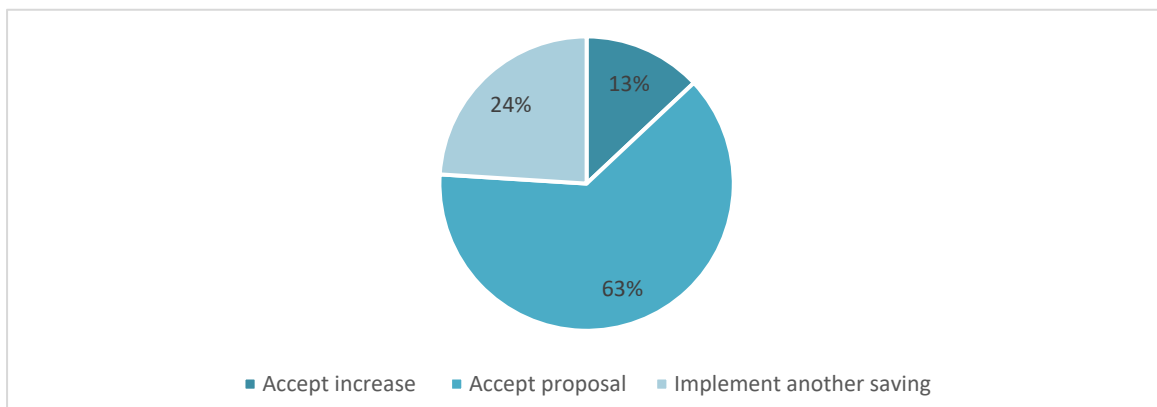


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.21	0.61	0.51	0.39	0.74	1.33	0.49	0.61	0.38	0.78
Sample	38	560	875	344	23	12	1006	758	235	166

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.41	0.55	0.65	0.58	0.53	0.43	0.69	0.39	0.79	0.32
Sample	387	60	26	616	918	549	924	343	378	143

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.85	0.83	0.86	-0.87	0.79	0.54
Sample	579	198	470	228	204	198

Response to accepting a 0.09% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid



efficiency saving.

37 comments received:

Impact

- Widespread concern that the proposal will impact the health of town centres and independent shops on the High Street at a time when consumer footfall and spend is low
- Proposal will further encourage use of out-of-town shopping centres
- Some highlighted the risk of increased off-road / illegal car parking as a means to avoid paying a parking charge
- Many related the impacts to specific areas such as Kidwelly, Ferryside, Llansteffan and Llanybydder
- Some opposed the blanket approach, upholding that each car park has a different context / use profile (e.g. retail, tourism) and should be assessed individually
- Infrastructure, maintenance and enforcement costs will offset any savings yielded from the proposal
- Comments in favour of the proposal referred to Council's charging policy at other sites across the country, suggesting it would promote a consistent and equitable approach

Mitigation

- Ensure provision of 'all day' car parking (as opposed to a maximum length of stay) and a tapered charge that is reasonable at the lower end. Furthermore, offer more 'shorter stay' options (e.g. 30mins)
- Query on whether there is a role for private / commercial operators
- It was suggested that there should be further consultation on each car park location
- Additional areas were put forward for consideration, including Abergwili.

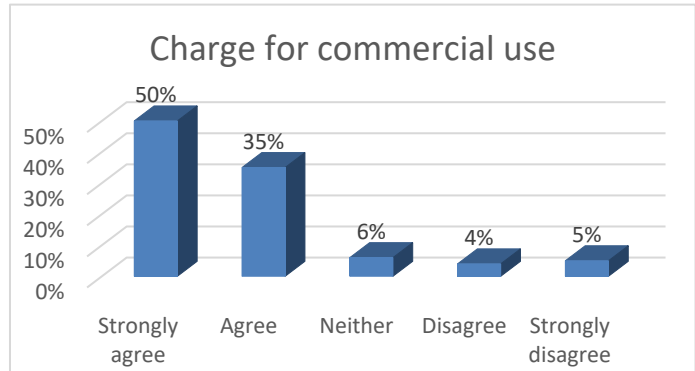
5. Parking Services - Charge for commercial use

3 Year Savings: £10,000

Description: We are proposing a charge for the commercial use of these car parks.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.01%

Average Index Score: 1.20
Overall Rank (of 19): 1
Sample Size: 2044

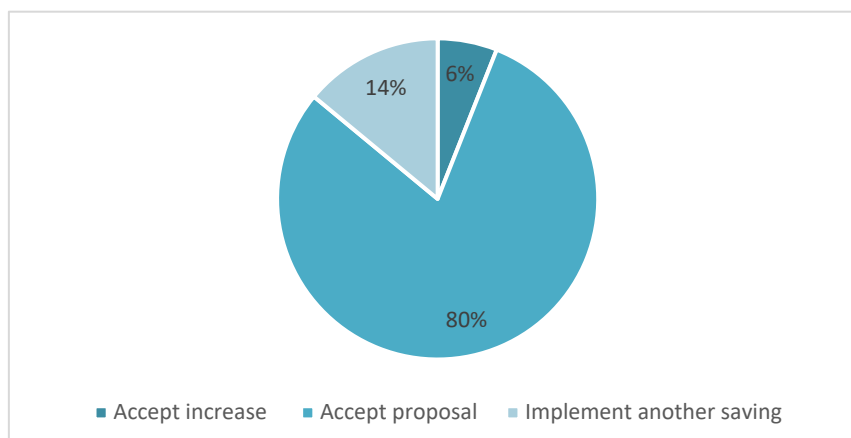


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.63	1.22	1.26	1.14	1.61	1.5	1.2	1.31	1.16	1.2
Sample	38	560	872	336	23	12	995	760	233	163

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	1.21	1.34	1.15	1.23	1.23	1.19	1.33	1.14	1.27	1.2
Sample	380	59	26	612	912	547	918	342	378	140

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	1.32	1.1	1.25	1.1	1.4	1.33
Sample	579	197	467	224	201	197

Response to accepting a 0.01% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



7 comments received:

- Broad support expressed through comments
- Proposal will instil a level of equity/fairness between general (car) and commercial users
- Some surprise that the Council doesn't currently charge for commercial use – a 'missed opportunity' to generate income from mobile banks and fairs
- Views on the need for flexibility as to how the charge is applied to ensure that organisations that provide an important community / health service (e.g. screening, mobile banks) are not unduly charged

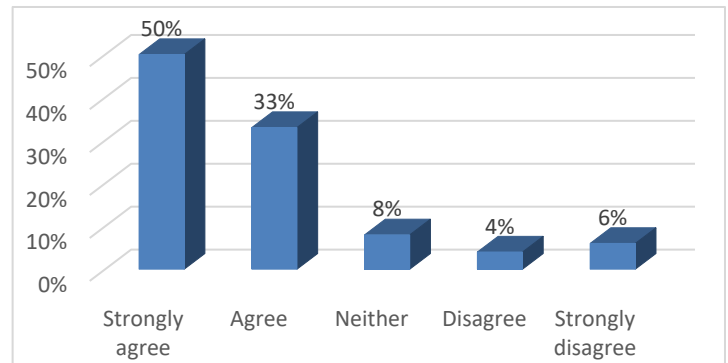
6. Publication of Planning Applications

3 Year Savings: £20,000

Description: It is proposed to stop advertising in the local newspapers and publicise through other methods that are currently undertaken. This can include direct consultations with statutory bodies that include Local Members and Town & Community Council, site notices, and neighbour notifications. A list of registered and determined applications are also published weekly on the Council's website, as well as being available to view in real-time.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.02%

Average Index Score: 1.15
Rank (of 19): 3
Sample Size: 2040

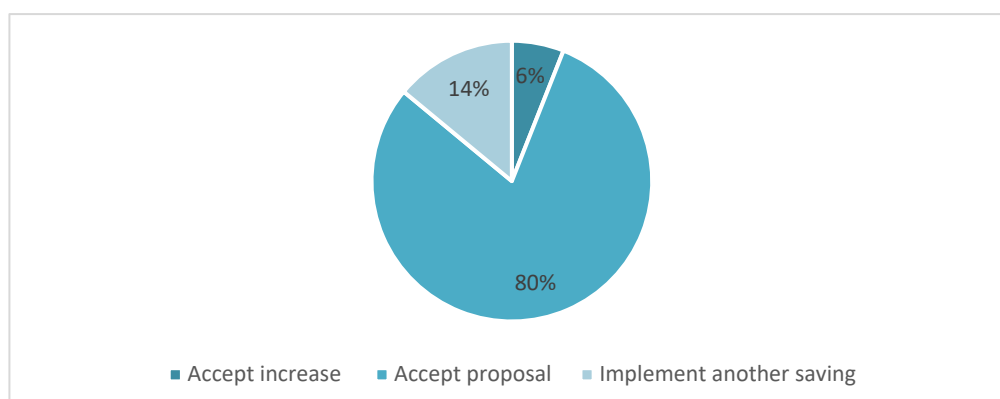


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.37	1.3	1.2	0.98	1.48	1.67	1.18	1.23	1.03	1.23
Sample	38	553	868	347	23	12	996	760	235	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	1.11	1.03	1.42	1.07	1.17	1.06	1.36	1.05	1.21	1
Sample	381	59	26	615	905	551	914	342	374	140

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	1.13	1.3	1.28	1.08	1.35	1.25
Sample	578	200	468	220	203	200

Response to accepting a 0.02% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



12 comments related to the publication of planning applications

Impact

- Proposal is in keeping with the growing trend to access information electronically
- Newspaper readership / circulation is limited and therefore the cost of advertising no longer provides value for money
- A view that there are inefficiencies within the current planning system resulting in longer applications and poor use of council resources

Mitigation

- Use of social media
- Increase planning application fees to cover promotional costs
- Importance of maintaining site notices highlighted
- A supporting comment that Town and Rural Councils should bear a greater responsibility for publishing and discussing planning applications

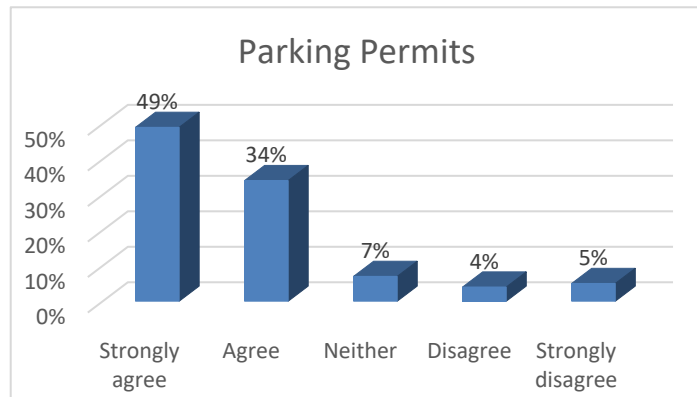
7. Parking Services - Parking permits

3 Year Savings: £25,000

Description: There is an administrative cost in receiving applications for on-street parking permits, checking eligibility and vehicle details, processing applications and issuing permits. There is also a cost to patrolling and enforcing the permit parking areas and maintaining road markings. Residents permits have cost £30 since 2009 and the proposal is to increase on-street permit charge to £40 per year to cover costs.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.02%

Average Index Score: 1.17
Overall Rank (of 19): 2
Sample Size: 2031

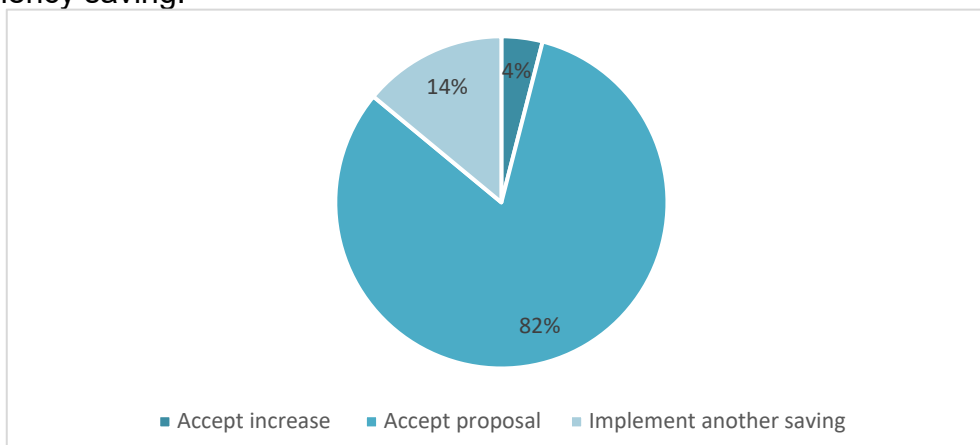


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.29	1.14	1.26	1.15	1.22	1.55	1.14	1.28	1.21	1.24
Sample	38	553	867	341	23	11	991	760	227	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	1.18	1.32	1.15	1.13	1.22	1.03	1.35	1.14	1.23	1.17
Sample	378	59	26	612	904	545	920	338	375	140

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	1.27	1.29	1.27	1.14	1.29	1.1
Sample	580	197	467	218	203	201

Response to accepting a 0.02% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



4 comments received:

- Limited number of comments
- Proposal is fair as permit costs have been maintained at their current level since 2009
- Brings the service in line with inflationary increases
- A view that the current permit allowance per household does not reflect the variability of parking provision in some areas. Where spaces are limited, this results in residents not being able to park near their property as some households have multiple vehicle permits registered at their address.

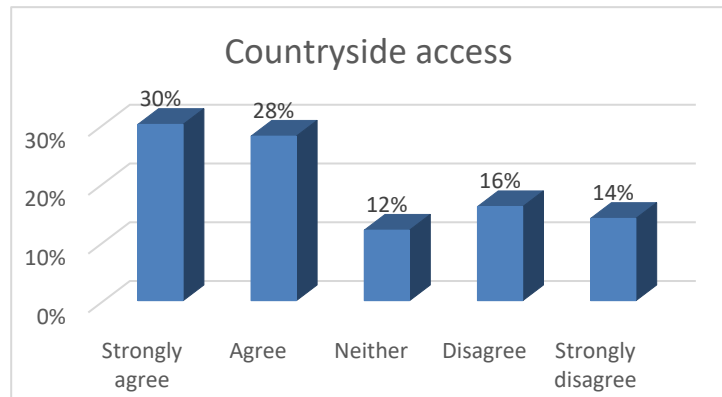
8. Countryside access

3-Year Saving: £15,000

Description: Cease discretionary clearance by Contractors (3 cuts per year) of overhanging and encroaching vegetation on 70% of the promoted PROW network (132km) and engage with landowners to ensure they take responsibility for their encroaching vegetation.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.01%

Average Index Score: 0.44
Overall Rank (of 19): 10
Sample Size: 2024

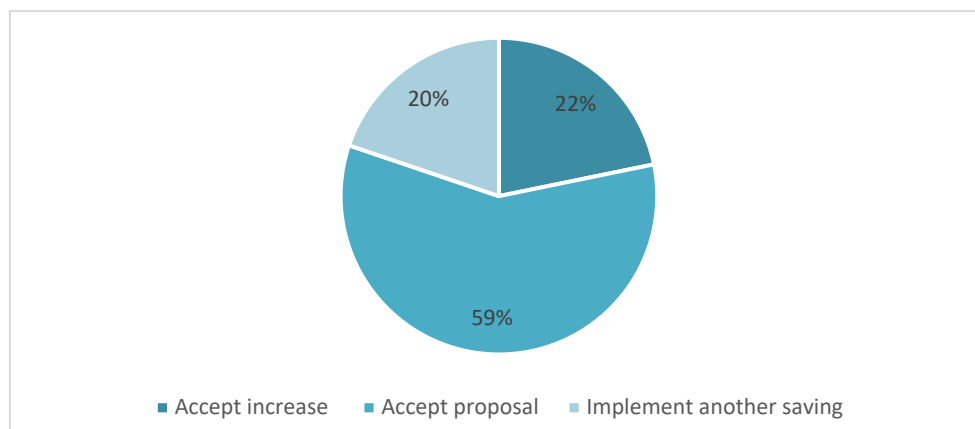


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.03	0.42	0.45	0.44	0.3	0	0.43	0.5	0.47	0.39
Sample	38	548	867	340	23	11	987	755	231	162

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.37	0.54	0.48	0.46	0.48	0.43	0.51	0.37	0.46	0.42
Sample	380	59	25	608	902	543	912	343	373	142

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.34	0.51	0.44	0.27	0.55	0.59
Sample	579	194	463	221	201	200

Response to accepting a 0.01% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



13 comments related to the countryside access proposal

Impact

- The importance of maintaining Public Rights of Way was recognised
- Respondents underscored the social and health benefits of walking/rambling
- Significant concern that countryside footpaths could become inaccessible
- Possible impacts on tourism were emphasised if footpaths cannot be freely and safely navigated. Could give rise to negative perceptions of the county's amenities
- Risk of injury
- Broad agreement as landowners should be responsible for their own maintenance

Mitigation

- Suggestion that landowners should be invoiced for work if they fall foul of their maintenance responsibilities
- Consider alternative schemes such as building raised beds for wildflowers
- Work with community groups to develop a volunteering scheme for maintenance work whilst contributing to the costs of equipment/tools

9. Nant-y-Ci Park and Ride

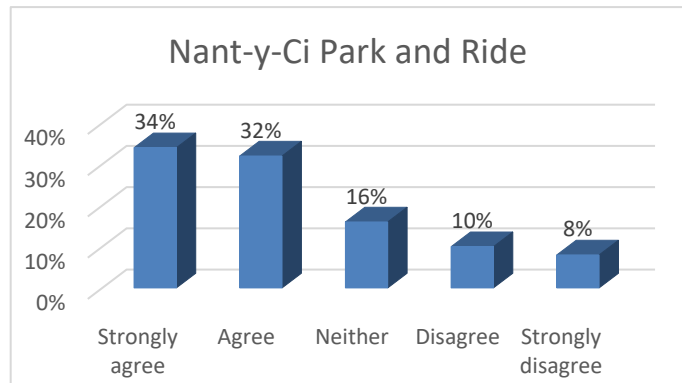
3-Year Saving: £40,000

Description:

Withdrawal of service between Nant-y-Ci, Town Centre and Glangwili Hospital. The service is part funded by Hywel Dda health board and discussions will take place before any service change.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.04%

Average Index Score: 0.73
Overall Rank (of 19): 6
Sample Size: 2019

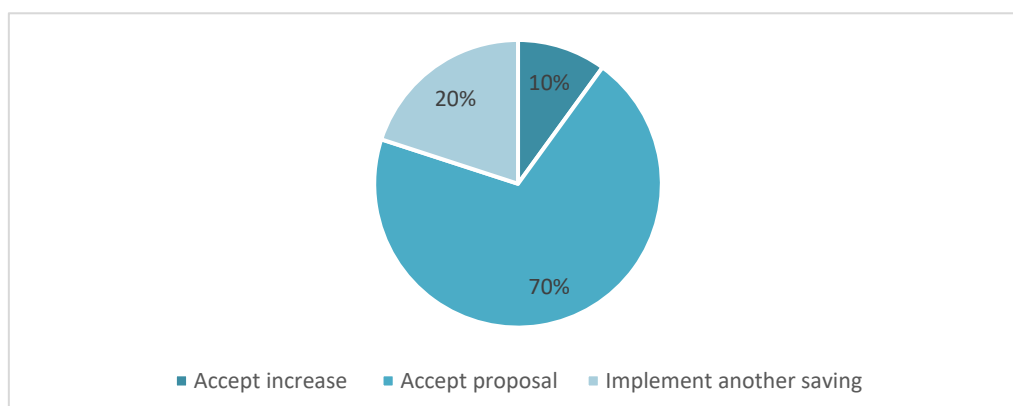


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.81	0.81	0.83	0.45	1.22	1.54	0.68	0.86	0.51	1.02
Sample	38	548	867	340	23	13	987	750	232	162

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.81	0.84	1	0.69	0.75	0.6	0.92	0.63	0.79	0.69
Sample	378	58	25	608	902	546	910	340	375	140

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.61	0.96	0.77	0.85	0.9	0.84
Sample	574	192	471	220	205	200

Response to accepting a 0.04% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



11 comments received

Impact

- Limited number of comments
- Concern about the impact on staff and visitor parking at Glangwili Hospital
- Concern that this would have a disproportionate impact on disabled users
- Some were unaware of the service and felt it required better promotion / advertisement

Mitigation

- Consideration should be given to other pick-up points to improve the viability of the service
- Use of County Cars scheme for hospital appointments
- Re-investment of funds to improve car parking at Glangwili

10. Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

3-Year Saving: £63000

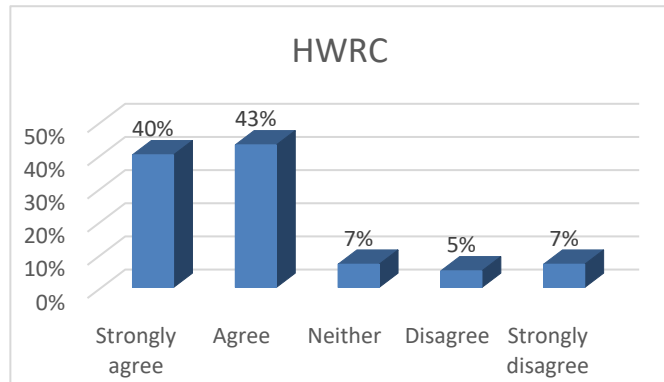
Description: This proposal focuses on the rationalisation of the days and times that the sites are open based upon usage.

1. Change of Whitland opening hours - 10am -4pm all year - £7,500

2. Change Nantycaws and Wernddu to close on one week day based on site usage - £55,500

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.06%

Average Index Score: 1.04
Overall Rank (of 19): 4
Sample Size: 2030

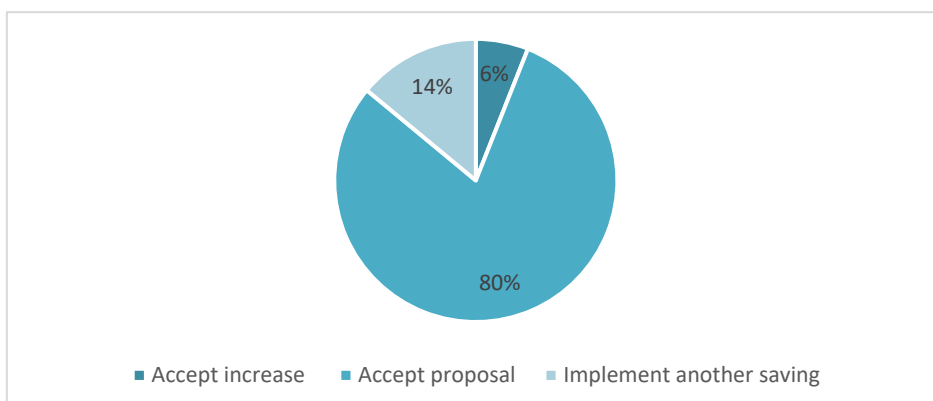


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.24	1.11	1.08	0.95	1.35	1.64	1.08	1.07	1.03	1.26
Sample	37	552	870	339	23	10	991	756	233	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	1.07	1.12	1.32	0.95	1.06	1.04	1.16	0.86	1.09	1.07
Sample	378	58	25	610	905	544	916	342	378	138

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.93	1.11	1.11	1.14	1.25	1.19
Sample	574	197	469	222	204	200

Response to accepting a 0.06% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



11 comments received:

Impact

- A majority view that reduced operating hours would bring to bear adverse environmental (e.g. increase in fly tipping) and economic (e.g. loss of employment / reduced hours) impacts
- A number held the view that reduced operating hours would be unjust on those in employment (i.e. working '9 to 5' roles)
- An alternative view that the proposal would have a minimal impact

Mitigation

- It was suggested that a Sunday closure could realise greater savings
- Extend opening hours during summer and spring seasons

11. Litter Bins

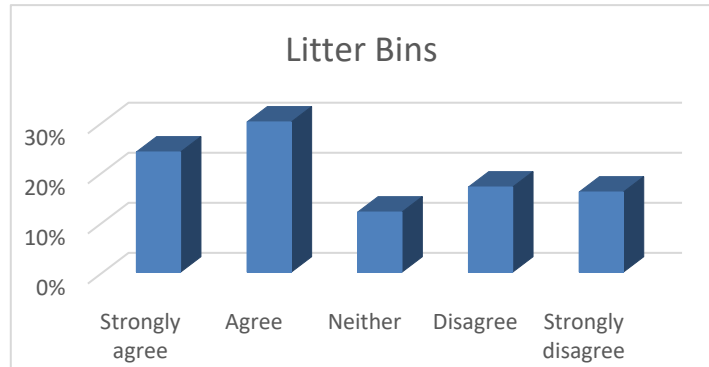
3-Year Saving: £100,000

Description:

We are looking to rationalise up to 20% of litter bins for the County. Following a review, we have seen that bins in laybys are often filled with household waste which is in contradiction to the initial purpose of these bins (i.e., fast food packaging). This rationalisation will deliver savings on Waste disposal charges, operative time and plant costs.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.10%

Average Index Score: 0.29
Overall Rank (of 19): 13
Sample Size: 2006

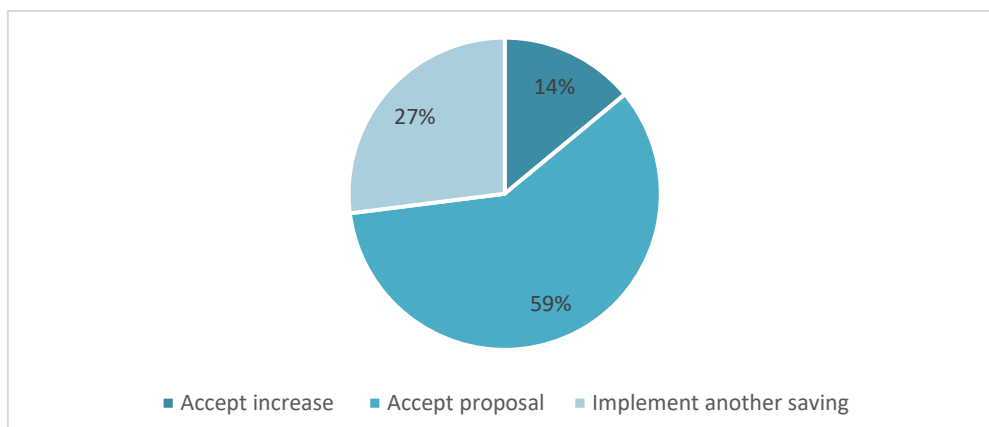


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.7	0.3	0.37	0.3	0.7	0.91	0.29	0.42	0.27	0.29
Sample	37	549	860	335	23	11	984	747	231	164

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.33	0.37	0.72	0.32	0.36	0.3	0.43	0.2	0.41	0.29
Sample	380	57	25	601	904	538	908	339	374	140

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.24	0.36	0.38	0.33	0.37	0.27
Sample	571	194	466	222	202	197

Response to accepting a 0.10% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



This proposal received **44** comments:

Impact

- Concern that the proposal could lead to an increase in fly tipping
- Reference was made to the increased risk of dog fouling
- Some against proposal as it will harm the appeal of the county and therefore its potential for tourism
- Support on the basis that commercial operators (i.e. fast food chains) should contribute to the costs of the cleansing service and it is unfair on tax payers
- Incorrect use of litter bins is better than the alternative of fly tipping / littering
- A view that the proposal is ambiguous

Mitigation

- Bins located within or adjacent to town centres should be prioritised
- Improved enforcement through patrols and CCTV monitoring would lessen misuse of litter bins and reduce incidences of fly tipping
- Consider the design of bins to facilitate the correct disposal of waste
- Apply a 'litter levy' on commercial operators
- Print vehicle registration details on fast food packaging to combat littering
- Public information campaigns to raise awareness of the correct methods to dispose of household waste

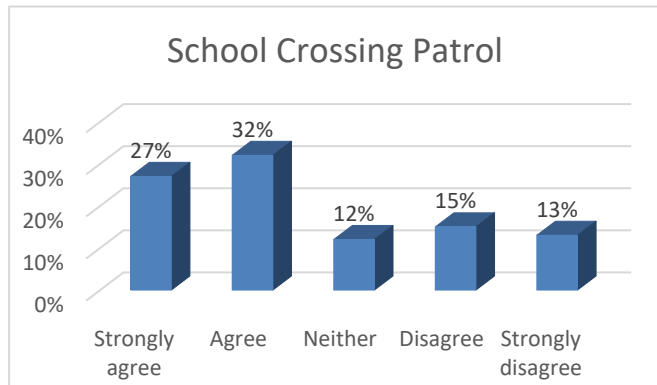
12. School Crossing Patrols

3 Year Savings: £16,000

Description: It is proposed that sites will no longer require a school crossing patrol if they do not meet the national criteria. Notwithstanding this, the home to school journey remains a parental responsibility unless home to school transport is provided by the authority.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.02%

Average index score: 0.45
Overall Rank (of 19): 9
Sample Size: 2009

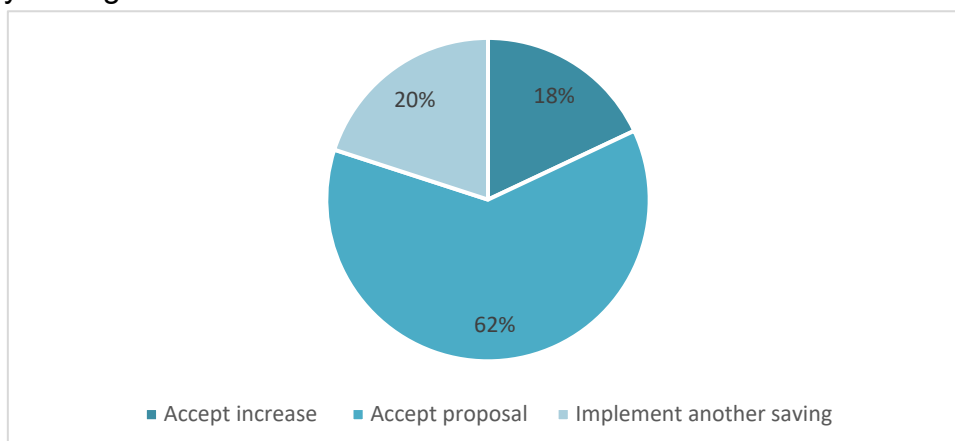


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.76	0.33	0.49	0.55	0.36	0.83	0.38	0.56	0.43	0.54
Sample	37	546	862	344	22	12	987	753	234	162

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.49	0.57	0.62	0.53	0.48	0.51	0.47	0.47	0.56	0.42
Sample	375	58	26	602	906	544	911	337	371	142

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.42	0.63	0.43	0.41	0.52	0.57
Sample	572	197	467	218	201	200

Response to accepting a 0.02% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



The school crossing patrol proposal generated **178** comments

Impact

- Comments suggesting the service should be maintained formed the biggest response category
- A prevailing view that school crossing patrols are critical to ensuring pupil safety
- The risk of a traffic accident, and subsequent impact, outweighs the savings to be realised by implementing the proposal
- A safe environment will encourage children to walk to school – improving health and physical activity
- Proposal may increase vehicular usage around schools if more parents drive their children to school, bringing about environmental health impacts
- Concern that some drivers do not adhere to lower speed limits in school / built-up areas
- Concern that school staff may be required to maintain the service if withdrawn by the Council, placing additional pressures on schools
- Some agreement subject to an individual impact assessment for each affected school site prior to withdrawal of the service
- Reference was made to some schools having both a school crossing patrol and pedestrian crossings (e.g. Pelican crossing)

Mitigation

- Comments suggesting that the responsibility should lie with parents/carers. Similarly, whether the service could be run by parents in a volunteering capacity
- Use of Pelican or Puffin crossings to allow pupils to traverse the road safely
- Enforcement of 20mph speed limits will create a safer environment

Other comments relating to Place and Infrastructure Department

32 'other' comments were received

- Further comments on the imbalance of service provision in urban and rural areas, with rural residents seen to have poorer access to services
- Rationalisation of council buildings in light of agile working arrangements
- Views on the Council's spend on signage (Welcome to Carmarthen)
- Many of the proposals will generate a negligible saving, part of which will be expended when administering their implementation
- Council pay and management structure
- The survey does not set out the probable impacts of implementing the proposal
- Some comments on the structure of the survey

Members engagement: Place and Infrastructure

- Members did not accept a 10% increase to car parking charges
- Wide ranging discussion on 9 new car parks charging – concern that this will impact local shops/businesses – broad consensus that this was not supported, but if it proceeded, it was important that each locality needed to be looked at on its own merits
- Support for NantyCi parking proposal but recognised that NHS agreement was important
- Agreement to raise Residents parking charges, with suggestion that a higher increase to £50 could be considered
- Support to increase charges for commercial car park usage, especially example of banks, but recognise the need for discretion – should not be applied to e.g. blood bank.
- Mixed support for reduction in School Crossing Patrols
- Majority not supporting enforcing landowner responsibility for countryside access
- Strongly against cuts to highways general maintenance and supportive of raising council tax to fund
- Supportive of Camera car
- Strongly against Technical surveys proposal, and supportive of raising council tax to fund
- Broad support for all other highways proposals
- Broad support for all Place and Sustainability proposals
- General agreement for bins rationalisation but suggested local member involvement
- Broad agreement on HWRC opening days, but must be kept open at weekends
- Broad support for all other waste and environmental services proposals

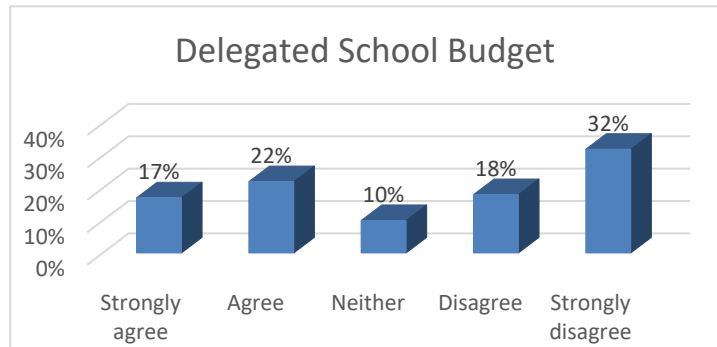
13. Delegated School's Budget

3-Year Saving: £2.7m

Description: While we will continue to provide full funding to meet the substantial increase in energy costs and teacher staff pay awards, we propose that the delegated budget to schools should be reduced by 2.1% in line with all other Council Departments. The management of the overall delegated school budget will be the responsibility of the school's governing body who will have to manage this reduction.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 2.50%

Average index score: -0.25
Overall Rank (of 19): 19
Sample Size: 2006

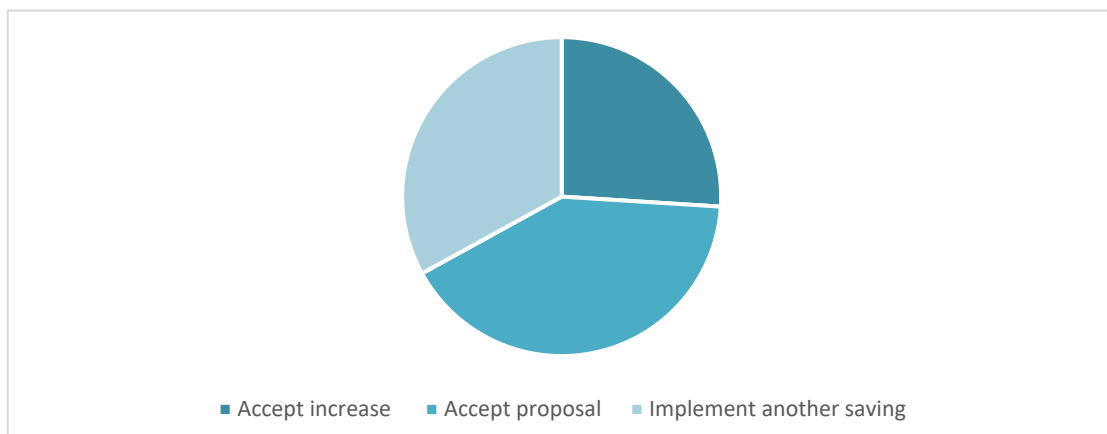


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	-0.97	-0.5	-0.11	0	-0.74	-0.67	-0.37	-0.04	-0.01	-0.14
Sample	38	548	861	339	23	12	988	749	229	161

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	-0.19	-0.1	-0.04	-0.13	-0.2	-0.09	-0.29	-0.24	-0.21	-0.09
Sample	380	58	26	601	905	541	914	338	376	139

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.37	-0.03	-0.19	-0.22	-0.08	-0.15
Sample	569	200	467	217	202	200

Response to accepting a 2.5% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



The Delegated Schools Budget proposal generated **75** comments

Impact

- A majority view that education should be a 'protected service'
- Emphasis was given to the impact on pupils' social and mental wellbeing, educational attainment and longer-term career opportunities
- Widespread concern that the proposal will further compound the effects of Covid on pupils' learning and development, with reference made to challenges around social integration, speech and language and pupil behaviour
- Concern in relation to larger classroom sizes and fewer teachers / teaching assistants, placing additional pressures on schools
- Proposal will undermine the deliverability of the new Curriculum for Wales
- Fear that teachers may leave the profession
- Risk of schools being placed in Special Measures
- Disinvestment in education is penny wise and pound foolish, inhibiting long-term economic growth and prosperity
- Possible impacts on the use and development of the Welsh language were highlighted – implementation of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs)
- Some agreement that the delegated schools budget should be reviewed but not to the detriment of smaller, local schools
- An alternative view that the delegated schools budget could be expended more efficiently
- Specific mention was made of Ysgol Heol Goffa and SEN provision

Mitigation

- Review funding to support/ancillary functions such as Challenge Advisors
- Seek additional funding at a national level

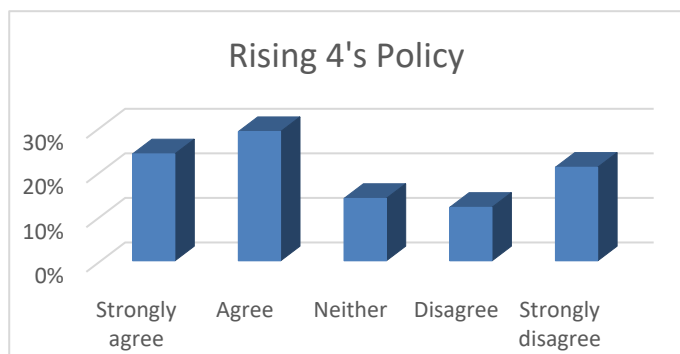
14. Rising 4's Policy

3-Year Saving: £500,000

Description: These non-statutory aged pupils receive a full-time education in a school when funding is available to provide this provision in alternative settings. The childcare funding for Wales provided by Welsh Government provides up to 30 hours free education and childcare for children aged between 3-4 for up to 48 weeks of the year. At a time when revenue expenditure is under extreme pressure, the funding of non-statutory full-time pupils at such an early age could be re-prioritised to fund other statutory functions from the schools delegated budget. Therefore, we are proposing to remove the rising 4's policy.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.50%

Average index score: 0.22
Overall Rank (of 19): 14
Sample Size: 1997

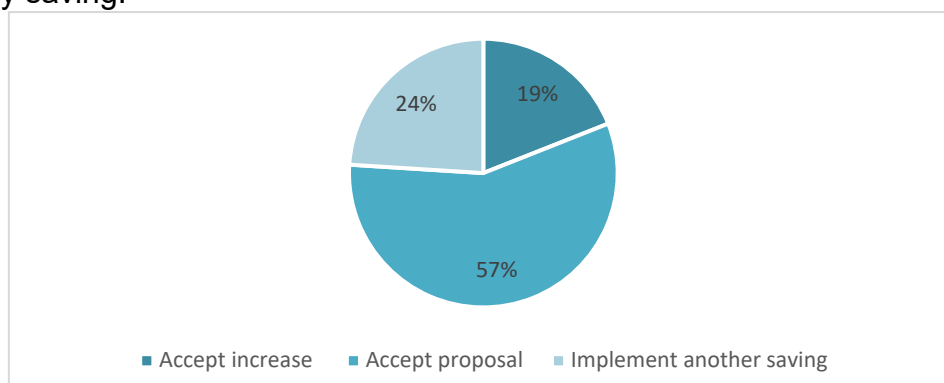


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	-0.88	-0.22	0.43	0.4	-1.04	-0.92	0.1	0.32	0.34	0.22
Sample	34	549	859	338	23	13	986	745	232	163

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.36	0.32	0.5	0.19	0.23	0.4	0.07	0.3	0.19	0.39
Sample	376	59	26	602	897	543	911	333	371	141

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.19	0.41	0.22	0.16	0.22	0.09
Sample	567	199	466	216	204	200

Response to accepting a 0.5% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



This proposal received **31** comments:

Impact

- A number were against the proposal, advocating that all children should be afforded the opportunity to begin school at 4 years
- Has an important role in preparing young children for education
- Many views that the policy facilitates parents' transition back into the workplace and its removal would place jobs at risk
- Costs of childcare are prohibitive
- Concern that there are insufficient nursery / childcare places to manage the impacts of the proposal
- A comment that the current policy is applied unequally across primary schools in Carmarthenshire and its removal would restore parity

Mitigation

- Funding flexibility – it was suggested that childcare funding for Wales be used to cover the Rising 4's policy at parents' discretion

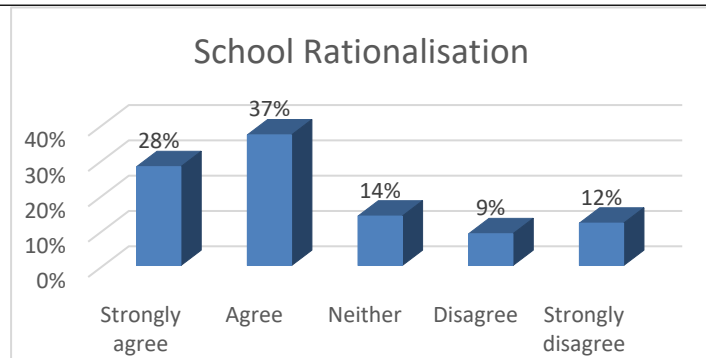
15. School Rationalisation

3-Year Saving: £750,000

Description: These non-statutory aged pupils receive a full-time education in a school when funding is available to provide this provision in alternative settings. The childcare funding for Wales provided by Welsh Government provides up to 30 hours free education and childcare for children aged between 3-4 for up to 48 weeks of the year. At a time when revenue expenditure is under extreme pressure, the funding of non-statutory full-time pupils at such an early age could be re-prioritised to fund other statutory functions from the schools delegated budget. Therefore, we are proposing to remove the rising 4's policy.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.72%

Average index score: 0.61
Overall Rank (of 19): 7
Sample Size: 1991

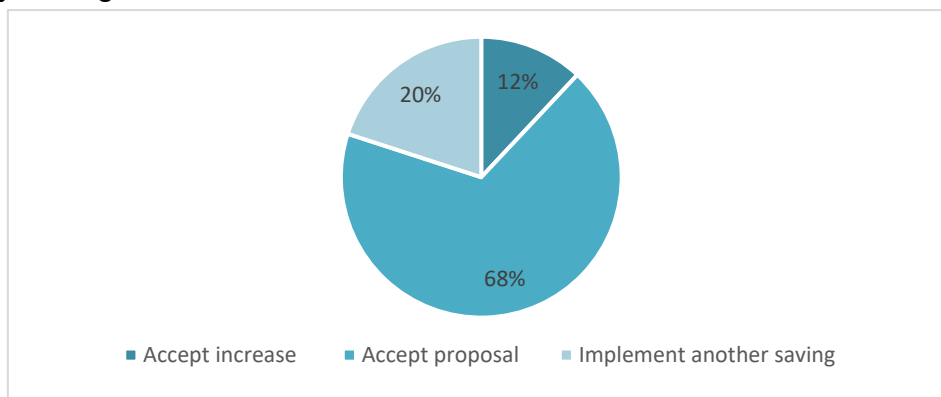


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.69	0.42	0.69	0.78	0	-0.55	0.51	0.77	0.61	0.7
Sample	36	540	858	340	23	11	975	753	230	162

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.66	0.71	0.84	0.57	0.65	0.61	0.67	0.57	0.65	0.68
Sample	376	58	25	598	897	541	906	335	372	139

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	0.52	0.58	0.78	0.43	0.98	0.52
Sample	565	196	462	218	201	565

Response to accepting a 0.5% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



This proposal generated **53 comments**

Impact

- Comments outlined the negative impacts on pupil wellbeing due to a change of routine, loss of social networks etc.
- Some respondents maintained this would have a disproportionate impact on rural schools
- A view that schools have an important 'community' / 'hub' role in smaller and/or remote areas
- Proposal may fuel urbanisation – pushing families away from rural areas to larger towns with a consequential impact on rural economies
- Some agreement that the consolidation / amalgamation of smaller schools is a necessary and fair measure to reducing operating costs
- Acknowledgment of the age and condition of some school buildings
- Merged schools could provide a better learning experience for pupils with improved access to resources and curriculum opportunities
- Concern that decommissioning schools will cause buildings to fall into a state of disrepair. Respondents requested consideration be given to a longer-term, cohesive strategy for repurposing and/or redeveloping empty buildings
- Proposal is generalised and requires further detail of the impact on specific schools / areas. Some requested the undertaking of an impact assessment for each school

Mitigation

- Open up school buildings on evenings and weekends to generate income
- Give more prominence / weighting to school location and proximity when determining new planning applications
- Respondents cautioned against an over-reliance on school performance statistics as some factors (e.g. staff sickness) may reflect unfairly on individual schools. Consideration should be given to the wider social/community context

16. Youth Support Services

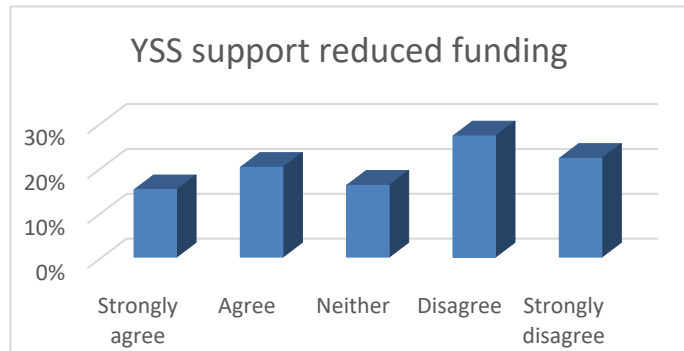
3-Year Saving: £100,000

Description: We are looking to reduce the financing of youth clubs by £16k and to seek alternative possible funding sources. Additionally, we are proposing that we reduce full-time school-based youth workers to 0.8FTE (Full-time equivalent). This can provide schools with the option to either fund the remaining 0.2FTE In addition, we will not be looking to fill vacant posts.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.10%

Youth support services reduced funding

Average index score: -0.20
Overall Rank (of 19): 17
Sample Size: 1954



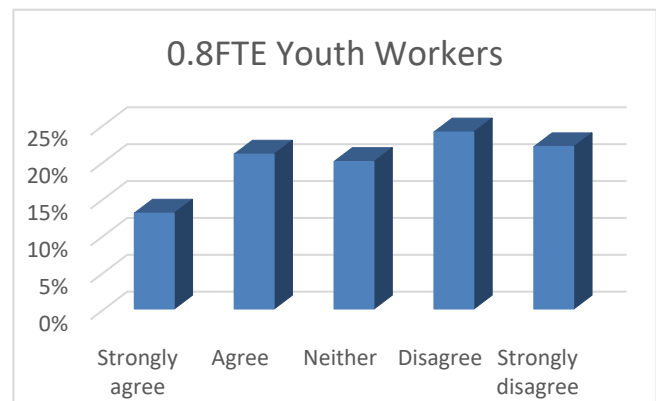
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.43	-0.3	-0.12	-0.21	-0.05	-0.82	-0.32	0	-0.02	-0.09
Sample	37	532	842	332	20	11	960	733	230	161

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	-0.08	-0.21	-0.83	-0.12	-0.13	-0.17	-0.16	-0.19	-0.08	-0.26
Sample	371	57	24	600	880	531	888	332	365	138

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.23	-0.08	-0.2	-0.16	-0.03	-0.19
Sample	566	191	461	207	199	197

0.8FTE Youth Workers

Average index score: -0.20
Overall Rank (of 19): 18
Sample Size: 1840

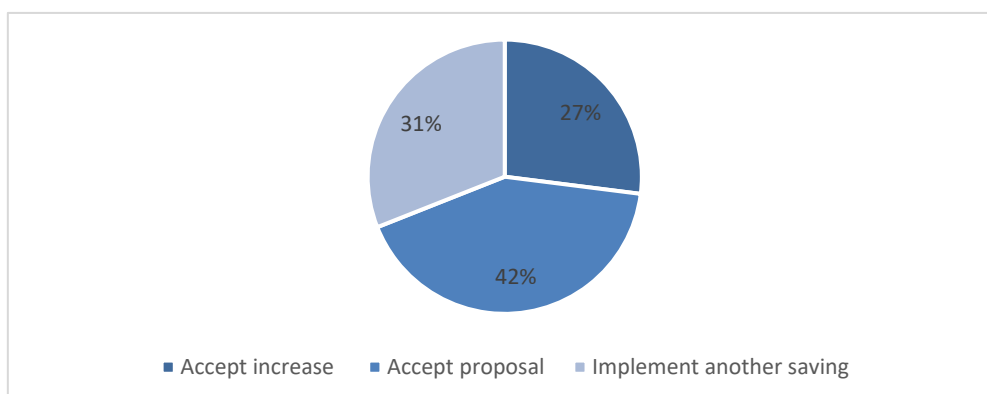


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	0.33	-0.3	-0.13	-0.13	0.16	-0.27	-0.3	0	-0.1	-0.1
Sample	36	522	786	298	19	11	915	681	215	158

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	-0.15	-0.2	-0.67	-0.1	-0.15	-0.19	-0.18	-0.09	-0.17	-0.23
Sample	346	55	24	563	826	496	844	305	338	130

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	-0.23	-0.12	-0.14	-0.1	-0.04	-0.2
Sample	531	181	426	195	182	194

Response to accepting a 0.10% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



50 comments related to the Youth Support Services proposal

Impact

- Youth services provide social, health and cultural benefits
- Widespread view that school youth workers are a valuable asset to children and young people
- Youth clubs have an important ‘community’ role and provide a creative outlet and safe/trusted space for young people
- Reference was made to the growing numbers of younger people with poor mental health/wellbeing
- Youth services should be preserved against a backdrop of child poverty and increasing socio-economic inequity
- Reduced provision will increase pressure and costs on other services including social care, safeguarding and policing
- A view that the loss of youth support services will be irreversible even if the economic position within the public sector improves

Mitigation

- Explore opportunities for CCC Leisure to support youth services
- Use of volunteers to sustain the service

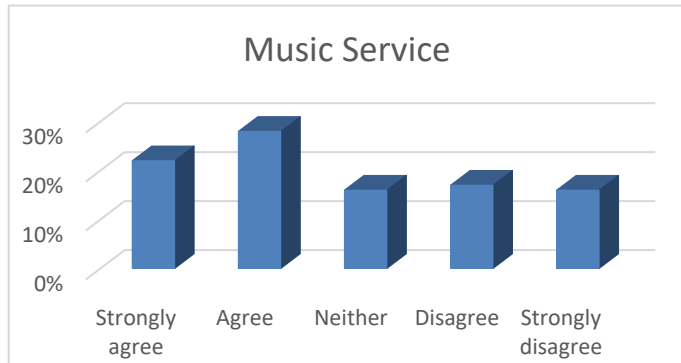
17. Music Service

3-Year Saving: £75,000

Description: We propose to look at all options to reduce costs including staffing and not appointing to vacant positions. We will review the skill set and balance required between staffing who hold qualified teacher status, paid on school teacher's pay and conditions, and those employed on a 'tutor' basis, aiming to meet the needs of schools efficiently.

Increase in Council Tax if not adopted: 0.07%

Average index score: 0.99
Overall Rank (of 19): 5
Sample Size: 1943

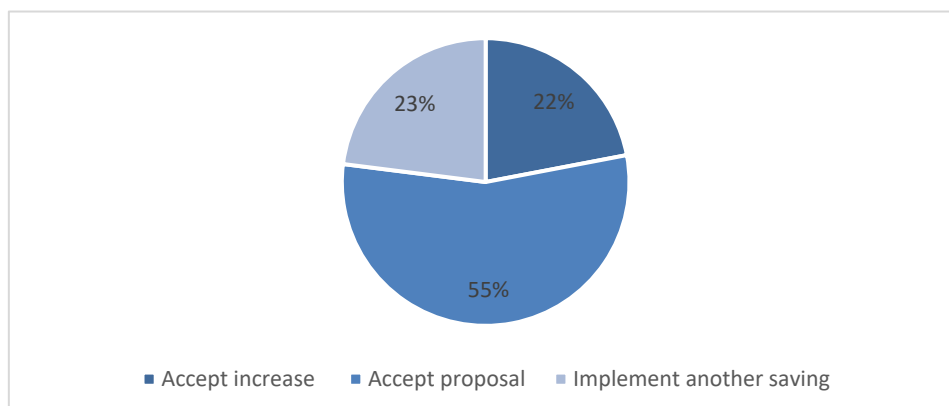


	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
AIS	1.03	0.91	1	1.13	1.29	1	0.96	1.03	0.96	0.9
Sample	39	524	839	331	21	11	952	733	223	159

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
AIS	0.92	1.03	1.13	0.96	1	0.97	1.03	0.91	0.94	0.94
Sample	365	59	24	591	874	529	887	324	365	131

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
AIS	1.04	0.99	1.01	0.95	1.01	0.94
Sample	557	192	452	212	200	192

Response to accepting a 0.07% increase in the Council Tax in order to avoid efficiency saving.



Impact

- A broad view that music fosters a more inclusive and diverse curriculum, broadening pupils' interests and transferrable skills outside of conventional academic subjects
- Support expressed for Carmarthenshire's Music Service with some respondents recalling how it has helped further their academic interests at further/high education level, launched careers in music and given rise to national performances (e.g. Eisteddfod)
- Several comments from young people against the proposal noting the confidence building, teamwork and escapism that the music service provides
- Concern that the proposal will limit the exposure of music education to young children
- Provides access to activities and experiences that many children cannot obtain at home
- Further efficiencies will jeopardise the viability and quality of the music service
- The proposal runs counter to the emphasis given to 'Expressive Arts' within the new Curriculum for Wales
- The need to support music because of its cultural significance to Wales was noted
- Concern that schools will be required to fund any deficit in provision
- Unfair on parents who already pay a contribution towards the music service
- Those in favour suggested music is not a core component of the curriculum and noted the wider savings required across education. Reasonable to ask parents to contribute to the cost of lessons
- A view that the remuneration of teachers should reflect the different roles and responsibilities of classroom and peripatetic music teachers/staff

Mitigation

- Suggestions that parents should bear more of the cost as it is a 'desirable' service, with means-tested subsidies offered to those on low incomes to ensure the charge isn't prohibitive
- Offer music tuition in after school clubs
- Learning via YouTube, social media and private tutors

Other comments relating to Education and Children's Services Department

27 'other' comments were submitted within the Education section and related to:

- Parity between Welsh and English medium education funding
- Review of Council staffing and pay structure
- Councillor remuneration
- Spending on infrastructure / capital projects
- Sale of Council buildings, facilitated by accommodating more staff at central locations
- Structure and format of survey

Members engagement: Education and Children's Services

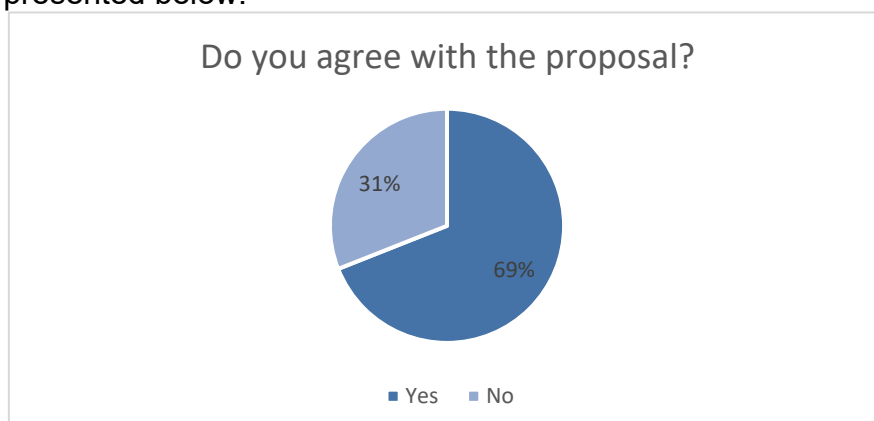
- Some members were not in favour of closing small schools, whilst others recognised the need to look at small school provision, given the scale of the budget challenges, and wider non-financial considerations such as difficulty recruiting staff, leadership issues and maintenance challenges. Recognition that admin etc required for a school was now so significant that for a small school this was too much and it was not fair on the pupils. Recognition that whilst federation could be considered in some areas, this would still mean two school buildings, so minimal savings. The process needs to be carefully managed and transparent, and each case needs to be considered on its merits, including the impact on school transport and safe routes to schools provision. Suggestion that consideration could be given to asset transfer to local or community groups as their could be unforeseen costs of unused assets. Comment made over the possible beneficial role of small schools for ALN
- The 2.1% reduction to delegated schools budget was seen as a necessary evil – “need to be realistic”, with members suggesting that governors may need training to manage budget reductions. There was concern over the negative impact on staff pressure, and that small schools in particular may have little or nothing to cut as the budget was so tight. There was positive recognition that the council was providing funding for energy costs and pay increases, taking some of the pressure off
- Members felt that the current youth club provision did not cover all areas of the county and may not be equitable. Suggestion that Town and Community councils should be more involved in local provision and could possibly access grants (suggestion of police funding). A possible link was made between a reduction in the youth provision and an increase in future offending rates and/or substance misuse, so may not be effective in the long run. Consideration to be given to phasing the savings over 2 years possibly
- Members felt that that any change to the rising 4s policy needed to be equitable, with possibly all children starting in the September term. There was recognition that any change would a difficult impact on schools, particularly small schools. Also this could create some difficulties for working parents, though it was recognised alternative provision would be available. Suggestion that a change of approach could create a safeguarding issue for vulnerable families
- Some Members were not in favour of using more grant funding towards children's services – as a statutory service they felt it should be core funded, whilst others welcomed maximisation of grants available to the service. There was concern that it may not be realistic to cut the budget, as this could result in a risk to statutory duties

which could cost more. Early intervention is both better and cheaper than dealing with potentially more devastating outcomes

- When considering the School Music Service, members questioned whether the new curriculum meant that this should be core funded by Welsh Government. It was felt that it was a service which needs to be provided, it linked to a growing creative industry and was of benefit to pupil wellbeing during the pandemic. Also seen as not the right time given the Urdd Eisteddfod coming to Llandovery this year.
- Members agreed with the proposal to reduce early years non maintained support
- Members were concerned with the practicalities of sharing redundancy costs with schools and how achievable this was, especially if the school was already in deficit. They were however supportive of improved efforts to redeploy staff and avoid redundancies.
- Some members were happy with departmental administrative efficiencies, whilst others were concerned this could have a negative effect on the service received by schools, with existing concerns already over the time taken to provide some information.

Increase in chargeable services

Participants were asked to give their opinion on whether chargeable services such as; green waste collection, leisure services, school meals, car parking, adult social care, and public protection etc. should increase in line with 10% inflation. The results are presented below.



	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Pregnant	Mat/Pat	Female	Male	Disabled	Gender Reas.
Yes	68%	71%	71%	67%	70%	67%	71%	70%	0%	61%
No	32%	29%	29%	33%	30%	33%	29%	30	100%	39%

	Carers	LGBTQ+	BME	Single	Religion	less £20k	£20-39k	£40k+	Welsh Language	Armed forces
Yes	69%	70%	77%	67%	70%	65%	75%	64%	71%	71%
No	31%	30%	23%	33%	30%	35%	25%	36%	29%	29%

	CA1	CA2	CA3	CA4	CA5	CA6
Yes	73%	77%	72%	63%	70%	70%
No	27%	23%	28%	37%	30%	30%

A wide range of viewpoints were expressed. Whilst there was broad understanding of the budgetary challenges faced by the Council, a high number of comments received suggested that a **blanket 10% inflationary increase** in chargeable fees across all service areas would not be reasonable. A ‘one size fits all’ approach would, in the views of many respondents, have a disproportionate impact on certain demographic cohorts who rely most upon these services.

In particular, concern was expressed at the current **cost of school meals** against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis and the additional pressure that would be placed on families should the costs of this service increase. Furthermore, it was felt that **increases to leisure centre fees** would be counterproductive in light of the upward trend in obesity and physical inactivity, with the subsequent risk of exacerbating demand on the NHS. Respondents emphasised the importance of leisure centres to promoting good physical and mental wellbeing.

A similar sentiment was conveyed in relation to **car parking charges** with numerous respondents stating that increased fees would deter residents and visitors from shopping at town centres to the economic detriment of local businesses. In response, some participants advocated for free car parking to increase town centre footfall.

Many respondents agreed with the principle of the proposal but queried the **affordability** of a universal 10% increase at a time when wages/income/pensions have not kept track with inflation.

In contrast to a blanket methodology, respondents recommended the council adopt a more **flexible approach** whereby the quantum of any increases are tailored to individual service areas based on an assessment of need/impact. Accordingly, this would enable some chargeable services to be increased by a reduced amount (i.e. below inflation) or maintained at current pricing levels.

There was also broad recognition of the need to consider a raise in incoming generating fees to **mitigate against any further increases in council tax** and if all other options for reducing council services have been exhausted. Many respondents indicated that they would be against a rise in council tax and/or would favour an increase in charges over a **reduction in the scope or quality of council services**.

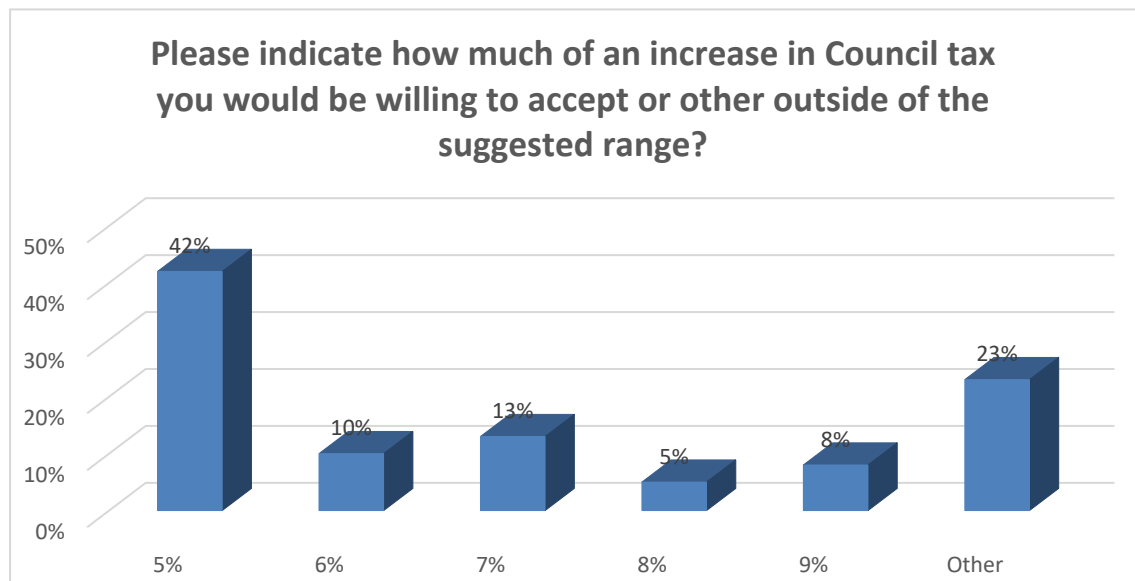
A number of other views were put forward for the Council’s consideration:

- Increased fees will bring to bear negative **social, economic and environmental impacts**
- Increases to **adult social care** fees may make the service inaccessible and unaffordable for those in greatest need. Consequent risk of increasing the pressure on unpaid carers
- ‘**Snowball / domino effect**’ – increased fees could lower the take up of services, reducing their overall viability and quality and placing jobs at risk as long-term demand is reduced
- Ensure appropriate **procurement processes** are in place in relation to school meals to facilitate value for money and local sourcing of foods
- Implement voluntary charging for **breakfast clubs**

- **Variable pricing for leisure services** based on demand / time of day (i.e. charge less during 'off peak' times)
- Council's **staffing and pay structure** should be reviewed
- Comments on **councillor remuneration**
- Use of **council reserves** to minimise cost increases
- Observations that **council protocols** in relation to signage, Welsh language, equalities and planning offer opportunities for efficiency savings
- A review of **current infrastructure projects** was suggested
- A view that residents face a 'double charge' to maintain the status quo - a raise in income generating fees together with a concurrent increase in council tax
- Agreement with the proposal on the proviso that the council undertakes a **regular review of the inflation rate** and is **responsive to any fluctuations**, passing on any reduction to service users without delay
- Views against the **closure of St Clears Leisure Centre** – these are considered on page 12.

Council Tax

Respondents were asked to indicate how much of an increase in Council Tax they would be willing to accept. Results are presented in the bar graph below.



Sample: 1929

Teams from 10 secondary schools across Carmarthenshire have given their views on proposals in the Council's budget as part of an event designed to engage with young people. The Council's annual Insight event is open to all secondary schools in the county and gives pupils the chance to put themselves in the roles of the Council's Cabinet and discuss their opinions on the proposed budget. This year, pupils from years 10-13 from Ysgol y Strade, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, QE High, Dyffryn Taf, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin, Coedcae, Bryngwyn, Glan-y-Mor, Dyffryn Aman, Ysgol Bro Dinefwr took part in the event on Thursday January 26 at County Hall in Carmarthen.

The aim of the event is to introduce young people to local government and give them an insight into the challenges on a day-to-day basis. It is also an opportunity for Cabinet Members to hear pupils' views and discuss with them directly about issues that matter to them. The task involved discussing and determining which efficiencies pupils would like to keep and which to remove, taking into account how it would be managed, its impact and how it would be communicated. As Cabinet Members they were required to compromise and negotiate to ensure that the Council had the right strategy which best suits the residents of Carmarthenshire. Each school group selected a Leader and Deputy Leader which presented the teams recommendations to Cabinet members and senior staff. A summary of the key points raised are presented below.

1) St Clears Leisure Centre

- Majority of school groups felt that this efficiency should be made as there are a number of local alternatives available. Pupils made specific reference to Carmarthen Leisure centre which has better facilities and is in close proximity.
- Some groups noted that the St Clears Leisure Centre building is in poor condition and that the upkeep of the building is becoming unsustainable.
- Dyffryn Aman and QE High noted that St Clears leisure centre could be sold to private leisure facilities to continue to offer leisure facilities in the area
- Ysgol y Strade suggested that an asset transfer could be done with the Town and Community Council using an alternative model. They proposed that no funding should be given in the first year to allow time for the Town and Community Council to demonstrate that it is a viable business. Following this period, funding would be issued in year 2 and reduced year on year.

2) Pendine Outdoor Education Centre

- Most of the schools agreed that Pendine Outdoor Education Centre should remain as an efficiency as the building and facilities are in a bad state of repair and is becoming unsustainable.
- Many schools including Bro Dinefwr, Glan-y-Môr, and QE High noted that alternative provision should be set up elsewhere within the County to accommodate the closure.
- Bro Dinefwr noted that there are other centres within and outside of the County which have better facilities which are better used.
- Many groups including Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, Coedcae, Bryngwyn noted that the facility is dated and does not generate enough income.

3) Library Services

- There were mixed feelings regarding the Library services proposal. For example Dyffryn Taf, Coedcae and Glan-Y-Môr groups felt that it is a vital asset for smaller, rural communities and is vital to maintain community spirit.
- Dyffryn Taf and Coedcae also noted that libraries are vital for young people and the older generation and more should be done to increase footfall for all ages.
- Dyffryn Taf and Glan-y-Môr also noted that libraries should be changed to provide working spaces and not just have 'books'.
- Alternatively, other groups noted that whilst smaller branch libraries will be a loss, alternative provision is provided through online services with some suggesting that schools could host the libraries in smaller rural areas.

4) Introduce charging at 9 car parks

- The majority of groups agreed with this proposal however some alternative suggestions were made. Specifically, Strade noted that there should be a reward scheme for people parking at the car parks if they are shopping locally whereby, they would have a reduced rate if they have purchased anything in the town/village (e.g., similar to ASDA, Llanelli car park).
- Glan-y-Môr noted that there should be a free time period as customers may use the carpark for very minimal time to 'pop in' to the local shops. Having a charge may drive away customers to areas (such as Retail parks) instead of buying in their local town/village.
- Bro Myrddin noted that areas which are for vocational or leisure use should be charged however areas where the parking is needed for shopping (e.g., Burry Port and Kidwelly) should remain free as there are no alternatives.

5) Charge for commercial use

- Majority of groups agreed with this efficiency. Groups such as Dyffryn Amman noted that Health services (e.g., Blood banks, food banks) should not receive a charge.
- All groups agreed that most commercial companies should be charged for the use of car parks.

6) Publication of Planning Applications

- All groups agreed to keep this efficiency in the budget. Some noted that Social media and digital means should be explored.

7) Parking permits

- All groups agreed to keep this proposal as an efficiency within the budget with some suggesting that the charge should increase if residents have multiple vehicles.

8) Countryside Access

- Majority of groups agreed to retain this proposal in the budget. Some schools such as Bro Dinefwr disagreed and noted that the cutting of vegetation should be done by professionals to ensure that it is maintained properly and there is consistency.

9) NantyCi Park & Ride

- Most school groups agreed to retain this efficiency proposal. Pupils noted that the service is insufficiently used and if HDdHB want to continue to keep the service then they would have to continue funding it.

10) Household waste recycling centres (HWRCs)

- The majority of groups supported this proposal. Closure times should be evidenced based and opening times should also be based on footfall.
- Schools such as Dyffryn Taf and QE High noted that educational campaigns should be held in schools to promote recycling in schools.

11) Litter Bins

- Majority of schools agreed with this proposal on the basis that the bins removed are from laybys and not in areas where they are needed. Many expressed that layby bins should be removed as they are being misused.

12) School crossing patrol

- There were mixed feelings regarding the school crossing patrol proposal. Some schools thought that the efficiency is reasonable and only the 30 areas should be patrolled. Additionally, pupils believed that it is the responsibility of the parent and guardian to ensure that their child arrives to school safely.
- Some noted that removing school crossing patrols could be dangerous and each area should be assessed by the Council.

13) Delegated Schools Budget

- Most school groups disagreed with this efficiency proposal noting that schools are currently under significant pressures. However, a number of schools suggested that the amount deduced from school budgets should be reduced (e.g., Ysgol Emlyn 1%, Dyffryn Amman 1.2%).
- QE High suggested that schools should look to generate income themselves to help the financial difficulties.
- Ysgol Emlyn also noted that during this financial crisis it is important that education continues to be supported as a 'more educated workforce means more people in work'. Further they also suggested combining proposals moving libraries into schools to generate income.

14) Primary Schools Rising 4's Policy

- The majority of school groups agreed to retain this proposal. However, Coedcae noted that this may impact children's ability to socialise and be more comfortable with school earlier. This may have an impact on attendance in future years.
- Some noted that this may have an impact on Welsh language skills as young pupils are starting to learn the language in social environments later.

15) School Rationalisation

- Whilst there were rigorous discussions held in the majority of groups, overall there was an acceptance of this proposal. Some noted that some areas will lose their community as there is no school in smaller towns/villages. However, Ysgol Emlyn noted that there will be a community as the majority of those pupils will attend the same school.

- Bro Dinefwr noted that the reduction of schools would cost less for the Council due to maintenance of older school buildings.
- QE High noted that bigger, newer schools can help educate young pupils and become 21st century schools.
- Bro Myrddin agreed with the proposal and noted that the merging of schools can help educate pupils better as they will be able to pool resources and expertise.

16) Youth Support Services

- Most school groups disagreed with the Youth Support Services proposals. Ysgol Emlyn noted that Covid-19 has impacted young people massively and that support should be increased rather than reduced.
- Additionally, Coedcae noted that Youth Services support young peoples' mental health and gives them an opportunity to socialise and destress.
- Dyffryn Amman noted that rather than a blanket approach, each school should be assessed case-by-case to identify need.

17) Music Service

- Most schools agreed that this proposal should be removed. Some schools such as Bringwyn indicated that the service should be enhanced rather than reduced.
- Dyffryn Taf noted that the Music Service and learning to play instruments should be encouraged as it builds character and improves learning. Additionally, they would also like to see more modern, rather than classical/traditional aspects being offered.
- Ysgol Emlyn also noted that learning music is beneficial for pupils wellbeing and many pupils will not have the opportunity to experience this outside of school. In addition, they raised the potential impact on charging low income families to use the Music service and highlighted that the service would not be accessible for all.

6) NOTES FROM BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Schools Strategy Budget Forum – 11th January 2023

Aneirin Thomas (AT) Head of Education & Inclusion services
Randal Hemingway (RH) Head of Financial Services
Susannah Nolan (SN), Group Accountant, Education & Children
Gareth Morgans (GM) Director of Education & Children
Peter Evans (PE) Headteacher Bro Banw
Simon Davies (SD) Head of Access to Education
John Jones, (JJ) Headteacher Glanymor
Allan Carter (AT) Schools Transformation and Change Manager
Paul Jones (PJ) Headteacher Bryngwyn

AT welcomed Randall Hemingway and Susannah Nolan to the forum and outlined that this year we will be facing a number of significant challenges.

The current shortfall for the Carmarthenshire County Council falls well below what we were expecting, however the current figure is still substantial. Proposals in terms of meeting the funding gap have already been identified. AT urged colleagues to undertake the consultation survey on the budget as feedback is vital from everybody concerned.

RH proceeded to take colleagues through the corporate picture and how schools fit within this, including the proposals for delegated schools' budget. RH provided an outlook for the year ahead and years two and three and detailed information in regard to pay and energy costs which of course affects all schools.

Welsh Government have taken on board the lobbying by authorities and the budgetary settlement is better. Welsh Government funding represents around three-quarters of the authority's yearly funding. This year, although the settlement is much better than expected, the inflationary increase is unprecedented.

RH proceeded to show colleagues a year-on-year chart of funding awards. All Wales average increase is 7.9%. Carmarthenshire County Council is overall 8.5% increase. Indicative figures are around 3.0% for Year 2. The final Welsh Government budget will be published on 7th March. The authority must set figures for Council Tax by the 10th of March.

In terms of pressure, we have allowed £12 million which will need to cover everything e.g., heating in care homes, school meals. In terms of pay, this is by far the largest budgetary item on every school budget.

The Teacher's Pay award is currently a risk for the LA. The increase of 5% was accepted by Welsh Government but as yet has not been accepted by unions. For next year, we have assumed 5%.

There are some positives e.g., pension fund is performing well and provides a one-off sum to help plug the budget gap. In addition, a move to actual 'Spinal points' for salaries will realise additional funding- this does not directly impact school budgets. Proposal to increase all fees at a rate of 10%.

Energy cost increases have been included and factored for next year.

On Education and Children funding, our approach for schools is a 2.1% reduction. However additional funding will be identified to meet pay, energy and inflation costs. Departmental forecasts for the next years were then divulged to colleagues.

£700,000 available to enable Cabinet to address budget consultation outcomes.

We welcome your views; survey is open until 29th January, and cabinet meetings will commence on the formal budget 13th February.

AT thanked RH for his comprehensive observations.

GM hoped that these details did not come as too much of a surprise. We are looking at offering up around £1.75 million of savings for the Education and Children Services.

We will be looking at making a 2.1% reduction in school budgets. We are concerned about the impact of the £2.7 million cut especially in our smaller schools.

Directors have been asked to identify pressures; our main concerns are allowances we pay our foster parents and managing to keep our learners in Carmarthenshire especially those who require special and additional measures. There is currently a huge ALN demand and our legal obligations in meeting needs. Another pressure is the school meals service and the cost of food.

These are policy proposals.

£2.7 million cut in school budgets, schools may wish to work out the impact that this cut will mean to their individual schools.

Policy proposal for year 2 and 3- a review of school footprint and school improvement requirements. The model of maintaining 112 schools is unsustainable.

Saving around £225,000 across the department in Better Ways of Working, with the reduction of travel time, working from home/hybrid models.

A new way we manage redundancies- there is a central budget for this which needs to be reviewed.

Support for Early Years and non-maintained sectors, looking at how we provide support to these settings efficiently and cost-effectively.

Partneriaeth is partly contributed to by us as an authority. We have negotiated with the Partneriaeth and this year there will be a reduction in our contribution.

Youth Services- in discussion on reducing general costs, travel, etc, and making better use of grant funding.

£250,000 saving against Children Services, Jan Coles is looking at how to make better use of the system we currently have.

These will be challenging and difficult to deliver and will impact indirectly on learners and schools. The Director mentioned that this is one of the most difficult budgets we have ever had to set. Next year, could be even more difficult. These issues will be with us for the foreseeable future. Some of our families are struggling and our schools need to be commended for assisting our schools.

The Director wanted to thank our primary schools in terms of the roll-out of free school meals and there has been a significant uptake of this offer and understands that the funding of this is putting extra pressure on school catering budgets.

The floor was then opened for any questions.

PE asked in terms of the footprint of schools what type of reduction are we looking at.

The Director mentioned a workshop with members in these terms, where we set the stall out around ALN, Leadership, condition of buildings etc. The ultimate decision will lie with the Cabinet in terms of how they wish to proceed. We will hopefully see a decision on this before the end of this academic year. SD mentioned that it all depends what fits for any particular area of schools and age ranges.

JJ asked whether these cuts would have an impact on capital projects as well. The Director mentioned that the capital agenda is a key component for Carmarthenshire County Council, the decision will probably be made to leave the capital monies currently but possibly have to dip into, in the future.

RH mentioned that the draft budget for capital monies is yet to be written up, there is not a huge amount of cash to use.

GJ mentioned that statutory and curricular requirements are obligations every school needs to meet, and some schools may have to set deficit budgets. The Director noted that there is a process of licencing a deficit budget and we collaborate with schools to resolve issues.

AT added that pupil numbers will impact funding and also grant funding, what is important is that we focus on what has worked well in the past in terms of planning ahead.

GJ asked as to when we could expect the figures to set budgets. The Director mentioned that the authority budget will discuss the budget on the 1st of March, SN and team will then get numbers out to schools. They will work on the forecasts, but SN kindly asked if colleagues could get their pupil numbers to the Data Team as soon as they can, this would help matters significantly.

AT, it was noted that SLA costs are yet to be deducted from school budgets. AC reassured colleagues in terms of SLA's that these issues are currently being addressed.

PE asked whether secondary schools still have budget re-runs? SN replied that they do and the reasons for that approach.

PJ suggested the sharing of good practice between primary/secondary and addressing overlap and streamlining services for children. AT agreed and this will be discussed at a future forum.

In conclusion AT wished to ask colleagues that this forum is looking for a new Chair.

Chris Moore (CM), Director of Corporate Services
Randal Hemingway (RH) Head of Financial Services
Rob Young (RY), Lead HR Business Partner
Mark Evans (ME), Unison
Jonathan James (JJ), GMB
Brian Harries (BH), Unite

CM shared the Revenue Budget Strategy that was presented at Cabinet 9th January 2023. CM explained that we have been in austerity for over 10 years and the challenges keep on coming. Raising Council Tax is not an ideal option. Settlement was far better than expected, 8.5% for us where we were predicted 3.6%. Savings target for 23/24 - £9.4m, 24/25 - £6.4m and 25/26 - £4.5m. Final settlement will not come through until March.

The new waste strategy of 3 weekly collections is seen to the public as a cut however it is a push to increase recycling which will actually cost more.

Due to a consequence of inflation and pay awards, there was a £38m gap at the start of the year. Pay rise cost 7.1% - 3.1% extra than budgeted. 4% has been put aside for teachers with an extra 1%, still unsure of outcome, there is no extra money put aside for teachers, WG would have to ask UKG.

If we don't put Council Tax up there will have to be cuts elsewhere. Reiterated that the new Waste Strategy has been put in place to encourage the public to recycle more not a cut on a service.

Due to the performance of the Dyfed Pension Fund, we can reduce employer's contributions, which will offset some pressures by approximately £3m, this does not affect staff's pension.

We have made a saving of £2m on NI contributions.

We have also taken out the 'slack' on spinal point grades so that that budget cannot be used which is a saving.

CM touched very briefly on the fact that our electric and gas costs have increased three-fold.

Comments from Union members:

ME - 8.5% on inflation is still a cut, should not be called a no cuts budget. Unions object to the so-called survey. The proposal's effect people who are already struggling. School cuts directly affect children's education, closing leisure centres impacts on health and wellbeing. Unions have issues with the people making the decisions not the officers. Strongly worded motion does not cut it and using reserves to plug gaps will just make us worse off next year. Also suggested we set a no cuts budget which is not balanced and ask for more money from WG.

CM – Explained that the Council was required by law to set a balanced budget and as Section 151 officer he was duty bound to advise members against setting an unlawful budget.

JJ – questioned why we hadn't hit our waste target?

ME – staff have been led to believe that we have received a fine.

CM / RH – query the fine with the Department, both are unaware of any fine, as we are being seen to work towards the goals set by WG, with regards to changing vehicles etc.

JJ – asked whether we had paid towards the new electric vehicles? Electric vehicles do not work in rural communities, would have been better to spend the money elsewhere.

RH – Confirmed we received grant funding.

JJ – questioned should LA's be pushing back on agenda items such as the new Waste Strategy with WG and asking to use the money elsewhere.

RH – explained that they have raised pushing back on some areas, such as the 20mph limit, no feedback has been received to date.

CM – CJC's pushed back on draft budget from £1.5m to £600k

JJ – With the rise in Council Tax, staff's pay rise will have gone, and members of the public see the rise and service cuts such as waste collection. JJ also raised the validity of using Band D to investigate figures.

RH – Confirmed that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the properties in Carmarthenshire are Band A-D

ME – believes there are inconsistencies regarding the 0% Carbon Footprint agenda, the issue is being transferred to staff working from home using their electric/gas.

JJ – queried whether agency staff had been costed into the budget.

CM – Yes costs have been built into the budget.

RY – confirmed that spend for last year was £2.5m for corporate agency staff and £4.5m for schools.

JJ – Concerns that agency staff are used on a more permanent basis.

CM – During consultation process a Councillor has raised that we should be looking at a pool of teachers within the Authority, dialogue is required.

JJ – Suggested that we should be providing the private sector our services to make income and we should be putting proposals to WG to change this Legislation. JJ

gave an example of ash die back issue, public are paying for private companies to cut them down rather than CCC, when they are already on site. The staff have never been asked their views on how they can make money.

CM – There are certain Governance and Legislation in place that prevent this. CM will feedback the lack of communication to Ainsley Williams.

JJ – Unions want to see the removal of spinal points to allow just 2 and was told there was money available if that's not the case there will be strike action.

CM – the removal of spinal points was not included in the budget the report has not been finalised.

CM closed the meeting by re-iterating that balances the books is challenging.

JJ said that bringing back working groups to liaise with staff would be good.

CM will take this back to WW.

7) MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 30 JANUARY 2023

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 which had been endorsed by the Cabinet for consultation purposes at its meeting on 9th January 2023.

The report indicated that, after adjustments for Welsh Government identified transfers, the increase in the provisional settlement for Carmarthenshire was 8.5% (£26.432 million). The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) had therefore increased to £338.017 million in 2023/24. Whilst the settlement was significantly above the indicative figure of a 3.4% increase and provided £15.5m more than the original assumption, Welsh Government had recognised that the increased figure would not be enough to meet the inflationary pressures currently facing councils and that difficult decisions would therefor need to be made.

It was noted that whilst significant work had already been undertaken in preparing the budget, the report was only an initial position statement which would be updated over the coming months as the budget was further developed. However, it was reported that due to the delays in the provisional settlement, and the consequential impact on Welsh Government's budget finalisation, the publication of the final settlement would not be published until the 7th March 2023.

In recognising the critical importance of minimising the Council Tax increase for residents during the current cost of living crisis, it was considered necessary to respond to the current risks around this Budget Strategy and the ongoing inflationary backdrop. The Budget Strategy, in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan proposed that the Council Tax for 2023/24 be increased to 7%, which sought to mitigate reductions to critical services. The proposal would be considered as part of the budget finalisation process over the next month or so and when the Authority would receive

further clarification on cost and grant funding with a view to limiting the Council Tax increase as far as possible. Final budget proposals would then be presented to the Cabinet mid/late February, which would allow a balanced budget to be presented to County Council on the 1st March 2023.

Amongst the issues raised during consideration of the report were the following:

- The Director of Corporate Resources agreed to circulate a list of those schools which currently had a budget deficit;
- In response to a concern regarding the proposed 'Reduction in the Hardware Replacement Programme', including staff laptops etc., as a savings proposal the Head of ICT & Corporate Policy expressed confidence that the impact could be minimised;
- Concerns were expressed that the removal of the civic and cabinet vehicles was included as a savings proposal.

RESOLVED to accept the report and endorse the Charging Digest subject to the Cabinet being requested to retain the civic and cabinet vehicles.

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2023

[Note: Councillors A. Davies, D. Phillips and G. Thomas declared a personal interest in this item. They remained in the meeting, took part in the deliberations and voting thereof.]

The Committee considered a report on the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, as endorsed by the Cabinet for consultation purposes at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023. The report provided Members with the current view of the Revenue Budget for 2023/2024 together with indicative figures for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on the 14th December 2022.

The Committee was informed that the announced provisional settlement represented an average increase of 8.0% across Wales on the 2022/23 settlement, with Carmarthenshire's increase being 8.5% (£26.432mm) thereby taking the Aggregate External Finance to £338.017m for 2023/24. While the settlement was significantly above the initial indicative figure of a 3.4% increase and provided some £15.5m more than the Council's original assumption, the Welsh Government had recognised the increased figure would still not be sufficient to meet inflationary pressures facing councils, pay awards and fuel price increases and difficult decisions would need to be made.

Whilst the budget proposals assumed the full delivery of all savings proposals, it was noted further work would be required to develop the cost reductions for the 2024/25

and 2025/26 financial years to be able to maintain the current Budget Strategy and level of Council tax.

It was noted that given the current risks around the Budget Strategy and the ongoing inflationary backdrop, together with other budgetary pressures, the proposed Council Tax increase for 2023/24 had been set at 7% to mitigate reductions to critical services. In years 2 and 3, the financial picture remained uncertain and, as such, modelled indicative Council Tax rises of 4% and 3% had been made purely for planning purposes and sought to strike a balance with budget reductions. Those proposals would be considered by the Council in setting the Council Tax level for 2023/24 at its meeting on the 1st March 2023. Additionally, as the Welsh Government final settlement figure was not due to be announced until the 7th March, 2023 any amendments required to be considered to the budget strategy as a result of that announcement would need to be considered by Council.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy relevant to its remit:

- **Appendix A(i)** – Efficiency summary for the Environment and Public Protection Services;
- **Appendix A(ii)** – Growth Pressures summary for the for the Environment Service;
- **Appendix B** – Budget monitoring report for the Environment and Public Protection Services;
- **Appendix C** – Charging Digest for the Environment and Public Protection Services.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

Queries raised on the Appendix Ai (Savings Proposals):

- Reference was made to Traffic Management and the implementation of road safety/speed management schemes. In respect of the efficiency description 'Three-year moratorium on new speed limits not included within 20mph legislation unless overriding safety issue' it was commented that three years was a long time and it was asked if it could be dealt with in conjunction with the roll out of the new 20mph legislation? The Head of Highways and Transportation stated that the change to the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph which affected all residential areas was a comprehensive piece of work involving a lot of resources. It was reported that the moratorium was realistic in terms of the extensive work required.
- In response to a query raised on the efficiency description - Road Safety Innovation within Traffic Management, the Head of Highways and Transportation explained that a report on Roundabout Sponsorship would be available shortly. The highways team had been working to find ways and approaches to increase revenue particularly following the pandemic and sponsorship was an approach that would provide much needed income.
- In reference to the School Transport and the efficiency description regarding Additional Needs Personal Travel Budgets, clarification was sought in respect of the payment process. The Head of Highways and Transportation explained

that currently pupils with additional learning needs were provided with an option of accessing specialist transportation. In cases where parents have specialist mobility vehicles, a personal travel budget was offered which would be subject to a claim being made by the parent.

In response to a further query, the Head of Highways and Transportation explained that a formal policy would include rigorous validation process ensuring that reimbursements were legitimate and made to the correct person.

- In reference to the Bring Sites, it was asked if there would be a future strategy and if the communities would still be able to use them. The Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services explained that currently there were a number of bring sites offering glass, textiles and electric recycling which would be retained in the long term. However, the bring sites that offered just glass collections would be mapped against the current demand and the recently launched glass collection service. The results of the analysis would inform the rationalisation of the bring sites over the next 12 months with a view of up to 50% being removed by 2024.

In addition, the Cabinet Member for Resources emphasised to Members that in view of the fact that the Council was liable of a fine of £160k for every 1% below the Welsh Government statutory target that is not met, it was important the public be made aware of the importance of recycling from not only the benefits to the environment but from a financial perspective.

- Reference was made to Property Maintenance. In terms of the energy efficiency measures, it was raised that a neighbouring Authority were seeking to make a reduction in the temperature of offices to 19 degrees in order to save £26k. Considering this, it was asked if this Authority was looking at a similar efficiency? The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability stated that Powys County Council similar to Carmarthenshire County Council were committed to reach Net Zero by 2030. Members were reminded that as stated in the Net Zero Plan, presented earlier this year, the Authority to date made a 34% carbon reduction, however on closer analysis it was apparent that the electricity had reduced by 21% and gas (heating) had only reduced by 11%. He added that whilst significant effort had taken place to reduce carbon, one of the challenges was that this Authority, like many Authorities had many old buildings which were difficult to zone. Data in terms of energy use would continue to be collected in order to inform where interventions would be needed.
- Reference was made to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). It was suggested that the Authority should be considering alternative options eg. cross border working or introducing a charge to utilise them. In addition, in commenting that the opening hours at HWRC's seemed to be too restrictive for the public who work 9-5 weekdays, it was suggested that the operational hours be re-considered at all the HWRC sites. It was further commented that currently agency staff were employed at the HWRC sites and that the use permanent staff could be more cost effective. The Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services explained that currently HWRC's offer free services to householders and residents of Carmarthenshire and that previously charges for trade waste customers were in place which presented significant issues in

terms of queueing and creating undue delays for residents using the HWRC sites. In response, trade waste was diverted to the trade waste facility at Nantycaws, Carmarthen. It was highlighted, that a consultation was currently underway and that any suggestions and feedback relating to the operations and hours would be gratefully received through the consultation process. In terms of staffing implications, the Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services stated that he would seek further clarification from Cwm Environmental Ltd.

- Reference was made to Parking Services. In respect of the efficiency description to introduce charging at 9 car parks, which currently were free to park, it was suggested that each car park should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. It was felt that by introducing a charge on the free car park would have a detrimental impact upon and undermine the viability of nearby businesses. In raising concern, it was asked if the income would be more than the cost of implementing a charge and if any research or survey's done to back up the proposal? The Head of Highways and Transportation explained that all car parks with exception of Llansteffan car park would be consistent with the rural towns which an income profile had been mapped. It was highlighted that whilst there would be a short-term capital investment to introduce the car parking changes there would be a long-term revenue gain.

It was formally proposed that in regard to the proposal for the introduction of parking charges at the 9 car parks, as stated in the report, be reviewed by the Cabinet Member on a case-by-case basis. This was duly seconded.

- In response to a concern raised regarding the proposal to rationalise up to 20% of litter bins, the Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services stated that the rationalisation would be in the main include litter bins located on laybys along the trunk road network and non-amenity areas. Research suggested that where litter bins have been removed the litter in that area had improved. Bins in high footfall areas would remain in situ. The rationalisation would be a managed process.

It was asked, prior to the removal of a litter bin, if the appropriate ward members could be consulted upon? The Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services stated that a list would be provided to ward members. Comments were made in agreement that bins often attract rubbish and acknowledged the need to rationalise and strategically place rubbish bins.

Queries raised on the Appendix C (Charging Digest):

- Reference was made to the proposal to increase in the Residents Parking Permit Admin Charge. It was observed that the proposal stated that it was being increased by 10% however, that proposed cost increase in the report was from £30 to £40 which was more than the 10%. It was suggested to increase the charge to £50, which would equate to less than £1 per week for residents. The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that the rationale behind the £10 increase was that an increase had not been made since 2009.
- Reference was made to the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN). The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability explained that the charges were outlined in Appendix C for Members however, offered the Scrutiny

Committee additional time should they wish for the Task and Finish Group undertaking the review on the management of flytipping in Carmarthenshire to consider the charge of the FPN prior to agreement. The Chair in thanking the Cabinet Member, stated that the Task and Finish Group would ensure that the charge in respect of the flytipping FPN would be considered as part of the review.

- In response to a query raised in regard to the Buy with Confidence Scheme, the Head of Homes and Safer Communities in offering to circulate the exact membership numbers to the scheme to Members following the meeting, confirmed that the scheme was being actively promoted.
- In response to a general query raised in regard to the budget impact and the Net Zero targets, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability stated that budget constraints would naturally challenge the ambition to reach Net Zero carbon by 2030, however a toolkit had been introduced which enabled different scenarios to be modelled informing the best approach in how to reach the target of being Net Zero by 2030 in the most effective and efficient way.

RESOLVED that:-

- 5.1 the 2023/24 to 2025/26 Revenue Budget Strategy be received;**
- 5.2 the proposals for delivery of efficiency savings as identified in Appendix A(i) be received;**
- 5.3 the Charging Digest for the Environment and Public Protection Services, as detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed;**
- 5.4 the proposal for the introduction of parking charges at the 9 carparks as stated in the report be reviewed by the Cabinet Member on a case-by-case basis.**

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023

The Committee considered the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 which provided a current view of the revenue budget for 2023/2024 together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The report was based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government (WG) on 14th December 2022.

It was emphasised that whilst significant work had already been undertaken in preparing the budget, the report represented an initial position statement which would be updated following the consultation process. Accordingly, Members were reminded that the report had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 9th January 2023 and members of the Committee had attended recent consultation

events which had provided an opportunity to analyse and seek clarification on various aspects of the budget.

The Committee was advised that the final budget proposals would be presented to the Cabinet mid/late February, which would enable a balanced budget to be presented to County Council on the 1st March 2023. It was however noted that due to the delays in the provisional settlement, and the consequential impact on Welsh Government's budget finalisation, the publication of the final settlement would not be published until the 7th March 2023.

The report indicated that, after adjustments for WG, identified transfers, the increase in the provisional settlement for Carmarthenshire was 8.5% (£26.432 million). The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) had therefore increased to £338.017 million in 2023/24. Whilst the settlement represented a significant increase to the indicative figure of 3.4%, the financial model forecasted a requirement for £20m savings over the three-year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period.

It was highlighted that an additional £7.9m funding had been announced for Health, Social Services and Education and apportioned to Local Government resulting in an increase share of 8.5% for the Authority.

It was noted that inflationary pressures were heavier than they had been in decades and that the inevitable cost rises would result in budgetary reductions. WG also issued all Wales level specific grants alongside the provisional settlement. These were broadly similar in cash value to previous years. However, with the rise in inflation and the pay awards at the current level there were real term cuts.

The Ministers letter stated that funding had been provided to cover the living wage increase and that all funding had been allocated. The full cost of future pay awards would need to be accommodated locally. In constructing the budget this had been challenging as the adjusted pay and inflation assumptions to provide departments with funding wasn't sufficient.

Members were reminded that when the budget was previously set, the agreed pay increase was 4% which was prudent at the time. Pay increase for most staff was agreed at a flat rate of 2K (equating to an average of 7.1%) across the workforce. An additional 3.1% 'catchup' would need to be factored into next year's budget. Reference was made to the 5% increase for all Teachers which had been agreed by WG; however, it was acknowledged that the National Education Union (NEU) members had voted in favour of industrial action in a bid for a 12% pay uplift. Committee noted that the draft budget included the 1% 'catchup' to 5%, however any further increases would be unfunded and represent an additional financial pressure of approximately £1m for every 1% increase in pay. In total, the assumption on pay would add £19m to the Council's budget next year

It was noted that the strategy over the previous years had been to increase fees and charges in line with the prevailing rate of inflation and the draft budget proposed a 10% increase where possible. Residents had been invited to submit their views on this as part of the public consultation.

The Committee was advised that Appendix C showed a £12m toward the increase in departmental pressures identified by departments and were inescapable if the Authority was to continue to deliver services at the current level.

Appendix Aii showed substantial inflationary increase in the cost of provisioned care, demographic growth as well as increases in fostering allowances. It was noted that Adult Social Care had pressures which had already been constrained to what the Director considered to be operationally deliverable given the current workforce pressure experienced across the entire sector.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy, relevant to its remit:-

- **Appendix A(i)** – Efficiency summary for Health and Social Services
- **Appendix A(ii)** – Efficiency Summary for Health and Social Services
- **Appendix B** – Budget monitoring report for Health and Social Services
- **Appendix C** – Charging Digest for Health and Social Services

On behalf of the Committee the Chair extended her appreciation for the work the team had undertaken in producing the draft budget and for hosting the recent Budget Seminar where the Committee had been afforded the opportunity of asking questions.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 6.1 The 2023/24 – 2025/26 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation be received;**
- 6.2 The Charging Digest detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed.**

COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2023

(NOTE: Councillors H. Shepardson and R. Sparks having previously declared an interest in this item redeclared that interest and remained in the meeting)

The Committee considered a report on the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, as endorsed by the Executive Board for consultation purposes at its meeting held on the 9th January 2023. The report provided Members with the current view of the Revenue Budget for 2023/2024 together with indicative figures for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on the 14th December 2022.

The Committee was informed that the announced provisional settlement represented an average increase of 8.0% across Wales on the 2022/23 settlement, with Carmarthenshire's increase being 8.5% (£26.432mm) thereby taking the Aggregate External Finance to £338.017m for 2023/24. While the settlement was significantly above the initial indicative figure of a 3.4% increase and provided some £15.5m more

than the Council's original assumption, the Welsh Government had recognised the increased figure would still not be sufficient to meet inflationary pressures facing councils, pay awards and fuel price increases and difficult decisions would need to be made.

Whilst the budget proposals assumed the full delivery of all savings proposals, it was noted further work would be required to develop the cost reductions for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years to be able to maintain the current Budget Strategy and level of Council tax.

It was noted that given the current risks around the Budget Strategy and the ongoing inflationary backdrop, together with other budgetary pressures, the proposed Council Tax increase for 2023/24 had been set at 7% to mitigate reductions to critical services. In years 2 and 3, the financial picture remained uncertain and, as such, modelled indicative Council Tax rises of 4% and 3% had been made purely for planning purposes and sought to strike a balance with budget reductions. Those proposals would be considered by the Council in setting the Council Tax level for 2023/24 at its meeting on the 1st March 2023. Additionally, as the Welsh Government final settlement figure was not due to be announced until the 7th March, 2023 any amendments required to be considered to the budget strategy as a result of that announcement would need to be considered by Council.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy relevant to its remit:

- **Appendix A(i)** – Efficiency summary for the Regeneration, Leisure, Place and Sustainability and Non HRA Housing Services;
- **Appendix A(ii)** – Growth Pressures summary for the for the Place and Sustainability Services, - none for the Regeneration, Leisure and Non HRA Services;
- **Appendix B** – Budget monitoring report for the Regeneration, Leisure, Place and Sustainability and Non HRA Housing Services;
- **Appendix C** – Charging Digest for the Regeneration, Leisure, Place and Sustainability and Non HRA Housing Services;

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

- With regard to the recent budget seminars held for county councillors, it was confirmed no changes had been made to the Strategy following the seminars. However, the outcome of the formal budget consultation exercise, that included the Council's Scrutiny Committees and the public, would be collated and incorporated within the budget consultation report to Cabinet and Council as part of their considerations on the Budget Strategy.

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINET/COUNCIL THAT: -

- 4.1 The 2023/24 – 2025/26 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation be received.**
- 4.2 The Charging Digests for the Regeneration, Leisure, Place and Sustainability and Non HRA Services, as detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed.**

EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MONDAY

23 JANUARY 2023

[NOTE: Councillors L.M. Davies and A.C. Jones, having earlier declared an interest in this item remained in the meeting during its consideration. Furthermore, at this point, Councillor B.W Jones declared a personal interest on the basis that her son was employed as a Headteacher in a school within the County. Councillor B. Jones remained in the meeting during consideration of the item].

The Committee considered the Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 which provided a current view of the revenue budget for 2023/2024 together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The report was based on officers' projections of spending requirements and took account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government (WG) on 14 December 2022.

It was emphasised that whilst significant work had already been undertaken in preparing the budget, the report represented an initial position statement which would be updated following the consultation process. Accordingly, Members were reminded that the report had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 09 January 2023 and members of the Committee had attended recent consultation events which had provided an opportunity to analyse and seek clarification on various aspects of the budget.

The report indicated that, after adjustments for WG, identified transfers, the increase in the provisional settlement for Carmarthenshire was 8.5% (£26.432 million). The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) had therefore increased to £338.017 million in 2023/24. Whilst the settlement represented a significant increase to the indicative figure of 3.4%, the financial model forecasted a requirement for £20m savings over the three year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period.

Committee's attention was drawn to section 3.5 of the budget strategy whereby an overview of the schools' delegated budgets was provided to Members. It was noted that many service-specific grants would remain at a broadly similar level (cash value) to previous years which would, in reality reduce outputs given the impact of pay awards and general inflation. The Cabinet Member for Resources was however pleased to report that the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant and the Pupil Development Grant had been enhanced, and furthermore, WG funding had been provided to flatline the Recruit Recover Retain Standards (RRRS) grant, instead of the planned reduction, and this would enable schools to continue with their post-covid recovery activities.

Reference was made to the independent pay review body's recommendation of a 5% increase for all Teachers which had been accepted by WG; however, it was acknowledged that the National Education Union (NEU) members had voted in favour of industrial action in a bid for a 12% pay uplift. Committee noted that the draft budget included the 1% "catchup" to 5%, however any further increases would be unfunded and represent an additional financial pressure of approximately £1m for every 1% increase in pay.

The Committee thereupon considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy, relevant to its remit:-

- Appendix A(i) – Efficiency summary for the Education & Children's Services Department.
- Appendix A(ii) – Growth Pressures summary for the Education & Children's Services Department.
- Appendix B – Budget monitoring report for the Education & Children's Services Department
- Appendix C – Charging Digest for the Education & Children's Services Department

The Committee was advised that the final budget proposals would be presented to the Cabinet mid/late February, which would enable a balanced budget to be presented to County Council on the 1st March 2023. It was however noted that due to the delays in the provisional settlement, and the consequential impact on Welsh Government's budget finalisation, the publication of the final settlement would not be published until the 7th March 2023.

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed as follows:-

In response to a query regarding the utilisation of school reserves for 2022/23, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that it was possible for the end of year position to be more favourable than forecasted, due to the timings of the grant funding being confirmed by Welsh Government. In this regard, it was clarified that any school-specific grant funding received would be accommodated into the school reserves, should the grant's terms and conditions allow.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential reprofiling of smaller schools whereby it was expressed that further information was required before efficiency savings could be supported in this regard. The Director of Education and Children's Services clarified that the review of the Carmarthenshire's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme was underway and was expected to be concluded by the Summer 2023.

It was noted that the results of the review would be considered by the Cabinet in due course.

The Director of Corporate Services, in response to a query, confirmed that any Industrial Action undertaken by the NEU members would result in a direct budgetary saving for the Local Authority. Furthermore, it was clarified that no further budget provision would be made in respect of Teacher Pay Awards until the settlement had been finalised.

Following a request for further information regarding the schools which showed a deficit budgetary position as at March 2022, the Director of Education and Children's Services highlighted that myriad of reasons could contribute to a school being in a budget deficit, though the main expenditure for schools related to staffing costs. Furthermore, it was explained that smaller schools would not have much flexibility within their budgets to meet unexpected costs. An assurance was provided to Committee that regular communication and support was provided to schools in an endeavour to address budgetary challenges.

Concerns were expressed in respect of the impact of the proposed elevation in the cost of school meals set out in the Charging Digest, which could lead to a lower uptake in the purchasing of school meals and result in a further deficit to the budgetary position. It was confirmed that the concerns raised by Committee would be fed back to the Cabinet as part of the consultation process prior to the final budget being set by Council on 7th March 2023. The Director of Corporate Services clarified to the Committee that the Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language was responsible for reconciling the fees and charges for the Education and Children's Services division.

In response to a query, the Director of Education and Children's Services explained that an element of the Council's budget would be delegated to schools to manage redundancies and discussions were ongoing to enable schools to better understand the impact of redundancies and become more cost effective. In this regard, Members highlighted that the Governor Training programme would need to be updated to reflect the additional requirement.

A discussion ensued on the current process in place regarding school redundancies and it was reported to Committee that there was no information to indicate a change to Welsh legislation to follow the Scottish model whereby teachers were employed centrally to facilitate the effective management of the workforce in terms of staff movements to meet the needs of schools.

A concern was expressed in relation to the proposed budget reduction for youth support related services. The Head of Strategy and Learner Support confirmed that the Shared Prosperity Fund would provide some financial support for youth support services. The Council was also exploring different ways of providing youth support services in an endeavour to minimise the impact of budgetary reductions on frontline services.

Reference was made to the proposed review of primary schools' footprint to derive efficiency savings of £200k for 2024/25. A Member enquired as to the methodology for selecting schools for closures, together with the potential number of school closures that would be required to achieve the efficiency savings. The Director of

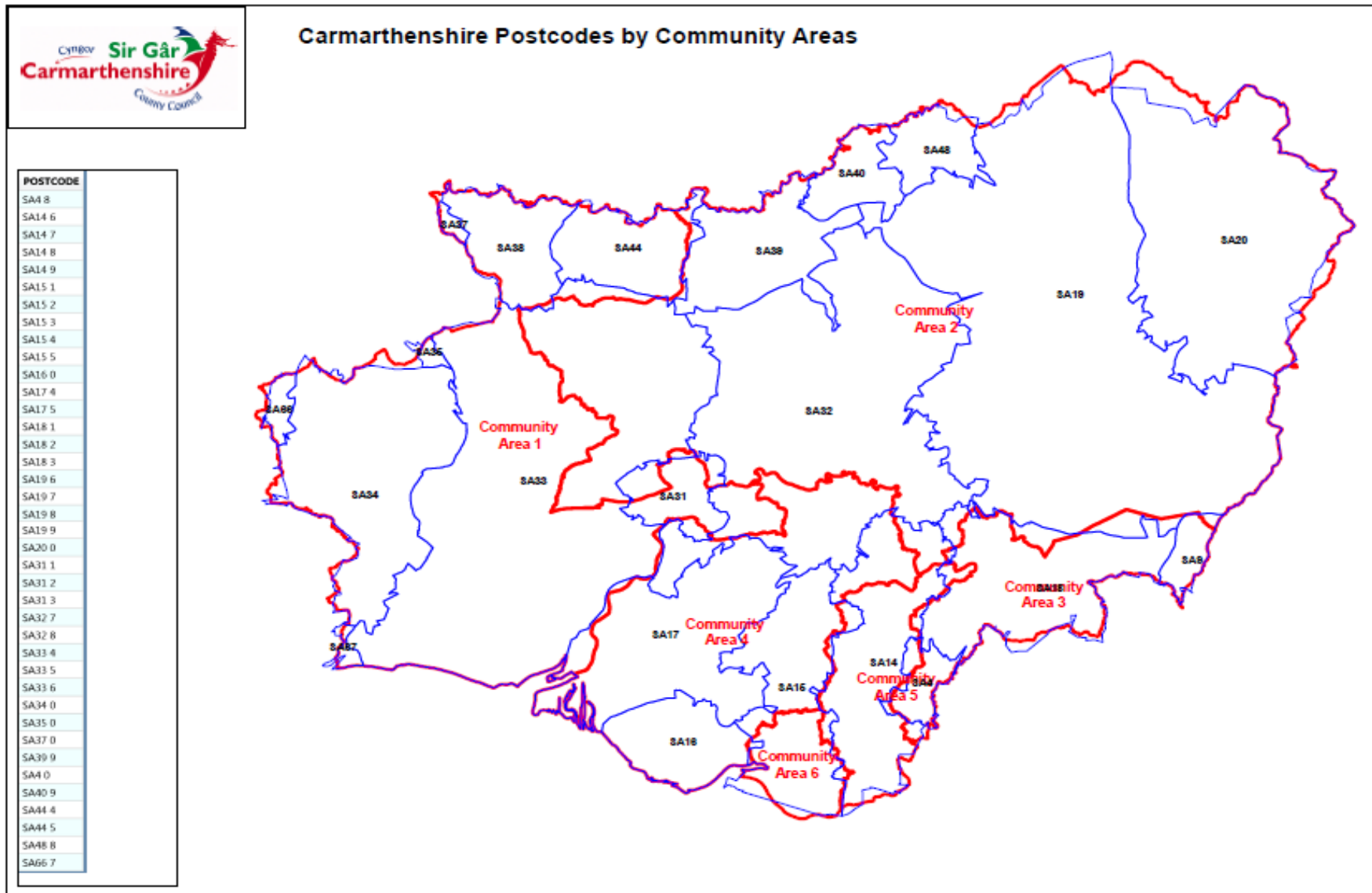
Education and Children's Services clarified that the figure noted was indicative at this stage, pending the outcome of the review; it was however confirmed that savings in the region of £75k - £80k could be generated from each school closure as a result of the premises and running costs.

RESOLVED that:

5.1 The 2023/24 – 2025/26 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation be received;

5.2 The Charging Digest detailed in Appendix

8) APPENDIX 1 – MAP OF COMMUNITY AREAS



APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

Proposals																
	MANAGERIAL				EXISTING POLICY PROPOSALS				NEW POLICY PROPOSALS				TOTAL PROPOSALS			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Chief Executive	689	344	10	1,043	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	689	344	10	1,043
Education	898	75	55	1,028	0	0	402	402	40	35	0	75	938	110	457	1,505
Schools Delegated	0	0	0	0	0	200	550	750	2,000	0	300	2,300	2,000	200	850	3,050
Corporate Services	325	125	0	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325	125	0	450
Communities	2,387	2,650	2,246	7,283	0	0	0	0	40	155	124	319	2,427	2,805	2,370	7,602
Environment	1,408	447	444	2,299	0	0	0	0	291	88	0	379	1,699	535	444	2,678
	5,707	3,641	2,755	12,103	0	200	952	1,152	2,371	278	424	3,073	8,078	4,119	4,131	16,328

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Chief Executive							
Chief Executive, Business and Executive Support	618	Office of the Chief Executive, business and executive support	35	19	0	54	Reduction of staffing within Business Support Unit
Chief Executive, Business and Executive Support	618	Office of the Chief Executive, business and executive support	30	0	0	30	Further reduction in staffing within business support unit
People Management division	3,095	Includes Payroll, People Services, Organisational Development, Employee Wellbeing , HR Development Team, Business and Project Support	75	65	0	140	£20k L&D reallocation of the SCDWP grant ; £35k TIC additional income & £20k HR payroll - introduction of a new AVC wise scheme.
People Management Division	3,095	Includes Payroll, People Services, Organisational Development, Employee Wellbeing , HR Development Team, Business and Project Support	75	65	0	140	Realignment of Division
Information Technology	4,722	ICT Services underpins and contributes towards all that the Council delivers both internally as an organisation and externally to service users and communities, independently or in partnership. It is a vital function providing innovative opportunities for improving services and achieving our priorities in an efficient and effective way. IT Services is pivotal as an enabler of change and a vehicle for driving forward transformational improvement to all services. As we continually strive to deliver our solutions in an efficient manner and in line with our key Digital Strategies (Digital Transformation Strategy, Digital Technology Strategy, Digital Schools Strategy) our major savings in future years however will have to be found from our staffing budget. The work the service does significantly contribute to financial savings being delivered from revenue budgets held across the Authority by other service areas.	100	111	0	211	Reduction in the Hardware Replacement Programme. This will result in having to sweat the current assets and hardware estate we manage by extending the life of current stock. i.e. a laptop is scheduled to be replaced currently every 4 years based on industry advice and standards. This will have to be extended by 1-2 years presenting a risk as there will be a significant reduction in stock available in the replacement programme. This could reduce the quality of the excellent service that we have been providing to staff during COVID and hybrid-working and will likely increase hardware failures and disruption to staff working by extending life of current stock beyond what we currently have set in our Replacement Programme.
Statutory Services - Coroners	369		20	10	10	40	Discussion with Pembrokeshire CC on how costs can be economised including office accomodation (inquest files storage costs will remain) due to remote working. It is also planned to instigate talks with Glangwili hospital to formalise the arrangements regarding post mortems carried out of behalf of the Coroner and also to formalise a tender for Funeral Directors working on behalf of the Coroner. Both these proposals should generate future savings.
Corporate Policy	805		26	0	0	26	£4k from Policy which will see a reduction in budgets currently supporting admin, subsistence and meeting costs; £22k from Welsh Language which will see a reduction in projects and commissioned work/research.
Marketing & Media	542	Business Unit comprising of translation, marketing and tourism, contact centres, customer services, press and communications.	46	44	0	90	Review of Translation Unit
Marketing & Tourism Development	400		40	0	0	40	£40k reduction in activities that currently support the tourism sector.
Regeneration division	4,547	Regeneration is a key priority for the council. The Division provides Business, employability, grant funding and skills support and advice. We also deliver physical regeneration projects throughout the county, including the Swansea Bay City Deal Pentre Awel Life Science and Wellness Village planned for Delta Lakes. The Regeneration Division is responsible for the management of land assets (those within the economic/commercial portfolio) of the Council, taking a strategic commercial view to ensure the portfolio is managed to meet the Council's economic development needs. The Division is also responsible for the delivery of the Council's Net Zero Carbon agenda.	112	30	0	142	£30k Staffing cost savings (possibly making use of external funding in place of current core funding); £10k - Econ Dev revenue budget cut - split 50/50 between Rural & Llanelli; £12k - Operational depots revenue budget cut; £30k - Admin building revenue budget cut; £30k - Property industrial premises budget cut
Regeneration division	4,547	Regeneration is a key priority for the council. The Division provides Business, employability, grant funding and skills support and advice. We also deliver physical regeneration projects throughout the county, including the Swansea Bay City Deal Pentre Awel Life Science and Wellness Village planned for Delta Lakes. The Regeneration Division is responsible for the management of land assets (those within the economic/commercial portfolio) of the Council, taking a strategic commercial view to ensure the portfolio is managed to meet the Council's economic development needs. The Division is also responsible for the delivery of the Council's Net Zero Carbon agenda.	130	0	0	130	Additional £60k staff saving cost. Additional £30k econ dev revenue budget cut – split 50/50 between Llanelli and rural. £40k through mothballing admin areas where vacant to reduce utility costs etc.
Chief Executive Total			689	344	10	1,043	

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Education & Children

Director & Management Team

Departmental - cross cutting	various across the dept	Cross-departmental support costs including administration, financial processing, & premises management		75	55	130	Reprofiled to allow implementation of programme due to link with school rationalisation/federations - therefore dependent upon member discussions/workshops. Root & branch review of support services across the Department in order to realise savings and increase flexibility
Departmental - cross cutting	various across the dept	Cross-departmental support costs including administration, financial processing, & premises management	225	0	0	225	Efficiencies from Better Ways Of Working review, post covid, online conferences, travel
Total Director & Management Team			225	75	55	355	

Education Services

School based Early Voluntary Retirement / redundancy (funded centrally)	176	Schools are currently provided with budget to fund Teaching Assistants (TAs) for pupils with a statement of educational need. If the pupil moves school, the TA can be redundant as they have been employed by a specific school.	50	0	0	50	Schools have been asked to communicate with the LA any projected redundancies. The Change Review Panel, will work closely with schools in an effort to re-deploy staff, thus avoiding any avoidable redundancy costs.
School Redundancies	2,133	The majority of this budget relates to ongoing pension costs from past decisions leaving only £100k to meet pension costs. Schools will be charged the redundancy element of new demands as schools need to downsize because of pupil numbers or school rationalisations.	100			100	Transfer responsibilities for redundancy costs to schools (Dept to pick up pension strain costs).
Early Years Non-Maintained	100 (grant funded)	The service provides support for our 30 non-maintained settings, focussing on ensuring a good start for all early years children attending settings. Leadership support is provided, including monitoring and evaluation to ensure that learning experiences meet the need of all children. Professional learning is delivered, working alongside 'Early Years' officers and school based practitioners.	50			50	We aim to maximise the service delivery to the providers for this age group, reflecting on the roles and responsibilities across the Education and children's services department and amending the service where applicable. This will result in a change to the way that we deliver support. All grants will continue to be maximised, relieving pressures on core budgets.
Total Education Services			200	0	0	200	

School Improvement

School Improvement - Partnerieth 1	73	Partneriaeth contributes to the range of support, intervention and professional development activities led by our Education Support Advisors' Team. We work in close partnership with two neighbouring Local Authorities (Pembrokeshire & Swansea). This 'regional alliance' supports our school improvement services to implement effective support strategies across a wide range of specific areas of focus, for example curriculum provision and leadership development. Local, regional and national priorities, as outlined by Welsh Government within the 'National Model for Regional Working' (WG Guidance 126/2014, February 2014) and 'Education in Wales - Our National Mission' are supported in full.	73			73	To fund contribution to Partneriaeth via grants or negotiate a reduced / nil level of core funding.
School Improvement - Partnerieth 2	N/A	Partneriaeth are paid a contribution that has been funded from core budget to date.	200			200	On top of original £73k proposal. Reduced activities provided by Partneriaeth and deliver them by utilising the regional grant locally.
Total School Improvement			273	0	0	273	

113

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Curriculum & Wellbeing							
Youth Support Service	586	Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service was established on 1/1/16 bringing together the Carmarthenshire Youth Service and the Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Service under a single integrated management structure. The Youth Support Service allows for the development of a more holistic approach to the delivery of the youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The service retains the statutory functions of the Youth Justice Team; promotes the ethos of working together to deliver targeted support and retains elements of direct universal youth work provision. Includes Youth Work Strategy Grant, YE&P Framework Grant, YJB YOT Partnership Grant, Promoting Positive Engagement Grant, Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner. Key responsibilities under Participation include the Children & Young People's Participation Strategy, support for Carmarthenshire Youth Council, support for School Councils, participation of vulnerable groups including the Junior Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Children's Rights.	100			100	Reconsideration not to proceed with a new post, keeping two p/time posts vacant (total =1.1FTE), reducing general expenditure, photocopying and transport.
Total Curriculum & Wellbeing			100	0	0	100	
Children's Services							
Children's Services	13,075	Children's Services encompasses the Social worker teams, Fostering, Adoption, Early years, Family Support Services, Specialist Care Provision, School Safeguarding & Attendance and Educational Psychology.	100			100	Continual review of services, maximising grant opportunities and managing vacant posts without putting the service at risk of not meeting its statutory function.
Total Children's Services			100	0	0	100	
Education & Children Total			898	75	55	1,028	

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Corporate Services

Financial Services

PRE LGR Pension Costs	1,816	Cost of Pre LGR Pension Costs	100	100	0	200	Reduction in call on budget over time
Bank Charges	66	Cost of Authority's Banking arrangements	5	0	0	5	Reduction in bank charges following negotiation of new contract
Treasury	-200 (income budget)		100			100	Increased investment returns from treasury activity - assumes recent increase in interest rates sustained and higher level of cash balances retained
Treasury & Pensions Section	77	Provision of a Treasury Management and Pension Fund Investments Service including statistical and legislative research and development work. The unit manages the strategic direction, formulates and implements Policy and Strategy and ensures the integrity of the Dyfed Pension Fund. The unit also manages the Dyfed Welsh Church Fund and Banking Services	15	0	0	15	Increase in external SLA income for work undertaken for Wales Pension Partnership
Accountancy	1,399	The provision of a decentralised accounting and financial management service, covering: • Technical Accounting (Preparation of final accounts, corporate accounting and taxation), • Management Accounting (Month end close, maintenance of financial records and budgeting) • Strategic Finance functions (projects, planning and financial advice to members)	0	25	0	25	Increase in external SLA income for work undertaken for Llesiant Delta Wellbeing
External Audit Fees	229	Cost of external audit fees	10	0	0	10	Reduction in external audit cost by maximising audit costs chargeable against grant schemes
Total Financial Services			230	125	0	355	

Revenues & Financial Compliance

Rates Relief	289	Cost to CCC of properties that are eligible and have successfully applied for discounts on their business rates	50	0	0	50	Demand is currently less than current budget provision
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	17,249	Low income households, if meet certain criteria are entitled to Council Tax reduction.	35	0	0	35	Aligning the budget to actual
Total, Revenues and Financial Compliance			85	0	0	85	

Corporate Services General

Training Budget	60	Training budget set for the Department and to be used to support staff development / CPD - managed centrally by BSU	10	0	0	10	Reduce the sum available for the Department for training - current budget is £60k
Total Corporate Services General			10	0	0	10	

Corporate Services Total

325 125 0 450

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Total	
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Communities							
Leisure							
Increased Parking income	-66	Increased parking income at coastal car parks and potential development of motorhomes sites	10	10	10	30	Increase charges above inflation: season tickets and parking at Country Parks and Millennium Coastal Path and camping charges. Develop additional income generating activities. Enhance enforcement to minimise problematic parking.
Country Parks	-265	Pembrey Country Park is one of the most visited outdoor facilities in Carmarthenshire and Wales, regularly attracting around half a million users annually. Whilst usage numbers have fluctuated this year with lockdowns and restrictions, the park was busier than ever during August, highlighting the value people put on great and safe outdoor spaces. The park has an 8 mile beach, a 320 pitch caravan and camping site, 550 acres of woodlands, a 130m long dry ski slope and toboggan run in Wales, along with a new Crazy Golf course, 9 hole pitch and putt facility, a miniature model steam railway, a riding centre, and the National Closed Road Cycle circuit and pump track.	25	25	25	75	Improve operating efficiency of Pembrey Country Park to reduce spend on waste collection, internal communications, fleet running costs, staffing hours.
Leisure Centres	601	There are 6 Leisure Centres in operated by the Council in Carmarthenshire: Llanelli, Carmarthen, Ammanford, Llandovery, St Clears and Newcastle Emlyn. A variety of activities take place at these centres such as: Swimming, Diving, Canoeing, Fitness, Cycling, Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Squash, Hockey, Netball, Basketball, Football, Rugby, Cricket, Gymnastics, Birthday Parties, Holiday programmes. There are normally over a million visits to the Leisure facilities annually. Typically our Leisure facilities attract over a million per annum, collecting £4m in income. 2020/21 has seen usage numbers and income crippled to around 25% of normal levels as the coronavirus lockdown and restrictions affect trading. A new Actif Anywhere online service has been launched to compliment the physical offer at sites during this unprecedented period.	20	50	50	120	Additional income across Leisure from improved offer at Aman Valley following refurbishment, improved offer at Llanelli 2G pitch and new and innovative leisure activities eg FAST, play and aqua activities. Reduction in staffing levels and greater efficiencies in procurement. Improve staff rota management to reduce staffing, and review live streaming provision
Y Gat Craft Centre	72	Arts venues include Oriel Myrddin Art Gallery in Carmarthen, Y Gât in St. Clears and the Dylan Thomas Boathouse, Laugharne. Y Gât (formerly known as St. Clears Craft Centre) is an arts facility that also hosts the local library and an in-house catering facility. The facility has an open gallery / shop area along with conference rooms facilities and studio spaces for local artists to hire.	5	5	5	15	Asset transfer progressing with St Clears Town Council for handover 1/4/23 and £5k reduced funding year on year.
Libraries	2,700	Carmarthenshire libraries provide an extensive choice of books, DVDs, CDs, online services, newspapers and magazines. With over half a million books on offer between 3 regional, 13 branch and mobile libraries, the service offers invaluable support and access to Carmarthenshire residents. Public access computers and Wi-Fi are available at all libraries, and typically, the service issues over 600,000 books per year. The mobile service provides a valuable outreach services to rural parts of the County, linking up with various partners to deliver public information services online.	20	20	26	66	Increased operating efficiency approx £20k pa - reduction in staffing hours

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Theatres	978	Carmarthenshire Theatres manage the Miners' Ammanford, Lyric Carmarthen and Ffwrnes Llanelli and promote a broad range of bi-lingual events and productions throughout the year for all age groups and interests. In previous years, in excess of 100,000 paying customers and participants visited and make use of our facilities, however, during 2020/21 Theatres have been hit harder than most services, not being allowed to open at all due to Covid restrictions. Prior to this financial year, Carmarthenshire's flagship theatre, The Ffwrnes, established itself as one of Wales's leading Cultural and Entertainment venues. Typical annual figures pre 2020/21 would have been as follows: 266 visiting companies and hirers; 400 performances/events; 74,130 attendances; 33,805 participants. Whilst costs and lost income are reclaimed through hardship funding grants for this financial year, the service has also innovated to develop new online products and shows, which will hopefully grow our audience base and income in future years.	10	10	10	30	Improve operating efficiency of Theatres to reduce spend on operational costs and staffing hours.
Total Leisure			90	120	126	336	

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Integrated Services							
Domiciliary Care	17,288	<p>Domiciliary Care is provided to approx. 1,000 individuals in the county in. On average over 11,000 hours per week are delivered by in-house and independent domiciliary care agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 250 individuals receive care from two carers (known as "double handed" care). - Approx. 170 individuals receive a large package of care involving 4 calls per day. - Fulfilled Lives is a model of domiciliary care which has been developed for individuals living with dementia which has demonstrated that the service can maintain people living at home for longer than traditional domiciliary care. The plan is to expand the service to cover the entire county. - The Reablement Service provides short term domiciliary care. The number of clients who receive Reablement is over 500 and 55% leave the service with no long term care package. - Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) and the Carmarthenshire United Support Project (CUSP) are both preventative services which support individuals to maintain their independence without the need for statutory social services. By increasing the proportion of referrals that go through IAA or CUSP, it reduces the demand on statutory services. - The specialist Continence service has been established within Community Nursing. By providing the right continence products to meet the individual's continence needs, it is possible to reduce the number of visits per day of domiciliary care. 	600	600	600	1,800	Through robust and regular review of home based packages including review of double staffed packages and implementation of the releasing time to care methodology, we will reduce the number of care hours required. Calculations are based on a reduction of 610 care hours per week per year at a cost of £25 per hour minus an investment of £150K investment in the review team to provide us with additional capacity to conduct reviews. Removal of night service in Extra Care.
Extra Care	857	<p>Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).</p>	50	50	50	150	Review of existing Policy for Extra Care Lettings with a view to increasing Cat A flats, and consequently reducing spend on residential care. Less provision on site of Domiciliary Care .
Cwm Aur	353	<p>Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).</p>	200	0	0	200	Decommissioning the current Block contract model of Care in Cwm Aur with a view to repurposing accommodation to be let as standard tenancies. The Care provision will be commissioned in from the community Domiciliary Care providers. This will affect 9 Service users who receive care from the current provider.
Residential Homes	37,452	<p>Residential care homes provide accommodation as well as 24-hour personal care and support for older people and adults who struggle to live independently, but do not need nursing care. Residential care homes help people manage daily life, such as assisting with getting dressed, washing and eating.</p>	50	100	100	250	Reduction on spend on residential placements, due to robust challenge in relation to those who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare and minimisation of out of county placement.
Total Integrated Services			900	750	750	2,400	

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care							
Shared Lives	8,371	Shared Lives provides placements for individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues with families that have been approved as Shared Lives Carers.	55	110	110	275	Reduce offer by providing more efficient alternatives via core services.
Residential and Supported Living	11,129	Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	225	1025	1025	2,275	Step down from residential care to supported living, rightsizing of packages to promote independence, reduction in core costs to mitigate over provision and recovery of non delivery, collaborative opportunities for income generation, use of Shared Lives provision, review of commissioning strategy and charging framework. This is in addition to previous savings not yet delivered due to COVID pressures. Thus overall efficiency required is greater by the service and will need to be performance managed.
Direct Payments	4,720	Direct Payments allow service users to receive cash payments from the local authority instead of care services. This can allow the service user more flexibility and control of their support package.	70	20	20	110	Additional income following new CHC guidance April 2022, better utilise half hour support slots, develop pooled direct payment groups.
Day Services	3,776	As part of the transformation of Learning Disability day service provision, the buildings will provide for those with most complex needs, this will also reduce the reliance on external providers for those with complex needs as more individuals with complex needs are supported by the in-house day service provision.	245	220	0	465	Fewer buildings will be required as we propose two merge two buildings to create a new skills hub, focusing on training, volunteering, and employment. We also propose to merge one centre into another to maximise use of resources. This will be a more cost effective strategy for the division, but will also maximise the potential, and improve outcomes for those who use our services.
Total Adult Social Care			595	1,375	1,155	3,125	

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	£'000	
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Homes and Safer Communities							
Day Services - Older People	1,133	Day care for adults typically involves planned activities and support with important aspects of social, health, nutrition and daily living. These support services are typically run by social care professionals and volunteers and are often in non-residential, group settings. Day care enables adults who have care needs, and/or who are at risk of social isolation, to engage in social and organised activities, as well as providing a regular break to carers.	100				100 Provision of catering at Garnant Day Centre from centralised catering.
Public protection and CF Housing	3,345	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	30				30 Rationalise out of hours working. Better utilisation of Delta Well-Being for out of hours services.
Public protection Pest Control Agency	2,123	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	0	20	30		50 Setting up of Agency to provide pest control services where there is a current gap in the market.
CF Housing	1,222	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	30	70	100		200 Gradual reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast as an option for homelessness from Sep 2023. Would need to make sure that better, more cost effective, alternatives were in place.
CF Housing	1,222	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	250				250 Funding some of Temporary Accommodation portfolio through alternative funding sources.
CF Housing	1,222	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	0	40	0		40 Reduction in number of Housing Option Advisors 24/25 (Council Fund %). The development of homelessness preventative services over next 18 months should see a reduction in homelessness casework.
Realignment of posts in Consumer and Business Affairs			50	0	0		50 Realignment of posts in Consumer and Business Affairs
Public protection	2,123	Public Protection and CF housing services is part of Homes and Safer Communities. It provides a range of services in relation to Housing, Environmental Protection, Business and Consumer Affairs, Housing Options and Tenancy Support and Community Engagement.	10	40			50 Comprehensive review of charging digest e.g. licences. Will need a comprehensive review and resource intensive increase in some charges
Total Homes and Safer Communities			470	170	130		770
Business Support and Commissioning							
Business Support	1,000	The Business Support Division is made up of 130 staff, there are 8 core functions which are critical to supporting the Department for Communities: Collections, Payments, Financial Assessments, Audit & Compliance, Blue Badge, Transport, Buildings & Emergency Planning and Divisional Business Support	40	40	40		120 Restructure to reduce staffing levels and greater efficiencies in procurement.
Transport	1,605	The service provides transport support for Social Care.	125	45	45		215 Reduction of fleet, based on demand and efficiencies.
Total Business Support and Commissioning			165	85	85		335
Other							
Regional	170	The Regional Collaboration Unit provides support to the West Wales Care Partnership. Funded mainly through Welsh Government Grants, each local authority also makes a contribution to the funding.	17				17 Anticipate regional agreement to reduce local authority contribution by 10%
Management and back office review	800	Management and support functions for Communities Department	150	150			300 Management and back office review
Total Other			167	150	0		317
Communities Total			2,387	2,650	2,246		7,283

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Environment

Departmental	net £52m		59	0	0	59	Review management structure
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Business Support & Performance

Business Support Unit	£40k non-pay budget	The BSU Division provides support and advice to all sections of the Department by providing a variety of financial, administrative, democratic, business support, learning development, health & safety and performance management services.	16	0	0	16	Reduction in office consumables, photocopying & postages
Total for Business Support & Performance			16	0	0	16	

Highways & Transport

Depot rationalisation	various across the dept	Depot infrastructure to support the delivery of front line services.	0	0	140	140	A review of the depot infrastructure is to be undertaken with regards to utilisation of locations and possible streamlining the number of locations currently operated
Road Safety	243	The Road Safety Unit is responsible for delivery of road safety initiatives to meet road casualty reduction targets. The unit has responsibility for road safety education, training and publicity, the School crossing patrol service, national driver improvement schemes and road safety outside schools.	5	0	0	5	Road Safety Innovation - the service will develop income streams and sponsorship. If sponsorship is not delivered a budget cut will be made
Parking Services	-1,232	The County Council provides off street car parking facilities in towns and villages to support the expeditious movement of traffic to enable town centres to function. Parking supports these wider transport policy objectives and enables the authority to maintain highway and public transport services. There are 57 car parks across the county.	40	9	0	49	Introduce a second camera enforcement vehicle, Business Case prepared
Parking Services	-----"	-----"	30	30	0	60	New fixed camera enforcement sites to tackle congestion & improve road safety, New sites to enforce yellow box blocking and banned turning movements
Traffic Mangement	391	Implement road safety/speed management schemes in accordance with statutory obligations.	15	0	0	15	Three year moritorium on new speed limits not included within 20mph legislation unless overriding safety issue
Traffic Mangement	-----"	-----"	10.75	0	0	10.75	£10k - Limit number of prohibition of waiting orders processed per year with emphasis on safety rationale. £0.75k - Increase charge for Tourism signs, currently £100 for assessing application, works costs are extra, we currently process around 5 applications per year. Suggest increase to £250
Traffic Management	-----"	-----"	15	0	0	15	Reduce budget allocated to TRO for parking issues, Focus on sites with evidenced safety issue
Traffic Management	391	Implement road safety/speed management schemes in accordance with statutory obligations.	5	0	0	5	Introduce charge for deferred TTRO applications of £350. In 2022/23 we expect to have revised road closures for 15 projects to applicants delaying start of works.
School Transport	3,645	Provision of home to primary/secondary/special schools transport in accordance with statutory obligations. Provision of transport in the post-16 sector is a discretionary service. Provision of passenger assistants for pupils with Additional Learning Needs	30	110	0	140	Additional Needs Personal Travel Budgets. Parents will be offered a personal travel budget to help reduce demand on the Authority.
Asset Utilisation - Client budget reductions Invest to Save	various across the dept	Use of vehicles and plant with service users.	10	98	0	108	Review the utilisation of plant for all services within the department.
Road Safety and Traffic Management	634	The Traffic Management & Road Safety Unit investigates and strives to prevent road accidents by utilising a mix of engineering, education and enforcement interventions across Carmarthenshire. With the third highest traffic volumes in Wales, managing the expeditious movement of traffic and improving road safety on the second highest length of road network in Wales, requires prudent management of a limited resource.	50	0	0	50	Increased income from Road Closures due to increased utility activity , this will be kept under review for future years due to its reactive nature.

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DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	£'000	
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Street Works	58	Co-ordination and management of all works affecting public highways in accordance with the Traffic Management Act - including utility works. Supervision of new housing estate roads in preparation for future adoption by Carmarthen County Council under section 38 of the Highways Act.	31	10	4	45	£15k - Additional income generation from Street Works compliance issues if the Compliance and Enforcement Officer role is created and filled. £20k - Additional income from an increased coring programme subject to creation and appointment of the Compliance and Enforcement Officer role and procurement process. Cost Recovery not income generation i.e. Retrospective charge for sub standard reinstatement work identified from coring sampling of reinstated works undertaken by utility companies.
Highways - Public Lighting & stopping up orders	1,382	Provision and maintenance of Street lighting and ancillary equipment. <u>Stopping Up Orders</u> are made when sections of the existing highway become redundant. This happens for example when a road improvement is undertaken, land within the extent of the original highway limit that has become redundant is then stopped up via a legislative process and reverts to the landowner. Where there is a formal request received from a landowner to Stop Up an area of highway land, the proposal is to charge the respective landowner the associated costs for undertaking this work.	7	0	0	7	£4k - Increase cost for switching off / on traffic signals for roadworks - increase charge from £250 to £350 (approx. 30-40 switch offs per year) Powys charge £400, Pembrokeshire 2 hours, Swansea £225 or £312 Out Of Hours. £3k - increase income target for Stopping Up Orders
Highway Services	-----"	-----"	26	0	0	26	Depot Storesperson (Cillefwr Depot) ~ Depot Storesperson post has remained vacant since Oct 2021 following promotion of the Storesperson to Depot Foreperson. Management of the depot stores, waste transfer station and servicing and maintenance of the light plant & tools has continued to be undertaken effectively. No requirement to back-fill the post.
Highway Services	-----"	-----"	80	0	0	80	£30k - General Mtce / Minor Works ~ Reduce general maintenance budget - subject to the financial position remaining unchanged the service will be forced to further reduce the level of general maintenance work. Negative impact on general maintenance work , total revenue and capital budget is insufficient to meet demand. Backlog of maintenance works will continue to increase leading to claims. Reduction in work raises the level of overhead recovery unless there is a corresponding reduction in overheads. £25k - Signs ~ Reduce maintenance budget and prioritise work in line with the risk based / network hierarchy approach laid down in the HAMP. Negative impact on maintenance work. £25k - Road Studs ~ Reduce maintenance budget and prioritise work in line with the risk based / network hierarchy approach laid down in the HAMP. Negative impact on maintenance work.
Highway Services	-----"	-----"	10	140	0	150	Rationalisation of mechanical plant and equipment and reconfiguration of construction gangs. Plant and equipment to be reviewed across all sectors, North West (Llandovery) currently has the smallest workload for construction works.
Technical Surveys	-----"	-----"	20	0	0	20	Reduce technical surveys. Reduce drainage (mapping & condition surveys) and geotechnical surveys
Total Highways & Transport division			385	397	144	926	

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DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Place & Sustainability

Ecology	net divisional budget of £3.2M	Delivery of a range of specialist ecology and landscape advice	100	0	0	100	The proposal is to create two additional officers at a cost of c£50K each :An additional Project Ecology post and a Project Landscape officer. The two posts would sit within Place and Sustainability and deliver a range of specialist ecology advice to projects being led by the council which is routinely procured from external consultancy, for example to ensure compliance with protected species legislation and in the development of capital infrastructure to meet landscape requirements. Initial scoping work undertaken with the communities and regeneration teams estimates that c£105k project funding is being contracted out to consultancy in both areas. Figures do not include procurement or management costs associated with the contracting process. It is expected that the councils spend in these areas is unlikely to diminish and will increase over the coming years due to the regulatory and statutory environment. It is proposed that these services are brought in house to be delivered by the officers, offering financial savings and adding capacity with resilience to the planning teams. Further potential to develop the service as a centre of excellence and offer provision to other local authorities at a cost will be explored should capacity allow.
Total Place & Sustainability division			100	0	0	100	

Property

Property Maintenance	notional allocation 2,596	This division is responsible for the day-to-day and long term repairs & maintenance of the council's estates including schools, administrative buildings, depots etc.	54	0	0	54	Over 98% of the budget for the Property Division comprises the Revenue Maintenance Budget. Efficiencies are proposed to be met through reducing expenditure on revenue maintenance across the Council's buildings following disposal of some properties and previous capital improvements undertaken to others. We are also aiming to make savings through new procurement arrangements and seeking to in-source areas of work where it is more cost effective than using external contractors or consultants.
Total Property division			54	0	0	54	

Waste & Environmental Services

Reduction Black bag waste	8,504	Targeted campaigns to reduce waste and increase the awareness and use of all recycling schemes/initiatives. It is anticipated that this will result in the diversion of waste from the residual waste stream to the recycling waste stream, thereby realising savings due to the differential in the treatment costs as set out.	35	35	100	170	Anticipated savings due to differential in gate fee between blue bag and black bag treatment as a result of proposed kerbside black bag restrictions.
Waste services			100	0	0	100	reduction in operational costs in CWM
Crematorium	0	Park Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth	17	0	0	17	Crematorium income

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Environmental Enforcement	570	Environmental enforcement relating to litter control, fly-tipping, dog fouling, nuisance vehicles, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly posting offences.	30	0	0	30	Enforcement realignment
Bring sites - Operational	401	Bring sites are located across the County to provide recycling facilities within communities. They currently cater for glass deposits.	37	0	0	37	Potential to reduce the number of service vehicles due to fewer Community Bring Sites being operated. The saving is phased over two financial years to reflect the introduction of kerbside glass collections from October 2022 with half the savings delivered in 22/23 and the balance in 23/24.
Waste Services - operational	3,141	The operational budget includes for the provision of resources, including vehicles and premises to effect the kerbside waste collection service.	10	0	200	210	A review of garden waste collection leased vehicles for 2023/24 with the potential to purchase vehicles meaning a reduction in revenue spend with a required capital purchase of vehicles. 2025/26 - Review of waste rounds and depot utilisation, subject to the conclusions of detailed route planning for the kerbside collection rounds.
Foodwaste liner consortium procurement	341	The Authority currently provides Corn-Starch food waste liners for our food waste recycling scheme to all households as part of an Annual delivery.	200	0	0	200	As part of our treatment contract the contractor has a requirement to remove all food waste bags as part of the pre-treatment solution and conform to an end product industry regulation. At present three neighbouring Authorities use different liners to Carmarthenshire at a significantly reduced cost. A move to a joint procurement with our neighbouring authorities for these liners would deliver significant savings.
Closed Landfill	265	We currently manage the ongoing aftercare at two former refuse landfill sites - Nantycaws (Phase 1) in Carmarthen and Wern Ddu in Ammanford. This includes dealing with leachate from the landfill sites and ensuring the adequacy and functionality of the infrastructure, including drainage systems.	10	0	0	10	Reduction in maintenance of infrastructure.
Cleansing	2,674	The County Council maintain over 3,500km of roads throughout the County. The Cleansing Service provides for the sweeping and de-littering of streets and footways. The service includes mechanical sweeping of highways, footways and pedestrianised town centre areas, hand litter picking and emptying bins, chewing gum removal, graffiti and illegal poster removal, clearing up illegal dumping of rubbish and dog mess.	88	0	0	88	Phased purchase of plant (sweepers) and reduction in labour (agency).
Grounds maintenance - Reduced sub-contractor work	1,272	The Grounds Maintenance Section incorporates the direct responsibility of managing and maintaining parks and playgrounds, inland water areas and a large number of public open spaces within Carmarthenshire. It also maintains grounds for many other departments of the County Council such as Social Care and Housing, Cultural Services, Education and many individual schools. The Section also has numerous external clients such as Town and Community Councils and private sports clubs.	70	5	0	75	Reduce the reliance on sub-contractors through greater internal efficiencies.
Cleansing	Total Cleansing budget £2.674m	The County Council maintain over 3,500km of roads throughout the County. The Cleansing Service provides for the sweeping and de-littering of streets and footways. The service includes mechanical sweeping of highways, footways and pedestrianised town centre areas, hand litter picking and emptying bins, chewing gum removal, graffiti and illegal poster removal, clearing up illegal dumping of rubbish and dog mess.	75	0	0	75	Rationalisation of street cleansing activity

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DEPARTMENT	2022/23	FACT FILE	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	Budget		Proposed	Proposed	Proposed		
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Grounds maintenance - Reduced sub-contractor work	1,272	The Grounds Maintenance Section incorporates the direct responsibility of managing and maintaining parks and playgrounds, inland water areas and a large number of public open spaces within Carmarthenshire. It also maintains grounds for many other departments of the County Council such as Social Care and Housing, Cultural Services, Education and many individual schools. The Section also has numerous external clients such as Town and Community Councils and private sports clubs.	30	0	0	30	Grounds - additional sub-contractor efficiencies
Waste, Grounds and Cleansing	no specific budget	A review of consumables; PPE and Water	10	0	0	10	At present we provide an annual stock of single-use water bottles during the summer season to all staff. We propose to provide a single re-usable water container to all operational staff with access to drinking water re-fill stations. A review of PPE provision - Gloves, and clothing. With the provision of higher quality items meaning reduced ongoing replacement costs.
Household Waste Recycling Centres	total budget for Waste is £18.2m	There are currently four HWRCs located across the County that serve all communities.	67	0	0	67	Technology driven efficiencies at HWRC sites
Commercial opportunity - income from Japanese Knotweed Treatment (net)	total budget for Grounds £1.2m	The grounds maintenance team arranges the treatment of Japanese Knotweed with respect to its own assets and other landownership across the Council.	0	10	0	10	Potential to treat knotweed for external clients, subject to wider corporate consideration on commercial activity that service departments can undertake.
Public Conveniences	210	Carmarthenshire County Council currently oversees the running and servicing of 19 publicly accessible traditional stand-alone toilet blocks throughout the county.	15	0	0	15	Public Toilet Rate Relief - 100% rate relief is available to occupied properties in the rating list described as Public Lavatories/Conveniences.
Total Waste & Environmental Services			794	50	300	1,144	
Environment Total			1,408	447	444	2,299	
MANAGERIAL Total			5,707	3,641	2,755	12,103	

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'001	£'000	£'000	

Education & Children

School Improvement	1,484	The Council is obliged to employ a notional number of officers to provide a School Improvement Service to meet the needs of our schools. With a reduced number of schools it is possible to review this notional figure.	0		122	122	Reprofiled due to direct link to review of MEP. Reduction in School Challenge Advisor levels equivalent to 1 FTE on the basis that the school rationalisation programme is progressed - dependent upon member discussions/workshops
Departmental - across Education Services	17,295	The majority of the Services' budgets are for the support, administration and management of the schools - School improvement, Grant support, Data, Admissions, School Meals, Music Service, ALN, safeguarding to name a few		0	280	280	Reprofiled due to direct link to review of MEP. Rationalising of Primary Schools will reduce the level of support required. The savings would actually be managerial as service provision would not be reduced, however it is a policy decision that would enable this efficiency to be delivered. As with other linked savings, it is dependent upon member discussions/workshops.

Education & Children Total			0	0	402	402	
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Schools Delegated Budget

Primary School Delegated Budget	67,171	We have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary schools in Carmarthenshire. This may involve opening new schools or adding places to existing schools where extra capacity is required. It may also mean reducing in size or closing schools with surplus accommodation. The challenge for the Council in attempting to secure value for money is to provide the right number of places in the right locations, to secure efficient and effective education for the pupils in its area. We have the second highest number of primary schools in Wales (94 Primary schools) and sustaining this number of schools provides many challenges including; recruitment and retention of staff, securing sustainable leadership, ensuring adequate funding to meet the needs of all learners and maintaining the school buildings.		200	550	750	We are proposing to review our primary schools' footprint, especially those unable to sustain effective staffing structures due to low pupil numbers and those that are disproportionately expensive to operate. Through carefully selected remodelling, strategically driven school federations and investment in sustainable settings the primary school estate could be reduced. The need to move to a more effective and efficient model is imperative and could improve the financial stability of the remaining schools and reduce demands on a range of County Council services e.g., Finance, HR, catering, cleaning.
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Schools Delegated Budget Total			0	200	550	750	
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Waste & Environmental Services							
Total Waste & Environmental Services			0	0	0	0	

Environment Total			0	0	0	0	
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EXISTING POLICY Total			0	200	952	1,152	
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DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Education & Children

School Music Service	333	Carmarthenshire Music Service provides weekly tuition to around 5000 children and young people across Carmarthenshire. With the introduction of the new Curriculum for Wales, the music service will evolve to deliver, engage, motivate and encourage learners to develop their creative skills.	40	35		75	We propose to look at all options to reduce costs including staffing and not appointing to vacant positions. We will review the skill set and balance required between staffing who hold qualified teacher status, paid on school teacher's pay and conditions, and those employed on a 'tutor' basis, aiming to meet the needs of schools efficiently.
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Education & Children Total			40	35	0	75	
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Schools Delegated Budget

Delegated Schools Budget	128,035	In recent years, the delegated school budget has been protected by the Council. This budget is delegated to every school (1 nursery, 94 Primary, 2 special and 12 secondary) under the fair funding formula. This budget is to meet all the costs associated with running a school (e.g., employment of teachers and support staff, support for learners, buying resources and equipment, Premises costs, Cleaning, HR, IT, etc.).	2,000	0	0	2,000	While we will continue to provide full funding to meet the substantial increase in energy costs and teacher staff pay awards, we propose that the delegated budget to schools should be reduced by 2.1% in line with all other Council Departments. The management of the overall delegated school budget will be the responsibility of the school's governing body who will have to manage this reduction.
Primary Schools Rising 4's Policy	67,171	The statutory requirement is to provide full time education from 5 years of age. We currently have a Rising 4's policy that allows learners full time admission to primary schools in the school term of their fourth birthday rather than the term after their fourth birthday, or the September after their fourth birthday, which is common practice across Wales.			300	300	These non-statutory aged pupils receive a full-time education in a school when funding is available to provide this provision in alternative settings. The childcare funding for Wales provided by Welsh Government provides up to 30 hours free education and childcare for children aged between 3-4 for up to 48 weeks of the year. At a time when revenue expenditure is under extreme pressure, the funding of non-statutory full-time pupils at such an early age could be re-prioritised to fund other statutory functions from the schools delegated budget. Therefore, we are proposing to remove the rising 4's policy.

Schools Delegated Budget Total			2,000	0	300	2,300	
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DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Communities

St Clears Leisure Centre	113	St Clears Leisure centre is one of 6 leisure centres operated by the Council in Carmarthenshire and offers facilities such as a 3 court sport-hall and a fitness suite and multi-purpose space. The leisure centre does not have a swimming pool. The centre also has changing rooms for indoor and outdoor sports (serving the football field behind, and the outdoor Multi-use games area - MUGA). Additionally, it is not located on a school site which differs from the other centres.	0	35	40	75	Based on usage (income/running costs) and its location we are looking to close the St Clears Leisure centre or asset transfer. To mitigate against this efficiency, we will continue to provide a full service at Carmarthen Leisure Centre which is approximately 10 miles away. In addition, there are several private leisure facilities in places such as Whitland, Llangynin and Carmarthen.
Libraries	2,700	Carmarthenshire libraries provide an extensive choice of books, DVDs, CDs, online services, newspapers and magazines. With over half a million books on offer between 3 regional, 13 branch and mobile libraries. Public access computers and Wi-Fi are available at all libraries, and typically, the service issues over 600,000 books per year. The mobile service provides outreach services to rural parts of the County, linking up with various partners to deliver public information services online.	0	40	24	64	Look for opportunities to asset transfer our smaller, least utilised branch libraries. If an asset transfer cannot be found, these branch libraries will be closed but alternative outreach provision will be considered.
Outdoor Education	181	Pendine Outdoors Education Centre is a large residential activity centre catering for school, youth and adult groups. On site activities include climbing, abseiling, high and low ropes courses, Archery, Zip wire, canoeing, surfing and Team building exercises. The accommodation caters for up to 150 people on a B&B, half or full board basis. Self-catering and camping facilities are also available for smaller groups.	40	80	60	180	The age of the infrastructure on site is of concern for the future and requires continued maintenance which is no longer viable. The proposal is to close Pendine education centre and look at providing an alternative facility within the county.
Communities			40	155	124	319	

Communities Total

40 155 124 319

Environment

Highways & Transport

Parking Services	-1,232	The County Council provides off street car parking facilities in towns and villages to support the expeditious movement of traffic to enable town centres to function. Parking supports these wider transport policy objectives and enables the authority to maintain highway and public transport services. There are 57 car parks across the county.	10	80	0	90	Introduce charging at 9 car parks that are currently free - Income estimate based on actuals in similar car parks. Lead-in time of approx 12 months. (Llanybydder, Station car park and Seaview Terrace car park in Burry Port, Glanryafon and Station Road Kidwelly, Llanstephan & Eva Terrace Ferryside), Pottery St, Llanelli and Waunllanryafon, Llanelli
Parking Services	-----"	There are 57 car parks currently maintained by the Council. Sometimes these car parks are used for Mobile banks, fairs, filming, construction and utility compounds.	10	0	0	10	We are proposing a charge for the commercial use of these car parks.
Parking Services	-----"	On-street permit parking areas prevents commuters parking in residential areas and ensures more parking opportunities for local residents and any business within the permit area	25	0	0	25	There is an administrative cost in receiving applications for on-street parking permits, checking eligibility and vehicle details, processing applications and issuing permits. There is also a cost to patrolling and enforcing the permit parking areas and maintaining road markings. Residents permits have cost £30 since 2009 and the proposal is to increase on-street permit charge to £40 per year to cover costs.
Countryside Access	982	The Public Rights of Way network (PROW) extends over 2000Km and includes a range of paths, byways and bridleways. A network hierarchy has been introduced to focus limited resources on the most popular and key routes. Where vegetation encroaches over a PROW it is normally the adjacent landowner's responsibility to cut the vegetation back. The Council's responsibility normally only relates to the surface of the route.	15	0	0	15	Cease discretionary clearance by Contractors (3 cuts per year) of overhanging and encroaching vegetation on 70% of the promoted PROW network (132km) and engage with landowners to ensure they take responsibility for their encroaching vegetation
Traffic Management			8	8	0	16	Decrease number of School Crossing Patrols - CCC have currently got 42 sites with only an estimated 30 sites that meet the threshold criteria for SCP.

APPENDIX B - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Nant y Ci Park & Ride	50	The park and ride facility at Nant-y-Ci includes a shuttle bus service which links to Carmarthen town centre and Glangwili Hospital. Use of the service is particularly low with a current average of 4.3 passengers per trip. However, this also includes people living in the area surrounding Nant-y-Ci who walk to the site to catch one of the half hourly service. This reduces the viability of alternative bus services which run nearby but on a less frequent basis.	40	0	0	40	Withdrawal of service between Nant-y-Ci, Town Centre and Glangwili Hospital. The service is part funded by Hywel Dda health board and discussions will take place before any service change.
Total for Highways & Transport			108	88	0	196	
Place & Sustainability							
Planning	net divisional budget of £3.2M	We are required by law to publicise all planning applications. Certain application types are advertised in the local newspapers depending on specific factors relating to the application's location.	20	0	0	20	It is proposed to stop advertising in the local newspapers and publicise through other methods that are currently undertaken. This can include direct consultations with statutory bodies that include Local Members and Town & Community Council, site notices, and neighbour notifications. A list of registered and determined applications are also published weekly on the Council's website, as well as being available to view in real-time.
Total Place & Sustainability division			20	0	0	20	
Waste & Environmental Services							
Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)	total budget for Waste is £18.2m	There are currently four HWRCs located across the County that serve all communities. With Trostre, Nantycaws and Wernddu HWRCs open 7 days a week and Whitland open 5 days.	63	0	0	63	This proposal focuses on the rationalisation of the days and times that the sites are open based upon usage. 1. Change of Whitland opening hours - 10am -4pm all year - £7,500 2. Change Nantycaws and Wernddu to close on one week day based on site usage - £55,500
Cleansing - Litter bin	-----"	The Cleansing Service provides in excess of 2,500 litter bins which are serviced as part of general cleansing operative duties.	100	0	0	100	We are looking to rationalise up to 20% of litter bins for the County. Following a review, we have seen that bins in laybys are often filled with household waste which is in contradiction to the initial purpose of these bins (i.e., fast food packaging). This rationalisation will deliver savings on Waste disposal charges, operative time and plant costs.
Environment Total			291	88	0	379	
NEW POLICY Total			2,371	278	424	3,073	

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Demographic, Legislative or continuing pressures

APPENDIX C

	Description	Bid 2023-24 £'000	Allocation 2023-24 £'000
Total for the Chief Executives Department		0	0
Fostering - uplift in allowances	Increase applied May 2022, compounded by forecast increase for 2023	700	
Childrens services - Residential settings	Creation of Ty Magu offering has created an unfunded staffing structure	300	
ALN, ASD, Behaviour and Inclusion		2,801	
School Meals service	includes allowance for food inflation	1,200	
Other		30	
Total for the Education & Childrens Department		5,031	3,750
Demographic Growth	Older peoples / Learning Disabilities / Mental Health	792	
Foundation Living Wage	impact on commissioned care rates	3,562	
Market Pressures		1,185	
Pent up demand		247	
Commissioned care - Energy and Food inflation		1,740	
Other		500	
Total for the Communities Department		8,027	6,000
Total for the Corporate Services Department		0	0
Waste	Waste Service delivery change (nb part year effect only, builds on previous year)	830	
Property	TIC Board recommendation	170	
Planning		91	
Fleet		298	
Climate change officer		54	
Highways	Drainage and Gully Cleansing	439	
Public and School Transport	Combination of Driver shortages, retendering and fuel increases	1883	
Total for the Environment Department		3,765	2,000
Fire Levy	Additional Increase	150	150
Highways and Town Centres	New investment, responding to concerns raised by public and Members		294
TOTAL		16,973	12,194

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COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT

TABLE 1

SUMMARY STATEMENT

2022/23 Approved Budget £	2022/23 Provisional Outturn £		2023/24 Proposed Budget £	2024/25 Indicative Budget £	2025/26 Indicative Budget £
17,217,622	16,687,000	Chief Executive	18,688,014	18,684,700	19,095,252
187,394,396	191,091,000	Education & Childrens Services	200,709,959	204,950,077	207,142,299
29,315,883	28,235,000	Corporate Services	33,331,623	43,110,987	50,532,264
119,588,785	122,223,000	Communities	131,651,173	131,948,354	131,918,319
65,783,812	65,709,000	Environment Services	70,309,814	71,452,083	72,272,976
		Savings to be identified	0	-2,329,000	-314,000
419,300,498	423,945,000	Departmental Expenditure	454,690,584	467,817,200	480,647,110
	6,300,000	Unfunded pay offers			
3,000,000	200,000	Corporate Contingency			
(17,694,060)	(20,194,060)	Capital Charges/Asset Management Acc	(17,694,060)	(18,194,060)	(18,694,060)
		<u>Levies and Contributions</u>			
11,170,197	11,170,197	Mid & West Wales Fire Authority	13,013,807	13,404,221	13,672,306
155,000	155,000	Corporate Joint Committee	168,091	173,134	176,596
153,850	152,360	Brecon Beacons National Park	152,360	156,931	160,069
416,085,485	421,728,497	Net Expenditure	450,330,782	463,357,426	475,962,022
0	(3,473,012)	Contribution to/from general balances	0	0	0
0	(2,170,000)	Transfer to/from Departmental Balances	0	0	0
(200,000)	(200,000)	Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0
415,885,485	415,885,485	NET BUDGET	450,330,782	463,357,426	475,962,022
		TO BE FINANCED FROM:			
(311,602,859)	(311,602,859)	Aggregate External Finance	(338,400,387)	(346,521,855)	(355,178,848)
104,282,626	104,282,626	CALL ON TAXPAYERS	111,930,395	116,835,571	120,783,173
1,396.04		Band D Tax	1,490.97	1,550.62	1,597.14
2.50%		Council Tax Increase	6.80%	4.00%	3.00%

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COUNTY COUNCIL

01.03.2023

FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) 2023/24 TO 2027/28

Recommendations / key decisions required:

Cabinet recommends to County Council that:

1. The five-year Capital Programme and funding as detailed in Appendix A, with 2023/24 being a hard budget and 2024/25 to 2027/28 soft/indicative budgets, is approved.
2. That the programme be reviewed, as is usual, if anticipated external or county council funding does not materialise.
3. That the Capital Strategy in Appendix C be approved.

and

4. County Council delegates to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, authority to make any amendments to the programme necessary as a consequence of the final settlement from the Welsh Government due on 1st March 2023.

REASONS:

To enable the authority to agree a five-year capital programme 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Cabinet Decision Required: YES

Council Decision Required: YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Head of Service:
Randal Hemingway

Report Author: Adrian Armstrong

Designations:

Head of Financial Services

Tel: 01267 224886

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MAAarmstrong@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNTY COUNCIL
01.03.2023**

**FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND)
2023/24 TO 2027/28**

The report brings together the latest proposals for the five-year capital programme 2023/24 to 2027/28, taking account of the consultation exercise undertaken and the revenue implications arising from the programme.

The proposed gross expenditure on the capital programme for 2023/24 is £151.143m with the projected funding being £87.227m from the county council's own resources through the use of borrowing, reserves and direct revenue financing, capital receipts and general capital grant, with the balance of £63.916m coming from external sources. These figures include projects delayed in 2022/23 that have been carried over and built into the budgets of future years.

The new capital programme is fully funded over the five-year period; however, it is proposed to under commit some of the available funding in order to give flexibility across the programme to cover any unexpected additional costs and to allow further consideration to the Sustainable Communities for Learning review when complete.

The programme includes projected expenditure on the Swansea Bay City Region Deal projects against which the authority will borrow, with the funding being returned from both Welsh and UK governments over a 15-year period (from 2018/19).

The authority's capital strategy, required by the prudential code for capital finance in local authorities, has been updated and sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made. It gives due consideration to both risk and reward and impact on the achievement of priority outcomes. The capital strategy covers expenditure on both Council Fund and HRA capital and is included as Appendix C.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Randal Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	YES
Scrutiny Committee	Corporate Performance and Resources
Date the report was considered:	30.01.2023
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:	
Minutes provided Appendix B	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED <p style="text-align: center;">YES</p>	Include any observations here
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2022/23 – 2026/27 Capital Programme		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen. On-line via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 2 nd March 2022.
2023/24 – 2027/28 Capital Programme		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

CABINET

20-02-2023

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28

DIRECTOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
C Moore, Director of Corporate Services	Corporate Services	01267 224120
AUTHOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
R Hemingway, Head of Financial Services	Corporate Services	01267 224886

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The report provides members with a view of the proposed five-year Capital Programme 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- 1.2. This report reflects the position following consultation and sets out the proposals for the authority's capital programme for the next five years.
- 1.3. In response to the consultation and the matters raised in the scrutiny committee meeting, the capital programme has been updated to give additional support for flood mitigation and decarbonisation measures.
- 1.4. The authority is required to approve a rolling capital programme each year as part of its budget setting process. This facilitates forward planning and is consistent with the requirements of the Prudential Code in terms of financial planning and funding while assisting officers in bidding for external funding.
- 1.5. The Cabinet needs to consider the detailed proposals within the report and approve the recommendations in accordance with council policy.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1. The detailed provisional capital programme (Appendix A) was presented to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 30th January 2023 to seek its views on the proposals. An extract from the relevant Committee meeting minutes is appended (Appendix B) for information.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Last year the authority agreed a fully funded five-year capital programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 which was approved at County Council on 2nd March 2022.
- 3.2. 2021 was an unprecedented year and saw us reprioritise our capital strategy and capital programme to reflect the desire to boost local businesses and local economies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This commitment remained our focus last year and coupled with the UK Government's levelling up funding saw the start of significant investments to boost the Carmarthenshire economy. During 2022 we faced multiple challenges from rising costs, rising inflation and reductions in government funding, those challenges remain as we look to prioritise our spending in 2023/24 and beyond. The truth is that the council has never faced the pressures on budgets that we currently face. The capital programme has been reviewed and departments also submitted proposals for new critically urgent projects for the programme. Projects have been assessed and prioritised with only the highest priorities being included in the programme. Given the cost pressures on the revenue budgets no wider expressions of interest were invited. This will enable projects already approved to be completed without putting additional pressures on resources and local contractor capacity.
- 3.3. The proposed capital programme is attached in Appendix A and shows the anticipated expenditure and sources of funding over the five year period.
- 3.4. The proposed capital programme and funding is based on the Welsh Government's (WG) provisional settlement, received on 14th December 2022. This year the capital funding across Wales has been confirmed at £180m for 2023/24 and 2024/25 which is 8.1% lower in real terms compared to the 2022/23 capital budget. For Carmarthenshire this means an allocation of non-hypothecated capital funding of £11.989m. Other hypothecated capital funding grants across Wales totalling £925.948m was announced in the settlement and we will be applying to take advantage of this grant funding in due course but it is not reflected in the programme at this time. Any successful applications for funding will be reported separately. The Final Settlement, is due in March. Should there be any amendments in the funding figures Cabinet/County Council is asked to delegate to the Director of Corporate Services authority to adjust the programme accordingly, in liaison with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. Similarly, delegated authority to update the programme is sought should any other award of grant funding be received at the same time, again in consultation with the same.

4. PRIORITIES

- 4.1. The current Corporate Strategy for 2018-2023 (refreshed June 2021) sets out the Authority's strategic priorities, aspirations, overarching themes and core values, and the programme has been developed in line with these, whilst also recognising the priorities that have come forward as a consequence of the pandemic and Levelling Up funding.

4.2. The proposed capital programme of £265m over the five years (which includes some reprofiled projects from previous years), is aimed at delivering a number of key projects that will create jobs and improve the quality of life for the people of Carmarthenshire.

The key investments within the programme are:

	£'m
Schools	73
Housing (Non HRA)	12
Leisure & Culture	4
Regeneration	27
Swansea City Deal Region	86
ICT and Property	4
Place and Infrastructure	59

5. FUNDING

The provisional settlement received from WG allocated capital funding of £11.989m for the Authority in 2023/24, made up of non-hypothecated supported borrowing of £5.914m and General Capital Grant of £6.075m.

- 5.1. The level of capital receipts funding included within the programme is £3.5m for the Llanelli Leisure centre project. It should be noted that there may be a need to amend future capital programmes if there is a shortfall in expected receipts.
- 5.2. The use of earmarked reserves was approved as part of previous years' reports and were included as funding for the current capital programme. In total £45.2m of reserve funding is included over the five years of the programme.
- 5.3. The existing levels of investment into the schools estate programme is maintained with a realisation that additional funding will be needed in future years to deliver the whole MEP programme. New match funding is made available from reserves and prudential borrowing to deliver the next phase of new school builds.
- 5.4. Funding from external parties in the form of grants for the whole of the capital programme is currently expected to be in the region of £100.4m. which includes City Deal, Levelling Up projects and anticipated schools grants.
- 5.5. As part of the provisional annual settlement from Welsh Government, funding was made available on an all Wales basis for the following areas:
 - Active Travel Fund, Local Transport Fund, Bus Infrastructure, Road Safety and Safe Routes in Communities - £107m for 2023/24. Carmarthenshire will bid for funding from these grants and any

successful awards will be added to the capital programme in due course.

- 5.6. Disappointingly, no award was made for Highways Refurbishment or Resilient Roads funding as in previous years which means we have had to revise down our commitments in this area.

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2027/28

- 6.1. When the capital programme was approved at County Council on 2nd March 2022 it was fully funded. The new capital programme again remains fully funded over the five-year period, however, it is proposed to undercommit some of the available funding from the Welsh Government in order to give flexibility across the programme to cover any unexpected additional costs on approved projects.

Community Services

- 6.2. In recent years there have been significant investments across the Community Services portfolio with investments in the new Carmarthenshire Archive, Museums in Abergwili and Parc Howard and the ongoing development at Oriel Myrddin.
- 6.3. The new programme includes the provision of a new leisure centre in Llanelli, which will be delivered in conjunction with the Pentre Awel development under the umbrella of the Swansea Bay City Region.
- 6.4. In 2027/28 within Private Sector Housing, further funding is provided for Disabled Facility Grants of £2.5m.

Environment

- 6.5. For 2027/28 further allocations to existing rolling programmes of work are included, namely Highway Improvements £600k, Highway Drainage £250K, Bridge Maintenance £400k, Road Safety Improvement £250k, public lighting £400k.

Given the disappointing omission of specific Highways Improvement grant funding in the WG settlement, in 2022/23 we were able to supplement this with £1m of our own resources. We will be able to continue this support in 2023/24 funded from borrowing because we have been able to take advantage of more favourable borrowing rates than was supported by the Welsh Government under the LGBI initiative. This is in addition to our annual commitment of £600k already mentioned. We will continue to work with the WG in the hope that funding towards highways can be restored in future years.

- 6.6. 2027/28 also sees the continuation of our commitment to Rights of Way and Byways with funding of £66k, in recognition of our obligations in this area and the wider community health and environmental benefits provided by these valuable resources.
- 6.7. Our commitment to the Tywi Valley Path project continues with £18.2m included in the new programme, £1,864k in-house funding together with the

grant of £16.8m from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund. A major investment which will bring significant benefits to the rural economy in the medium to long-term and improvements in health and wellbeing for residents.

- 6.8. Funding for flood risk management of £75k in 2023/24 continues in order to match fund external grants.
- 6.9. £1m additional funds have been incorporated within the first three years to support flood mitigation.
- 6.10. £500k in provided in 2023/24 to further support the Council's decarbonisation programme.
- 6.11. Significant investment continues to be made available to the upkeep and refurbishment of the County's estate.
 - Works continue at County Hall, alongside £300k for county farms slurry infrastructure.
 - In addition in 2027/28 it is proposed to continue the annual allocation towards Capital Maintenance across the county estate at £3m. (£15.2m across the five years.) This maintains our investment in this area whilst recognising that the estate may be downsized in coming years as we aim to release capital receipts to fund future programmes.
- 6.12. £4.7m for refuse and recycling vehicle replacement is included, which will see the rollout of kerbside sorting for recycling collections. It is hoped that this project will attract significant funding from WG in the future which will see investment in the infrastructure at Nantycaws and the replacement of the current refuse lorries with an electric fleet in the coming years. It will make a huge contribution to our efforts to decarbonise our services to address local, national and global commitments to Net Zero Carbon.
- 6.13. A five-year Fleet Replacement Programme for £4.5m, excluding refuse and recycling collection vehicles, is included to ensure that vehicles and plant machinery assets are replaced when they reach the end of their viable economic life. The funding for this capital spend will be provided directly from revenue budgets of the service users via prudential borrowing.
- 6.14. As part of the provisional settlement, £20m per annum from 2023/24 will be made available on an all Wales basis for the decarbonisation agenda. We will work with the WG and other local authorities and organisations to see how this funding can be best utilised to have the greatest impact across the authority's estate, and across Wales, in response to the climate emergency.

Education and Children

- 6.15. In the Education and Children Services capital programme, the MEP includes the continuation of the Sustainable Communities for Learning improvement programme. Schemes are funded jointly by Welsh Government grant and the Authority.

- 6.16. There are eight schools included in the programme at design stage. As they complete final business case stage and receive offers of grant funding from the Welsh Government they will be included in the delivery stage of the programme. Future reports will seek approval for inclusion in the programme if and when external funding is secured. Internal match funding will be from the Consolidated MEP Delivery Fund.
- 6.17. It is proposed to award a further £500k in 2027/28 to fund ongoing pressures on the education budget, namely: Equalities Works, Health and Safety measures, Mobile Classroom Provision.
- 6.18. To mitigate ongoing health and safety concerns at a number of school drop-off sites we propose to provide £850k in 2023/24 and 2024/25 for the provision of new bus bays and traffic management projects. This will be funded by MEP unsupported prudential borrowing.
- 6.19. An autism spectrum disorder (ASD) unit for secondary age pupils is urgently needed in the east of the county. This will be accommodated in the Llanelli/Burry Port Area. It is hoped that this will attract government funding of approximately £1.5m. It is proposed to provide a further £500k in match funding for the provision of the same from our own resources to meet our responsibilities in this area. This will be funded by MEP unsupported prudential borrowing.

Chief Executive

- 6.20. ICT services are crucial to our future ways of working. There is £2.4m allocated across the programme for this area. It includes annual funding of £200k per annum to support digital transformational projects across council services. The county council will also see the benefit of the Swansea Bay City Region Digital Project across the county.

Regeneration

- 6.21. The work to deliver the new Carmarthen town centre hub continues. A new community resource, in partnership with healthcare and education providers. It will also see a new home for some of the county's art collections currently unseen by the public, and a new fitness suite. This development will bring footfall back to the town centre and be a catalyst for the regeneration and revitalisation of Carmarthen town centre.
- 6.22. In the medium term we will need to be able to support new regeneration projects as they are developed. We are therefore making new awards of £2m per year in 2026/27 and 2027/28 to Regeneration Schemes Match Funding, which in turn will be utilised to attract external grant funding to developments across the county.
- 6.23. Work continues on the Pentre Awel project (Zone 1), delivered under the Swansea Bay City Region programme, which will create five distinct buildings linked with a "street" space, comprising an aquatics centre, sports hall, multipurpose sports and fitness rooms and gym, education and training facilities, clinical delivery and research and innovation and business space. The budgeted costs of Zone 1 which started in 2018/19 are increasing at the

moment and we are in negotiations with the contractor currently. The funding will be via City Deal (£40m), County Council finances, Llanelli Waterfront JV, third party Health partners, and external market funding, £26m of which falls within year one of the new programme. The latest estimated cost is included within the programme.

The project also includes the provision of a hydro-therapy pool, which will be part of the leisure element, the funding for which includes approximately £1m from a trust. This project has recently been subject to a separate County Council report. With reference to the City Deal funding, the expenditure - whilst being incurred by the Authority, will be repaid to the Authority over a period of up to 15 years by both Welsh and UK governments. The structure of the City Deal projects means that WG expects the Authority to deliver the projects and raise the funding through borrowing which will then be repaid over a 15 year period. The projects or the Authority will need to accommodate the interest payments on this borrowing.

6.24. The Pentre Awel development also provides for an assisted housing development programme, in Zone 3, which is part of the HRA capital programme.

6.25. The County Council will also have an input in other regional projects delivered by the Swansea Bay City Region given its role as lead body.

7. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

7.1. In considering the capital programme, members need to take into consideration the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act requires the public bodies to carry out development sustainably, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

‘... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

7.2. In doing so, we must demonstrate the following five ways of working:

- i. Looking at the long-term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- ii. Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them recurring
- iii. Taking an integrated approach so that we look at all well-being goals and objectives of other services and partners
- iv. Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
- v. Involving a diversity of population in decisions that affect them

- 7.3. The act identifies seven well-being goals and provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards. We must work towards achieving all of them.
- i. A prosperous Wales
 - ii. A resilient Wales
 - iii. A healthier Wales
 - iv. A more equal Wales
 - v. A Wales of cohesive communities
 - vi. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
 - vii. A globally responsible Wales
- 7.4. Our well-being objectives are designed to maximise our contribution to achieving the seven well-being goals of the Act.
- 7.5. All projects within the programme have been assesses and scored with the five ways of working, the seven goals and our corporate well-being statement in mind.

8.

SUMMARY

The table below gives a breakdown of the expenditure by departments and the sources of funding.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY						
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Community Services	6,312	2,300	2,000	2,500	2,500	15,612
Place and Infrastructure	35,311	6,672	6,543	5,026	5,026	58,078
Education & Children	18,416	33,593	20,857	500	500	73,866
Chief Executive	1,465	1,657	200	200	200	3,722
Regeneration	89,639	15,424	3,863	2,201	2,000	113,127
Total Expenditure	151,143	59,646	33,463	10,427	10,226	264,905
<u>Grants and Contributions</u>						
External Funding	63,916	23,273	13,232	0	0	100,421
Net Expenditure Funded by CCC	87,227	36,373	20,231	10,427	10,226	164,484
<u>CCC Funding</u>						
Non-hypothecated Supported Borrowing	5,914	5,914	5,914	5,914	5,914	29,570
Unsupported Borrowing	24,603	10,143	4,822	-1,100	280	38,748
Prudential Borrowing - Fleet	7,250	1,000	1,000	0	0	9,250
General Capital Grant	6,075	6,075	6,075	6,075	6,075	30,375
Capital Reserves	39,369	12,725	1,904	500	0	54,498
Joint Venture Funding Llanelli Leisure Centre	3,500	0	0	0	0	3,500
Direct Revenue Funding	516	516	516	490	16	2,054
Overall Net Position: Surplus + / Deficit (-)	0	0	0	1,452	2,059	3,511

8.1. To summarise the overall position, all approved projects within the capital programme are fully funded for the five years from 2023/24 to 2027/28, however, not all available funding is committed at this time in order to give us flexibility to deal with future cost pressures or urgent works which may arise.

8.2. The total cost of the programme is £264.9m of which £100.4m is funded from external grants and contributions.

8.3. The full detail of the proposed five-year capital programme is attached in Appendix A.

9. REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

9.1. The revenue budget strategy in 2023/24 allows for a £400k increase in the revenue budget implications of the capital programme.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet consider and recommend to County Council:

10.1. The five-year Capital Programme and funding as detailed in Appendix A, with 2023/24 being a hard budget and 2024/25 to 2027/28 soft/indicative budgets.

10.2. That the programme be reviewed, as is usual, if predicted external or county council funding does not materialise.

10.3. That the Capital Strategy in Appendix C be approved.

and

10.4. That Cabinet/County Council delegates to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, authority to make any amendments to the programme necessary as a consequence of the final settlement from the Welsh Government due on 1st March 2023.

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
COUNCIL FUND	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
COMMUNITIES																		
<i>Private Sector Housing</i>																		
Disabled Facility Grants	2,700	0	2,700	2,300	0	2,300	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	12,000	0	12,000
<i>Sports & Leisure</i>																		
Amman Valley Leisure Centre 3G Pitch	1,912	0	1,912	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,912	0	1,912
<i>Culture</i>																		
Oriel Myrddin	700	1,000	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	700	1,000	1,700
Total Communities	5,312	1,000	6,312	2,300	0	2,300	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	14,612	1,000	15,612
Total Communities Excluding HRA	5,312	1,000	6,312	2,300	0	2,300	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	14,612	1,000	15,612

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
COUNCIL FUND	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PLACE and INFRASTRUCTURE																		
Countryside																		
Byways	16	0	16	16	0	16	16	0	16	16	0	16	16	0	16	80	0	80
Rights of Way Improvement Programme	50	0	50	50	0	50	50	0	50	50	0	50	50	0	50	250	0	250
Coastal and Flood Defence																		
Flood Mitigation	200	0	200	400	0	400	400	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
Flood Management	75	425	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	425	500
Fleet Management																		
Fleet Replacement - Prudential Borrowing	2,520	0	2,520	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,520	0	4,520
Infrastructure																		
Multi Storey Car Park, Llanelli	60	0	60	60	0	60	60	0	60	60	0	60	60	0	60	300	0	300
Highways	1,600	0	1,600	600	0	600	600	0	600	600	0	600	600	0	600	4,000	0	4,000
Highways Drainage	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	1,250	0	1,250
Bridges and Structures	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400	2,000	0	2,000
Street Lighting Replacement & Upgrade	0	0	0	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400	1,600	0	1,600
Waste Management																		
Refuse Vehicles replacement	2,125	0	2,125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,125	0	2,125
Decarbonisation of Refuse and Recycling Collection Vehicles	2,605	0	2,605	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,605	0	2,605
Transportation																		
Road Safety Improvement Schemes	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	250	0	250	1,250	0	1,250
Cross Hands Economic Link Road Phase 2	384	0	384	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	0	384
Public Transport Infrastructure																		
Twyi Valley Path - Non Levelling Up	426	0	426	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	426	0	426
Tywi Valley Path - Levelling Up Fund	6,086	11,751	17,837	0	0	0	45	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,131	11,751	17,882
Place																		
Decarbonisation Measures	500	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	500
Property																		
Capital Maintenance	2,838	0	2,838	3,246	0	3,246	3,072	0	3,072	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	15,156	0	15,156
County Hall	1,600	0	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600	0	1,600
Tŷ Elwyn	1,150	0	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,150	0	1,150
Total Place and Infrastructure	23,135	12,176	35,311	6,672	0	6,672	6,543	0	6,543	5,026	0	5,026	5,026	0	5,026	46,402	12,176	58,578

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
COUNCIL FUND			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
EDUCATION & CHILDREN																		
Schools: General Projects																		
Non MEP Education Works - Equalities Works, Mobiles, H&S etc	500	0	500	500	0	500	500	0	500	500	0	500	500	0	500	2,500	0	2,500
Dyffryn Taf Bus Bays	169	0	169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	0	169
Infant Class Size Penygroes	157	0	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	0	157
Glanymor Bus Bays	250	0	250	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	500
Amman Valley Bus Bays	300	0	300	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600	0	600
Bro Myrddin Onsite traffic management issues	100	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	200
Amman Valley Safeguarding access	200	0	200	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	400
ASD Llanelli Area - Secondary Provision	500	1,500	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	1,500	2,000
Sustainable Communities for Learning BandA - Design stage Projects																		
Laugharne	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
Dewi Sant	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Sustainable Communities for Learning BandB - Design stage Projects																		
Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
Carmarthen West	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
Llandybie	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
Heol Goffa New School	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Bryngwyn	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Maes y Morfa	100	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	200
Sustainable Communities for Learning BandB - Approved Schemes																		
Y Castell	0	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60
Pum Heol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrey	3,260	850	4,110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,260	850	4,110
Sustainable Communities for Learning Match Funding																		
Consolidated MEP Delivery Fund	2,500	7,500	10,000	9,750	22,393	32,143	7,125	13,232	20,357	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,375	43,125	62,500
Total Education & Children	8,506	9,910	18,416	11,200	22,393	33,593	7,625	13,232	20,857	500	0	500	500	0	500	28,331	45,535	73,866

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CHIEF EXECUTIVE																		
<i>Property</i>																		
Rural Estate Infrastructure	0	0	0	300	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	300
St David's Park - Block 3	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
Digital Transformation	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	1,000	0	1,000
PSBA Network	75	0	75	75	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	150
Strategic Digital Initiatives	100	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	200
Information Security and Governance	50	0	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Virtualised Server & Storage Environment Replacement	0	0	0	400	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	400
UPS 15KVA	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
Voice Infrastructure	25	0	25	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	45
Business Critical Infrastructure & Strategic ICT Development	0	0	0	512	0	512	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	512	0	512
Total Chief Executive	1,465	0	1,465	1,657	0	1,657	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	3,722	0	3,722

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
REGENERATION																		
Transformational Strategy Project Fund	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	7,500	0	7,500
Rural Employment Spaces JV	1,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	2,000
Rural Enterprise Fund	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500
Transformation Commercial Property Development Fund	2,500	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	2,500
Business Support for Renewable Energy Initiatives (3rd Party Grants)	400	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	400
Ten Town Growth Plan																		
Ten Town Growth Plan	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
Llanelli, Cross Hands & Coastal Belt Area																		
Tri Market Street North	1,700	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,700	0	1,700
Ammanford, Carmarthen & Rural Area																		
Carmarthen Hub - Levelling Up Fund	1,896	8,417	10,313	0	0	0	93	0	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,989	8,417	10,406
Carmarthen Hub - Fit-out	0	0	0	0	0	0	201	0	201	201	0	201	0	0	0	402	0	402
Swansea Bay City Region Projects																		
City Deal - Pentre Awel Wellness Project	16,513	26,913	43,426	13,044	880	13,924	1,569	0	1,569	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,126	27,793	58,919
City Deal - Llanelli Leisure Centre	22,300	4,500	26,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,300	4,500	26,800
Total Regeneration	48,809	40,830	89,639	14,544	880	15,424	3,863	0	3,863	2,201	0	2,201	2,000	0	2,000	71,417	41,710	113,127
Total Council Fund	87,227	63,916	151,143	36,373	23,273	59,646	20,231	13,232	33,463	10,427	0	10,427	10,226	0	10,226	164,484	100,421	264,905
Total Council Fund Excluding HRA	87,227	63,916	151,143	36,373	23,273	59,646	20,231	13,232	33,463	10,427	0	10,427	10,226	0	10,226	164,484	100,421	264,905

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Appendix A

Capital Project 2023/24-2027/28	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Five Year Total 2023/24:2027/28		
	COUNCIL FUND			COUNCIL FUND			COUNCIL FUND			COUNCIL FUND			COUNCIL FUND			COUNCIL FUND		
	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total Scheme	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total	County Council Funding	External Funding	Total
	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sources of Funding																		
Borrowing: PWLB	23,254	0	23,254	11,570	0	11,570	11,736	0	11,736	4,814	0	4,814	6,194	0	6,194	57,568	0	57,568
Borrowing: Non PWLB	14,513	0	14,513	5,487	0	5,487	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000
Capital Receipts	3,500	0	3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,500	0	3,500
Reserves / Revenue	30,526	0	30,526	13,241	0	13,241	2,420	0	2,420	990	0	990	16	0	16	47,193	0	47,193
Highways & Transport Grants		12,176	12,176		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	12,176	12,176
Economic Development Grants		40,830	40,830		880	880		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	41,710	41,710
Education Grants		9,910	9,910		22,393	22,393		13,232	13,232		0	0		0	0	0	45,535	45,535
Other Grants & Funding	15,434	1,000	16,434	6,075	0	6,075	6,075	0	6,075	6,075	0	6,075	6,075	0	6,075	39,734	1,000	40,734
Total Capital Programme Funding	87,227	63,916	151,143	36,373	23,273	59,646	20,231	13,232	33,463	11,879	0	11,879	12,285	0	12,285	167,995	100,421	268,416

Net Funding Position - Surplus / (Shortfall)	-0	0	-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,452	0	1,452	2,059	0	2,059	3,511	0	3,511
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Summary of Expenditure by Services	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Public Housing																		
Private Housing	2,700	0	2,700	2,300	0	2,300	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	12,000	0	12,000
Culture & Leisure	2,612	1,000	3,612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,612	1,000	3,612
Transportation, Infrastructure & Municipal	17,547	12,176	29,723	3,426	0	3,426	3,471	0	3,471	2,026	0	2,026	2,026	0	2,026	28,496	12,176	40,672
Economic Development	48,809	40,830	89,639	14,544	880	15,424	3,863	0	3,863	2,201	0	2,201	2,000	0	2,000	71,417	41,710	113,127
Education & Children	8,506	9,910	18,416	11,200	22,393	33,593	7,625	13,232	20,857	500	0	500	500	0	500	28,331	45,535	73,866
Property	6,588	0	6,588	3,546	0	3,546	3,072	0	3,072	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	19,206	0	19,206
ICT	465	0	465	1,357	0	1,357	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	2,422	0	2,422
Total Capital Expenditure by Service	87,227	63,916	151,143	36,373	23,273	59,646	20,231	13,232	33,463	10,427	0	10,427	10,226	0	10,226	164,484	100,421	264,905

Summary of Expenditure by Department	2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			Five Year Total		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Communities	5,312	1,000	6,312	2,300	0	2,300	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	14,612	1,000	15,612
Place and Infrastructure	23,135	12,176	35,311	6,672	0	6,672	6,543	0	6,543	5,026	0	5,026	5,026	0	5,026	46,402	12,176	58,578
Education & Children	8,506	9,910	18,416	11,200	22,393	33,593	7,625	13,232	20,857	500	0	500	500	0	500	28,331	45,535	73,866
Chief Executive	1,465	0	1,465	1,657	0	1,657	200	0	200	200	0	200	200	0	200	3,722	0	3,722
Regeneration including City Deal	48,809	40,830	89,639	14,544	880	15,424	3,863	0	3,863	2,201	0	2,201	2,000	0	2,000	71,417	41,710	113,127
Total Capital Expenditure By Department	87,227	63,916	151,143	36,373	23,273	59,646	20,231	13,232	33,463	10,427	0	10,427	10,226	0	10,226	164,484	100,421	264,905
External Grants	0	63,916	63,916	0	23,273	23,273	0	13,232	13,232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,421	100,421
Net CCC Funding	87,227	0	87,227	36,373	0	36,373	20,231	0	20,231	10,427	0	10,427	10,226	0	10,226	164,484	0	164,484

* N.B. Some external funding shown may be subject to final approval from the relevant funding body.

EXTRACT

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2023

5. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) 2023/24 TO 2027/28

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the 5-year capital programme which provided an initial view of the 5-year Capital Programme from 2023/24 to 2027/28. The report formed the basis of the budget consultation process with members and other relevant parties and any feedback, along with the final settlement, would inform the final budget report which would be presented to Council in March 2023.

The proposed gross expenditure on the capital programme for 2023/24 was £154.530m with the projected funding being £90.527m from the county council's own resources through the use of borrowing, reserves and direct revenue financing, capital receipts and general capital grant, with the balance of £64.003m coming from external sources. These figures included projects delayed in 2022/23 which had been carried over and built into the budgets of future years.

Whilst the new capital programme was fully funded over the five-year period it was proposed to under commit some of the available funding in order to give flexibility across the programme to cover any unexpected additional costs and to allow further consideration to the Sustainable Communities for Learning review when complete. The programme included projected expenditure on the Swansea Bay City Region Deal projects against which the authority would borrow, with the funding being returned from both Welsh and UK governments over a 15-year period (from 2018/19).

Amongst the issues raised during consideration of the report were the following:

- In response to a comment the Head of Regeneration advised that round three of the Levelling-Up fund in Carmarthenshire would be restricted to bids from the Llanelli Parliamentary Constituency as the other two constituencies had already benefitted from funding for the conversion of the former Debenhams store and Tywi Valley Cycle Path;
- Reference was made to the work being undertaken to address deprivation in the Glan y Mor and Tyisha wards in south Llanelli and the benefits which were likely to accrue from the Pentre Awel scheme;
- Concern was expressed that no funding for flood management was included in years 2-5 of the 5-year programme particularly in light of the increase in flooding incidents and global warming. The Director of Corporate Resources agreed to convey the concern to the Director of Place and Infrastructure.

RESOLVED that the Five-Year Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2027/28 be endorsed.

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CAPITAL STRATEGY

2023 - 2024

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023-24

PURPOSE AND AIMS

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities was updated by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in December 2021.

This Code dictates that “authorities should have in place a capital strategy that sets out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and gives due consideration to both risk and reward and impact on the achievement of priority outcomes.”

The Capital Strategy shows how this Council makes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of:

- Stewardship / good professional practice
- Value for money
- Prudence / risks considered
- Sustainability
- Affordability

It sets out a framework for the self-management of capital finance and examines the following areas:

- Capital expenditure and investment plans
- Treasury Management
- Prudential Indicators
- Commercial activity
- Knowledge and skills

The above considerations help to support local strategic planning, local asset management planning and effective option appraisal.

Through this Capital Strategy elected members and other stakeholders will see how future capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activities will contribute to the provision of services, together with a

summary of how associated risks are managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It also highlights the governance framework required to ensure the Strategy is delivered.

ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

It is important to set out the external environment in which Carmarthenshire County Council is currently operating. One of the key factors that impact directly on the capital programme is the reduced revenue funding for local government. Owing to the pressure on public finances, the funds allocated from the Welsh Government to this council to run its services is substantially lower than in recent years. Carmarthenshire will continue to identify, plan, fund and invest longer term in non-current assets to help the council deliver departmental strategies and wider plans.

CARMARTHENSHIRE'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE

In considering capital implications, the authority takes into consideration the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act requires that we must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act requires us to look at the long-term prevention of recurring problems, integrating our approach, collaborating with others, and involving stakeholders. Carmarthenshire's Well Being objectives have a direct impact on the Council Capital Strategy. Some of these include:

- Start Well - help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experience
- Live Well - increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
- Age Well - support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years

- In a Healthy and Safe Environment - improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

This Capital Strategy supports Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives. Consideration is also increasingly given to the authority's Corporate Vision and Net Zero Carbon Plan.

WHAT IS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE?

Capital expenditure is expenditure on non-current assets such as Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Properties and Heritage Assets. This would include the acquisition or construction of new assets, together with any subsequent expenditure on major upgrades or development work to those assets.

Expenditure which adds to and does not merely maintain the value of an existing asset, should be treated as capital, if it yields benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Capital expenditure is defined by legislation as:

- the acquisition, reclamation, enhancement or laying out of land,
- the acquisition, construction, preparation, enhancement or replacement of roads, buildings and other structures,
- the acquisition, installation, or replacement of moveable or immovable plant,
- machinery, apparatus, vehicles and vessels.

An understanding of what constitutes capital expenditure is fundamental to realising the benefits that an authority can obtain under the Prudential framework. Unless expenditure qualifies as capital it will normally fall outside the scope of the framework and be charged to revenue in the period that the expenditure is incurred. If expenditure meets the definition of capital, there may be opportunities to finance the outlay from capital receipts (funds raised

from the sale of surplus assets e.g., a former school site) or by spreading the cost over future years' revenues (i.e., through Minimum Revenue Provision).

CARMARTHENSIRE'S APPROACH TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT

A [Managing Capital](#) procedure document has been adopted as a policy for the Authority. Within this document Carmarthenshire's approach to capital investment is conveyed. A sub-strategy that feeds into the Authority's overall Corporate Strategy is the Capital Programme. The Programme is closely linked to various other sub-strategies such as the Corporate Asset Management Plan, Local Transport Plan, Digital Transformation Strategy, and the Service Departments' Business Plans. The 'Managing Capital' document explains that the aim is to deliver projects and outputs that meet the set objectives. The Capital Programme is prepared and approved on a five-year forward plan basis to:

- Provide a detailed implementation plan to enable the high-level objectives to be realised,
- Provide a financial commitment to allow enough time to adequately plan,
- design and implement future schemes and projects,
- Provide an overview of the likely future commitments arising from current schemes.

Carmarthenshire's Capital Strategy defines and outlines its approach to capital investment and is fundamental to the Council's financial planning processes. It aims to ensure that:

- Capital expenditure contributes to the achievement of the Council's strategic plan,
- An affordable and sustainable capital programme is delivered,
- Use of resources and value for money is maximised,

- A clear framework for making capital expenditure decisions is provided,
- A corporate approach to generating capital resources is established,
- Access to enough long-term assets to provide services are acquired and retained,
- Invest to Save initiatives to make efficiencies within the Council's revenue budget are encouraged,
- An appraisal and prioritisation process for new schemes is robust.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

It is important given the risks surrounding Capital Projects that the appropriate Governance framework is in place:

Capital Programme Approvals

All capital expenditure must be carried out in accordance with the financial regulations. The expenditure must comply with the statutory definition of capital purposes as defined within this document and wider financial standards. The Capital Programme approved by Full Council as part of the Council's annual budget report sets the capital funding availability for the Council, the prioritisation of funding and the schemes receiving entry into the Capital Programme. All schemes are formally approved for inclusion in the capital programme by following a process set out in the financial regulations. Officers are not authorised to commit expenditure without prior formal approval as set out in the financial regulations. Each scheme must be under the control of a responsible person/project manager.

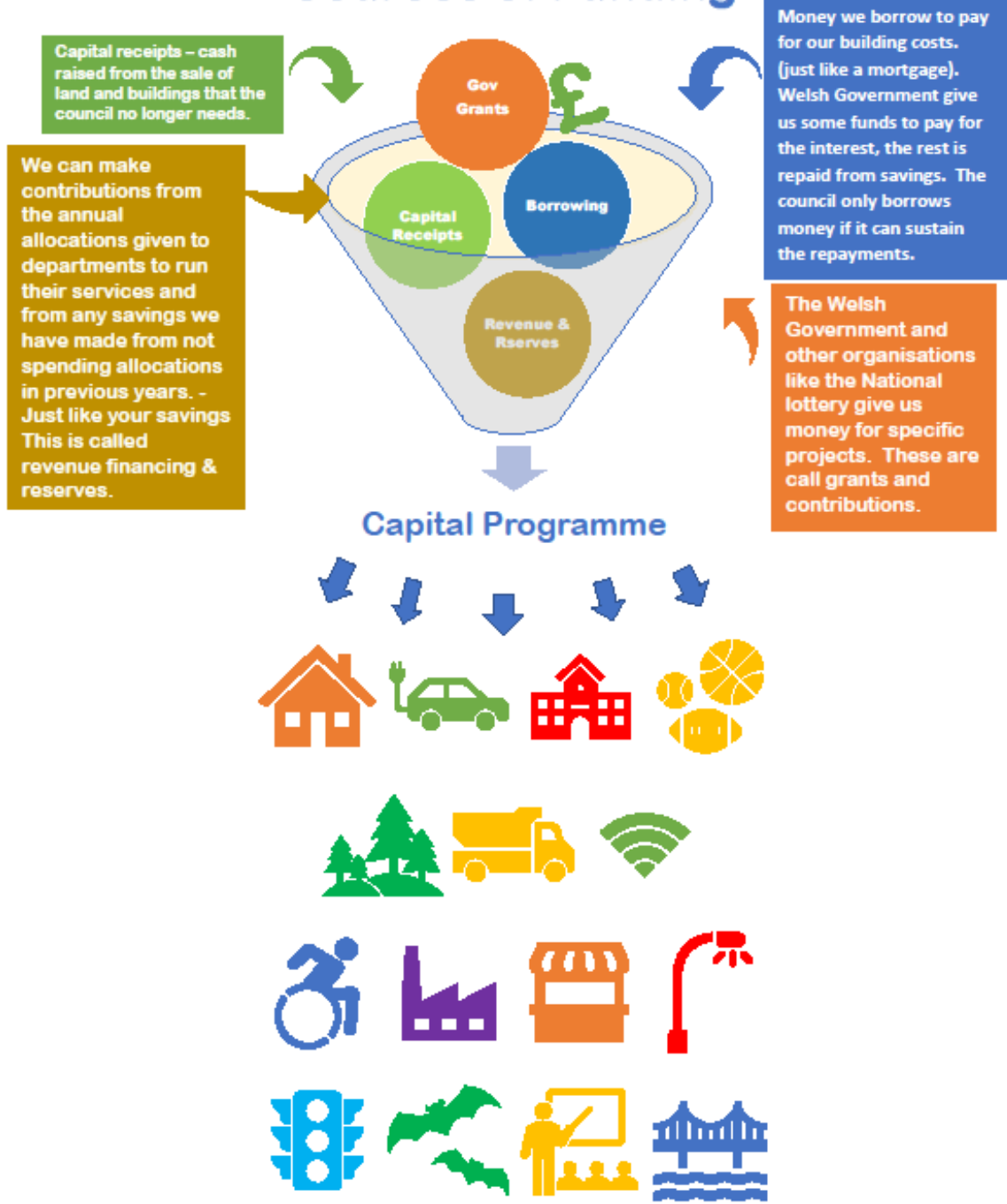


How it all works



This Strategy is intended to maximise the financial resources available for investment in service provision and improvement within the framework of the Medium-Term Financial Plan. Whilst at the same time ensuring that each business case has a robust self-sustaining financial model that delivers on the wider outcomes of the strategy.

Sources of Funding



Overview of General Fund Capital Programme

Capital Budgets by Department:	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Communities	6,312	2,300	2,000
Place and Infrastructure	35,311	6,672	6,543
Education & Children	18,416	33,593	20,857
Chief Executive	1,465	1,657	200
Regeneration	19,413	1,500	2,294
City Deal Projects	70,226	13,924	1,569
Total Budget	151,143	59,646	33,463

Financed by:	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Borrowing	37,767	17,057	11,736
Unhypothecated General Capital Grants	6,075	6,075	6,075
External Grants & Contributions	63,916	23,273	13,232
Reserves	39,369	12,725	1,904
Direct Revenue Financing	516	516	516
Capital Receipts	3,500	0	0
Total Funding	151,143	59,646	33,463

OUR PRIORITIES

Cabinet have set out their aspirations for Carmarthenshire in ta Cabinet Vision Statement 2022-2027. The capital programme has been developed and approved to support this vision for the future.

Carmarthenshire's Sustainable Communities for Learning

Modernising schools building through our Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is the flagship policy which has seen over £200million invested to date in the building of new schools and upgrading others, with a further commitment to fund future investments.

Health & Wellbeing

Improving the health and wellbeing of residents is a key aspiration and to this end we are committed to delivering:

- A new leisure centre for Llanelli as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal Pentre Awel Wellness Project, and a new 4G Pitch in Ammanford.
- Developing a new Working and Cycling Path from Carmarthen to Llandeilo along the

former railway line. A major investment which will bring significant benefits to the rural economy in the medium to long-term and improvements in health and wellbeing for residents. We aspire to develop further projects of this type.

Better ways of Working

A desire to embrace and compound new ways of working, will enable us to make the best use of resources and identify any redundant assets that could be sold; raising income from capital receipts to fund strategic capital projects.

Helping Local Businesses

Many businesses have seen a downturn in fortunes in recent years. A dedicated economic stimulus and business support package together with wider regeneration funding, will boost local economies. It includes specific investment in a growth plan for our smaller ten satellite towns.

Cultural Heritage

Building on our transformation plan for the museum provision. Major refurbishments at the county museum at Abergwili, Parc Howard, and a new Museum of Speed at Pendine, together with a new county archive and storage facility at “Y Stordy” will ensure that our valuable cultural learning and tourism resource is improved for residents and visitors and maintained for future generations. Further investment in culture will see the redevelopment of the Oriel Myrddin Gallery in Carmarthen. This will also build on our commitment to see the wider regeneration of the “Old Town Quarter” within the County Town.

Decarbonisation

In a commitment to future generations, we will see decarbonisation measures rolled out across our built estate and our Fleet. Grant funding is also made available for local business to embrace renewable energy. We will also see

growing investments in electric car charging infrastructure across the county.

Highways

The economic prosperity of our towns is enhanced by improvements to road infrastructure.

The Cross Hands economic distributor road coupled with associated developments at the Cross Hands strategic employment site will boost the economy in the Gwendraeth Valley. The longer-term plans for the development of the Ammanford distributor road will improve traffic flows and enhance retail investment opportunities.

Digital Transformation

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is crucial to our future ways of working. Our digital transformation programme aims to ensure that Carmarthenshire services are fit for purpose in the digital age. The county will also benefit from the rollout of enhanced regional connectivity as part of investments by the Swansea Bay City Region.

Housing

Carmarthenshire’s Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-2026 details the Council’s priorities, plans and actions for council housing in Carmarthenshire for the future years. The plan covers all housing services and assets in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The purpose of this Plan is to explain the vision and detail of our Housing Investment Programme, and what it means for tenants. Maintaining the ‘Welsh Housing Quality Standard’ (WHQS) is a statutory duty which Carmarthenshire exceeds by maintaining our Carmarthenshire Homes Standard. Providing more affordable homes has always been important to us, but now with the cost-of-living crisis and the steep rise in homelessness it is more important than ever. We have already delivered over 1,600 additional homes and our new development programme will support the delivery of a further 2,000 homes, supporting the regeneration of our town centres, rural towns and villages and our major regeneration sites

including the Transforming Tyisha programme. We have also accelerated our buying private sector homes programme and remodelled some of our existing stock, helping to increase supply quickly meeting the needs of some of our most vulnerable individuals and families. In addition, the Council plans to continue to invest over £52m in maintaining tenants’ homes over the next three years.

- The Council recognises the importance of strategic asset management in providing the foundation for its investment plans so within the HRA Business Plan has highlighted five key themes for future investment:
 - Supporting tenants & residents
 - Investing in our homes & our estates.
 - Providing more homes.
 - Decarbonising our stock and services
 - Local economy, Community Benefits & procurement.

HRA CAPITAL SPENDING AND FUNDING

HRA Capital Budgets:	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Maintain the standard	10,429	11,237	11,450
Support Tenant and Residents	3,920	3,350	4,000
Provide more affordable homes	12,730	14,900	15,500
Decarbonisation	2,835	2,623	2,055
Support the delivery of CHS+	3,923	2,252	2,462
TOTAL	33,837	34,362	35,467

Financed by:	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Welsh Government Grant-MRA	6,225	6,225	6,225
Welsh Government Grant - Other	9,272	9,052	7,000
Direct Revenue Financing	10,000	5,000	5,000
Borrowing	8,340	14,085	17,242
TOTAL	33,837	34,362	35,467

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Council produces a Treasury Management Policy and Strategy which is approved by full Council annually as part of the budget setting process. There are close links between the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.

The capital programme determines the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer term cash flow surpluses. On occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (revised in 2021), local authority capital spending and its borrowing to fund that spending is limited by what is affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Prudential Code sets out several indicators that enables the authority to assess affordability and prudence.

These indicators are included in the annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Our commercial portfolio consists of a variety of asset types, namely: Retail Units, Industrial Estates, Farms, Ground leases and Provision & livestock Markets. The portfolio generates revenue through rental receipts with opportunities to enhance income through rent reviews and renewals depending on the terms of each agreement. The Council has 20 Industrial estates located around the County with a total of around 400 units, together with 26 farms, 2 Provisions markets and 3 Livestock Markets. There are 104 Ground leases and Retail units (other than those forming part of the provisions markets).

In addition to generating a commercial return the portfolios meet corporate objectives of encouraging and supporting business and employment development, rural initiatives and town centre regeneration. In many instances the support of these broader aims is as important and income generation, and it's the Council's role to balance commercial returns with economic development objectives and corporate priorities.

Each portfolio will be managed uniquely considering its objectives; however, the underlying principle is that the Council makes the best use of its resources by increasing returns wherever possible, taking on board wider corporate priorities.

RISK APPETITE

Risk appetite can be thought of as the amount of risk an organisation is willing to accept, tolerate or be exposed to, in pursuit of its strategic and organisational objectives. The Council recognises that its appetite for different types of risks will vary and needs to reflect both its capability and its ability to exercise control.

By virtue of its statutory responsibilities for public services and associated functions, the Council often has limited choice in whether to accept or tolerate risk. Clearly there are some types of risks where the Council's tolerance will be extremely low, or risk averse, for example, those that could:

- Endanger the safety of service users, employees, members or the general public
- Damage the Council's reputation or financial standing
- Lead to breaches of laws and/or regulations
- Threaten the future operations of the Council.

In some circumstances, the Council is willing to accept a different level or type of risk in pursuit of its strategic objectives. For example, capital schemes typically invoke risks such as achievement of timescales and financial targets, management of contractors and satisfaction of service requirements.

In other areas, the Council's appetite for risk has evolved in response to the changing and challenging environment in which local government now operates. For example, in response to reductions in central government funding, the Council has been willing to consider commercial income generating ventures and invest to save proposals in

addition to service reductions and efficiencies to secure financial stability.

It is not possible to articulate the Council's appetite for every form of risk it may encounter or to predetermine which risks are acceptable or not acceptable. Instead, this strategy aims to inform and strengthen the decision-making process, to ensure that:

- Risks, as well as benefits and opportunities, are always considered, identified, and reported
- Risks are assessed and recorded consistently, in accordance with the Council's risk management methodology
- Proposals which are likely to involve higher or more challenging levels of risk, such as creation of new partnerships, investments in major projects, or commercial activities, are subject to a robust and detailed risk appraisal process
- Risks which are likely to impact the achievement of one or more corporate objectives or to carry significant financial implications are escalated to the senior management team and the Cabinet for review and approval.
- Exposure to risks for which the Council's tolerance is low, such as the examples given above, is minimised.

REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

Serious consideration is given to the implications a project will have on the revenue budget, both in the short and long term. It may be that a scheme may produce savings in terms of ongoing maintenance in some instances. In other cases, the scheme may enhance the level of service to our customers but could add to the maintenance requirements of the service in the long term, particularly in the case of additional assets. There may be a need to provide additional resources such as finance, personnel, property, or ITC equipment, or there may be efficiency savings.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Capital and Treasury Management functions are managed by a team of professionally qualified accountants with extensive Local Government finance experience between them. They all follow a Continuous Professional Development Plan (CPD) and attend courses on an ongoing basis to keep abreast of new developments and skills.

The Council's Section 151 Officer is the officer with overall responsibility for Capital and Treasury activities and views the strategy to be prudent and affordable and fully integrated with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, Treasury Management Strategy and other Strategic Plans.

All the Council's commercial projects have project teams from all the professional disciplines from across the Council and when required external professional advice is taken. The Council Members are involved at a very early stage of a project's life cycle and internal and external training is offered to members on an annual basis to ensure they have up to date skills to make capital and treasury decisions. A register is also kept on member attendance.

COUNCIL 1 MARCH 2023

Subject

Purpose:

Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023-24

Cabinet Recommendations:

That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023-24 and recommendations therein.

That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, the MRP Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein.

Reasons:

To comply with the Revised CIPFA Prudential Code and the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee 9th February 2023

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. A. Lenny

Directorate: Corporate Services Name of Head of Service: Randal Hemingway Report Author: Anthony Parnell	Designations: Head of Financial Services Treasury and Pension Investments Manager	Tel: 01267 224886 Email address: RHemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Tel: 01267 224180 Email address: AParnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNCIL
01/03/2023**

SUBJECT

Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023-24

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

It is a requirement of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, which Council have adopted, that

- a) The Council maintains a Treasury Management Policy which states the policies and objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities;

and

- b) The Council approves a Treasury Management Strategy annually before the start of the financial year to which it relates.

In addition, under the Local Government Act 2003 the Council approves the Treasury Management Indicators for the coming year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: R Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Council has adopted the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, one of the requirements is that an annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy be approved by Council before the commencement of the year to which it relates.

2. Legal

Under the Local Government Act 2003 and the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, local authorities must set out their Treasury Management Indicators that relate to the Authority's capital spending and its borrowing.

3. Finance

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy details the procedures that the Authority adheres to in managing its treasury management function.

Interest paid and earned has a direct impact on the Authority's Revenue Budget. The estimated projections are included in the Budget which is to be presented to Council on 1st March 2023.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: R Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

1. Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee 9th February 2023

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

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

YES/NO * Delete as appropriate

Include any observations here

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The Local Government Act 2003		County Hall, Carmarthen
Guidance issued by Welsh Government		County Hall, Carmarthen
Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes		County Hall, Carmarthen
Revised CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities		County Hall, Carmarthen

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**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
DATE: 1ST MARCH 2023**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2023-2024

A. INTRODUCTION

This Council carries out its treasury management activities in accordance with the Prudential Code of Practice first developed for public services in 2002 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This Code was last revised in 2021. The Council also carries out its treasury management activities in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021.

The revised Code identifies three key principles:

1. The Council should put in place formal and comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of their treasury management activities.
2. The Council's policies and practices should make clear that the effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of their treasury management activities and that responsibility for these lies clearly within their Council. The Council's appetite for risk should form part of its annual strategy and should ensure that priority is given to security and liquidity when investing funds.
3. The Council should acknowledge that the pursuit of value for money in treasury management, and the use of suitable performance measures, are valid and important tools for responsible Councils to employ in support of their business and service objectives; and that within the context of effective risk management, the Council's treasury management policies and practices should reflect this.

B. CIPFA PRUDENTIAL CODE AND CIPFA TREASURY MANAGEMENT CODE OF PRACTICE

1. This Council has adopted the Revised CIPFA Prudential Code 2021 and the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021.

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 stipulates that there should be Member scrutiny of the treasury policies, Member training and awareness and regular reporting.

The main objectives of the 2021 Codes are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are affordable and proportionate, that all borrowing liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how these risks will be managed to levels that are acceptable to the organisation.

The Council has adopted the four clauses shown in 1.1 as part of its financial procedure rules and the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee is responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies, before making recommendations to Council.

The policies and parameters within this report provide an approved framework within which the officers undertake the day-to-day treasury activities.

- 1.1 The four clauses adopted are:

- (1) This Council will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:
 - A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities
 - Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities
- (2) The Council is required to receive and approve, as a minimum, three main reports each year, which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals.

This Council will therefore receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including an annual strategy in advance of the year, a mid year review report and a year end annual report, in the form prescribed in its TMPs. This treasury management policy and strategy report includes the prudential indicators (Appendix D) and the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy (Appendix E).

- (3) This Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices, and the quarter 1 and quarter 3 monitoring reports to the Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Director of Corporate Services, who will act in accordance with the Council's policy statement and TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.
- (4) The Council nominates the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

1.2 **Treasury Management Practices (TMPs)**

The Schedule of TMPs is shown in Appendix A.

C. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. This Council defines its Treasury Management activities as:

The management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions and the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

'Investments' in the definition above covers all the financial assets of the organisation, as well as other non-financial assets (including loans and other non-specified investments) which the organisation holds primarily for financial returns, such as investment property portfolios. This may therefore include investments which are not managed as part of normal treasury management or under treasury management delegations. All investments require consideration of appropriate investment management and the risk management framework under this CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021.

2. This Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Council.

The key principle of control of risk and optimising returns consistent with the organisation's risk appetite should be applied across all investment activities, including more commercially based investments.

3. This Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

This policy holds indefinitely until circumstances dictate that a change is necessary. Any changes must be done before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates, or in exceptional circumstances within the year if approved by Council.

It is the Director of Corporate Services responsibility to implement and monitor the Treasury Management Policy, revising and re-submitting the Policy for consideration to the Cabinet and the Council if changes are required.

D. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-2024

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy provides details of the expected activities of the Treasury Management function in the financial year 2023-24.
- 1.2 The Council's financial procedure rules require an annual strategy to be reported to Council outlining the expected treasury activity for the forthcoming year. A key requirement of this report is to explain both the risks, and the management of the risks, associated with the treasury service. Further treasury reports will be produced during the year if the strategy needs updating and a year-end annual report on actual activity for the year.
- 1.3 The strategy covers:
 - Treasury Indicators and Limits on Activity
 - Prospects for interest rates
 - Borrowing Strategy
 - Investment Strategy
 - Debt Rescheduling and Premature Repayment of Debt
 - Performance Indicators
 - Treasury Management Advisers
 - Member and Officer Training

2. TREASURY INDICATORS AND LIMITS ON ACTIVITY

- 2.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021, local authority capital spending and its borrowing to fund that spending is limited by what is affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Prudential Code sets out a number of indicators that enables the authority to assess affordability and prudence. The Prudential Indicators that related to Treasury Management were reclassified as Treasury Indicators in recent revisions of the Codes and are:

- Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure
- Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure
- Limits on the Maturity Structure of Borrowing
- Limits on Total Principal Sums Invested Long Term

The Prudential Code also requires that the total external debt does not exceed the Authorised Limit for external debt and only exceeds the Operational Boundary for external debt temporarily on occasions due to variation in cash flow. Full Council when approving the Budget sets the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary.

2.2 The Treasury Management Indicators for 2023-24 are:

2.2.1 Interest rate exposure limits for 2023-24 are estimated as follows:

Estimated Average Position for 2023-24			
	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowed	+464	+3	+467
Invested	(50)	(50)	(100)
Net Debt	+414	(47)	+367
Proportion of Total Net Debt	+113%	(13%)	+100%

It is recommended that the following maximum exposure limits are adopted:

	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate
Proportion of Total Net Debt	+150%	+5%

2.2.2 It is recommended that the following exposure limits for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 are adopted:

Interest Rate Exposures	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	Upper	Upper	Upper
	£m	£m	£m
Limits on fixed interest rates based on net debt	518	545	557
Limits on variable interest rates based on net debt	52	54	56

2.2.3 It is recommended that the Council sets upper and lower limits for the maturity structure of its borrowing as follows:

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	15%	0%
12 months to 2 years	15%	0%
2 years to 5 years	50%	0%
5 years to 10 years	50%	0%
10 years to 20 years	50%	0%
20 years to 30 years	50%	0%
30 years to 40 years	50%	0%
40 years and above	50%	0%

2.2.4 Maximum principal sums invested longer than 365 days:

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£m	£m	£m
Maximum principal sums invested longer than 365 days	10	10	10

3. PROSPECTS FOR INTEREST RATES

Based on the average projection from a number of sources we can expect the trend in the Bank Rate, set by the Monetary Policy Committee, over the next three years to be as follows:

	Current	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	%	%	%	%
Average Bank Rate	3.50	4.44	3.63	2.69

4. BORROWING STRATEGY 2022-23 – 2024-25

4.1 The current forecast for interest rates reflects a view that the MPC would be keen to further demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials by delivering a succession of rate increases. Bank Rate stands at 3.5% currently, but is expected to reach a peak of 4.5% in 2023.

Further down the road, the Bank of England will be keen to loosen monetary policy when the worst of the inflationary pressures are behind us – but that timing will be one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.

The CPI measure of inflation is currently 10.7%, despite the cost-of-living squeeze that is still taking shape, the Bank will want to see evidence that wages are not spiralling upwards in what is evidently a very tight labour market.

In the upcoming months, the forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

There is expected to be a steady but slow fall in PWLB rates over the next few years, though there will be a lot of unpredictable volatility during this forecast period.

The uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result the Council will continue to take a cautious approach to its treasury management strategy.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2023-24 treasury operations. The Director of Corporate Services will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances.

The Director of Corporate Services, under delegated powers, will take the most appropriate form of borrowing depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time, taking into account the risks shown in the forecast above.

The option of delaying borrowing and utilising investment balances is likely to continue for the time being. However, this will be carefully reviewed to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in later years due to an overall current trend of rising rates. This strategy reduces counterparty risk and hedges against any expected fall in investment returns.

The Council continues to maintain an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by tighter near-term monetary policy.

The timing of any action is important, and the Director of Corporate Services and treasury advisers will monitor prevailing rates for any opportunities during the year.

The Council will be expected to borrow £40.5m for the Carmarthenshire led projects within the Swansea Bay City Deal partnership from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

4.2 The Council's agreed policy is to raise funding only from the following:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
- Market Long-Term
- Market Temporary
- Local Authorities
- Overdraft
- Internal Capital Receipts and Revenue Balances
- Leasing
- Welsh Government and Central Government

4.3 Borrowing in advance of need

The Council has some flexibility to borrow funds in advance of future years.

The Director of Corporate Services may do this under delegated power where, for instance, a sharp rise in interest rates is expected, and so borrowing early at fixed interest rates will be economically beneficial or meet budgetary constraints. Whilst the Director of Corporate Services will adopt a cautious approach to any such borrowing, where there is a clear business case for doing so borrowing may be undertaken to fund the approved capital programme or to fund future debt maturities.

Borrowing in advance will be made within the constraints that:

- It will be limited to no more than 50% of the expected increase in borrowing needed (CFR) over the three-year planning period; and
- Not to borrow more than 12 months in advance of need.

Risks associated with any advance borrowing activity will be appraised in advance and subsequently reported through the quarterly reporting mechanism.

5. **INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023-24 – 2025-26**

5.1 **INTRODUCTION**

5.1.1 The Investment Strategy has been prepared with due regard to:

The Local Government Act 2003

Regulations made under the Local Government Act 2003 (as amended)

2021 Revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

2021 Revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes

CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021

Welsh Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance")

5.1.2 **Key Objectives**

The Council's investment strategy primary objectives are:

- safeguarding the repayment of the principal and interest of its investments on time
- ensuring adequate liquidity
- the investment return

The Authority will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with regard to the Authority's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to maintain a degree of liquidity to cover cash flow needs.

5.1.3 Risk Benchmarking

A development in the revised Codes and the WG Investment Guidance is the consideration and approval of security and liquidity benchmarks. Yield benchmarks are currently widely used to assess investment performance. Discrete security and liquidity benchmarks are new requirements to the Member reporting, although the application of these is more subjective in nature. The approach taken is attached at Appendix B.

5.2 **DEFINITIONS**

5.2.1 A credit rating agency is one of the following three companies: Fitch Ratings Limited (Fitch), Moody's Investors Service Limited (Moody's) and Standard and Poors (S&P).

5.2.2 An investment is something held or a transaction which relies upon the power in section 12 of the 2003 Act. That is for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. This covers all of the financial and non-financial assets a local authority has invested money into primarily or partially for the purpose of generating a surplus including investment property. As such this may include investments that are not managed as part of normal treasury management processes or under treasury management delegations (such as loans to third parties or other non specified investments).

5.3 **INVESTMENT COUNTERPARTIES**

The Director of Corporate Services maintains a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and revises the criteria and submits them to Council for approval as necessary. This criteria is separate to that which approves Specified and Non-Specified investments as it selects which counterparties the Council will approve rather than defining what its investments are. The rating criteria use the lowest common denominator method of selecting counterparties and applying limits. This means that the application of the Council's minimum criteria will apply to the lowest available rating for any institution. For instance if an institution is rated by all three agencies, two meet the Council's criteria, the other does not, the institution will fall outside the lending criteria.

5.3.1 **Investment Counterparty Selection Criteria**

The primary principle governing the Council's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. To meet this main principle the Council will ensure:

- It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security, and monitoring their security. This is set out in the Specified and Non-Specified investment sections.
- It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the Council's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.

5.3.2 **UK Banks 1 (Upper Limit)** – This Council will use banks which have at least the following Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poors ratings:

Short Term – F1, P-1, A-1

Long Term – AA-, Aa3, AA-

UK Banks 2 & UK Building Societies (Middle Limit) – This Council will use all UK Banks and Building Societies which have at least the following Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poors ratings:

Short Term – F1, P-1, A-1

Long Term – A, A2, A

UK Banks Part Nationalised – Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc (Royal Bank of Scotland and National Westminster Bank). These banks will be included if they continue to be part nationalised or they meet the ratings above.

At the time of writing the UK Government (HM Treasury) holds 45.97% stake within Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

UK part nationalised banks which are partly owned by the UK Government will be included as investment counterparties, as long as they continue to have appropriate UK Government support. UK Government backing provides a credit quality overlay above that provided by the credit rating agencies. The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc will continue to be monitored for any further material reduction in state ownership or deterioration of the credit rating which suggests a reduction of its use or suspension from the counterparty list.

UK Banks 3 – The Council’s banker for transactional purposes if it falls below the above criteria. Balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.

Money Market Funds – The Council will use AAA rated money market funds (MMFs) that are credit rated by at least two of the three credit rating agencies. These are pooled investment funds whose primary aims are liquidity and security and allow daily access to funds when required. Their operations are strictly regulated by the credit rating agencies and are operated by a financial institution but do not form part of that institution’s assets, should the sponsoring institution fail the MMF is entirely separate, effectively owned by the investors. These types of funds invest in a range of instruments and institutions and therefore provide a low risk spread of investments.

The Money Market Fund reforms in Europe came into force during 2018 and provide the Council the opportunity to invest into Public Debt Constant Net Asset Value (“CNAV”) MMFs and Low Volatility NAV (“LVNAV”) MMFs. This is consistent with our current strategic approach. The exceptional economic environment and low interest rate position has seen some MMFs changing operating procedures whilst keeping very low risk. The Director of Corporate Services will continue to utilise and monitor these instruments.

UK Government (including gilts and the DMADF)

Local Authorities (including Police & Fire Authorities)

5.3.3 Use of additional information other than credit ratings

Under the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 the Council is still required to supplement credit rating information. Whilst the above criteria relies primarily on the application of credit ratings to provide a pool of appropriate counterparties for officers to use, additional operational market information will be applied before making any specific investment decision from the agreed pool of counterparties. The market information (for example, negative rating watches/outlooks, individual/viability and support ratings) will be applied to compare the relative security of differing investment counterparties.

The UK Government, like other Western governments, have initiated market regulations which mean they may not bail out financial institutions in the future. This process included ring-fencing part of each bank and requiring greater capital buffers are held on the balance sheets. Whilst this is not a cause for concern, officers will continue to monitor the situation and, if necessary, make any changes to future investment strategies.

5.3.4 The time and monetary limits for institutions on the Council's Counterparty List are shown below: (Specified and Non-Specified Investments)

	Fitch	Moody's	Standard & Poors	Money Limit	Time Limit
Upper Limit Category - Short Term and Long Term	F1 AA-	P-1 Aa3	A-1 AA-	£10m	3 years
Middle Limit Category - Short Term and Long Term	F1 A	P-1 A2	A-1 A	£7m	1 year
Part Nationalised	-	-	-	£7m	1 year
Council's Banker (not meeting criteria above)	-	-	-	£3m	1 day
Other Institution Limits (per institution):					
- Any One Local Authority (including Police & Fire authorities)	-	-	-	£5m	1 year
- Any AAA Rated Money Market Fund CNAV	-	-	-	£10m	Daily Liquidity
- Any AAA Rated Money Market Fund LVNAV	-	-	-	£10m	Daily Liquidity
- Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMO)	-	-	-	£125m	6 months (max term specified by DMO)

5.3.5 There are two types of investments – Specified and Non Specified

5.3.5.1 Specified Investments

These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity. These are low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include investments with:

- (1) The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Office, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).
- (2) A local authority, police authority and fire authority.
- (3) Pooled investment vehicles (such as money market funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency.
- (4) A body that has high credit quality (which may include a high credit rating by a credit rating agency) such as a bank or building society. For this purpose a body with a short term rating of F1, P-1 or A-1 will be considered high quality.

5.3.5.2 Non Specified Investments

These investments are any other type of investment (i.e. not defined as Specified in 5.3.5.1 above).

The maximum sum and time limit for non specified investments is £5m per counterparty with a limit of 3 years.

Non specified investments will only be made in local authorities, bodies with a minimum long-term credit rating of AA– and in AAA rated money market funds.

Note: Barclays Bank plc are the Council's current bankers. If the bank's credit rating falls and it no longer meets the criteria for a specified investment no deposits will be made with the exception of the bank's overnight (Moneymaster) account. The average day to day operational balance on the account will not exceed £3m in these circumstances. See 5.3.4 above.

In the normal course of the council's cash flow operations it is expected that both Specified and Non-specified investments will be utilised for the control of liquidity as both categories allow for short term investments.

The use of longer term instruments (greater than one year from inception to repayment) will fall in the non-specified investment category. These instruments will only be used where the Council's liquidity requirements are safeguarded.

5.3.6 The Monitoring of Investment Counterparties

The credit ratings of counterparties are monitored regularly. The officers receive credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from the treasury management advisers as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. Occasionally ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately by the Director of Corporate Services, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

The criteria for choosing counterparties set out above provide a sound approach to investment in "normal" market circumstances. Whilst Members are asked to approve this base criteria above, under "exceptional" market conditions the Director of Corporate Services will temporarily restrict further investment activity to those counterparties considered of higher credit quality than the minimum criteria set out for approval. These restrictions will remain in place until the banking system returns to "normal" conditions. Similarly the time periods for investments will be restricted.

This would potentially necessitate greater use of and/or increase(s) in the money limit(s) of the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF – an account within the Government Debt Management Office (DMO) which accepts local authority deposits), Money Market Funds, guaranteed deposit facilities and strongly rated institutions offered support by the UK Government.

The present Schedule of Approved Counterparties for Lending 2023-2024 is shown in Appendix C.

5.4 **LIQUIDITY OF INVESTMENTS**

Investments are made for periods which coincide with the Council's cash flow requirements. When investing (within the risk criteria mentioned above), the aim is to achieve a level of return greater than would be secured by internal investments. The "90 day uncompounded SONIA rate (backward looking)" is the recognised rate which the Council aims to exceed when lending money. This benchmark will be reviewed periodically with our advisors.

5.5 **INVESTMENTS THAT ARE NOT PART OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

This Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activity includes loans supporting service outcomes, investments in subsidiaries, and investment property portfolios.

This Council will ensure that all the organisation's investments are covered in the investment strategy or equivalent, and will set out, where relevant, the organisation's risk appetite and specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments. It will be recognised that the risk appetite for these activities may differ from that for treasury management.

The council will maintain a schedule setting out a summary of existing material investments, subsidiaries, joint ventures and liabilities including financial guarantees and the organisation's risk exposure.

Prior to making these investments, appropriate financial review procedures will be undertaken, including due diligence covering Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, cash flow monitoring, etc, as appropriate.

This Council acknowledges that it is critical that due diligence processes and procedures reflect the additional risk an organisation is taking on. Due diligence procedures should ensure effective scrutiny of proposed investments, identification of risk to both capital and returns, any external underwriting of those risks, and the potential impact on the financial sustainability of the organisation if those risks come to pass. Where necessary independent and expert advice should be sought to ensure due diligence is suitably robust.

5.6 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Where possible, consideration will be given to the disclosure of long term climate risks associated with investments, though with regard to treasury investments, any tangible information will be limited. Greater disclosure for non specified investments and loans to third parties may be appropriate depending on the type of activity.

6. **DEBT RESCHEDULING AND PREMATURE REPAYMENT OF DEBT**

As short term borrowing rates are likely to be considerably cheaper than longer term fixed interest rates, there may be potential opportunities to generate savings by switching from long term debt to short term debt. However, these savings will need to be considered in the light of the current treasury position and the size of the cost of debt repayment (premiums incurred).

The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

- the generation of cash savings and / or discounted cash flow savings
- helping to fulfil the treasury strategy
- enhance the balance of the portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

Consideration will also be given to identify if there is any residual potential for making savings by utilising current investment balances to repay debt prematurely as short term rates on investments are likely to be lower than rates paid on current debt.

If rescheduling is to be undertaken, it will be reported to the Council at the earliest meeting following its action.

7. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires the Council to set performance indicators to assess the adequacy of the treasury function over the year. These are distinct historic indicators, as opposed to the prudential indicators, which are predominantly forward looking. Examples of performance indicators used for the treasury function are:

- Debt (Borrowing) – New borrowing rate to outperform the average PWLB rate for the year
- Debt – Average weighted debt rate movement year on year
- Investments – Return on investment to outperform the 90-day uncompounded SONIA rate (backward looking)

The results of these indicators will be reported in the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2023-24.

8. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ADVISERS**

The Council has a contract with Link Group as its external treasury management advisor.

Link provides a range of services which include:

- Technical support on treasury matters, capital finance issues including IFRS 16 leases and the drafting of Member reports
- Economic and interest rate analysis
- Debt advisory services which includes advice on the timing of borrowing
- Debt rescheduling advice surrounding the existing portfolio
- Generic investment advice on interest rates, timing and investment instruments
- Credit ratings/market information service comprising the three main credit rating agencies

Under current market rules and the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 the responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the Council at all times ensuring that undue reliance is not placed upon the external service providers.

The Council also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.

9. **MEMBER & OFFICER TRAINING**

The increased member consideration of treasury management matters and the need to ensure officers dealing with treasury management are trained and kept up to date requires a suitable training process for members and officers. This Council has addressed this important issue by:

- Reviewing the treasury management function and ensuring officers are suitably qualified
- Arranging external training for officers
- Arranging training for those members charged with governance of the treasury management function
- Recording training attendance

A Knowledge and Skills Register will be created and shared with officers and members involved in treasury management. The training needs of treasury management officers/ members will be periodically reviewed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023-2024 and recommendations therein.**
- 2. That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, the MRP Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein.**

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (TMPs)

TMP1 RISK MANAGEMENT

General Statement

This Council regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that robust due diligence procedures cover all external investment.

The Director of Corporate Services or those persons to which delegation has been made will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP 6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out below.

1.1 Credit and Counterparty Risk Management

Explanation

The risk of failure by a third party to meet its contractual obligations to the Council under an investment, borrowing, capital, project or partnership financing, particularly as a result of the third party's diminished creditworthiness, and the resulting detrimental effect on the Council's capital or current (revenue) resources.

Council Action

This Council regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques and listed in the Annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing arrangements.

A detailed list of counterparties to which the Council will lend is appended to the Annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement.

1.1.1 Policy on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations

Explanation

The Council's credit and counterparty policies should set out its policy and practices relating to ESG investment considerations. This is a developing area, and it is not implied that the Council's ESG policy will currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at individual investment level.

Council Action

For short term investments with counterparties, the Council utilises the ratings provided by Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's to assess creditworthiness, which already include analysis of ESG factors when assigning ratings. The Council will continue to evaluate additional ESG-related metrics and assessment processes that it could incorporate into its investment process and will update accordingly.

Typical ESG considerations are shown below. Please note that these are examples of ESG factors that are considered by the Credit Rating Agencies above when assigning credit ratings to counterparties. The credit ratings provided by these agencies are also used as the basis for selecting suitable counterparties by the Council:

- **Environmental:** Emissions and air quality, energy and waste management, waste and hazardous material, exposure to environmental impact.
- **Social:** Human rights, community relations, customer welfare, labour relations, employee wellbeing, exposure to social impacts.
- **Governance:** Management structure, governance structure, group structure, financial transparency.

1.2 **Liquidity Risk Management**

Explanation

The risk that cash will not be available when it is needed, that ineffective management of liquidity creates additional budgeted costs, and that the organisation's business/service objectives will therefore be compromised.

Council Action

The Council through its Treasury Management officers will ensure that at all times there will be a surplus of cash available which can be called upon at a moment's notice. Through its investments the Council holds cash on call account(s) which is available at any time. By the use of an effective projected cash flow exercise the likelihood of cash being not readily available when required would be rare. Robust daily, weekly, monthly and annual cash flow forecasting is in place. Call accounts and fixed term investments are utilised to their full potential.

This Council will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

1.3 **Interest Rate Risk Management**

Explanation

The risk that fluctuations in the levels of interest rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.

Council Action

This Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements as amended in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. This should be the subject to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

1.4 **Exchange Rate Risk Management**

Explanation

The risk that fluctuations in foreign exchange rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately. The Council is awarded grant from specific programmes in Euro currency and consequently receives grant income in this currency. Where the Council is a joint beneficiary and not a lead beneficiary, payments are received from the lead beneficiary in Euros into the Council's Sterling bank account.

There is a negligible risk where the Council is a joint beneficiary.

Where the Council is a lead beneficiary for a grant and is receiving income in Euro currency on behalf of other beneficiaries, the income is received into and payments made in Euros from the Euro bank account.

Council Action

Currently the Council only invests in sterling products. Hence, there is no exchange rate risk with regard these investments. For grants where the Council is lead beneficiary, receiving income in Euro currency on behalf of other beneficiaries and reimbursing them, exchange risk is mitigated by using a Euro bank account.

1.5

Inflation Risk Management

Explanation

Inflation risk, also called purchasing power risk, is the chance that the cash flows from an investment won't be worth as much in the future because of changes in purchasing power due to inflation.

Council Action

The Council will keep under review the sensitivity of its treasury assets and liabilities to inflation and will seek to manage the risk accordingly in the context of the whole Council's inflation exposures.

1.6

Refinancing Risk Management

Explanation

The risk that maturing borrowings, capital project or partnership financing cannot be refinanced on terms that reflect the provisions made by the organisation or those refinancings, both capital and current (revenue), and/or that the terms are inconsistent with prevailing market conditions at the time.

Council Action

This Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and as favourable to the Council as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time. It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective and will avoid

overreliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

1.7

Legal and Regulatory Risk Management

Explanation

The risk that an organisation itself, or a third party with which it is dealing in its treasury management activities, fails to act in accordance with its legal powers or regulatory requirements, and that the organisation suffers losses accordingly.

Council Action

This Council will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP 1 credit and counterparty risk management it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may effect with the organisation, particularly with regard to duty of care and fees charged.

This Council recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimize the risk of these impacting adversely on the Council.

1.8

Fraud, Error and Corruption, and Contingency Management

Explanation

The risk that an organisation fails to identify the circumstances in which it may be exposed to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings, and fails to employ suitable systems and procedures and maintain effective contingency management arrangements to these ends. It includes the area of risk commonly referred to as operational risk.

Council Action

This Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

1.9

Price Risk Management

Explanation

The risk that, through adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums the organisation invests, its stated treasury management policies and objectives are compromised, against which effects it has failed to protect itself adequately.

Council Action

This Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

TMP2

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Explanation

Performance measurement is a process designed to calculate the effectiveness of a portfolio's or manager's investment returns or borrowing costs and the application of the resulting data for the purposes of comparison with the performance of other portfolios or managers, or with recognised industry standards or market indices.

Council Action

This Council is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance methodology in support of that aim, within the framework set out in its treasury management policy statement.

Accordingly, the treasury management function will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the Council's stated business or service objectives. It will be the subject of regular examination of alternative methods of service delivery, of the availability of fiscal or other grant or subsidy incentives, and of the scope of other potential improvements.

TMP3

DECISION MAKING AND ANALYSIS

Explanation

It is vital that the treasury management decisions of organisations in the public service should be subjected to prior scrutiny. The treasury management strategy is approved annually by full council and supplemented by the provision of monitoring information and regular review by councillors in both executive and scrutiny functions. In addition, all records should be kept of the processes and the rationale behind those decisions. In respect of each decision made the Council should:

- 3.1 ensure that its results are within the limits set in the Prudential Indicators.
- 3.2 be clear about the nature and extent of the risks to which the Council may become exposed.
- 3.3 be certain about the legality of the decision reached and the nature of the transaction, and that all authorities to proceed have been obtained.
- 3.4 be content that the documentation is adequate both to deliver the Council's objectives and protect the Council's interest, and to deliver good housekeeping.
- 3.5 ensure that third parties are judged satisfactorily in the context of the Council's credit worthiness policies, and that limits have not been exceeded.
- 3.6 be content that the terms of any transactions have been fully checked against the market and have been found to be competitive.
- 3.7 in respect of borrowing the Council should evaluate the economic and market factors that influence the manner and timing of any decision to fund.
- 3.8 consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding, including funding from revenue, leasing and private partnerships.
- 3.9 consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and repayment profiles to use and, if relevant, the opportunities for foreign currency funding.
- 3.10 consider the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the Council's future plans and budgets.
- 3.11 in respect of investment decisions, the Council should consider the optimum period, in the light of cash flow availability and prevailing market conditions.
- 3.12 consider the alternative investment products and techniques available, especially the implications of any which may expose the Council to changes in the value of its capital.

Council Action

This Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions both for the purposes of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were taken into account at the time.

TMP4

APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

Explanation

It is important that the Council is clear about the treasury management instruments, methods and techniques used as one of the main issues to be taken into account when reaching decisions in the need to protect public funds. This treasury management practice requires that the Council is equipped with the skills and experience to evaluate and control the risks and advantages associated with using the instruments available to it before including them in the approved list. Only instruments that the organisation has the skills and experience to evaluate should be included in their approved list, even if they are legally permitted to do so. This principle applies to investment, borrowing and other means of raising capital and project finance, and to the use of one off-market or financial derivative instruments such as interest rate swaps. The consideration of skills and experience is particularly critical where organisations request to be treated as professional clients under MIFID II. Designation under MIFID II should be endorsed by the treasury management strategy and regularly reviewed to ensure that designation remains appropriate.

Council Action

This Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the policy, and within the limits and parameters defined in Treasury Management Practice 1 Risk Management.

This Council has reviewed its classification with financial institutions under MIFID II and has set out in the schedule to this document those organisations with which it is registered as a professional client and those with which it has an application outstanding to register as a professional client.

TMP5

ORGANISATION, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

Explanation

It is considered vital that there should be a clear division of responsibilities, included in a written statement of the duties of each post engaged in Treasury Management. It is especially important that staff responsible for negotiating and closing deals are not responsible for recording them, or for maintaining the cash book. This is in order to create a framework for internal check and reflects both the variety of activities in treasury management and the very often large sums involved.

Council Action

This Council considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times a clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

The principle on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly with regard to the execution and transmission of funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function.

If and when this Council intends, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the responsible officer will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with Treasury Management Practice 6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements, and the implications properly considered and evaluated.

The Director of Corporate Services will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangements for absence cover.

The Director of Corporate Services will ensure there is a proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds.

TMP6

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS

Explanation

It is recommended that the Council's treasury management policy statement should specify formal reporting arrangements by the Director of Corporate Services to full Council, to include at a minimum, annual reports both before, mid-year and after the year-end.

Council Action

This Council will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies, on the effects of decisions taken and transactions executed in pursuit of those policies, on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities and on the performance of the treasury management function.

The following reporting process has been agreed by the Council:

6.1 Annual Reporting Requirements before the start of the year:

- Review of the Council's approved clauses, treasury management policy statement and practices
- Strategy report on proposed treasury management activities for the year, including the MRP and Investment policies
- Proposed Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

6.2 Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 Reporting Requirements during the year which will be presented to both Cabinet and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee:

- Activities undertaken
- Variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- Performance report
- Performance against Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

6.3 Mid-Year Reporting Requirements during the year which will be presented to Council, Cabinet and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee:

- Activities undertaken
- Variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- Performance report
- Performance against Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

6.3 Annual Reporting Requirements after the year end

- Transactions executed and their revenue (current) effects

- Report on risk implications of decisions taken and transactions executed
- Compliance report on agreed policies/practices, and on statutory/regulatory requirements
- Performance report
- Report on compliance with Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 recommendations
- Performance against Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

By undertaking the above it will ensure, as a minimum, that those with ultimate responsibility for the treasury management function appreciate fully the implications of treasury management policies and activities, and that those implementing policies and executing transactions have properly fulfilled their responsibilities with regard to delegation and reporting.

TMP7 BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

Explanation

It is recommended that the Council brings together for budgeting and management control purposes, all of the costs and revenues associated with the Council's treasury management activities, regardless of how the Council has actually organised the treasury management function. In this context the Council's treasury management budgets and accounts should clearly identify.

- Manpower numbers and related costs
- Premises and other administrative costs
- Interest and other investment income
- Debt and other financing costs (or charges for the use of assets)
- Bank and overdraft charges
- Brokerages, commissions and other transaction-related costs
- External advisers' and consultants' charges

It is normal practice for the external auditor to have access to all papers supporting and explaining the operation and activities of the treasury management function. The

auditor will be expected to enquire as to whether the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 has been adopted, and whether its principles and recommendations have been implemented and adhered to. Any serious breach of the recommendations of the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 should be brought to the external auditor's attention.

Council Action

The Director of Corporate Services will prepare, and this Council will approve and, if necessary, from time to time will amend, an annual budget for treasury management, which will bring together all of the costs involved in running the treasury management function, together with associated income. The matters to be included in the budget will at minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with TMP1 Risk management, TMP2 Performance Measurement, and TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques. The Director of Corporate Services will exercise effective controls over this budget and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

The calculation and compliance of Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators will be examined by Audit Wales.

This Council will account for its treasury management activities, for decisions made and transactions executed, in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force for the time being. This Council will ensure that its auditors, and those charged with regulatory review, have access to all information and papers supporting the activities of the treasury management function as are necessary for the proper fulfillment of their roles, and that such information and papers demonstrate compliance with external and internal policies and approved practices.

TMP8 CASH AND CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

Explanation

The preparation of cash flow projections on a regular and timely basis provides a sound framework for effective cash management. Procedures for their preparation and review/modification, the periods to be covered, sources of data etc. should be an integral part of the schedules to the Council's approved treasury management practices.

Council Action

Unless statutory or regulatory requirements demand otherwise, all monies in the hands of the Council will be under the control of the Director of Corporate Services and will be aggregated for cash flow and investment management purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, and the Director of Corporate Services will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with Treasury Management Practice 1 (2) liquidity risk management.

TMP9 ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

Explanation

Money Laundering has the objective of concealing the origin of money generated through criminal activity. Legislation has given a higher profile to the need to report suspicions of money laundering. Also, organisations such as Councils that undertake business under the Financial Services Act, or engage in certain specified activities, are required to set up procedures to comply with Anti-Money Laundering Regulations . These require Councils:

- To set up procedures for verifying the identity of clients
- To set up record-keeping procedures for evidence of identity and transactions
- To set up internal reporting procedures for suspicions, including the appointment of a money laundering reporting officer
- To train relevant employees in their legal obligations
- To train those employees in the procedures for recognising and reporting suspicions of money laundering

The Council should establish whether the Money Laundering Regulations apply to them. And it is for individual organisations to evaluate the prospect of laundered monies being handled by them, and to determine the appropriate safeguards to be put in place. It is the legal responsibility of every person engaged in treasury management, and indeed the Council, to make themselves aware of their personal responsibilities, but the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 recommends that Councils bring them to their staff's attention and consider the appointment of a member of staff to whom they can report any suspicions.

Council's Action

This Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it will maintain procedures for verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and reporting suspicions and will ensure that staff involved in this are properly trained.

TMP10 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Explanation

All Councils should be aware of the growing complexity of treasury management. Modern treasury management demands appropriate skills, including a knowledge of money and capital market operations, an awareness of available sources of funds and investment opportunities, an ability to assess and control risk, and an appreciation of the implications of legal and regulatory requirements.

Every Council should provide the necessary training, having assessed the professional competence of both those involved in the treasury management function, and those with a policy, management or supervisory role. If necessary, they should ensure that access exists to the necessary expertise and skills from external sources. Arrangements to ensure the availability of suitable skills and resources should recognise the prospect that staff absences may, at times, demand that others step in who do not normally have involvement on a day-to-day basis with the treasury management function.

When feasible in the context of the size of a particular organisation and its treasury management function, career progression opportunities should be made available and succession issues should be properly addressed. Secondments of senior management to the treasury management function for appropriate periods may benefit the effectiveness of the function as a whole.

Council Action

This Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The Director of Corporate Services will recommend and implement the necessary arrangements.

The Director of Corporate Services will ensure that council members tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including those responsible for scrutiny, have access to training relevant to their needs and those responsibilities.

Those charged with governance recognise their individual responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary skills to complete their role effectively.

A Knowledge and Skills Register will be created and shared with officers and members involved in treasury management. The training needs of treasury management officers/ members will be periodically reviewed.

TMP11 USE OF EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

There are a number of service providers available to support the treasury management activities of public service organisations.

Perhaps the most active and long-standing of these have been the money-broking companies, whose role it is to act as intermediaries, making introductions between the prospective parties to transactions.

It is not the role of brokers to provide advice on the creditworthiness of those organisations to which public service organisations may lend. They may provide information already in the public domain but may not interpret it. The use of brokers is a matter for local decision. But it is considered good practice, if their services are used, to ensure that business is spread between a reasonable number of them, and certainly no fewer than two.

Direct dealing with principals is a not uncommon feature of treasury management in the public services which, if nothing else, can provide a useful check on brokers' performance.

An issue that causes some debate is whether it is necessary or desirable for public service organisations to tape conversations with brokers and principals. This is a matter for local discretion, particularly in the context of the costs involved, but brokers are required to maintain taped recordings which the Council can ask for copies if needed.

Most public service organisations require the services of clearing bankers, and a growing number make use of the services of a wider group of banks, particularly to meet their need for private finance and partnership funding. The principles of competition need to be recognised here, too. Certainly, it is highly desirable to subject clearing banking services to competition, perhaps as frequently as every three or four years.

There has also been a growing tendency for public service organisations to employ external advisers and consultants, often for the purposes of a general treasury management advisory service, but also for specific purposes, such as the securing and structuring of funding and for partnership arrangements. These, too, should be the subject of regular competitive tendering.

Further, many public service organisations employ the services of external investment managers to help manage their surplus cash and, where relevant, their pension fund, trust fund or endowment fund assets.

CIPFA advises all organisations using the services of external service providers to document comprehensively the arrangements made with them.

Council Action

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remain with the Council at all times. It recognises the potential value of employing external

providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. When it employs such service providers, it will ensure it does so for reasons which will have been submitted to a full evaluation of the costs and benefits. It will also ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review. And it will ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid overreliance on one or a small number of companies.

TMP12 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 recommends that public service organisations state their commitment to embracing the principles of corporate governance in their treasury management activities, notably openness and transparency.

It is CIPFA's view that:

- adoption of the principles and policies promoted in the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 and in these guidance notes will in itself deliver the framework for demonstrating openness and transparency in an organisation's treasury management function
- publication of and free access to information about an organisation's treasury management transactions and other public documents connected with its treasury management activities will further assist in achieving this end
- establishing clear treasury management policies, the separation of roles in treasury management and the proper management of relationships both within and outside the organisation will establish the integrity of the function
- robust treasury management organisational structures, together with well-defined treasury management responsibilities and job specifications, will enhance accountability
- equality in treasury management dealings, absence of business favouritism and the creation of keen competition in treasury management will lay the groundwork for fairness.

The following paragraphs further emphasise the practices that CIPFA believes an organisation should employ to ensure the principles of corporate governance are successfully implemented.

Procedural responses

The policies, strategies of treasury management should link clearly to the organisation's other key policies and strategies. In the management of risk, in particular, treasury risk management should be an integral part of its overall risk

management processes, culminating in a well-defined, organisation-wide strategy for the control of risk and contingency planning.

The management and administration of treasury management should be robust, rigorous and disciplined. Over the years, some of the most significant examples of treasury mismanagement, in both the public services and the private sector, have resulted from procedural indiscipline. This has frequently been as a result of a failure to apply otherwise well-documented management and administration systems, or through failures in transmission, documentation or deal recording processes.

Reporting arrangements should be applied so as to ensure that those charged with responsibility for the treasury management policy have all the information necessary to enable them to fulfil openly their obligations; and that all stakeholders are fully appraised of and consulted on the organisation's treasury management activities on a regular basis.

The procedures for monitoring treasury management activities through audit, scrutiny and inspection should be sound and rigorously applied, with an openness of access to information and well-defined arrangements for the review and implementation of recommendations for change.

The application and interpretation of performance data should be clear, concise and relevant to the organisation's treasury management activities.

Stewardship responsibilities

The Director of Corporate Services should ensure that systems exist to deliver proper financial administration and control, and a framework for overseeing and reviewing the treasury management function.

As regards a control framework, an organisation's formal policy documents should define clearly procedures for monitoring, control and internal check.

With regard to delegation it is vitally important that those involved in the implementation of treasury management policies and the execution of transactions are unambiguously empowered to undertake their tasks, and that reporting lines are well-defined.

An organisation's adoption of and adherence to the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 should be widely broadcast, as should the principles of the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 and the method of its application in the organisation.

The organisation's procedures for reviewing the value of the treasury management function, and the implementation of opportunities for improvement, should be both continuous and open to examination.

The governance of others

In respect of the organisation's dealings with counterparties, external service providers and other interested parties, clear procedures should exist to enable the organisation, as far as is practicable, to monitor their adherence to the legal or regulatory regimes under which they operate.

Council Action

This Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout its businesses and services, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.

In respect of external service providers appropriate financial review procedures will be undertaken, including Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and cash flow monitoring.

This Council has adopted and has implemented the key recommendations of the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021. This is considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management, and the Director of Corporate Services will monitor and, if and when necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

SECURITY, LIQUIDITY AND YIELD BENCHMARKING

Member reporting on the consideration and approval of security and liquidity benchmarks will continue. These benchmarks are targets and so may be breached from time to time. Any breach will be reported, with supporting reasons in the Annual Treasury Management Report.

1. Security

In context of benchmarking, assessing security is a subjective area to assess. Security is currently evidenced by the application of minimum credit quality criteria to investment counterparties, primarily through the use of credit ratings supplied by the three main credit rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's). Whilst this approach embodies security considerations, benchmarking levels of risk is more problematic. One method to benchmark security risk is to assess the historic level of default against the minimum criteria used in the Council's investment strategy.

The table below shows average defaults for differing periods of investment grade products for each Fitch/Moody's and Standard & Poor's long term rating category.

Long term rating	1 year	2 years	3 years
AAA	0.04%	0.09%	0.17%
AA (includes AA- and AA+)	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%
A	0.05%	0.14%	0.25%
BBB	0.13%	0.36%	0.63%
BB	0.62%	1.77%	3.05%
B	2.73%	6.69%	10.34%
CCC	19.10%	27.28%	32.05%

The Council's minimum long term rating criteria is currently "AA-" for any investment greater than one year and "A" for any investment up to one year. The average expectation of default for a one, two or three year investment in a counterparty with a "AA-" long term rating would be approximately 0.02% of the total investment and the average expectation of default for a one year investment in a counterparty with a "A" long term rating would be 0.05% of the total investment. This is only an average, any specific counterparty loss is likely to be higher, but these figures do act as a proxy benchmark for risk across the portfolio.

The Council's maximum security risk benchmark for the whole portfolio, when compared to these historic default tables, is:

- **0.17% historic risk of default when compared to the whole portfolio.**

In addition, the security benchmark for each individual year is:

	1 year	2 years	3 years
Maximum	0.04%	0.09%	0.17%

These benchmarks are embodied in the criteria for selecting cash investment counterparties and these will be monitored and reported to Members in the Annual Treasury Management Report. As this data is collated, trends and analysis will be collected and reported. Where a counterparty is not credit rated a proxy rating will be applied in conjunction with our advisers, considering the regulatory environment and financial standing of an organisation.

2. **Liquidity**

This is defined as “having adequate, though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdrafts or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives” (Revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice). In respect of this area the Council seeks to maintain:

- Bank overdraft facility - £0.5m
- Liquid short term deposits of at least £10m available immediately on call

The availability of liquidity and the term risk in the portfolio can be benchmarked by the monitoring of the Weighted Average Life (WAL) of the portfolio – shorter WAL would generally embody less liquidity risk. In this respect the proposed benchmark is to be used:

- **WAL benchmark is expected to be 0.5 years, with a maximum of 1 year.**

3. **Yield**

Benchmarks are currently widely used to assess investment performance. The local measure of the yield benchmark is:

- Investments – Return on investments to outperform the 90-day uncompounded SONIA rate (backward looking)

Security and liquidity benchmarks are intrinsic to the approved treasury strategy through the counterparty selection criteria and some of the prudential indicators. Proposed benchmarks for the cash type investments are shown above and form the basis of reporting in this area.

**Schedule of Approved Counterparties for Lending 2023-2024
(as at 10th January 2023)**

	<u>Fitch</u>		<u>Moody's</u>		<u>Standard and Poors</u>		<u>Money</u>	<u>Time</u>
	<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>	<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>	<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>	<u>Limit £'m</u>	<u>Limit years</u>
<u>Upper Limit</u>	<u>F1</u>	<u>AA-</u>	<u>P-1</u>	<u>Aa3</u>	<u>A-1</u>	<u>AA-</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>
UK Banks								
<u>Middle Limit</u>	<u>F1</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>P-1</u>	<u>A2</u>	<u>A-1</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
UK Banks								
Banco Santander Central Hispano Group - Santander UK Plc	F1	A+	P-1	A1	A-1	A	7	1
Barclays Bank	F1	A+	P-1	A1	A-1	A	7	1
HSBC Bank Plc	F1+	AA-	P-1	A1	A-1	A+	7	1
Lloyds Banking Group - Bank of Scotland Plc - Lloyds Bank	F1 F1	A+ A+	P-1 P-1	A1 A1	A-1 A-1	A+ A+	7 7	1 1
Standard Chartered Bank	F1	A+	P-1	A1	A-1	A+	7	1
UK Building Societies								
Nationwide	F1	A	P-1	A1	A-1	A+	7	1
<u>UK Banks Part Nationalised</u>								
Royal Bank of Scotland Group - National Westminster Bank Plc - Royal Bank of Scotland Plc	F1 F1	A+ A+	P-1 P-1	A1 A1	A-1 A-1	A A	7 7	1 1
<u>Council's Banker</u>							3	1 day
<u>Other Institution Limits</u>								
Local Authorities								
Any One Local Authority (including police and fire authority)							5	1
Money Market Funds								
Any AAA Rated Money Market Fund CNAV							10	1
Money Market Funds								
Any AAA Rated Money Market Fund LVNAV							10	1
Debt Management Office							125	6 months (max term specified by DMO)

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1. THE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The following indicators are based on the figures put forward within the Capital and Revenue Plans set out in this report.

1.1. Affordability

1.1.1. Estimates of ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Non-HRA	3.45%	3.77%	3.59%
HRA (inclusive of settlement figure)	28.03%	28.49%	28.83%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in this budget report. These figures are however subject to change as and when the final funding approvals come through from the Welsh Government. Updates will be provided if these figures require amendment.

The indicators show the proportion of income taken up by capital financing costs. Indicative Aggregate External Finance (AEF) for 2024/2025 is a 2.4% increase on 2023/2024 and for 2025/2026 a 2.5% estimated increase on 2024/2025.

1.2. Prudence

1.2.1. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

This prudential indicator is the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is the total outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need. The capital expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for, will increase the CFR.

The Council is asked to approve the CFR projections below:

£m	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Non-HRA	305	323	323
HRA	166	176	190
HRAS*	67	66	65
TOTAL	538	565	578

*Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Buyout of £79m in April 2015.

1.2.2. The Gross Borrowing and Capital Financing Requirement indicator

The control mechanism to limit external debt.

Estimated gross borrowing for the four years starting with the last full year (2021/22) must not exceed the CFR in the medium term but can in the short term due to cash flows.

Ensures borrowing is only for approved capital purposes.

The Director of Corporate Services reports that the Council complied with this requirement in 2021/22 and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the budget report.

Details of Gross Borrowing:

£m	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Debt at 1 st April	414	401	410	467	519
Expected Change in Debt	(13)	9	57	52	59
Gross debt at 31st March	401	410	467	519	578
CFR	494	497	538	565	578
Under / (Over) borrowing	93	87	71	46	0

1.2.3. External Debt

The Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary:

The Authorised Limit prudential indicator represents a control on the overall level of borrowing. This represents a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all councils' plans, or those of a specific council, although no control has yet been exercised.

£m	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Borrowing	590.9	620.7	634.6
Other Long- Term Liabilities	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	591.4	621.2	635.1

The Operational Boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit, but without the additional headroom for unusual and unexpected cash movements and equates to the level of projected external debt. This is clearly subject to the timing of borrowing decisions.

£m	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Borrowing	537.6	564.6	577.9
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	537.7	564.7	578.0

The Council is asked to approve both the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary shown above.

1.2.4. Actual External Debt

The Council's actual external debt at 31st March 2022 was £401m. The actual external debt is not directly comparable to the authorised limit and operational boundary because the actual external debt reflects the position at a point in time.

1.3. Liability Benchmark

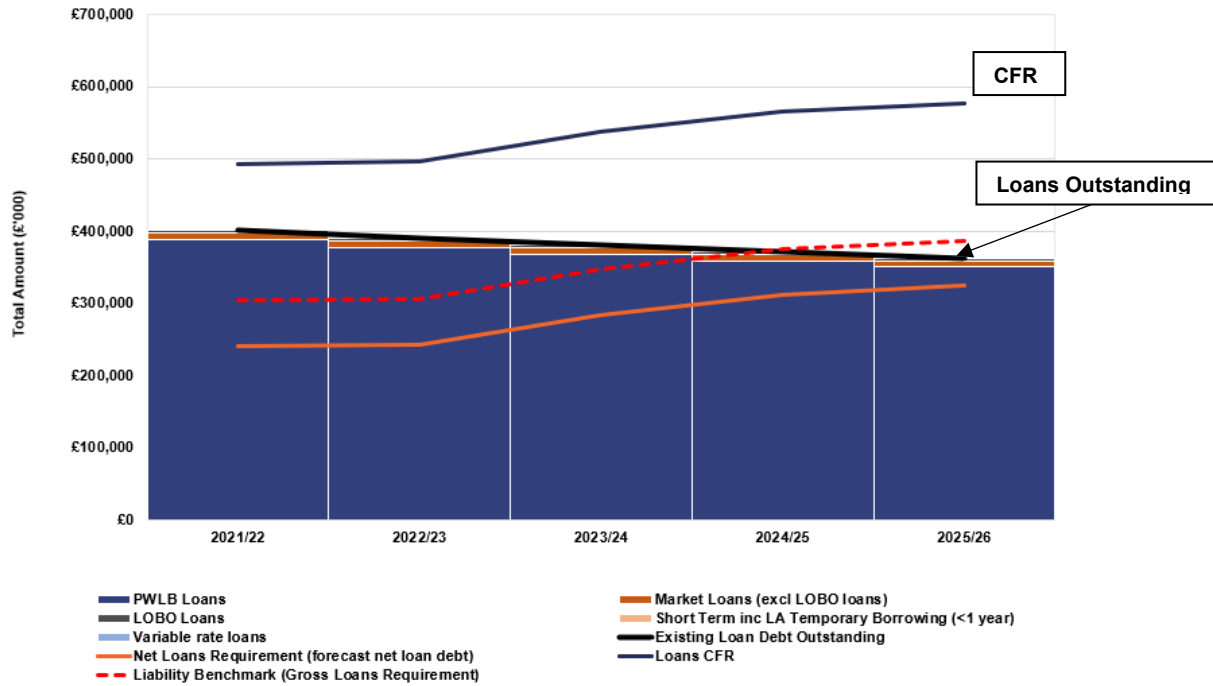
1.3.1. Liability Benchmark

A new Prudential Indicator for 2023/24 is the Liability Benchmark. The Council is required to estimate and measure the Liability Benchmark for the forthcoming year and the following two years. The liability benchmark is a measure of how well the existing loans portfolio matches the Council's planned borrowing needs.

There are four components to the Liability Benchmark:

- **Existing Loan Debt Outstanding:** The Council's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
- **Loans CFR:** This is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
- **Net Loans Requirement:** This will show the Council's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecasted.
- **Liability Benchmark:** This equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.

Liability Benchmark



The purpose of this prudential indicator is to compare the Council’s existing loans outstanding (the black line) against its future need for loan debt, or liability benchmark (the red line). If the black line is below the red line, the existing portfolio outstanding is less than the loan debt required, and the Council will need to borrow to meet the shortfall. If the black line is above the red line, the Council will (based on its current plans) have more debt than it needs, and the excess will have to be invested. The chart therefore tells a Council how much it needs to borrow, when, and to want maturities to match its planned borrowing needs.

It is recommended that the above Prudential Indicators are adopted and that the Director of Corporate Services is given delegated authority by Council to change the balance between borrowing and other long-term liabilities.

Other long-term liabilities are other credit arrangements, which are, in the main, finance leases. These indicators may be affected once information is collated during 2023/24 for the new lease requirements under IFRS 16.

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT

The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the minimum revenue provision – MRP), although it is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments if required (voluntary revenue provision – VRP). It is also required to charge an element of the accumulated HRA capital spend in line with Welsh Government requirements.

Welsh Government regulations were issued with effect from 1st April 2010 which require the full Council to approve a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement in advance each year. A variety of options were provided to councils to replace the existing Regulations, as long as there is a prudent provision.

Council have already approved the following approaches for calculating MRP:

Supported Borrowing and Capital Expenditure

Based on CFR

The calculation is based on 2.5% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year on a straight-line basis.

Unsupported Borrowing

Asset Life Method

The future borrowing value of unsupported borrowing is to be charged to revenue over 40 years or by the estimated economic life of the asset if shorter, please see below.

Capital Expenditure on the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) 21st Century Schools is classed as Unsupported Borrowing. It is estimated that asset lives within these programmes are 30 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

Asset lives within the Fleet Programme range from 1 to 10 years, these are the periods that will be used to determine the MRP.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) Highways. It is estimated that asset lives within this programme are 20 years and this is the period that will be used to determine the MRP.

Housing Revenue Account

The calculation is based on 2% of the opening Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) each year.

Loans to Third Parties

The Council occasionally lends capital loans to third parties which forms part of the Capital Financing Requirement. The Council's policy is not to apply Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to the loans but apply the loans repayments from the third party (which are capital receipts), in lieu of MRP. In the event of any likely default, the Council will calculate an Expected Credit Loss and apply MRP accordingly.

Swansea Bay City Deal

MRP on the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) associated with City Deal expenditure financed by external loans will be profiled to match external grants received. If the grants are delayed the MRP will be reprofiled accordingly.

Council is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement for 2023/2024:

For Supported and Unsupported Capital Expenditure, the MRP policy will continue to follow the approaches above.

**Cyngor
1st March 2023**

**Carmarthenshire County Council
Corporate Strategy 2022-27**

Purpose: The Corporate Strategy sets the strategic direction for the Council.

Cabinet Recommendation:

1. To approve the Corporate Strategy 2022-27.

Reasons:

- Under the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act we must set and publish Well-being Objectives for the Council that maximise our contribution to the 7 National Well-being Goals.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Darren Price, Leader

Directorate: Chief Executive

Designations:

Tel:

Name of Head of Service:

Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

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Noelwyn Daniel

NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Report Author:

Gwyneth Ayers

Corporate Policy,
Performance &
Partnership Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Carmarthenshire County Council Corporate Strategy 2022-27

The Council's Corporate Strategy, which includes the Council's well-being objectives, sets the direction of travel and priorities for the organisation over the period of the current administration. The Strategy provides the framework for delivering on the Cabinet's vision and commitments during that period.

This new Corporate Strategy will focus on a smaller number of population-based objectives whilst identifying the thematic priorities, service priorities and core business enablers that the Council will aim to make progress on during this period. This approach has been developed following consideration of feedback from Engagement & Assurance sessions held with departmental teams during the 2021-22 business planning process, feedback from stakeholders including residents, staff, businesses and trade unions as well as findings of the PSB well-being assessment.

Our new proposed Council well-being objectives are as follows:

1. Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (**Start Well**)
2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (**Live & Age Well**)
3. Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (**Prosperous Communities**)
4. To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (**Our Council**).

At the heart of this approach is integration and collaboration across the Council and with our stakeholders, and our focus going forward will be on:

Developing Carmarthenshire Together: One Council; One Vision; One Voice

Within this Strategy we have identified a series of thematic and service priorities that are aligned to our well-being objectives. Detailed delivery plans (at a divisional level for the 2023-24 business planning cycle) will outline actions to be taken for each well-being objective and thematic/service priority with clear measures to monitor progress against the overall well-being objective through a corporate data suite. These delivery plans will be reviewed annually (as part of business planning cycle) and monitored quarterly as part of current performance monitoring arrangements.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES
Corporate Strategy 2002-27

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set and publish well-being objectives Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives Publish a statement about well-being objectives 	Corporate Strategy will fulfil these duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish an annual report of progress 	Annual Report will fulfil this duty

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

Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021

The Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. It replaces the Local Government Measure 2009.

The Act requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements

The performance requirements are the extent to which:

- we are exercising our functions effectively.
- we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
- our governance is effective for securing the above.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

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

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination Specific member development session held to seek feedback on draft Strategy.		YES
If yes include the following information: -		
Scrutiny Committee	All member development session	
Date the report was considered:-	27 January 2023	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:- Feedback from the member development session which has been reflected in the final draft of the Strategy:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to ensure all well-being objectives, thematic and service priorities take account of the key areas of decarbonisation, climate and nature emergencies, Welsh language and equalities. • Need to ensure feedback to stakeholders on involvement and consultation outcomes. • Need to ensure community safety and cohesion thematic priority also includes focus on community resilience. 		

2. Local Member(s)

Councillors have been engaged on the development of the new Corporate Strategy through member sessions and through the residents' survey where feedback on Council priorities was sought.

3. Community / Town Council

Councils will have received information about the residents' survey where feedback on Council priorities was sought.

4. Relevant Partners

Findings of the PSB well-being assessment have been considered in the development of the Council Corporate Strategy.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Staff have been engaged on Council priorities through the staff survey undertaken.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Cllr. Darren Price supportive of the approach and links with the Cabinet Vision Statement
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Well-being of Future Generations Act		Cymraeg: Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015: yr hanfodion [HTML] LLYW.CYMRU English: https://gov.wales/well-being-future-generations-act-essentials-html

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Carmarthenshire County Council Corporate Strategy 2022-2027

Developing Carmarthenshire Together:
One Council, One Vision, One Voice



sirgar.llyw.cymru
carmarthenshire.gov.wales



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1 | Introduction by Cllr. Darren Price, Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council



Within our Cabinet Vision Statement we have set out a range of commitments that we will work towards achieving during the course of this administration until 2027.

We have set these out with a view to addressing the key challenges and development areas facing Carmarthenshire but with a longer-term view to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the residents and communities of Carmarthenshire.

We will ensure that we embed the sustainable development principle in all that we do by making sure that we act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We have set a vision statement for the Council but given the numerous externally driven pressures and challenges facing us as a population and as organisations over coming years we have to be realistic in terms of what's achievable. We will have to continually review and assess what and where we need to invest and prioritise our interventions going forward and ensure we make the best use of resources available to us.

This Corporate Strategy provides the framework for delivering on those commitments outlined in the Cabinet Vision Statement and detailed delivery plans, that will be monitored and reviewed regularly, will set out the exact actions we'll be taking as a Council to make progress against our objectives.

This Strategy and the detailed delivery plans have been developed taking into account feedback received through consultation with our residents, staff, businesses and trade unions undertaken during the Summer of 2022.

This type of stakeholder engagement and involvement is something I will ensure that the Council further develops and embeds across our service planning approaches. I will also ensure that we provide regular feedback to our stakeholders so that you know what we did as a result of your input.

Local government has faced a challenging period in having to adapt in its response to the pandemic. There are many lessons to be learnt from that experience and good practice that needs to be embedded. However, we are entering another period of uncertainty over the next few years that are set to be just as challenging. We fully appreciate the cost of living pressures facing our residents and we want to ensure that the Council is able to provide support wherever we can.

The Council itself is also facing tremendous budgetary pressures, which we have not seen the likes of before in public service, therefore, the next few years are likely to require a significant shift in the way that we provide our services. We must and will respond to this challenge again, ensuring we do all that we can to support the residents, businesses and communities of Carmarthenshire.

As a Cabinet we will take collective and individual responsibility for ensuring progress against the well-being objectives, thematic and service priorities outlined in this Corporate Strategy with the Cabinet member portfolios focusing on key areas.

We have identified the key areas of decarbonisation, climate and nature emergencies, and Welsh language as thematic priorities and, along with a focus on equality, we will ensure these key areas are embedded and progressed in all that we do.



Cllr Linda Evans

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes



Cllr Philip Hughes

Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce



Cllr Alun Lenny

Cabinet Member for Resources



Cllr Ann Davies

Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy



Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability



Cllr Edward Thomas

Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure



Cllr Gareth John

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism



Cllr Glynog Davies

Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language



Cllr Jane Tremlett

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services

Croeso i Neuadd y Sir
Welcome to County Hall



2 | Introduction by Wendy Walters, Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County



I am pleased to present this Corporate Strategy for Carmarthenshire County Council which sets out our direction of travel and priorities as an organisation.

In developing this Strategy we have taken time to reflect and refresh our approach following discussion with a range of stakeholders including councillors, officers and external partners. We have also sought feedback from residents, staff, businesses and trade unions on their views about the Council and priorities and these views have shaped our well-being objectives.

As we emerge and reflect on our experiences from the pandemic and look ahead at the extremely challenging period ahead for public services in terms of increasing demand and budgetary constraints, we have taken a fresh approach to our Corporate Strategy and well-being objectives by focusing on a smaller number of population based objectives whilst identifying our thematic priorities, service priorities and core business enablers.

Our well-being objectives are focused on:

1. Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)
3. Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)
4. To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)

At the heart of this approach is integration and collaboration across the Council and with our stakeholders, and our focus going forward will be on:

Developing Carmarthenshire Together: One Council; One Vision; One Voice

Within this Strategy we have identified a series of thematic and service priorities that are aligned to our well-being objectives. Detailed delivery plans will outline actions to be taken for each thematic and service priority with clear measures to monitor progress against the overall well-being objective.

During the course of this Strategy, we will continuously challenge the status quo, ask questions of ourselves about how we are operating and consider best practice in Wales and beyond. We will critically self-assess our performance and seek feedback from stakeholders so that we can continue to learn and improve the way that we work.

Our staff are the driving force of the Council and their commitment and determination to do their best for the people of Carmarthenshire is never doubted and something I am tremendously proud of.

As we enter another challenging period for public services, I will ensure that the Council is in the best position possible to respond to whatever that may bring. Going forward a focus on continuous service transformation is going to be critical, and I will drive this transformation within the organisation to make sure that we can adapt, be innovative and respond with the needs of our residents at the centre of all that we do despite the challenges ahead.

3 | About Carmarthenshire

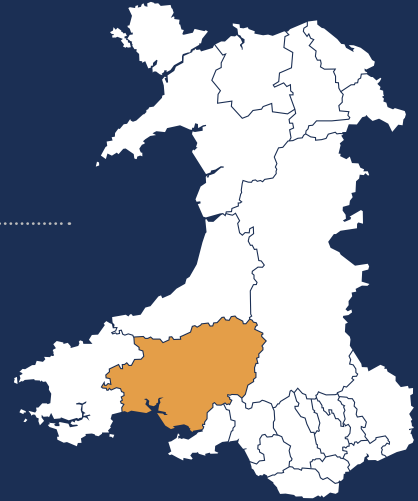
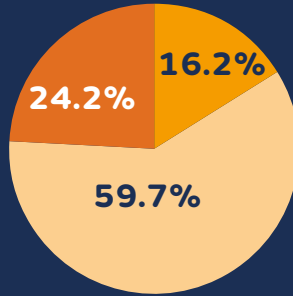
Population

Source: Census 2021

187,900 people live in Carmarthenshire

81,800 households

16.2% (30,400) aged 0-14,
59.7% (112,100) aged 15-64 and
24.2% (45,400) aged over 65

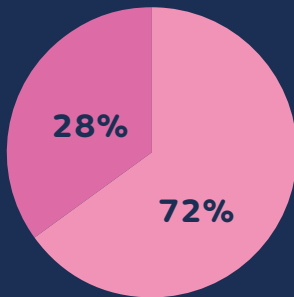


Employee jobs

Source: Census 2021

Total Employee Jobs:

64,800



Full-time: 72.0% (46,700)
 Part-time: 28.0% (18,100)

Gross weekly pay for full time workers

Source: ONS Annual Survey of hours and earnings



£623.40 -

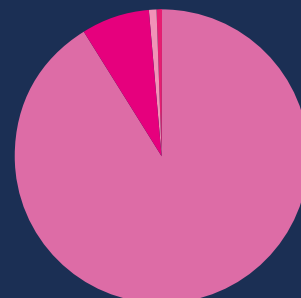
Compared to **£640** for GB.

Total Business Enterprises in Carmarthenshire

Source: ONS: Inter Departmental Business Register

8,200

Micro [0 - 9]: 91.6% (7,515)
 Small [10 to 49]: 7.2% (590)
 Medium [50 to 249]: 0.9% (75)
 Large [250+]: 0.2% (15)



Employment by Occupation

Source: 2021 Census

31,000 / 37.9%

Managers, Directors and Senior officials, Professional Occupations, Associate Professional Occupation



19,400 / 23.7%

Administrative and Secretarial Occupations, Skilled Trades Occupations

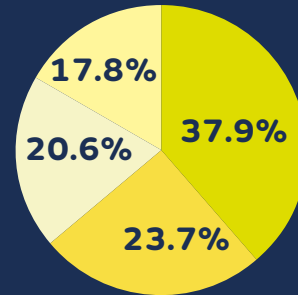
16,900 / 20.6%

Caring, Leisure and other service occupations, Sales and Customer Service occupations



14,600 / 17.8%

Process Plant and Machine Operatives, Elementary occupations



Qualifications

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

NVQ 4 and above: **35.3% (37,700)**

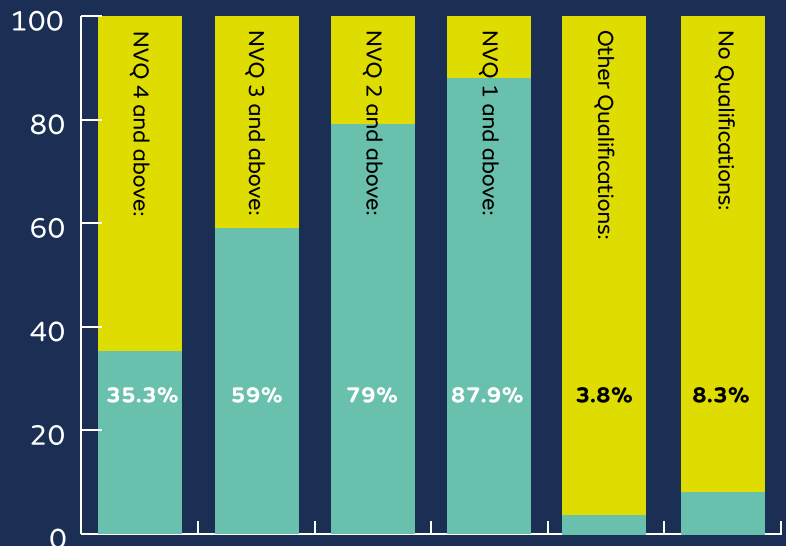
NVQ3 and above: **59% (63,000)**

NVQ2 and above: **79% (84,300)**

NVQ1 and above: **87.9% (93,900)**

Other Qualifications: **3.8% (4,000)**

No Qualifications: **8.3% (8,900)**



Welsh Language

Source: 2021 Census

39.9% of people in Carmarthenshire can speak Welsh.



4 | About the Council

Carmarthenshire County Council has just over 8,000 employees, split over five departments covering a wide range of services, with a Gross budget of £600m

Education and Children Services

- Corporate Parenting and child welfare
- Family support
- Sustainable Communities for Learning
- Learner inclusion
- Safeguarding children and young people
- Adult community learning
- Early Years childcare, play and education
- Youth support service • Fostering and adoption support services
- Support services for supporting learner behaviour
- School services – catering, music, admissions and governance
- School improvement and learner progress
- Transition arrangements and support for children and young people with complex needs
- Welsh in Education

Place and Infrastructure

- Building control
- Emergency planning
- Environmental and planning enforcement
- Flood risk management
- Highway infrastructure management
- Passenger Transport
- Planning and conservation
- Property/architectural design and maintenance
- Public rights of way
- Street cleansing, litter and grounds maintenance
- Traffic management, road safety and car parking
- Waste management and recycling
- Engineering Design
- Fleet Management

Chief Executives

- Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet support
- Corporate communications
- Corporate policy and partnership
- Corporate strategy
- Democratic services
- Electoral and registration services
- Information technology
- Legal services
- People management and performance
- Performance management
- Regeneration and property

Corporate Services

- Accountancy and financial management
- Creditor payments
- Corporate procurement
- Internal audit
- Payroll control
- Pensions administration
- Revenues & Housing Benefits Services
- Revenue services
- Risk management
- Treasury management and pension investments

Communities

- Adult safeguarding
- Care and support
- Carmarthenshire Home standards+
- Cultural services
- Environmental protection
- Home care
- Housing repairs and maintenance
- Independent living
- Licensing
- Mental health and learning disability services
- Older people and physical disability services
- Outdoor recreation
- Public protection
- Sport and leisure

5 | About the Council - Key Statistics



75
County Councillors
representing
51
community wards



Keeping our website
updated (Over
3 million
user sessions by the
public on our website
per annum)



Taking over
250,000
calls & responding to over
25,000
electronic enquiries annually
in our contact centre



Determine an
average of
1,500
Planning Applications
a year



Responsible for the
highway network in
Carmarthenshire of
3,500 km.



Over
80,000
tonnes of municipal
waste collected
during the year



1 nursery school,
95 primary schools,
12 secondary schools,
1 special school and **1**
pupil referral unit which
provide education for over
27,000 pupils



16,000
school meals a day



Deal with over
340,000
invoices a year



We manage just over

9,000
council houses



Over **3,500**
clients supported
with a Social Care
Service



We have
20
libraries in the County
(including mobile and
community run)



We run
6
leisure centres
in the County



Our registrars on average annually record around

2,500 Deaths, 2,400 Births*
and over

500

Marriages and Civil Partnerships

* Please note that birth figures include Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire residents who use the maternity services at Glangwili General Hospital



Helping as many as possible of our

8,000
businesses in the County,
(90% of which have fewer than 10
employees), together with



Work with **partners regionally** to prevent, resolve and improve delivery of services

- Public Services Board;
- Corporate Joint Committee (transport, planning, economic well-being);
- Swansea Bay City Deal;
- Regional Learning & Skills Partnership;
- Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum;
- Regional Safeguarding;
- Regional Partnership Board – West Wales Care Partnership;
- VAWDA-SV Regional Board;
- Area Planning Board – Substance Misuse;
- Partneriaeth – education consortium;

6 | Our Core Values:

Our values are at the heart of everything we do.

They help us to make the right decision and shape how we work together.



7 | Council Well-being Objectives

Well-being Objective 1

Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)

Why is this important?

1. Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years, starting in the womb, has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status. To have an impact on health inequalities we need to address the social gradient in children’s access to positive early experiences. Later interventions, although important, are considerably less effective if they have not had good early foundations. Fair Society, Healthy Lives, the Marmot Review, 2010
2. Adverse Childhood Experiences ACE’s are stressful experiences during childhood that directly harm a child (e.g. sexual or physical abuse) or effect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence) that can impact throughout the course of life. For every 100 adults in Wales, 47% have suffered at least one ACE and 14% have suffered 4 or more.
3. Early language acquisition is important in the development of the child. Welsh language development in the early years can encourage feelings of belonging.
4. In March 2022, there were 165 Looked After Children in Carmarthenshire, which equates to 45 per 10,000 population compared to the Welsh average of 112.
5. 31% of children are living in poverty in Carmarthenshire (in households with less than 60% of the average income before housing costs). This is just above the Welsh average of 30.6%.
6. Carmarthenshire is the 5th worst county in Wales for levels of childhood obesity. In 2018/19, almost a third of children aged 4 to 5 were overweight or obese.
7. Compulsory education is changing in Wales and a new curriculum is being introduced that aims to provide young people with the skills they will need in the future.



A recent consultation with Carmarthenshire’s residents indicates that there is overall agreement that local schools provide children and young people with a good education.

- 8. Children learn through play and develop essential skills - play sufficiency is essential.
- 9. Attendance at a quality pre-school (aged 0-3) is shown to improve outcomes for children.
- 10. Making sure young people are in Education, Employment or Training reduces the effects of poverty and the wider cost to society of support services, reliance on benefits and offending.
- 11. Young carers are more likely to achieve poorer educational outcomes – there are 1,800 young carers in Carmarthenshire.
- 12. There is a net migration over the last five years in the 16-24 range.
- 13. Key local issues identified by the Carmarthenshire Youth Forum are:
 - a. access to training and jobs with 21.3% of votes
 - b. homelessness with 20.9% of votes,
 - c. domestic violence with 17 of votes%.
- 14. Concern over mental health is a key issue raised by young people.
- 15. Young people are also concerned with bullying and cyberbullying.
- 16. Research on early years investment suggests significant returns for each £1 invested.



Outcomes we hope to achieve

- Improved availability of early years education and childcare settings across the county, particularly in rural areas; with a particular focus on providing and strengthening Welsh-medium childcare.
- Pupils with Additional Learning Needs are fully supported.
- Increased school attendance rates and access to education for vulnerable pupils.
- Deliver a rounded curriculum raising educational standards.
- Nutritious free school meals for all primary school pupils.
- Increased bilingual and Welsh medium education.
- Improved opportunities for all residents in literacy, numeracy and digital skills to upskill for employment.
- Schools for sustainable community learning that are fit for 21st Century
- Keeping children at home with their families whenever possible.
- Reducing the inequalities faced by children from disadvantaged backgrounds which may affect their later life chances.
- Families facing difficulties are supported to provide stable, safe and secure home environments for their children.
- Families from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access health and well-being provision within their local areas.

What will we do?

As a Council we will focus on the following thematic and service priorities with separate detailed delivery plans outlining our approach to making progress against our outcomes in each of the areas.

Thematic Priority: Healthy Lives – prevention /early intervention

We will give every child the best start in life, improving their early life experiences and ensuring they live healthy lifestyles. We will protect children and young people from harm and work to ensure their emotional and physical well-being.

Service Priority: Early years

Protecting children who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect, or other kinds of harm is our priority. Our focus is on early intervention / prevention to ensure all children can reach their full potential and be healthy, happy and safe. Helping to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences is our key aim.

Service Priority: Education

We will support all Carmarthenshire learners. We will ensure that they are happy, safe, are thriving, and are fulfilling their personal, social and learning potential.

The future direction of Education Services will focus on supporting learners to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to provide a full part in life & work.
- Healthy and confident individuals, ready to learn fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

Well-being Objective 2

Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)

Why is this important?

1. Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects, impacting all aspects of well-being. Over a third of our households continue to live in poverty (35.6%), a level which has increased by 0.9% over the last ten years. This translates to around 29,500 households, suggesting that almost 600 additional households have slipped below the income threshold over the last ten years.
A large proportion of respondents to a recent consultation agreed that poverty is a problem in their respective area.
2. The cost of living is rising across the UK, with more working families experiencing poverty.
3. According to the Census 2021, Carmarthenshire has an ageing population, whereby 11% of the county's population are aged over 75 (above the national average of 9.8%). This will require the NHS and the Local Authority to plan for the expected increased demand for health and social care services.
Health and Social Care was indicated to be the most important theme in terms of prioritisation for investment by Carmarthenshire's residents through a recent consultation.
4. The challenge is to prevent ill health, living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire, many of the preventive services and interventions lie outside health and social care.
5. Dementia prevalence is projected to significantly increase in the next 15 years.
6. Mental ill health is something that one in four adults will experience in the course of their lifetime.
There was overall strong agreement from residents that it is important that consideration is given to supporting people's mental health and wellbeing.

7. Homelessness, and the risk of homelessness, poses significant risk to a person’s well-being, negatively impacting on emotional, mental and physical health as well as indicating poor social and economic circumstances
8. Access to good quality, affordable homes promotes improved health and well-being, meeting the individual needs of residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live. It is also good for the economy - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce and quality housing will help to attract this cohort.

There was overall strong agreement from residents that it is important that local people are supported to buy homes locally.

9. Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the people and the environment – well insulated homes fitted with the latest innovative technologies not only serve to reduce carbon emissions but also promote affordable warmth for our residents.



Outcomes we hope to achieve

- Help and support to alleviate the effects of the ‘cost of living’ crises and poverty in the County.
- Seamless integrated services between Health and Social Care.
- Accessible, inclusive, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure.
- Improved preventative services to meet the demands of an ageing population.
- A reduction and working towards an end to homelessness.
- Availability to good quality and energy efficient affordable homes in the County.
- Recognise and seek to limit the disproportionate barriers faced by marginalised groups in accessing services and support which allow them to live and age well.
- Improved opportunities for all residents in literacy, numeracy and digital skills to upskill for employment.
- People are supported to take advantage of local opportunities whether it be through starting a business, gaining qualifications or gaining meaningful employment.

What will we do?

As a Council we will focus on the following thematic and service priorities with separate detailed delivery plans outlining our approach to making progress against our outcomes in each of the areas.

Thematic Priority: Tackling Poverty

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

Poverty can be a barrier to full participation in society and is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now and in the future.

With the added pressures of the cost of living crisis impacting residents, businesses and organisations there is a need for a fully integrated and collaborative approach to responding and supporting in the areas that we can influence.

Service Priority: Housing

Good quality affordable homes as well as continued significant investment in existing homes promotes health and well-being, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building resilient and cohesive communities and places where people want to live. Work to existing homes and availability of new provision across our rural and urban communities across the County will be key to enabling community resilience and cohesion.



Service Priority: Social Care

Social care services across a range of client group areas are likely to see an increase in demand over coming years and with the sector facing significant pressures in terms of workforce capacity there is a need to focus attention and respond innovatively.

The further development of collaboration and integration with health will be essential in order to deliver the key principles and standards relating to prevention, system flow, proactive care and planned care, and long-term care. The long-term aim is to wherever possible help people to maintain their independence at home for as long as possible, prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and support timely discharge home from hospital to ensure that those that need good hospital care can access it.



Well-being Objective 3

Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)

Why is this important?

1. Providing secure and well-paid jobs for local people is crucial as increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. This has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
2. Carmarthenshire has a high economic inactivity rate. This is a significant barrier to growth for Carmarthenshire, as the economically inactive represent a significant source of labour supply which is a crucial element of a well-functioning labour market. This is also concerning given that being inactive for a long period of time can negatively impact a person's well-being, health and life-satisfaction.
3. A barrier to employment for many is a lack of qualifications or skills. This applies to those that have no qualifications at all and those that wish to re-skill or up-skill to better themselves and seek higher level or alternative employment. This is a pertinent issue for Carmarthenshire, as the county exhibits a higher-than-average number of people with no qualifications and a lower proportion than average of people with higher level qualifications.
4. Business birth rates in Carmarthenshire have seen a small decline in recent years when compared with regional and national averages. A stagnant start-up rate is a barrier to growth and suggests a lack of confidence and capacity within the economy. Evidence highlighted in recent work on the Innovation prospects for the county suggests that the potential entrepreneurial capacity of the county is amongst the highest in Wales. Therefore, whilst current businesses within the county need relevant support there is also a need to focus on creating an ecosystem which harnesses existing entrepreneurial flare and make Carmarthenshire an attractive place to start a business.
5. The county is characterised by micro and small sized enterprises which account for 97.2% of the total business demography. Whilst they are the very foundation of the county's economic and cultural ecosystem their combined annual turnover is significantly less than that generated by the county's 430 (2.8%) medium and large sized enterprises.



If we are to realise notable economic growth and increase productivity, there is a need to focus on supporting these businesses to upscale.

The local economy was highlighted as the third most important theme for prioritisation for investment by respondents to a recent consultation. This included sub-themes such as local business investment and town centre regeneration.

6. Access to services is a challenge in some instances owing to a lower population density and rurality. Large travel distances increase the time and cost for accessing services, which can hinder an individual's ability to feel connected to their communities, worsen isolation and reduce feelings of local pride and belonging. This is especially pertinent for marginalised groups.

Findings from a recent Carmarthenshire residents survey highlights that whilst there was overall agreement from respondents that they can easily access services, a large proportion disagreed.

7. Transportation & highways play a key role in supporting and sustaining our communities, it provides the vital infrastructure which connects people to one another, binds communities and enables businesses to grow and expand. A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and shopping. The majority of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that there are good transportation links around them.
8. Areas of the county are susceptible to the negative effects of the climate emergency, especially flooding. Just over 15,000 properties (mostly residential) in the county are currently at some level of flood risk. 3,151 of these properties are at high risk. Climate change will increase the number of properties, infrastructure and key services at risk of flooding. Places which do not currently flood will become at risk of flooding and those already known to be at risk will see the level of that risk become greater.



The threats of the climate and nature emergencies were highlighted by residents as being a concern. Particular reference was made by some to the threats posed by flooding.

9. A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supporting social, economic and ecological resilience. Planning plays an integral role in order to deliver the Council’s vision.
10. To reduce carbon outputs and meet Welsh Government National targets, we must deliver our Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and meet our statutory recycling targets (70% by 2025 / 100% by 2050) and wider obligations including improvements to the quality of recyclable materials or suffer financial penalties.
11. The latest Census data for 2021 indicates that Carmarthenshire is home to 72,838 Welsh speakers which translates to 39.9% of the county’s total population. This figure has decreased by 5,210 since the last Census in 2011, which translates to a percentage point decrease of 4.0. This is the largest percentage point decrease of all local authorities in Wales. In 2001 and 2011, Carmarthenshire had the highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales, with 84,196 and 78,048 Welsh speakers respectively. These new figures mean that the county now has the second highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales and the fourth highest in terms of the percentage of the population that are able to speak Welsh. The county remains a key strategic stronghold for the future of the Welsh language and the social and economic benefits of bilingualism are widely recognised. Evidence gathered via the residents’ survey indicates that overall respondents agreed that it is important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected.

Evidence gathered via the residents’ survey indicates that overall respondents agreed that it is important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected.

12. Carmarthenshire exhibits increasing crime rates in some areas, however the county remains among the safest areas in the UK, with Carmarthenshire ranking 13th safest out of the 22 counties in Wales with a rate of 83.6 crimes per 1,000 population.

Overall, there was agreement that residents feel safe in their communities.



Outcomes we hope to achieve

- Businesses supported and employment provided.
- People are supported to take advantage of local opportunities whether it be through starting a business, gaining qualifications or gaining meaningful employment.
- Businesses are supported to take advantage of local supply chains and procurement opportunities.
- People feel empowered to lead active and healthy lives through access to fit for purpose services and provision
- On track to meet the national recycling targets.
- Continue to work towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030.
- Look to improve the availability and affordability of early years education and childcare settings across the county, to address one of the common barriers faced by individuals looking to return to, or find employment.
- Look to improve access to services through enhanced transportation networks and infrastructure.
- Improve current and explore new developments to limit the effects of flooding and other environmental threats which affect our residents and service users.
- Sustain low crime rates whilst continuing effective partnership working to address increasing rates evident in some areas of the county.
- Increase in the number of Welsh speakers.
- Increased confidence and use of the Welsh as a thriving language.

What will we do?

As a Council we will focus on the following thematic and service priorities with separate detailed delivery plans outlining our approach to making progress against our outcomes in each of the areas.

Thematic Priority: Economic Recovery and Growth

The strength of our local economy is central to our communities' wider well-being and going forward we will focus our regeneration efforts on developing our businesses, people and places. In our future plans we will enable Carmarthenshire to become more productive whilst being more equal, greener and healthier and supporting business and community resilience and growth.

Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency

The Natural Environment is a core component of sustainable development. The Council has already declared its commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergencies and will continue on its route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 and addressing the issues that are driving a decline in our biodiversity and support nature recovery.

Thematic Priority: Welsh Language & Culture

Carmarthenshire is a stronghold for the Welsh language and is considered to be of high strategic importance in its future. Bilingualism is beneficial to both the economy and individuals through cognitive and social benefits. We will work towards increasing the number of Welsh speakers and supporting the regular use of the language across all aspects of our daily lives.

Engaging in cultural activity has demonstrable positive impact on starting well, living well and ageing well. We want our future generations to be immersed in a strong, intriguing, wholly unique Carmarthenshire Culture, that reflects our past and shapes our future.

Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion

Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being and more people now appreciate the value of kindness and being part of a community. Supporting cohesive communities and ensuring those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in their neighbourhood, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values is central to having active and thriving communities.

Community Resilience is also essential to enable communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. When communities are able to work together to support each other it builds a sense of pride and belonging which is key for social well-being.

Service Priority: Leisure & Tourism

Sport and leisure, culture and outdoor recreation are the heartbeat of our communities. These services provide a range of health and well-being activities, facilities and programmes in order to support our residents and communities to lead healthy, safe and prosperous lives.

In a similar way the promotion of our County as an attractive and commercially viable place to visit and invest in is a key economic and well-being factor.

We will continue to develop these services in response to the need of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Service Priority: Waste

A circular economy keeps resources and materials in use for as long as possible and avoids all waste. Moving to a circular economy is key to the delivery of essential environmental outcomes in terms of the opportunity to reduce our carbon emissions and impact on natural resources whilst aiding nature recovery. We will ensure that we develop a new approach to waste management that embeds the circular economy principles in Carmarthenshire.

Service Priority: Highways & Transport

Our highway and transportation networks underpin the economic prosperity of Carmarthenshire, facilitating access to employment and learning opportunities, social connections, health, leisure, active travel and delivering services that touch every home every day. Connectivity and accessibility are central to facilitating economic and social well-being and we will continue to develop and enhance our local infrastructure in order to support our communities.



Well-being Objective 4

To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)

Why is this important?

1. In March 2020, we entered one of the most challenging periods ever faced by local government with the COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging from the crisis, there was a recognition that ‘things would never quite be the same’ and we would not be the same organisation that we had been. We therefore wanted to capture the learning from our response to the pandemic; what worked well/did not work so well, and how this could potentially change ‘what we do’ and ‘how we do’, it in the future. This is now an opportunity to re-set or go back to basics in using some core principles that underpin service delivery.

Findings from a recent staff consultation indicate that the vast majority of respondents feel proud of the way we responded as an organisation to the pandemic.

Additionally, the majority feel ready to move forward and work in a post covid world.

Mostly, staff agree that they were well led during the pandemic, however a lower proportion agreed that they feel valued for the contributions they made during this time.

2. We had to adapt our services quickly to continued delivery, which often required innovative and creative thinking, and a multi-team approach within the Council and with other public sector partners. Services demonstrated extreme resilience and as a result are now armed with more robust service continuity plans and a more mature approach to risk – having greater confidence and ambition in seeking ways of developing more purposeful services.



3. The benefits of having a more flexible, dynamic, empowered workforce will be important to support a transformation programme, to help us achieve our wider aims and objectives. The likelihood is that our staff recruitment challenges are likely to be with us for at least the medium term, and therefore there will need to be a greater focus on the development and retention of staff - priority of our Workforce Strategy.
Overall respondents to the staff consultation strongly agree that they have the right skills and equipment to do their work, however a lower proportion agrees that they are encouraged to learn and develop in their role.
4. We are able to develop a more sustainable approach to meet our future workforce needs by adopting a 'grow your own' strategy - our 'Future Workforce' programme will seek to increase graduate, apprenticeship and work experience opportunities.
5. Therefore, our Transformation Programme based on what we have learnt, will design and implement a programme of internal change and transformation that will support the Council to deliver on our vision and priorities as set out within this Corporate Strategy.



Outcome we hope to achieve

- To further modernise and develop the Council's ways of working.
- Support the development of the Council as a modern, diverse, inclusive and responsive organisation and be an 'Employer of Choice'.
- Listen to our staff through regular staff engagement and empower them to improve their own service areas.
- Ensure local and regional partnership working is efficient and effective and adds value to the work of the Council.
- Increased public engagement through engagement, participation and consultation.
- A more commercial approach to the delivery of Council services with a view to increasing the level of income generated.
- Make better use of digital technology to further transform our services into smarter, efficient service processes and to deliver a better experience for customers.
- Embrace and promote agile working, hybrid meetings and new ways of working across the organisation, by being more sustainable and creative to improve Council services.
- Deliver organisational change that supports key Net Zero Carbon targets.
- Ensuring the Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
- Embedding the sustainable development principle in all that the Council does.

What will we do?

As a Council we will focus on the following thematic priorities with separate detailed delivery plans outlining our approach to making progress against our outcomes in each of the areas.

Thematic Priority: Organisational Transformation

Public service as a whole has been through a period like no other in responding to the pandemic and with a challenging period likely to be facing us in terms of budgetary pressure it is essential to improve our capabilities and the way that we use our resources economically, efficiently and effectively in order to provide more value and benefits to our customers and residents.

A focus on organisational transformation will further accelerate the process of modernisation across the Council and allow us to deliver high-quality, cost-effective services within the context of a challenging external environment. There will need to be an inclusive and integrated approach to transformation that makes the best use of its people, systems and processes whilst encouraging the adoption of modern working practices and speeding up of processes.



Core Business Enablers

In addition to the identified thematic and service priorities, there are a range of core business enablers that will be essential to enable us to make progress against our well-being objectives.



As part of the development of the delivery plans for the thematic and service priorities consideration will also be given to the support and function required from these core business enablers.

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Marketing & Media including customer services
- Legal
- Planning
- Finance
- Procurement
- Internal Audit
- People Management (Human Resources, Learning & Development, Occupational Health)
- Democratic Services
- Policy & Performance
- Electoral Services & Civil Registration
- Estates & Asset Management
- Risk Management
- Business Support

8 | How will we measure progress?

The Council’s Performance Management Framework sets out our approach to managing and monitoring performance against our Corporate Strategy and well-being objectives.

The specific actions and measures for how we will make progress against our Corporate Strategy and well-being objectives will be outlined within detailed delivery plans for the thematic and service priorities which will also recognise the work of the core business enablers. These delivery plans will be developed with the life cycle of this Corporate Strategy until 2027 in mind and will be reviewed and updated annually.

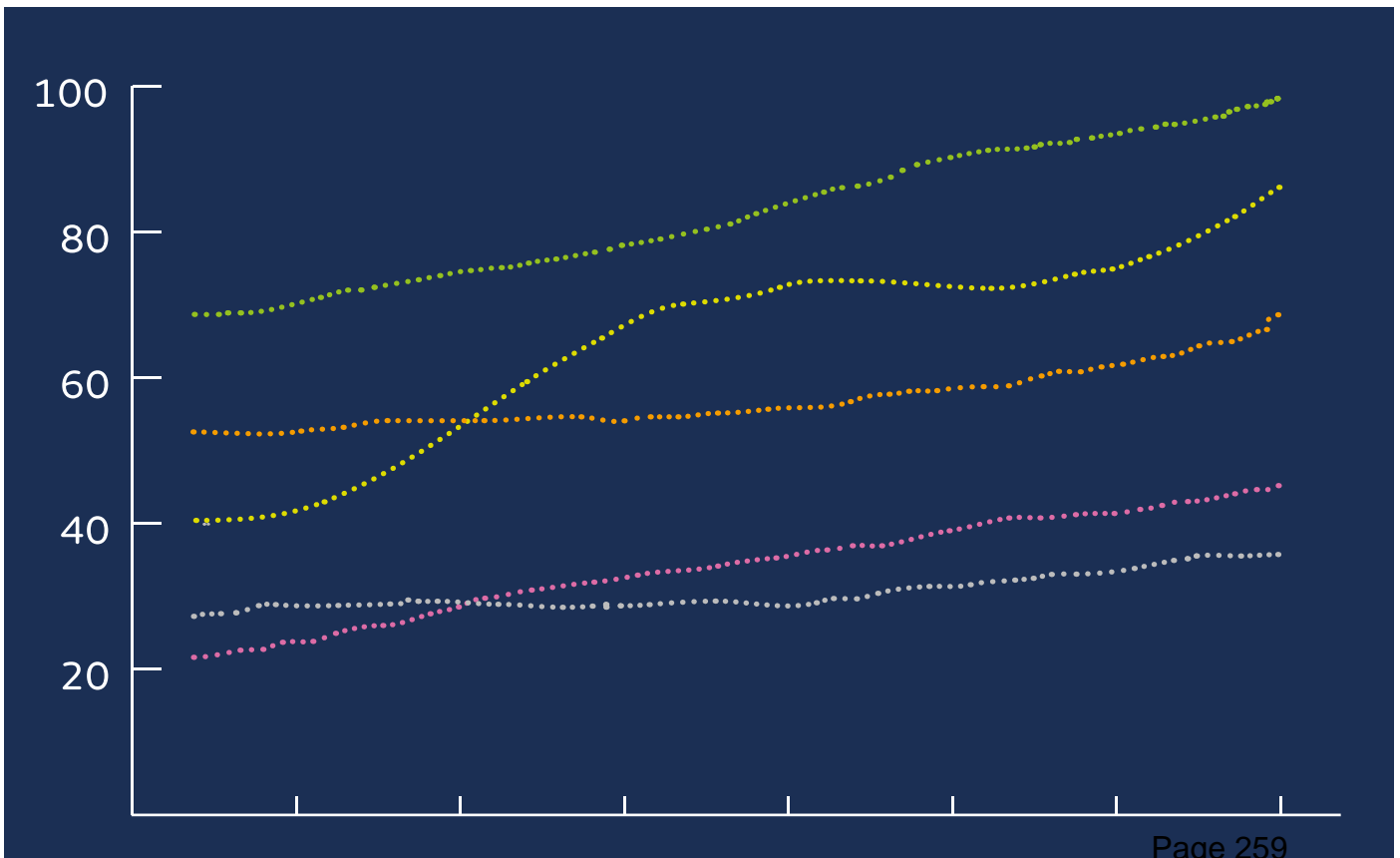
On-going performance management will be undertaken through quarterly performance monitoring reports to the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Scrutiny which will be aided with a corporate performance data suite.

An Annual Report on Council performance will be prepared in order to keep under review the extent to which:

- we are exercising our functions effectively;
- we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- our governance is effective for securing this.

This will be developed through a self-assessment approach alongside effective use of data, information and intelligence in order to inform and further develop our delivery plans and ways of working.

We will also consult and engage with a range of stakeholders on our performance including residents, businesses, Council staff, organisations and trade unions in order to inform our self-assessment.



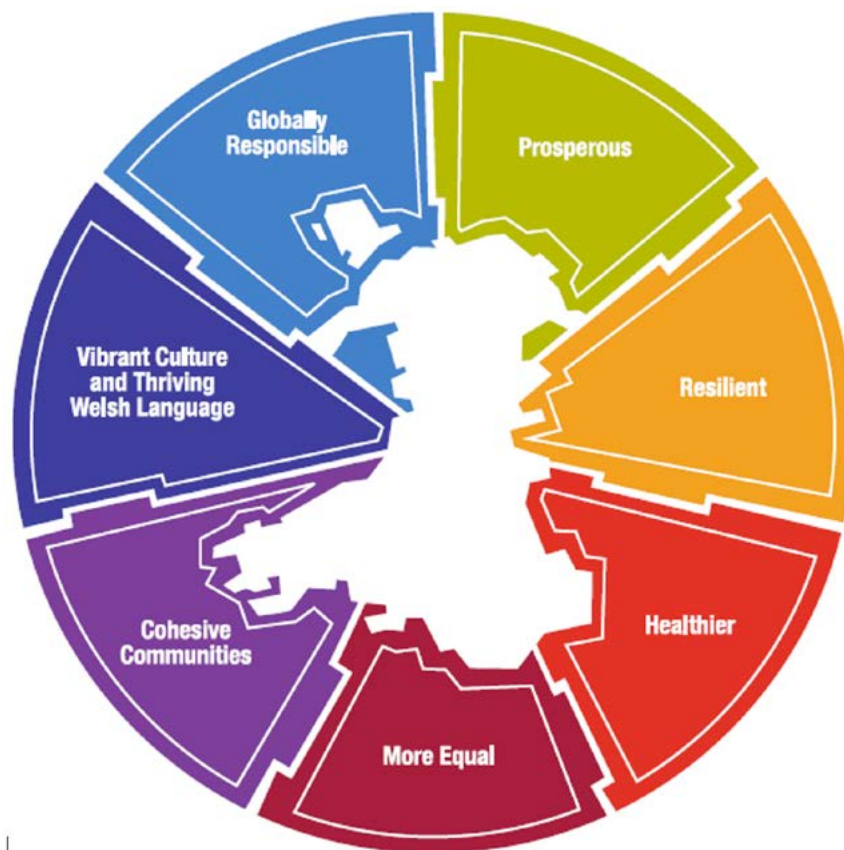
9 | Appendix 1 - Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

The general purpose of the Act is to ensure that the service planning and governance arrangements of public bodies focuses on improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales whilst taking the needs of future generations into account, in line with the sustainable development principle.

The Act provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards.

The Act states that:

- a) We must carry out and embed the sustainable development principle in all that we do. The Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- b) We must set and publish Well-being Objectives for the Council that maximise our contribution to the 7 National Well-being Goals.
- a) We must demonstrate that we are giving due consideration to the 5 ways of working in all that we do. The 5 ways of working focus on long-term thinking, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention.



10 | Appendix 2 - How our Well-being Objectives support National Well-being Goals



Well-being Objectives	7 National Well-being Goals						
	Prosperity	Resilience	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language	Global Responsibility
1. Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous communities)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

11 | Appendix 3 - Well-being Statement

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

1. We feel that our Well-being Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals. Our Well-being Objectives relate to different aspects of life's course and focuses on the areas that we can influence and shape in order to improve well-being in a systematic way.
2. These Well-being Objectives have been identified following consultation and feedback with a range of stakeholders and developed alongside a basket of different sources of information focusing on the needs of our population, performance data and regulatory feedback. In developing delivery plans to achieve these objectives we will involve all relevant stakeholders with an interest in achieving them.
3. The steps we take to achieve the Well-being Objectives (through our delivery plans) will look to ensure that the 5 ways of working (long term, preventative, integrated, collaborative and involvement) are fully embraced and embedded in the way that we deliver.
4. Each Cabinet portfolio holder/s will have defined accountability for their relevant Well-being Objectives.
5. To ensure that we deliver the steps for each Well-being Objective we will implement our Performance Management Framework. All the delivery plans will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis to Departmental Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and Cabinet. In addition, progress will be reported to Scrutiny Committees. The Council will prepare an Annual Report on its Well-being Objectives and revise the objectives if required.
6. The content of delivery plans to achieve the Well-being Objectives will need to be adequately resourced. To achieve these objectives services will integrate and collaborate with partners and fully involve citizens in all their diversity.
7. Our Objectives are long term, but our delivery plans will include milestones that will enable monitoring and assurance of progress.
8. To ensure that our Well-being Objectives are deliverable and that the expectations of the Act are embraced we will adapt financial planning, asset management, risk assessment, performance management and scrutiny arrangements.
9. The requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act 2021 Governance and Performance requirements will also be embedded within this approach.

CABINET

MONDAY, 30 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor D. Price (Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

G. Davies	P.M. Hughes	G.H. John	A. Lenny
E.G. Thomas	J. Tremlett	A. Vaughan Owen	

Councillors (Virtually):

L.D. Evans

Also in attendance (Virtually):

Councillor D.M. Cundy

Also Present (In Person):

W. Walters, Chief Executive
 J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
 C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
 G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
 A. Williams, Director of Place and Infrastructure
 L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
 J. Jones, Head of Regeneration
 D.W. John, Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services
 C. Higginson, Media Manager
 L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer
 S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
 J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present (Virtually):

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer
 S. Hendy, Member Support Officer

Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 10.00 - 10.41 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A. Davies.

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 9TH JANUARY 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 9th January 2023 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. PETITION FOR NEWCASTLE EMLYN ROAD AND PAVEMENT SAFETY

The Cabinet, in accordance with minute 7 of the Council meeting held on held on 12 October 2022, considered a report on a petition in respect of Road and Pavement Safety in Newcastle Emlyn.

The report detailed the ongoing partnership work within the areas of Education, Engineering and Enforcement to enable the Council to meet its statutory duties to improve road safety and prevent road traffic collisions.

The report also set out the two-stage framework implemented by the Council in respect of prioritising highway improvements within the context of budgetary constraints to enable an evidence-based approach to such requests and ensure that funding was directed to the areas of greatest need.

Pertinent data in respect of the existing crossing facilities, vehicle flows, composition and speeds, pedestrian flows and composition, site characteristics and road accident data were also set out for the Cabinet's consideration, and it was reported that further data gathering was required in between the main peaks and troughs of traffic and pedestrian numbers to ensure a comprehensive site assessment.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

6.1 The content of the report be noted.

6.2 The petitioners be notified of the report.

6.3 Traffic surveys and pedestrian crossing assessments be undertaken at key locations within Newcastle Emlyn in the Spring 2023 and the petitioners advised of the findings.

7. UPDATE ON THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

Further to minute 7 of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 October 2022, consideration was given to a progress report made in respect of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

It was confirmed that the UK Government had approved the South-West Regional Investment Plan in December 2022 and an allocation of funding which totalled £38.6m had been secured for Carmarthenshire to enable the Authority to deliver against some of the County's strategic objectives. Reference was made to

the legal implications set out within the report whereby it was confirmed that Swansea Council, as the lead Authority on behalf of the South-West region, maintained overall accountability for the funding and the operation of the SPF, however delivery and management of the programme in Carmarthenshire was the responsibility of the Authority.

The report detailed the anchor projects within the themes of Community, Rural, Place, Supporting Local Business and Employability & Skills. An overview of the financial implications, governance and administrative processes was also provided to the Cabinet. In this regard, consideration was given to the decision-making arrangements for the Anchor and Standalone projects which included the development of an application form and assessment criteria, as appended to the report.

In recognition that UK Government had stipulated a completion date of 31 March 2025 for all UK SPF activity, the Cabinet's approval was requested to proceed with the recruitment of staff for the Internal Anchor teams and the Programme Management team, together with the opening up of calls for all applications prior to entering into a formal Service Level Agreement with Swansea Council.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 7.1 To endorse steps taken to date and proposed to enable officers to continue their preparatory work for the delivery of the funding, i.e. setting up processes and procedures for delivery, and developing formal legal agreements as required.**
- 7.2 To approve the proposed application and decision making process.**
- 7.3 To approve flexibility in the working budgets so that refinements can be made in consultation with Finance and the Regeneration Partnership.**
- 7.4 To delegate authority to Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism to sign off the detailed Anchor projects following recommendation of the Regeneration Partnership.**
- 7.5 To proceed at risk with opening up calls for all applications prior to entering into a formal Service Level Agreement with Swansea Council.**
- 7.6 To delegate authority to Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism to approve projects up to £100k.**
- 7.7 To proceed at risk with the recruitment of staff for the internal Anchor teams and Programme Management team to enable the programme to commence as soon as possible.**

8. ARFOR 2 (2022-2025) APPROVAL

The Cabinet was advised that based on the success of the first phase of the Programme, a further £11 million would be provided by Welsh Government until March 2025 to support communities to flourish through economic interventions and contribute to increased opportunities in the visibility and use the Welsh language on a daily basis.

The Cabinet considered the proposed governance arrangements for the Arfor 2 programme, together with the strategic objectives which would be achieved through delivery of the following work packages:

- Llwyddo'n Lleol - Targeted youth programme to support entrepreneurial skills to deter youth migration.
- Cymunedau Mentrus/Enterprising Communities - Administered by Carmarthenshire County Council to create opportunities for business start-up, growth and third sector development via a third grant aligned with Arfor objectives.
- Arfor Challenge Fund- Opportunity for organisations across the region to submit applications for resources to develop and pilot activities that will address the strategic objectives of the Programme.
- Strengthening the Identity of Arfor Communities - Create a communication and marketing program for the Programme.
- Monitoring and Evaluation and learning.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 8.1 The steps taken to date to enable the County to benefit from the Arfor 2 Programme be endorsed.**
- 8.2 The establishment of appropriate governance arrangements for the implementation of the programme at a local level, including the establishment of the Cymunedau Mentrus third party grant be approved.**

9. WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Further to minute 7 of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 October 2022, consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the progress made to date on the Council's Waste Strategy for 2021-2025, together with the recent roll out of the interim kerbside waste changes.

The Authority's strategy set out a comprehensive programme of works to deliver service transformational change in line with its carbon reduction ambitions. An overview of the interim position was provided to the Cabinet, which detailed the changes made to the kerbside waste collections which had commenced on 23 January 2023. The Cabinet was advised that the Authority aimed to introduce a longer-term service change to achieve the Blueprint collection methodology by 2024, which would include enhancements to the current fleet provision.

Consideration was also given to the waste management policy appended to the report which provided a consolidated document outlining the Authority's delivery of refuse and recycling collection services, its network of Household Waste Recycling Centres and Re-use facilities in accordance with the Authority's strategic objective of improving kerbside domestic waste collections to increase recycling rates in Carmarthenshire.

Reference was made to the significant financial penalties that would be imposed should the Authority fail to meet the statutory recycling targets. Furthermore, in considering the Authority's moral obligations to reduce its carbon footprint, the Cabinet acknowledged the efforts made thus far to move towards a system based upon the principles of a circular economy.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

9.1 The progress and delivery of the Waste Strategy 2021 be noted.

9.2 The Waste and Recycling Policy be approved.

10. TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE PLACE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS AUTHORITY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON 'PATROL' AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AS THE NOMINATED SUBSTITUTE

The Cabinet considered nominations in relation to the appointment of the Authority's Representative and Substitute on the PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London). The nomination was required as a result of the resignation of the current representative.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

10.1 The Vice-Chair of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee be confirmed as the Authority's representative on 'PATROL'.

10.2 The Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services be confirmed as the Authority's substitute on 'PATROL'.

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

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

CHAIR

DATE

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MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor D Price(Chair)(In Person)

Councillors (In Person):

C.A. Davies

L.D. Evans

G. Davies

P.M. Hughes

G.H. John

A. Lenny

J. Tremlett

Councillors (Virtually):

A. Vaughan Owen

Also in attendance (Virtually):

Councillor D.M. Cundy

Councillor R. James

Also Present (In Person):

W. Walters, Chief Executive

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

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

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

A. Williams, Director of Place and Infrastructure

D. Hockenhill, Marketing and Media Manager

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

L. Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer

N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

M. Runeckles, Members Support Officer

K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present (Virtually):

S. Hendy, Member Support Officer

Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 10.00 - 10.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E. Thomas

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 30TH JANUARY 2023

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 30th January, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that three questions on notice had been submitted by members.

4.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JOHN CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION LEISURE CULTURE AND TOURISM

'Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration provide an update on the Levelling Up Fund Bids for Llanelli and confirm whether it is the intentions of the administration to resubmit the plans during phase 3?.'

Response by Councillor Gareth John – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism:-

Thank you for the question. Since the question is specifically aimed at the levelling up fund, there's little I can add really to the statement I made at last Council where I announced that we'd been notified that the two applications, or bids, that we had submitted in respect of the fund, in respect of regenerating Llanelli Town centre and the improved transport links and interchange to and from the centre to the railway station and Pentre Awel had been unsuccessful. As I reported, there were apparently 525 applications, of which, 111 were awarded funding in round two, a total amount amounting to just over £2bn, and this amounts to a 1 in 5 success rate. Again, as I indicated at Council, we are, and we remain naturally disappointed with the news particularly given the clear need, the strength and quality of our submission and the vast amount of time and effort and indeed expense invested in submitting the application.

As I reported, we have requested, have been promised, and still await feedback with the aim of supporting future proposals and submissions bearing in mind as we know there will be a promised third round of the levelling up fund in due course. The only thing I would add is at no point was it indicated during any stage of the application process that the authority would be at any disadvantage during the second round of bidding as a result of having been successful in the first. This doesn't seem to be the case because analysing the awards thereafter it would appear that no authority that had been successful in the first round received bidding in the second round and there are only four local authorities in Wales that have had no success at the both rounds. And, as I indicated to Council, taking both rounds together, Carmarthenshire are second only to Cardiff on the total level of funding allocated to date.

We await the feedback as I indicated and we will then assess prior to resubmitting or amending our submission, if eligible, under the promised third round when we receive that feedback from the announcement. Thank you

Supplementary Question by Councillor Rob James:-

There was no supplementary question

4.2. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY , CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

'Can the Cabinet Member for Resources state whether immediate action is being taken to end months of roadworks on Blue Street, Carmarthen, after businesses have been hit financially by the disruption, and will the Council engage with affected businesses to discuss compensation for loss of business'

Response by Councillor Alun Lenny – Cabinet Member for Resources:-

I'm very grateful to Councillor James for the opportunity to provide an update on the plan to improve Carmarthen bus station, which includes Blue Street, a scheme enabled through Welsh Government Support as part of its strategy to improve public transport infrastructure. The scheme will comply with the new transport strategy that sets out different ways to support public transport. It prioritises passengers and climate change as Lee Waters, MS Deputy Minister for climate change explained Last Wednesday. Once the work is finished, and I'll get to that in a moment, Carmarthen bus station will be a much more welcoming, engaging and safe place for passengers, including larger bus shelters in Blue Street with electronic boards providing bus times, as there are at railway stations. The work has already made Blue Street a more attractive street with new resurfacing of the pavements and safer places for pedestrians to cross the road. It will also be a much better link between the railway station and the Town. I must acknowledge that the development has not been without its difficulties and I fully appreciate that a few shops in Blue Street say it has adversely affected business. Unfortunately, the work was hampered due to late responses from utility providers. In other words, companies that could have wires or pipes underground. Work was also suspended between mid-November and early January so as not to disrupt local businesses over the Christmas period. Free parking was also provided in Blue Street car park during that period in order to alleviate the impact on businesses. It's true there had been some barriers to some businesses entrances for inevitable reasons but, that was probably only for a few hours and the contractor endeavoured to offer interim entrances to customers. Work on the pavement outside the shops has now been finished for a couple of weeks and it looks excellent and the work resurfacing the street itself will begin tonight. The work will take place overnight for four nights, weather permitting. Work will then continue to make significant improvements inside the existing bus station area which is away from the street. That will come to an end this spring. Carmarthen Town will then have a top class bus station and that should attract more passengers to Blue Street for the benefit of the shops there and, indeed, the town itself.

Turning briefly to the second part of the question, namely, the enquiry about compensation, there is no compensation scheme within the Non Domestic Rates system but, if individual businesses can prove they have suffered financial hardship it is possible that the Council could take that into account under what is called Section 13A. Officers would need to see bank accounts etc as evidence that the hardship was a direct result of the development work. But, I am confident that the owners of the shops in Blue Street will soon see that the current development, although temporarily troublesome creates a more thriving future for the businesses.

Thanks again for the question

Supplementary Question by Councillor Rob James:-

Can I thank the Cabinet member for that very detailed information. I'm sure as a local member he has also been contacted by said businesses regarding some of the disruption. Obviously, we welcome the development, it's just obviously, some of the disruption may be caused on some of the businesses. It's important that you highlighted Section 13A. Thank you for that.

Would you meet with myself and businesses that are affected, with Officers, to investigate whether there is opportunity for said businesses to actually apply under Section 13A for that remuneration sorry, compensation, for the disruption. Thankyou

Response by Councillor Alun Lenny – Cabinet Member for Resources

That would be subject to legal clearance I believe by our officers but, I will certainly consider that, if that is acceptable. Thank you

4.3. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ROB JAMES TO COUNCILLOR DARREN PRICE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

'Would the Leader of Council agree with me that where a business has created accommodation – utilising an annexe, renovating a disused barn on a farm or other means – that this practice is not removing housing stock from local communities nor is it a second home in the traditional sense, and as such, should not be liable to any Council tax premium?

Response by Councillor Darren Price – Leader of the Council:-

Thank you for the question and I think it's a good opportunity really to try and explore some of the issues around this. As you will be aware we are consulting at the moment in terms of introducing a Council Tax Premium on both empty properties and second homes and that consultation continues and there will be a report coming to Cabinet and Council over the next few weeks so, its timely. Obviously, you are aware of the detail around this but, I thought it would be an opportunity just to set some context for others who are listening in and may not be as up to date in terms of the context. So, obviously, as I mentioned we are consulting. We have 2,000 empty properties across the county as things stand. We have around 1,000 second homes / holiday homes across the county as well. So, that means we have 3,000 properties across the county which either are not utilised at all or are under-utilised in some cases. The flip side to that, of course, is we know we have over 3,000 people waiting on the housing list and, I think that morally, there's a duty on us, and national government to try and get to grips with that situation and re-balance the market.

I think there's a unanimous view, I think, nationally that something needs to be done to tackle the problem of empty properties and second homes and, of course the Welsh Government have been clear following discussions with Plaid Cymru, and the inclusion of the Co-operation Agreement, that action needs to be taken on a whole range of issues. Clearly, the Minister, Julie James, is keen to make progress on this and she has been quoted continuously and I will quote her directly, just to provide some context. What she says is 'that the continuing rise of

house prices mean the people, especially younger generations, can no longer afford to live in the communities that they have grown up in. A high concentration of second homes or holiday lets can have a very detrimental impact on small communities and in some areas could compromise the Welsh language being spoken at a community level. That the urgency and gravity of the situation calls for further intervention which means real and ambitious actions are delivered at pace to inject fairness back into the housing system'. I've got to say that I agree whole heartedly with those sentiments. I think it's really important that the Welsh Government is taking action on a number of fronts to try and address this. One of the tools that they have given local authorities of course is the council tax premium. There was previously a decision to ensure that Councils could introduce a 100% council tax premium but that has since been increased to 300%. There are changes in terms of the planning process to ensure that the split and the clarity between a main dwelling, second homes and short-term holiday let is further refined in future and there are moves as well to develop a statutory licensing regime for holiday lets. I think that all of these measures are important, and they can't be looked at separately. They need to be looked at in the round.

I think it's also important to note that obviously local authorities across Wales are now looking at this. A number of Councils, for example Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire have already introduced Council Tax Premiums in these areas and have done for a number of years. But we now have a situation where Councils such as Rhondda Cynon Taf, Monmouthshire, Conway, Bridgend and ourselves of course are looking to introduce similar measures and, it's good to see councils across Wales taking positive action in that regards.

Turning specifically to the details in your question Rob, there are a number of exemptions which apply in terms of Council tax premiums, particularly with regards to second homes. There are seven classes in all which are exempt from a council tax premium:-

- The first one are dwellings being marketed for sale;
- The second one is dwellings being marketed for let;
- The third one, which reflects directly the question that you're posing this morning, is to annexes forming part of or, being treated as part of the main dwelling;
- Class four relates to dwellings which would be someone's sole or main residence were they not residing in armed forces accommodation. I think that's really important;
- Class five relates to occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings. They are exempt;
- Class six refers to seasonal homes where planning conditions prohibit year round occupation and, again, that refers to the reference you have this morning with regards to barns in many cases
- Class Seven relates to job related dwellings

So, there is a range of dwellings and properties which fall outside of the Council Tax Premium Regulations. The definition of a second home is 'a dwelling which is not a persons sole or main home and is substantially furnished. Dwellings where a planning condition prevents occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days in any twelve month period such as chalets and purpose built

holiday homes are included in this definition and such dwellings are entitled to as I mentioned Class six exemptions.

Turning to the barn example that you referenced there, you will be aware that there is common practice to grant planning permission for a residential development and restrict its occupancy to holiday accommodation use only. This can often be the case with barn conversions where the permission sought is for its use for holiday let purposes rather than permanent residential accommodation and, as mentioned, those are granted exemption under class three. However, if a barn has been converted, without the holiday accommodation use only restriction or for someone's sole or main residence then it would have to be classed as a second home or holiday let and, as such it would be eligible for a premium charge.

So, all in all, Rob what I'm trying to say it's quite a complex situation. There are lots of things at play here. It's not just a case of the Council Tax Premium. The planning regime is really integral to this as we set out to implement the council tax premium but also as we look to develop the area in future years. I think it's fair to say that this has been an unregulated area for quite some time, but I think that the shape and the structure the Welsh Government are finally putting on the sector is to be welcomed. Finally, I would add that I wouldn't want to pre-empt any contribution in terms of the consultation, which is still on-going but, clearly when we look at this as a Cabinet we will ensure that all of this evidence is taken on board before reaching a decision. Thank you

Supplementary Question by Councillor Rob James:-

Thank you for that information. Over the last few weeks and months, I've been meeting with individuals who have been involved with the agri-tourism sector which, I believe, is an important sector for this Council. I believe we need to be supporting farm holders in diversifying their operations and I think operating holiday lets as part of that is an important step. Now, one of the things that has been told to me is that the changes to the occupancy rates i.e: I think it's 180 days that is needed to be classified as a viable business now by the Welsh Government due to changes recently means that they are liable to a big impact by this change in council tax. So, what I'm looking from you is a Leader, if I may is, just a commitment that we are seeking to protect agri-tourism in this council with any changes that we may look to bring in. Thank you

Response by Councillor Darren Price – Leader of the Council:-

Thank you Rob. The threshold is actually 182 days, not 180, but the point is well made. I think from the outset, it's important to state that our intention is not to have any negative adverse impact on the tourism industry. We absolutely recognise that the tourism sector is vital particularly, in some parts of the county and I think that the proposal that we've got out for public consultation at the moment reflects that. As I mentioned earlier, there is scope to introduce a 300% premium on second homes and we haven't suggested doing that as part of the consultation. We have suggested that a 50% or 100% contribution would be prudent. I think that's based on the learnings and the experience of other authorities that have already implemented this. As I mentioned it's been implemented in Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire for quite some time. Those are

areas that are really dependent on the tourism sector and I don't get the feedback from those areas that the premium at those levels has had a significant adverse impact on the tourism sector. But I think there's a wider point here that we need to be mindful of, and I think that the planning regime offers us an opportunity to get to grips with this over the coming years and that's around the supply of short term holiday let accommodation in the county. If we're finding that businesses across the county are struggling to meet that threshold, I think there's a discussion to be had then in terms of the supply of short term holiday lets and the sustainability of those businesses. But that's something we are keen to engage with the sector over the coming months and years. Thank you

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022-27

The Cabinet considered the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-2027, that included the Council's well-being objectives and setting out the direction of travel and priorities for the organisation over the period of the current administration, whilst also providing the delivery framework on the Cabinet's vision and commitments during the period. The new strategy would focus on a smaller number of population-based objectives whilst identifying the thematic priorities, service priorities and core business enablers that the Council would aim to progress during that period.

It was noted the proposed new Council well-being objectives were:-

1. Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live and Age Well)
3. Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)
4. To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 be approved.

7. COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered the proposed Transformation Strategy that aimed to provide the strategic framework to underpin a programme of significant organisational change to support the Council in achieving its wider aims and objectives, as set out in within the Corporate Strategy (Minute 5 above refers). It also aimed to further accelerate the process of modernisation across the Council, thereby allowing it to continue delivering high-quality, cost-effective services within the context of a challenging external environment.

It was noted the Strategy encompassed the following 8 thematic priorities:-

- Workforce,
- Workplace,

- Efficiencies and value for money
- Income and commercialisation
- Service design and improvement
- Digital and customers
- Decarbonisation
- Schools

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Transformation Strategy be approved.

8. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SIGNING OF THE EDINBURGH DECLARATION

The Cabinet considered a report on a letter received from Julie James (WG Minister for Climate Change), sent in September 2021, to all Local Authorities in Wales seeking pledges of support for the Edinburgh Declaration that supported the development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework i.e: “recognises the important role that sub-national governments play in supporting nature and biodiversity”

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 8.1 That the Council sign the Edinburgh Declaration on Global Biodiversity and that the Cabinet Member for Decarbonisation, Climate Change and Sustainability sign the declaration;**
- 8.2 That officers ensure the due process for signing the Declaration is implemented and that the signing of the Edinburgh Declaration is publicised by the Council’s Marketing and Communications Team.**

9. HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - MAINTENANCE MANUAL PARTS 4.5, 4.6 & 4.7

The Cabinet considered a report on the adoption of sections 4.5 – 4.7 of the Highway Asset Management Plan – Maintenance Manual. While the Plan had been adopted by the Council’s former Executive Board in July 2018, Cabinet was informed that the maintenance manual which formed part 4 thereof, was being developed as a portfolio of specific manuals covering the management of a range of highway assets. Accordingly, Parts 4.1- 4.4 of the manual had been adopted in 2021, and sections 4.5 – 4.7, if adopted, would cover the aspects detailed below, with further sections being developed in future years:-

- Part 4.5 – Highway Drainage Management
- Part 4.6 – Geotechnical Management
- Part 4.7 – Highway Emergency Response.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Parts 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 of the Highway Asset Management Plan – Maintenance Manual be adopted.

10. PARTNERIAETH BUDGET 2022 -2023

The Cabinet was informed that the Legal Agreement relating to the establishment of the Partneriaeth Regional Education Consortium provided the following reserved matter to each of its constituent authority's "Approving the first Annual budget of the Partneriaeth and any subsequent Annual Budget which would exceed the scope of the authority delegated to the Joint Committee within its terms of Reference"

In accordance with that requirement, the Cabinet considered the Partneriaeth's first Annual budget, as endorsed by the Partneriaeth Joint Committee on the 29th April 2022.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:-

- 10.1** To note the assumptions and estimates made in compiling the First Annual Budget for 2022-23 and approve the first Annual Budget for Partneriaeth Regional Education Consortium, including the contributions of each Council, which had been calculated in accordance with the terms of the legal agreement;
- 10.2** To note that the Joint Committee had resolved at its meeting held on the 29th April, 2022 that the Lead Chief Finance Officer for Partneriaeth (Section 151 Officer of the Lead Council with responsibility for finance) was authorised to make amendments to the first Annual Budget for 2022-23 as assumptions and estimates were confirmed and that that position be approved.
- 11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.**

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

CHAIR

DATE

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