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WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 AM ON TUESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2022** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Janine Owen
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224030
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This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.	
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

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 6 Members

Cllr. Karen Davies (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Arwel Davies (Committee Member)
Cllr. Colin Evans (Committee Member)
Cllr. Neil Lewis (Committee Member)
Cllr. Dorian Phillips (Committee Member)
Cllr. Gareth Thomas (Committee Member)

LABOUR GROUP - 5 Members

Cllr. John James (Chair)
Cllr. Peter Cooper (Committee Member)
Cllr. Nysia Evans (Committee Member)
Cllr. Tina Higgins (Committee Member)
Cllr. Gary Jones (Committee Member)

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Sue Allen (Committee Member)
Cllr. Sharen Davies (Committee Member)

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22** 5 - 28
- 5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ACTIONS - 2021/22** 29 - 36
- 6. FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23** 37 - 42
- 7. REVIEW OF CARMARTHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023** 43 - 56
- 8. NET ZERO CARBON PLAN PROGRESS REPORT** 57 - 82
- 9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 83 - 88
- 10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH 2022** 89 - 96

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That members consider and approve the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's annual report for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Reasons:

The Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to report annually on their work.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: NO

Chair of Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee:
Councillor J. James

Directorate

Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

Janine Owen

Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

Democratic Services Officer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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

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

The report provides an overview of the workings of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 municipal year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

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

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED

N/A

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

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

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Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2021 - 2022

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Chair's Foreword

For the final time during this election period, I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee which provides an overview of the work undertaken during the period between May 2021 to April 2022.

Having gone through a Pandemic with lockdowns and firebreaks, the aftermath has been just as challenging. Whilst in hope that the world and our communities can return to (a cautious) normality in the very near future a heartfelt condolence to the those who have lost loved ones and strength to those businesses who have made it through.



Following on from last year this Council continued to remain focused on protecting its residents whilst ensuring key functions are maintained.

In developing this report, it is evident that this year, Committee Members have received and scrutinised a lot of information for the benefit of the Communities in Carmarthenshire. The Committee has successfully managed its forward work programme and in doing so has exercised good quality scrutiny through questioning and debate.

This year, Committee Members have taken a more active approach by not only holding the Cabinet Members to account but by writing to Welsh Government Ministers in seek of support on important matters including Climate Change and Safer Routes in Communities.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Cabinet Members who have presented reports and officers for providing the Committee with detailed technical and operational information enabling Members to better understand the processes.

I would like once again to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen, his support and passion to provide good quality reporting has been invaluable.

On a final note, my sincere thanks to all the Committee Members for your attendance, professionalism and providing excellent scrutiny for and on behalf of our communities.

Councillor John James
Chair of Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

- **Wellbeing objective 8** –
Live Well-Help people live healthy lives

- **Wellbeing objective 9** –
Live Well/Age Well – Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

- **Wellbeing objective 12** –
Healthy and Safety Environment – Look after the environment now and in the future

- **Wellbeing objective 13** –

Healthy and Safe Environment – Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

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

2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2021/22

2.1 Management of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 6 meetings during the 2021/22 municipal year.

All meetings proceeded in line with the Forward Work Programme as planned except for the first meeting of 2021, May which with the consent of the Chair was cancelled due a delay in the reports being presented and the last meeting in April due to it falling within the pre-election period.

In accordance with the provisions for section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 all meetings were held by virtually means via the platform Zoom. All members, by embracing the new way of working, continued to carry out their scrutiny role with confidence and professionalism.

2.2 The Role of the Cabinet Member

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

Note: As of 16th August 2021 the Executive Board and Executive Board members was renamed Cabinet and Cabinet Members respectively. This report reflects the name known at the date of the meeting.

Environment –

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

Cabinet Member for Environment is responsible for:

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

Public Protection –

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

Cabinet Member for Public Protection is responsible for

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

Community Safety / Crime & Disorder –

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

Cabinet Member for Communities and Rural Affairs is responsible for

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

In addition, the Cabinet Member for Resources attended meetings to present finance related reports including the budget monitoring reports and the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health attended to present the relevant actions within the Corporate Performance Monitoring reports associated to substance misuse.

2.3 The Forward Work Programme

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

- **Waste and Environmental Services including:-**
 - Refuse Collection,
 - Street Cleaning,
 - Grounds Maintenance,
 - Building Cleaning (including Schools, where relevant),
 - Public Toilets

- **Transport and Streetscene including:-**
 - Highways, Street Lighting,
 - Bridges,
 - Traffic Management,
 - Parking Services,
 - Cycle paths and Rights of Way;

- **Environmental Enforcement including:-**
 - Litter, Dog Fouling;
 - Abandoned Vehicles etc;
 - Planning Enforcement;
 - Trading Standards;

- **Community Safety issues including:-**
 - Crime and Disorder Referrals
(to include a power to make a report or recommendations to the County Council and/or the Council's Cabinet);

- **Environmental and Public Health Pest Control:-**
 - Social Inclusion;
 - the Community;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Zero Carbon.

In April 2021, the Committee at its annual Forward Work Programme development session developed its own Forward Work Programme (FWP) by identifying and prioritising agenda items for consideration during the next municipal year.

In addition to the standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports as well as action plans and monitoring reports the Committee identified pre-decision reports from the Cabinet's Forward Work Programme 2021/22.

Whilst the Committee has the option to co-opt non-voting employees, officers or members of Responsible Authorities or co-operating persons or bodies in respect of its crime and disorder functions, [subject to the provisions of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009] did not do so during the 2021/22 municipal year.

2.4 The Gateway Framework and reports circulated under a separate cover

The Committee at its Forward Work Programme development session on 9th April 2021, utilised the Gateway Framework method in order to manage the number of reports being presented at each meeting. Considering the number of reports for consideration enables the Committee to undertake a quality scrutiny process.

The Committee, following the identification of the reports for the Forward Work Programme, further shaped their programme by taking each subject/report through the Gateway Framework.

In line with the Framework Members agreed to the following reports being circulated to members by e-mail. Members scrutinised the reports as they would in a formal meeting and forward any queries and/or concerns to the Scrutiny Support officer to arrange a response. Any queries raised together with responses were included within the Forthcoming Items report.

- Budget Monitoring reports
- Public Rights of Way Network Hierarchy

The Committee regularly reviews its Forward Work Programme and as a flexible working document on occasion reports were moved to manage the Scrutiny process accordingly.

2.5 Performance Monitoring

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

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

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

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

However, in order to enable Officers additional time necessary to act on the comments raised by Scrutiny Members, following consultation with the Chair, it was agreed to present the reports to the meeting in July and subsequently in respect of the light agenda the meeting in May was cancelled.

At its meeting in July 2021, the Committee was presented with the revised Departmental Business Plans which had been updated to include additional information to provide a summary of the key actions and measures required to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy as well as an additional column to reference the measures/outcome to the relevant Council Well-being Objective.

Whilst Members had observed that the departmental business plans across the different sectors differed in their approach and in understanding that the detailed information were provided in Divisional Plans, Members expressed gratitude to officers for acting on the requests of the Committee providing more informative plans.

The Chair and Vice Chair continued to work with Officers to further improve the Departmental Business Plans in readiness for 2022/23.

In March 2022, the Committee received the Environment and Chief Executives Departmental Business Plans 2022/23 for consideration.

The Environment Departmental Business Plan had adopted a new-style which was applauded by Committee Members. The revamped version included more information, more readable, easier to understand, provided the direction of travel and what success would look like. Praise was expressed in the development of the new-style business plan. Appreciation was extended to the officers involved in the development of the plan. Members suggested that this version be consistent across other departmental business plans.

In March, a non-submission report was received in relation to the Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022/23 deferring the plan to July 2022 to enable the new Sustainability and Place Division to be established. This would be placed onto the 2022/23

[Carmarthenshire Council Annual Report 2020/21](#) – In July 2021 the Committee was provided with a report which contained the Council's 15 Well Being Objectives and assessed the progress and adaptations made during 2020/21. However, Scrutiny Members focussed on the sections which were relevant to the Committee's remit. Members raised questions/concerns on pertinent matters including

- Active Travel and the funding for Safer Routes in the Community.
- The proposed targets for the energy consumption towards Net Zero
- Implication of the reduced usage of public transport

The relevant Executive Board members supported by Officers provided Scrutiny Members with detailed explanations.

Outcome:

The Committee, feeling strongly about Safer Routes in the Community, resolved to write to the Welsh Government to express their support of the Safe Routes in the Community funding and seek the Deputy Minister's support in providing additional funding to help with the future development of safer routes to schools across all areas of the County. *Letter was sent from the Chair on behalf of the Committee to Mr Lee Waters MS, 3rd September 2021.*

A response from Mr Waters MS was circulated to Members by e-mail an extract of which is provided below:-

“We were pleased to be able to increase the funding in 2021/22 and allocate £6.5m to Safe Routes in Communities schemes this year. My officials are currently refining the application and guidance to enable local authorities to bid for funding for 2022/23. I am encouraged that you have received a positive response to the call for schemes for the next financial year.”

[2020/21 Performance Reports relevant to this Scrutiny](#) - One of the principal roles of a scrutiny committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. In October 2021, the Committee considered the performance report detailing the progress as at the end of *Quarter 1* of the deliverables linked to the Corporate Strategy and the 13 Well-being objectives. Quarter 2 report was considered at the meeting in December 2021.

[Scrutiny Committee Actions Update](#) – Throughout the municipal year, the Committees requests and referrals are logged and the action updates are then presented to Committee for information.

2.6 Revenue and Capital Budgets

[Budget Monitoring Reports](#) – were circulated to Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee members by e-mail in line with the Committee’s 2021 decision to scrutinise outside of the Committees formal process.

The Committee, received quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets in

- May 2021 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 28th February 2021
- October 2021 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 30th June 2021 and
- November 2021 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st August 2021.

The reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in connection with any capital works.

The budget monitoring report in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st October 2021 was included onto the agenda to be considered in February 2022.

[Consultation - Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25](#) - In February 2022, the Committee as a statutory consultee received the Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 for consideration and comment. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 together with the indicative figures for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years.

The Committee raised a number of queries and concerns in regard to the proposed budgets including the

- car parking charges and the proposal to introduce charges to additional car parks
- Future Sponsorship in regard to Road Safety Innovation
- Lack of Maintenance and Aesthetic car of the infrastructure within Ammanford
- Financial position of Highways
- School Crossing Patrols
- Fixed Penalty Notices and charges

Outcome:
The comments, concerns and recommendations raised by the Committee helped to shape the Revenue budget strategy for 2022/23 – 2024/25 which was considered at full Council on 2 nd March 2022.

2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Reports

2.7.1 Emergency Flood Response – Storm Event Arrangements – October 2021

The Committee received the report prior to Cabinet consideration which provided detailed information on how the Council currently dealt with and responded to storm events that cause widespread flooding and included the actions that could be expected of the Council.

- Clarification was sought on the level of responsibility that Welsh Government and Natural Resource Wales (NRW) had on the river which caused the significant flooding in Pensarn, Carmarthen.
- what work was being undertaken to encourage communities and in particular vulnerable communities to have an emergency plan and trained emergency wardens?
- Ahead of the COP 26 Conference in Glasgow held in November 2021. A proposal was made that the Committee write to the First Minister and the Minister for Climate Change as the Welsh Government representatives attending the COP 26 Conference, requesting that they pursue to mitigate climate change.
- Plans to improve flood defences
- Vulnerable coastal areas

Outcome:

Unanimously resolved that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee write to the First Minister and the Minister for Climate Change requesting that in support of Carmarthenshire County Council's ambition to cut carbon emissions by 2030 they pursue to mitigate climate change at the COP 26 conference in November 2021.

Letter was sent from the Chair on behalf of the Committee on 26th October 2021.

2.7.2 Future Waste Strategy – October 2021

The Committee received this report which provided information on the proposed future strategy, actions and considerations for the Waste Service, in order to achieve 70% recycling by 2024/25 and provide a base for improvements to achieve zero waste by 2050.

Responses to comments raised on the following main points were provided by the Cabinet member supported by Officers:-

- Comparison Performance – other local Authorities in Wales
- Material to raise awareness and promote recycling
- The future of glass recycling sites
- Concerns of the environmental impact of the proposed collection of 3 black bags every three weeks including nappies (Absorbent Hygiene Products).

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that the Cabinet that the recommendations set out in the report be approved.

2.7.3 Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Maintenance Manual – November 2021,

The Committee was presented with a report requesting Members to consider and comment on parts 4.1 to 4.4 of the HAMP Maintenance Manual prior to adoption by the Cabinet. The main concern raised was in relation to the low priority of rural roads status and that rural roads were inspected only once a year. The Cabinet Member supported by Officers responded to the concerns and provided a thorough explanation of the prioritised system of assessment, inspection and repair.

Outcome:

Unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Parts 4.1 to 4.4 of the Highways Asset Management Plan Maintenance Manual be adopted.

2.7.4 Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy - Decarbonising Transport – November 2021

The Committee, ahead of Cabinet consideration, received a report which set out a proposal to adopt an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Carmarthenshire. Following consideration of the 13 key policies the following main points were raised:-

- Electric Bikes – if they could be added to the 13 key policies
- Future plans for Charging facilities to be placed in rural areas
- Funding applications and who bears the costs of the charging facilities
- Suitability of charging facilities for disabled users
- The consideration of the availability of wider facilities in relation to the charging facility
- The provision of charging points through the planning process
- Queries raised in relation to the number of charging facilities being available for use by 2030.

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers provided comprehensive responses.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the Council be adopted.

2.7.5 Draft Planning Enforcement Statement – December 2021

The Committee considered a draft Planning Enforcement Statement which had been developed in response to the significant backlog of unresolved complaints within Carmarthenshire's Planning Enforcement service. Following consideration, Officers responded to matters raised in relation to enforcement staffing levels and unsolicited siting of caravans in woodland

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Draft Planning Enforcement Statement be endorsed.

2.7.5 Local Toilet Strategy Interim Progress Report – December 2021

The Committee considered this Strategy which included 10 key recommendations to enhance Carmarthenshire's long term toilet provision. Members in their scrutiny function raised the following main comments:

- Future changes to charges to access toilets
- Contract cleaning

Members commented that there had been a noticeable improvement on the cleanliness of the toilets within town centres and commended the Officers on a well written report.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Local Toilets Strategy Interim Progress Report be endorsed.

2.7.6 Local Environment Quality Management Plan 2022-2026 – February 2022

The Committee considered the Local Environment Quality Management Plan which provided information on the direction of the Council's litter management within the County for the next four years and aimed to demonstrate how litter management would be undertaken.

- Enforcement staffing levels
- Publicity of information to encourage and aid Members of the public and Town/Community Council to engage in setting up groups to clean villages and rural areas
- The provision to support adhoc letter picking
- Matters relating to dog fouling

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers provided comprehensive responses and clarified matters that were of concern with future plans to improve.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Local Environment Quality Management Plan 2022-2026 be approved.

2.7.8 Extension of Public Space Protection Order (Carmarthenshire Dog Orders) – March 2022

This report was received by the Committee in respect of extending the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which was due to expire at the end of June for a further 3 years. Members in feeling strongly about matters relating to dog fouling and irresponsible dog owners were keen to extend the current PSPO for a further 3 years.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the duration of the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 be extended for a further period of 3 years with effect from the 1st July 2022 and that the Council makes an Extension Order to give effect to the above extension and endorses the 2016 Order with suitable wording to reflect the fact that the duration of the 2016 order has been extended.

2.8 Additional Reports and Update Reports

2.8.1 Air Quality Delivery Plan Consultation Draft – July 2021

The Committee received a report on the Air Quality Delivery Plan – Consultation which provided an update on the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire, and to consult on the draft Air Quality Delivery plan. The Committee raised a number of issues in relation to the plan which was captured and included as part of the consultation, the main points were as follows:-

- Air quality around the school areas – introduce a school street
- Progress of the Tywi Valley Cycle Path
- Timeline to resolve legal issues in respect of locked shared footpaths
- Low Emission Zones – what this looked like
- Clarification was sought on the installation of AQMA signage

2.8.2 Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update – November 2021

The Cabinet Member for Environment presented the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2021 to the Committee at its meeting in November 2021. The Committee considered information on the highway network and provided detail on the following three key highway asset areas:

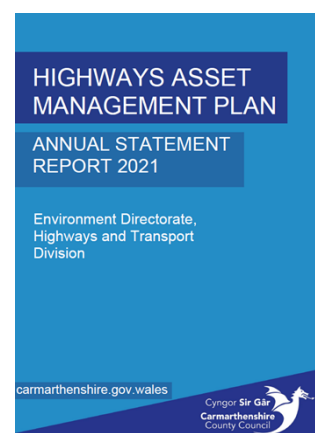
- Highways (carriageways, footways and cycleways)
- Bridges and Structures
- Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals

The Committee considered the information contained on each of the above asset categories which provided the conditions and reported how the conditions had changed since the last report together with future changes based on funding scenarios.

The Cabinet Member supported by officers responded to a number of queries raised including the following:

- The low expenditure in comparison to other Councils; Concerns in relation to the failures of the new method of re-surfacing on some roads and the length of time taken to repair;
- The concerning data collected from drainage surveys and the impact that blocked pipes could cause impairment of road surfaces;
- A request in relation to the progress of Cardi Bach footpath;
- Road impairments arising as a result of repair works by utility companies;
- Investment options and the continuation of Welsh Government Funding.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to note the Highway Asset Management Plan – Annual Statement Report 2021.



2.8.3 Future Accessibility Options at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

The Committee considered a report which provided an update position and future option for the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and provided information in regard to a future strategy of accessibility for the HWRC service in Carmarthenshire. Members after consideration received the report for information.

2.9 Referrals

The Committee had received one referral during the 2021/22 Municipal Year. The referral was received by Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee which at its meeting held on 1st July 2021 had raised concern regarding the lack of provision of pavements in rural areas to facilitate increased levels of walking and cycling and the backlog of requests.

Committee members in accepting the referral as it resided within the remit of Environmental and Public protection Scrutiny requested a report providing more information.

The Committee received a report in March, 2022 which stated that there had been a longstanding pressure on the Council from the large number of requests received for highway improvements such as upgraded junctions, traffic calming, new sections of road and new footways. Members were informed that the requests being received far exceeded the available resources through the Council's annual capital budget allocated for Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Improvements.

Members of the Committee in receiving the report acknowledged the limited resources available and emphasised that the current provision of pavement in rural areas continued to be a huge concern.

2.10 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions

Listening to and giving the public a voice is key to scrutiny's effectiveness. It was important to the Committee to grant the people of Carmarthenshire (and beyond) an opportunity to shape the Forward Work Programme. The Communications department provided active involvement through social media throughout the municipal year picking up on various topics on the Scrutiny's Forward Work Programme.

In addition, complying with Legislation regarding promoting public awareness at Scrutiny, in April 2018, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Forum agreed to send correspondence to Town and Community Councils which would contain information to encourage an increase in public attendance at Scrutiny Committees and also seek suggestions for future topics for consideration. In response to this the Environmental and Public Protection received requests direct from two Town and Community Council which was considered as part of the Scrutiny's Forward Work Programme development session in April 2021. One of the request went on to become a Task and Finish review – see section 3.1 for more information.

3. Scrutiny Committee Activity

3.1 Scrutiny Investigations (Task and Finish)

The Committee at its Forward Work Programme Development Session held on 9th April 2021, considered a topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council suggesting that the Committee consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. Committee Members in recognising that fly tipping was an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire and that the consequence of fly-tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities suggested to consider this matter be a review for the Task and Finish Group.

The Committee, in ratifying its Forward Work Programme on 2nd July 2021 unanimously resolved that its Task and Finish arrangements for 2021-22-23 would be as follows:

- 1) *Review on the Fly tipping within Carmarthenshire
- 2) Review on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire.

*The Committee in making the above decision superseded the Committee's previous decision made at its meeting held on 15th November 2019 – "unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2021".

The Committee, having agreed to undertake a Task and Finish on the issues of fly-tipping, received the Task and Finish Draft Planning and Scoping Document on the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire and agreed the politically balanced Membership of the Task and Finish group. The Task and Finish Group commenced the review in September 2021.

However, the Task and Finish Group at its first meeting on 8th September, 2021 received an unexpected update from the Director of Environment on internal matters that had arisen since the Scrutiny Committee agreement on its Task and Finish arrangements and the endorsement of the review planning and scoping document in July. Considering the information received, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on Flytipping to 2022 following the Election process.

At its meeting in November, the Committee received an update report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the Groups decision and reasons

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved that the Group's decision to defer the review of the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire until after the 2022 elections be accepted.

3.2 Member Development and Site Visits

The following all-member development sessions /seminars were held during 2021/22, to which Committee members were invited:-

- Microsoft Teams Training for online meetings – numerous sessions in June 2020
- Historic Buildings and Carmarthenshire’s Net Zero Carbon Commitment (May 2021)
- The Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (June 2021)
- Hywel Dda University Health Board – Covid Briefing (September 2021)
- Planning Services Seminar (September 2021)
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Workshop (October 2021)
- Planning Service Phosphates Briefing (November 2021)
- Digital Connectivity Event (January 2022)

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

Due to the restrictions associated with the Pandemic the Committee was unable to carry out site visits during 2021/22.

4. Challenges

As with the previous year due to Covid, the past year has been a challenging period for both the Authority and the Committee but has continued to undertake a constructive role in scrutinising performance and contributing to policies and decisions. The Committee recognise that departments have been subjected to significant pressure during the Coronavirus pandemic, but everyone involved performed over and above expectations to ensure the continuation of business as usual.

Committee members continued to embrace the virtual way of undertaking their role of Scrutiny and have operated professionally in the webcast environment to provide a way of open and transparent scrutiny. Whilst virtual platforms have enabled scrutiny to continue Members are hoping return to physical meetings in the near future.

In respect the Task and Finish review on Fly-tipping, whilst Members were disappointed to have to defer a matter of significant importance to communities, it was recognised that a short deferment would enable a successful review.

5. Committee’s Future Work

There is no doubt that the Committee has continued to make progress during what has been another challenging year for all involved. It is hoped that following the Elections in May 2022, the new cohort of Committee Members would continue to concentrate on topics where Member’s input would result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement.

The future work of the Committee will be considered regularly as part of the Forward Work Programme and will continue to be monitored during the course of the year.

As part of the development of the forward work programme, the Gateway Framework will aid Committee members to develop a Forward Work Programme to enable focused Scrutiny to take place ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of reports, that statutory responsibilities are focussed and are properly aligned with the council's strategic priorities.

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

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

6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

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

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

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

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

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

7. Committee Member Attendance

A total of 6 meetings were held by virtual means between May 2021 and April 2022. The scheduled meetings in May 2020 and April 2021 were cancelled. Attendance by members of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 year is shown in the table below.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Mansel Charles	6	100
Cllr. Arwel Davies	5	83
Cllr. Joseph Davies	5	83
Cllr. Karen Davies	5	83
Cllr. Penny Edwards	2	33
Cllr. Jeanette Gilasbey	5	83
Cllr. Tina Higgins	6	100
Cllr. John James	6	100
Cllr. Eryl Morgan	4	67
Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen	6	100
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	6	100
Cllr. Susan Phillips	6	100
Cllr. Alan Speake	4	67
Cllr. Dai Thomas	6	100
Substitutes	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	1	
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1	
Cllr. Dot Jones	1	
Cllr. Kevin Madge	1	
Cllr. Elwyn Williams	1	
Cabinet Member	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. H.A.L. Evans (Environment)	6	
Cllr. P. Hughes (Public Protection)	6	
Cllr. Ann Davies (Communities & Rural Affairs)	2	
Cllr David Jenkins (Resources)	1	
Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health)	2	

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS – 2021/22		
Purpose: To apprise the Committee of actions taken in response to decisions made during 2021/22.		
To consider and comment on the following issues: To scrutinise the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.		
Reasons: To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.		
To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: NO		
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not Applicable		
Directorate: Chief Executive Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones Report Author: Janine Owen	Designations: Head of Administration and Law Democratic Services Officer	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 224010 lrjones@cararthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224030 janineowen@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS – 2021/22

The attached report provides members of the Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to actions raised and recommendations made during the 2021/22 municipal year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and Law

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration and Law

1. Local Member(s) - N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners - N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

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

N/A

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Minutes		https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=134

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Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions 2019-2020

Actions from 2021/22

Ref No	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Description	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
E&PP-01-21-22	2nd July 2021	Recommendation	6. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK & FINISH GROUP 2021/22 - DRAFT PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT 6.3 UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Task and Finish Group commence the review in September 2021.	Dates diarised from September Report due to Committee January 2022	Janine Owen	Action Complete T&F in progress
E&PP-02-21-22	2nd July 2021	Recommendation	7. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/2021 7.2 the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee write to the Welsh Government to express their support of the Safe Routes in the Community funding and seek the Deputy Minister's support in providing additional funding to help with the future development of safer routes to schools across all areas of the County.	Letter sent from the Chair on behalf of the Committee on 3rd September 2021 Response received from Mr Lee Waters MS on 12th October 2021- letter circulated to all E&PP Scrutiny Members for information.	Stephen Pilliner/ Janine Owen/ Chair of E&PP Scrutiny	Complete
E&PP-03-21-22	2nd July 2021	Action	8. AIR QUALITY DELIVERY PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT In response to a query raised in relation to lane closures on dual carriageways and the utilisation of the zip merging method in order to cut down idling and shorten queue timeThe Head of Highways and Transportation stated that he would liaise with the Trunk Road team within the Welsh Government to explore the possibility of using zip merging with a view to improve air quality.	Dialogue with Wales Govt colleagues is currently taking place, once the discussions have concluded Members will be informed of the outcome by e-mail.	Stephen Pilliner	Complete

Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions 2019-2020

E&PP-04-21-22	2nd July 2021	Action	<p>10. COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22</p> <p>An observation was raised that the departmental business plans across the different sectors seemed to differ in their approach and was not consistent. The Head of Homes & Safer Communities stated that he would refer this observation to his colleagues in the Planning and Performance team.</p>	Business Plans were presented to Committee at its meeting on 4th October 2022	Jonathan Morgan	Complete
E&PP-05-21-22	4th October 2021	Recommendation	<p>5. EMERGENCY FLOOD RESPONSE - STORM EVENT ARRANGEMENTS</p> <p>5.2 the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee write to the First Minister and the Minister for Climate Change requesting that in support of Carmarthenshire County Council's ambition to cut carbon emissions by 2030 they pursue to mitigate climate change at the COP 26 conference in November 2021.</p>	Letter sent from the Chair on behalf of the Committee on 26th October 2021	Kendal Davies/ Janine Owen/ Chair of E&PP Scrutiny	Complete
E&PP-06-21-22	4th October 2021	Referral received	<p>9. REFERRAL FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PROVISION OF PAVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS</p> <p>9.2 a report be included on the Committee's Forward Work Programme to provide background information and the current position in relation to the provision of pavements in rural areas.</p>	The report was included on the Forward Work Programme with the Committee receiving the report at its meeting on 7th March 2022.	Stephen Pilliner/ Richard Waters/	Complete
E&PP-07-21-22	25th November 2021	Recommendation	<p>4. ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION TASK & FINISH GROUP 2021/22 – UPDATE</p> <p>4.2 the Group's decision to defer the review of the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire until after the 2022 elections be accepted.</p>	Revised Planning and Scoping Document has been included on the Committee's FWP for consideration in November 2022.	Ainsley Williams/ Sue Watts/ Janine Owen	Complete

Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions 2019-2020

E&PP-08-21-22	22nd December 2022	Recommendation	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND OTHER PERSONAL MATTERS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Chair send a letter of best wishes to Councillor Morgan on behalf of the Committee.		Chair of E&PP	Complete
E&PP-09-21-22	22nd December 2022	Recommendation	4. 2021/22 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT (1ST APRIL TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021) 4.2 that the Committee write a letter to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change to request that funding for Safer Routes in Communities is increased and that the eligibility criteria widened to support the development of more projects.	Letter sent from the Chair on behalf of the Committee on 10th February 2022	Chair of E&PP	Complete

OUTSTANDING FROM 2020/21

Ref No	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Description	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
E&PP-01-20-21	Brought forward from 21st February 2020	Action (Referral)	8- REFERRAL FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - JOINT TRANSPORT PLAN FOR SOUTH WEST WALES (27/1/2020) UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that an information report on the Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales be included on the Environmental and Protection Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme 2020/2021	The Current Joint Transport Plan for Southwest Wales will be replaced by a new Regional Transport Plan. Regional Transport Planning is the responsibility of the Corporate Joint Committee. Guidance for the Regional Transport Pan Development is due to be issued by the Wales Government by the end of December. It is anticipated that the Regional Transport Plan will take around eighteen months to complete. The new Plan will be subject to consultation with the constituent authorities.	Steve Pilliner	On hold until further information from the Welsh Government is available

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Committee confirms and notes its Forward Work Plan for 2022/23 and its arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews in 2022/2023-2024.

Reasons:

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

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE

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

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2022/23

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

The Forward Work Plan:

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

Members will recall that the Committee held an informal Forward Work Plan development session on 21st September, 2022 to begin the process of formulating the forward work plan for 2022/23. This afforded Members the opportunity to develop the Committee's Forward Work Plan within the remit of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee.

The outcome of this meeting is now presented to the Committee in the Forward Work Plan for confirmation. In addition, throughout the year Members will be considering the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan to identify pre-decision reports they wish to place on the Scrutiny Forward Work Plan.

Task and Finish Review – Arrangements for 2022/2023-24

Following the Committee formally agreeing its Task and Finish review arrangements for the 2021/2022-23, the Group presented a report to the full Committee on the 25th November 2021 providing reasons for the decision to defer proceeding with the review on Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire until after the Elections (May 2022).

The Committee in developing its Forward Work Plan, agreed in principle to include the Planning and Scoping Document for further consideration and formulate the Group Membership at its meeting scheduled to take place in November 2022.

The Committee at its meeting on 2nd July, 2021 formally agreed that the Task and Finish arrangements for 2021/22-2023 be carried out in the following order:-

- 1) To review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire**
- 2) To review dog breeding within Carmarthenshire.**

The above-mentioned arrangement superseded the Committee's decision made at its meeting held on 15th November 2019, where it was unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2021.

However, to manage its workload and resources available, the Committee is required to only carry out one Task and Finish review at any one time and in any one municipal year, therefore the dog breeding within Carmarthenshire would commence following completion of the review on fly-tipping in 2024

The Committee is asked to note the previously agreed arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews in 2022/2023-2024.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

E&PP Forward Work Plan 2022/23

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/ CONSULTED	N/A The relevant Cabinet Members to the Committee’s remit have been informed of the draft FWP.
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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
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	<p>Meetings held up to July 2015: http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/agendas-minutes-(archive/</p> <p>Meetings from September 2015 onwards: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=134</p>

Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - Forward Work Plan 2022/23

4 th October 2022	24 th November 2022	15 th December 2022	23 rd January 2023	24 th February 2023	14 th April 2023
E&PP Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22	Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q2	Revenue Budget Consultation 2023/24 – 2025/26 (possibly Feb depending on receipt of WG Settlement)		
E&PP Scrutiny Committee Actions Update report 2021/22.	Highways Maintenance Manual	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy – 12 month review			
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2022/23	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Report				
Net Zero Carbon Annual Progress report	County Council Annual Report				
Environment Act Forward Plan Update	To revise the Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on Fly- Tipping				
	Public Space Protection Order (Enhancement on dog related controls)				

**Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail – Forthcoming Items to include feedback.
As agreed at the Committees Forward Work Plan Development Session held on 21st September 2022**

Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q1	Task & Finish Implementation Report – FESS <i>Financial Exploitation & Safeguarding Scheme</i>	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to August 2022	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to October 2022		Budget Monitoring April 2022 to December 2022
Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022-23					
Equestrian Strategy (Forwarded from 2021/22)					
Budget Monitoring - 21/22 Outturn April 22 to June 2022					

E&PP Scrutiny Member - Development Sessions:-

The Committee has requested for a focused information regarding the Councils operations in relation to the areas below. This will take place following each of the scheduled formal Committee meetings (unless otherwise notified).

- Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Statement – date to be arranged w/c **7th November**
- Waste / Local Environment Quality Strategy –**24th November 2022**
- Flooding – **15th December 2022**
- Conservation and update on the managing land pilot scheme for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire – **23rd January 2022**
- Update on the Area Planning Board’s Drug & Alcohol Misuse Strategy & Substance Misuse – **24th February 2022**
- Enforcement / Pollution – **March 2022 (date to be arranged)**
- To be determined – **April 2022**
- WG Speed Limit Change in Legislation (20mph) – Awareness session workshop will be arranged Oct/Nov via Highways & Transport

TASK & FINISH REVIEW:

The Committee at its FWP Development Session held on 9th April 2021, considered a topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council suggesting that the Committee consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. Committee Members recognised that fly tipping was an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire and that the consequence of fly-tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities.

The Committee at its meeting on 2nd July 2021 unanimously resolved that its Task and Finish arrangements for 2021-22-23 would be as follows:

- 1) *Review on the Fly tipping within Carmarthenshire
- 2) Review on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire.

Update: The Task and Finish Group at its first meeting on 8th September, 2021 received an update from the Director of Environment on internal matters that had arisen since the Scrutiny Committee agreement on its Task and Finish arrangements and the endorsement of the review planning and scoping document in July. Considering the information received, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on Flytipping to 2022 following the Election process. The Committee at its meeting on 25th November 2021 received and noted a report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the reasons for the deferral.

**This decision supersedes the Committee’s decision made at its meeting held on 15th November 2019 – “unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee’s next Task and Finish review in 2021”.*

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023

Purpose:

The Forward plan sets out how CCC is delivering its Environment Act Duty 2020-2023

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The progress the Council is making in delivering its January 2020 to December 2022 Environment Act Forward Plan and fulfilling its legal obligation with reference to the Act.

Reasons:

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires that all public bodies in Wales, such as local authorities, publish and deliver an Environment Act Forward Plan. These plans set out how an organisation will deliver its Section 6 Biodiversity Duty which is placed on it by this Act. The plan covers a period of three years.

It is Council procedure that the progress in delivering its Forward Plan is reported to EPP Scrutiny Committee every year. The Covid pandemic and pressure of other work has interrupted this process.

It is also a statutory requirement that every three years Carmarthenshire County Council reports on the delivery of its Environment Act Forward Plan to Welsh Government. It will next report to Welsh Government in December 2022

The Council's first Environment Act Forward Plan was published in March 2017, and delivery of it was reported to Welsh Government in December 2019. The following report refers to the Council's second three-year plan which runs from Jan 2020 to Dec 2022. The actions it contains are monitored in June and December each year via the Council's Performance Improvement Management System.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Rhodri D Griffiths

Report Author:

Rosie Carmichael

Designations:

Head of Place and Sustainability

Rural Conservation Manager

RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

RACarmichael@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report and the plan attached is to inform to Scrutiny Committee of the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2020-2023 and the progress the Council is making in delivering the Biodiversity Duty placed on it by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This duty is as follows:

'Section 6. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

(1) A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.'

The actions set out in the Forward Plan are linked to the Council's Well-being Objectives (WBO10) and target dates for delivery of each action and the posts responsible are identified. Actions have been set out so as to be easily added to the relevant departmental business plans 2021/2022.

The Plan covers the period January 2020 to December 2022.

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: 

Rhodri Griffiths Head of Place and Sustainability

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

2. Legal

The delivery of the Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023 is consistent with the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty placed on all public bodies in Wales under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. Delivery of the actions set out in the Report evidences the Council's commitment to fulfilling this duty and its compliance with this Act. It is also consistent with its responsibilities under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and in particular the Resilient Wales goal.

3. Finance

While the action plan identifies actions that will result in costs, these costs will be met by the budgets linked to these projects e.g., in Section 5 of the report all the site management works proposed are covered by existing budgets and grant aid. In both Section 6 Caeau Mynydd Mawr project and Section 7 Delivering Biodiversity on Development sites, all the actions proposed will be delivered via S106 agreements funded by developers.

5. Risk Management Issues

Failure to publish and deliver its Environment Act Forward Plan 2020-2023 places a reputational risk on the Council. It also risks its compliance with its S6 Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and fulfilling its legal duty.

6. Physical Assets

Delivery of the Environment Act Forward Plan will have an impact on how the Council manages some of the assets for which it is responsible e.g., Action 7.3 - the management of Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park will change as areas of scrub development is reverted to open mosaic habitats.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:



Rhodri Griffiths Head of Place and Sustainability

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

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

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen is happy with content of the report and looks forward to the preparation of the Council's next Environment Act Forward Plan (Jan 2023- Dec 2025). Working with the new Advisory Panel, CCC will look to ways to address the Nature Emergency and opportunities for nature-based solutions that will provide for climate adaptation and mitigation.

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire County Council Forward Plan for Environment Act (Wales) 2016 This is the previous 3year plan and provides additional background	N/A	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218908/ccc-env-act-forward-plan.pdf?v=202001071151140000
Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan Feb 2019 - Departmental Actions These are the actions that were carried out in the first 3year plan	N/A	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218907/ccc-env-act-forward-plan-actions-feb-2019.pdf?v=201906141427150000

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
1.DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE FOR BIODIVERSITY WITHIN CCC - CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION will delivery to seminars on:				WBO10
1.1	Building design and biodiversity - building in features for bird and bats into new builds and building maintenance – training delivered for Architects and Property Design and Property Maintenance	Delivered 9/9/21	Biodiversity Officer	
1.2	Planning and Bats training delivered for Development Managers:	Delivered 6/5/21	Senior Ecologist	
1.3	Planning, Hedgerows and Highways – training delivered for Development Managers:	Delivered 6/5/21	Rural Conservation Manager	
1.4	Working in/adjacent to SSSI and other sensitive habitats for Highways and Transportation. Guidance provided for Highways and Transportation	Delivered 11/6/21	Biodiversity Officer	
1.5	Seminar on s.6 Biodiversity Duty for CCC Planning Committee delivered	Delivered 13/4/21	Rural Conservation Manager	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
2. FACILITATING THE CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION				WBO10
2.1	Facilitate 3 meetings of the CNP p.a. (February, June, and October) each year	Target - 3 meetings facilitated each year (Feb, June and September)	Biodiversity Officer	
2.2	Prepare with CNP partners a State of Nature Report for Carmarthenshire, that will inform the actions required to address the WG Nature Emergency Workshops May to June 22 Draft by Nov 2022	Nov 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
2.3	In partnership identify and publish the actions required to deliver nature recovery across Carmarthenshire and ensure ecosystem resilience Preparation of draft June to Nov 2022	Nov 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
2.4	Continue to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity e.g., Carmarthenshire Nature Notes and Carmarthenshire's Wildlife on your Ward profiles Produce 3 Press Releases or equivalent p.a.	3 PRs or equivalent by Dec 22	Biodiversity Officer	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
3.ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016, and S.6 Biodiversity Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION with others				WBO10
	Continue to develop systems to ensure all CCC plans, projects and working practices demonstrate delivery of CCC's Env Act duty at the concept, planning and delivery stages. Demonstrate how biodiversity informs design and delivery of projects		Project Ecologist	
3.1	CCC Regeneration - Pentre Awel Continuation of provision of ecological guidance to project delivery team to ensure all ecological requirements are met	Ongoing Dec 2022	Project Ecologist	
3.2	CCC Highways and Transportation - Cross Hands Economic Link Road Delivery of dormice and marshy grassland mitigation consistent with planning conditions, on-going management of the site, and NRW dormice licence monitoring requirements	Ongoing Dec 2022	Project Ecologist	
3.3	CCC Regeneration - Cross Hands East Strategic Site Phase 1 and 2. Delivery of dormice and marshy grassland mitigation consistent with planning conditions, and on-going management of the site	Dec 2022	Project Ecologist	
3.4	CCC Education - Ysgol Gwenllian Kidwelly , design of dormouse mitigation as required by NRW plus design of biodiversity enhancement to progress planning application	Dec 2022	Project Ecologist	
3.4	CCC Highways and Transportation Road safety improvements on the A 484 , provide advice and guidance regarding ecology requirements into planned improvements	Dec 2021	Project Ecologist	
3.5	CCC Planning Services Through the planning system ensure Section 7 Habitats and Species and designated sites are protected. The Planning Ecologists will be consulted on sites that support S7 interest. All recommendations received will be incorporated into CCC's decision making. Ensure 100% of CCC Planning Ecology team's requests for S7 Habitat and Species protection are reflected in planning decisions made by Development Management	Sept 2022	Senior Development Manager	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
3.6	<p>CCC Planning Services Ensure developers deliver biodiversity enhancement consistent with local and national policy. All decisions made will reflect the LA's duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. Ensure 100% of request made by CCC Planning Ecology team for Biodiversity Enhancements are integrated into development proposals by Development Managers.</p>	Sept 2022	Senior Development Manager	
3.7	<p>CCC Planning Services Improve information available on CCC Planning web pages for developers regarding biodiversity and planning requirements. Provide post validation ecological guidance to all applicants, as appropriate. CCC Guidelines on Biodiversity Enhancement and Bat and Birds on Development Sites to be integrated and used within Planning Services by Sept 2022, and available on CCC website</p>	Sept 2022	Senior Development Manager	
3.8	<p>CCC Mineral Planning Service Produce a protocol for managing peat on minerals and development sites that can be used by all those LAs using CCC's Minerals planning. Ensure CCC adopts this protocol and raise awareness of the benefits of its use by other LAs in Wales</p>	Peat Protocol published on CCC web site Dec 2022 Report annually (November) on uptake by other LAs	Senior Minerals Planning Officer	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
4.CCC STRATEGIES: Adoption of CCC strategies and operational plans that will benefit biodiversity and the natural environment Delivery of actions set out in these strategies CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION				WBO10
4.1	A Strategic Plan for Pollinators – Pilot CCC’s approach to managing amenity grassland for pollinators at 30 sites across the county in summer 2022. Review this approach and develop overarching policy for future years in collaboration with Grounds Maintenance	Ongoing - being delivered in summer 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
4.2	CCC’s Ash Dieback and Tree Safety Management – continue deliver the necessary actions. Summer 2022 repeat ash dieback surveys of all A and B roads. Complete 50 tree safety surveys in schools and programme all necessary work.	Sept 2022	Tree Safety Officer	
4.3	Progress the development of a Tree Strategy for CCC –	Dec 2022	Rural Conservation Manager	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
5.SITES MANAGED BY CCC for BIODIVERSITY				WBO10
Biodiversity management plans will be prepared/ updated and delivered for the following sites.				
Actions will be delivered by CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION subject to funding being available				
5.1	Sites managed as part of the Carmarthenshire Bogs Project . ENRaW funded in Winter 2021 completed, further worked planned for winter 2022/23. Orders for winter 22/23 work to be placed by Sept 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mynydd y Styfflau Carn, Peniel, Firebreaks on heathland and scrub managed, some ash dieback work Figyn and Mynydd Fifgyn firebreaks and public access enhancements 	Sept 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
5.2	Pembrey Canal - Progress the development of a management plan that will deliver multiple benefits, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, active travel, and the necessary flood defence etc. Funding to be confirmed. WG grant may cover some of the surveys required to inform this plan and its delivery	Integrated management plan to be progressed Dec 22	Flood Defence Manager	
5.3	Kidwelly Quay Management plan to be updated with partners and winter work programme with Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Kidwelly Town Council to be developed. Funded by Welsh Government ENRaW grant or Local Places for Nature grant	Nov 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
5.4	Commissioner's Bridge, Kidwelly Installation of otter pass. Funded by National Grid via NRW agreement. The necessary Flood risk Activity Permit has been granted by NRW	June 2022	Biodiversity Officer	
5.5	St Clears Wetland and cycle way management plan developed for the wetland area. WG ENRaW funding/ Local Places for Nature will fund habitat management works.	Management plan to be completed Dec 2022	Rural Conservation Manager	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

5.6	Cwmoernant Reservoirs Carmarthen. Delivery of management plan actions to address tree safety, and safety of the reservoirs, public access, and ongoing woodland management. Disease ash removed in early Spring and Autumn 2021. Funded by Ash Dieback budget and WG grant aid (Green Recovery)	Dec 2022	Coed Cymru Officer	
5.7	CCC land adjacent Penclacwydd Continue to manage new areas of water vole habitat and survey for water voles to gauge success of habitat creation. Autumn/ winter 2022.	Dec 2022	Biodiversity Officer	

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
6.CAEAU MYNYDD MAWR PROJECT (CMM) Delivery of the project safeguards the Marsh Fritillary population associated with the Special Are of Conservations, and enables development in the Cross Hands Economic Growth are to proceed in accordance with legislation CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION				WBO10
6.1	Continue to deliver the CMM project which is funded 100% by developer contribution. Project area to be extended subject to new LDP being approved. The project manages 26 grassland sites. 7 sites are owned by CCC and 19 are subject to voluntary management agreements with landowners. 132ha of marshy grassland are managed for biodiversity and in particular the marsh fritillary butterfly	Progress towards managing in perpetuity 100ha of land suitable for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly consistent with Special Area of Conservation management objectives	Conservation Project Officer	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
7.S106 AND OTHER MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERING BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT SITES.				WBO10
Taking on the management of other sites subject to S 106 that require biodiversity management Liaise with developer prepared costed management plans, and deliver actions				
CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION				
7.1	Persimmon site in Machynys enhancement of water vole habitat, and public access consistent with agreed management plan, and planning permission granted, funded by the developer over 25 years in accordance with costed management plan as per S106 agreement.	Delivery of costed and agreed management plan up to Dec 2022	Conservation Project Officer	
7.2	Morfa Berwig Local Nature Reserve, Bynea Management of the habitats in the Local Nature Reserve (LNR), public access and interpretation as set out in management plan. Volunteering opportunities to be delivered. Management plans for LNRs will all be reviewed by March 22, with orders placed for 22/23 winter work programme funded by ENRAW placed by Nov 22	Delivery of costed and agreed management plan up to Dec 2022	Conservation and Green Infrastructure Co-ordinator	
7.3	Dyfed Powys Police Custody Suite, Dafen. Delivery of habitat management onsite and off-site at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park (MMWP), funded by the developer over 25 years, in accordance with costed management plan as per S106 agreement. On-going for 25 years 2021 – 2056, all work is funded by the developer.	Delivery of costed and agreed management plan up to Dec 2022	Conservation Project Officer	
7.4	Management of land for biodiversity at Cross Hands West, as per agreed and costed management plan (2021-2056)	Delivery of costed and agreed management plan up to Dec 2022	Conservation Project Officer	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

7.5	Caegaer Housing site, Bynea Delivery of agreed off-site mitigation at Cae Pobl, Cross Hands in partnership with NBGW, funded by the developer over 25 years, in accordance with costed management plan (2021-2056) as per S106 agreement.	Delivery of costed and agreed management plan up to Dec 2022	Conservation Project Officer	
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Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
8. REVIEW PROCUREMENT AND USE OF CLEANING PRODUCTS - use only those products that are phosphate free				WBO10
CCC CLEANING SERVICES				
8.1	Progress revision of the procurement framework for all CCC cleaning products and in new framework request that all product supplied must be phosphate free. Framework to be in place by Jan 2023	Dec 2022	Business Improvement Manager - Environment	
8.2	Ensure all cleaning staff understand why products that are phosphate-free are being purchased. Run briefing sessions for all cleaning staff by Dec 2022	30/11/2022	Business Improvement Manager - Environment	

Dept Plan Ref #	Actions and Measures	By When or EOY Target?	By Who? Responsible Officer	Well-Being Objective WBO10
9.REGULATION and COMPLIANCE The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009				WBO 10
CCC PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS				
9.1	Set up reporting system within CCC to comply with these Regulations	March 22	Public Health Practitioner - Communities	
9.2	Raise awareness of the regulations in CCC and the need to report breaches Run briefing session for all staff involved	June 22	Public Health Practitioner - Communities	

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023
To be reported to WG in Dec 2022

Glossary

- WG = Welsh Government
- CCC = Carmarthenshire County Council
- LDP = Local Development Plan
- NRaW = ENRAW is the Enabling Resources and Well-being (Welsh Government grant)
- CMM = Caeau Mynydd Mawr
- CNP = Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 OCTOBER 2022

NET ZERO CARBON PLAN PROGRESS REPORT		
Purpose:		
To consider the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan Progress Report prior to referral to Cabinet.		
To consider and comment on the following issues:		
That Scrutiny Committee consider and recommend to Cabinet that:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan Progress Report be endorsed, and (2) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan Progress Report 		
Reasons:		
The Net Zero Carbon Plan was approved by County Council on 12 th February 2020		
The attached draft report is submitted in accordance with Action NZC-28 of the Plan that requires performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.		
To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: YES		
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:		
Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability		
Directorate		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	
Rhodri Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	rdgriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:		
Kendal Davies	Sustainable development Manager	jkdavies@carmarthenshirte.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 OCTOBER 2022

NET ZERO CARBON PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Overview

1. The County Council approved a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan on 12th February 2020.
2. Action NZC-28 of this NZC Plan requires performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.
3. The first Progress Report (March 2021) reflected on our 2019/20 carbon emissions.
4. This second Progress Report reflects on our 2020/21 carbon emissions.
5. In 2020/21, our overall carbon footprint reduced by 14.1% compared to 2019/20, with all four areas showing a reduction in both consumption and carbon emissions i.e., Non-Domestic Buildings; Street Lighting; Fleet Mileage; and Business Mileage.
6. Whilst these reductions are in part attributable to the impact of COVID-19, the continuation of staff home working, together with changes in working practices such as an increased use of video conference facilities and online communication, should see a lasting reduction in carbon emissions in the longer term.
7. This Progress Report is a comparatively focused document as we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31st March 2023 to incorporate recent NZC-related developments and guidance, plus the Nature Emergency declared by the County Council on 9th February 2022.
8. Some of our wider actions that contribute towards addressing the climate emergency are currently being collated in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

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: **Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability**

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability**

1. Local Member(s)	N/A
2. Community / Town Council	N/A
3. Relevant Partners	N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations	N/A
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED	YES

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

THERE ARE NONE

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1. Context

Recent reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have painted a bleak picture of the present, with potentially devastating effects in the future - 'now or never' if world is to stave off climate disaster (April 2022).

2. Introduction

The County Council approved a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan on 12th February 2020.

Action NZC-28 of this Plan requires performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.

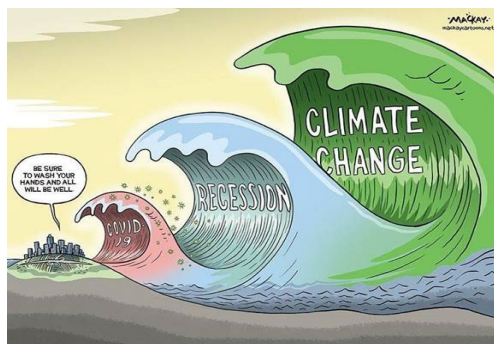
The first Progress Report (March 2021) reflected on our 2019/20 carbon emissions.

This second Progress Report reflects on our 2020/21 carbon emissions and should be read in conjunction with the earlier NZC documents.

Much has happened in the last twelve months in relation to climate change, notably the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow (November 2021), plus the publication of numerous guidance documents, including:

- Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide (May 2021)
- Net zero carbon status by 2030: A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector (July 2021)
- Welsh Local Government Decarbonisation Planning: Review (September 2021)
- Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) (October 2021)

Audit Wales also published Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 (July 2022) based on a baseline review completed by all public bodies pre-Christmas 2021.



COVID-19 has continued to present many challenges since March 2020, which have been further exasperated by Brexit, escalating energy costs, and war in the Ukraine. Notwithstanding this, considerable progress has been made on delivering the actions in our NZC Plan.

Our NZC Plan mirrors the Notice of Motion unanimously agreed by County Council on 20th February 2019 to declare a Climate Emergency and to become a NZC local authority by 2030.

The Plan is a living document, and whilst we have consciously adopted a pragmatic approach that focuses on measurable, operational issues within our control, it also recognises some of the wider actions that are taking place across the Council that contribute towards addressing the climate emergency.

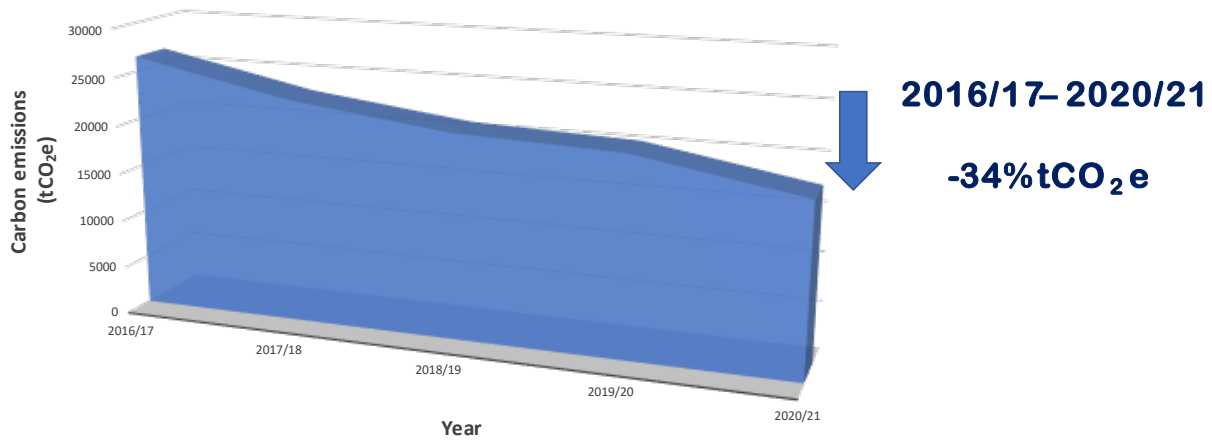
This second NZC Plan Progress Report is a comparatively focused document as we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31st March 2023. This will incorporate recent NZC-related developments and guidance, plus the Nature Emergency declared by County Council on 9th February 2022 (Agenda Item 10.2).

3. Summary of Progress – Carbon Footprint

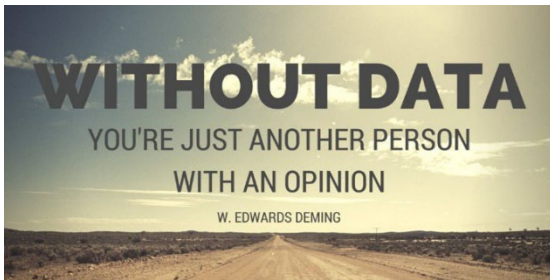
Carbon Footprint	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21 vs 2019/20		
	Results			Progress	% change	
Non-Domestic Buildings						
Consumption (kWh)	64,857,362	66,407,242	59,808,497	-6,598,745	Improved	-9.9%
Carbon Emissions (tCO _{2e})	14,822	14,443	12,581	-1,862	Improved	-12.9%
Street Lighting						
Consumption (kWh)	4,202,381	3,925,149	3,875,843	-49,306	Improved	-1.3%
Carbon Emissions (tCO _{2e})	1,291	1,088	981	-107	Improved	-9.8%
Fleet Mileage						
Mileage (Miles)	5,293,249	5,154,668	4,427,070	-727,598	Improved	-14.1%
Diesel Used (litres)	1,434,583	1,419,336	1,267,437	-151,899	Improved	-10.7%
Carbon Emissions (tCO _{2e})	3,856	3,814	3,407	-407	Improved	-10.7%
Business Mileage						
Mileage (Miles)	3,846,615	3,971,513	2,251,986	-1,719,527	Improved	-43.3%
Carbon Emissions (tCO _{2e})	1,118	1,132	621	-511	Improved	-45.1%
TOTAL						
Consumption (kWh)	69,059,743	70,332,391	63,684,340	-6,648,051	Improved	-9.5%
Mileage (miles)	8,829,043	9,126,181	6,679,056	-2,447,125	Improved	-26.8%
Carbon Emissions (tCO _{2e})	21,087	20,477	17,590	-2,887	Improved	-14.1%

In 2020/21, our overall carbon footprint reduced by 14.1% compared to 2019/20, with all four areas showing a reduction in both consumption and carbon emissions i.e., Non-Domestic Buildings; Street Lighting; Fleet Mileage; and Business Mileage.

Whilst these reductions are in part attributable to the impact of COVID-19, the continuation of staff home working, together with changes in working practices such as an increased use of video conference facilities and online communication, should see a lasting reduction in carbon emissions in the longer term.



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Progress	Change
						2020/21 vs 2019/20	
kWh	72,527,266	68,564,902	69,059,743	70,332,391	63,684,340	-6,648,051	-9.5%
Miles	9,313,790	9,069,875	8,829,043	9,126,181	6,679,056	-2,447,125	-26.8%
tCO ₂ e	26,542	23,143	21,087	20,477	17,590	-2,887	-14.1%



The Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide (May 2021) introduced a voluntary annual reporting process. This aims to provide a consistent reporting framework across the Welsh public sector to help monitor progress

towards achieving Welsh Government's ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

Our NZC Plan (February 2020) predates this Reporting Guide; consequently, there are differences in the reporting methodologies.

Total carbon emissions reported under our NZC Plan effectively equate to the Reporting Guide's 'Operational' emissions which additionally include:

- Landfill of municipal waste;
- Well-to-Tank emissions; and,
- Water supply & treatment

Emissions	2019/20 tCO ₂ e	
	Our NZC Plan	Reporting Guide
Operational	20,477	28,547
Supply Chain		76,894
Land Use		-697
Total	20,477	104,744

Note: A Well-to-Tank emissions factor, also known as upstream or indirect emissions, is an average of all the GHG [Greenhouse Gas] emissions released into the atmosphere from the production, processing and delivery of a fuel or energy vector.

Operational emissions reporting is established, generally well understood, and measurable; whilst the reporting of Supply Chain emissions is a comparatively new, blunt instrument that is based on £ spend plus assumptions rather than accurate data. Welsh Government recognise that Supply Chain reporting is an iterative process that is currently in its relative infancy, with current reporting aimed at identifying and quantifying major spend categories so that more work can be focussed on these areas in future.

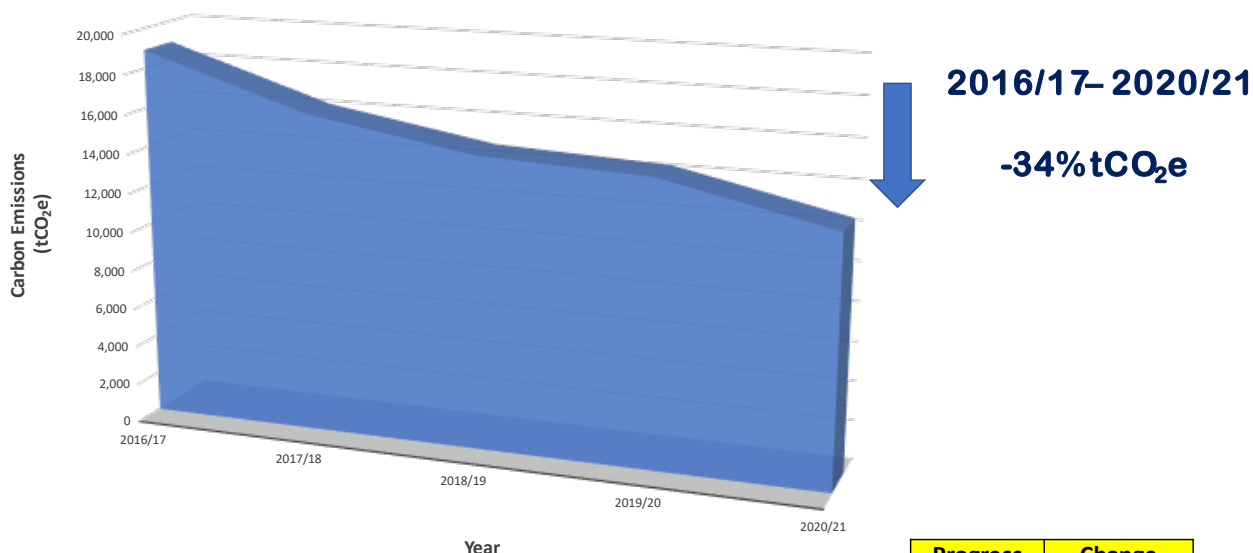
Whilst public bodies are requested to submit annual carbon reports in a prescribed format to ensure consistency, the methodology adopted by an organisation for developing and tracking its own NZC Plan is for each individual organisation to determine.

This NZC Plan Progress Report reflects on our 2020/21 carbon emissions based on the same methodologies that we have been applied in previous years to provide consistency and continuity. In future, we will:

- Report annual emissions to Welsh Government in accordance with the Reporting Guide
- Continue with the existing scope of our NZC commitment but adopt the corresponding methodologies prescribed in the Reporting Guide.

Welsh Government published a revised [public sector net zero reporting guide](#) on 21st June 2022; consequently, the figures quoted above will change as reporting methodologies are refined.

4. Carbon Footprint: Non-Domestic Buildings



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Progress	Change
						2020/21 vs 2019/20	
kWh	66,808,235	63,690,923	64,857,362	66,407,242	59,808,497	-6,598,745	-9.9%
tCO ₂ e	18,923	16,258	14,822	14,443	12,581	-1,862	-12.9%

Note: The performance data quoted in this document uses UK emission conversion factors issued by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) where appropriate. These emission conversion factors are published annually, for example: [Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020](#).

Utility Consumption in Non-Domestic Buildings - 2020/21 vs 2019/20:

Utility	Consumption (kWh)			2020/21 vs 2019/20	
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	kWh	%
Electricity	19,984,610	19,668,100	15,444,707	-4,223,393	-21.5%
Gas	39,176,883	40,025,303	35,506,410	-4,518,893	-11.3%
Oil	3,878,728	4,576,446	4,893,784	+317,338	+6.9%
LPG	1,398,425	1,355,527	2,873,628	+1,518,101	+112.0%
Kerosene	418,716	660,249	1,089,907	+429,658	+65.1%
Biomass	0	121,615	61	-121,554	-99.9%
Total	64,857,362	66,407,242	59,808,497	-6,598,745	-9.9%

Note: Whilst our Electricity and Gas consumption is metered, our reporting for Oil, LPG and Kerosene is based on delivery dates which can distort year-on-year comparison should deliveries be near year end. This to be addressed under Action NZC-05: Extend 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data. Also, three Oil to LPG fuel conversion projects were completed in our Re:Fit Cymru Phase 1 project (as LPG has a lower carbon emissions factor and is cheaper). Future fuel conversion projects will address the decarbonisation of heating.

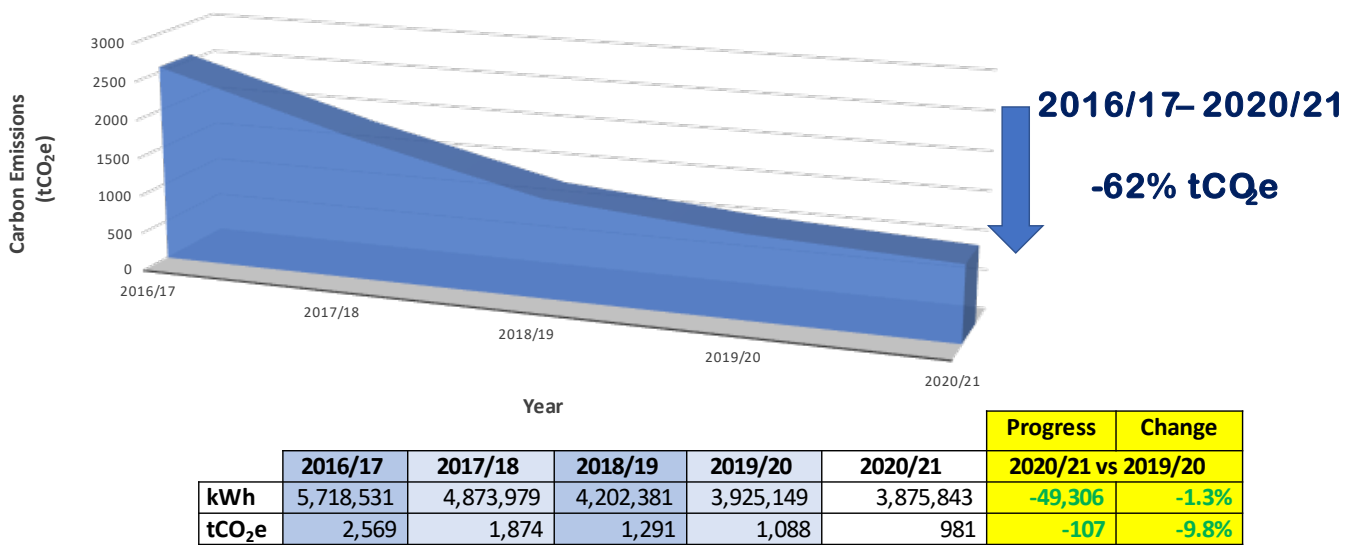
Progress against Actions

NZC-01		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy / carbon savings	Head of Property	Apr 2021 Apr 2022
Progress		
<p>Whilst COVID-19 delayed on-site commencement of our Phase 1 programme, works were able to commence in September 2020 with most of the work completed by 31st March 2021. The solar PV system at our Parc Dewi Sant offices was outstanding due to additional bat surveys being required to secure planning permission. Planning permission was unanimously granted in January 2022 and the works have now been completed.</p> <p>Phase 1 is projected to save £315,726 and 675 tonnes of carbon equivalent (tCO₂e) each year – these savings being guaranteed by Ameresco, our Re:Fit Cymru service provider, under an Energy Performance Contract. Working with Ameresco has allowed us to accelerate the roll-out of our energy efficiency programme in a more comprehensive manner and at a greater pace than could be achieved using limited in-house resources.</p> <p>See Carmarthenshire Net Zero Case Study Ameresco</p>		
NZC-02		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop further phases of Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) project, or similar, to achieve accelerated energy / carbon savings	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
<p>We are currently in discussions with Ameresco, our Re:Fit Cymru service provider, to develop a new and significant larger Phase 2 project for approval in 2022/23. As many as possible of our buildings are being included in an initial scoping exercise to identify the scale of the total energy conservation measures and associated costs necessary to decarbonise our Estate. This will enable further phases to be developed more quickly.</p>		
NZC-03		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Incorporate ' <u>Passivhaus</u> ' standard, where appropriate, in new building construction projects	Property Design Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
<p>We are developing a '<u>Fabric First</u>' methodology to new build construction projects to ensure a high level of energy efficiency for new facilities entering our building portfolio. This is underpinned by a commitment to incorporate the quality assured '<u>Passivhaus</u>' Standard.</p> <p>The following new schools currently under construction have been designed to achieve Passivhaus Standard certification and thus deliver enhanced performance in terms of energy usage and internal environment: Gorslas Primary School; Ysgol y Castell; and, Pembrey Community Primary School</p> <p>In July 2021 confirmation was received that Ysgol Parc y Tywyn had formally been accredited as achieving the Passivhaus standard.</p> <p>Other non-educational buildings also designed and built to achieve the Passivhaus Standard are: Carmarthen Archives and Repository (completed); and, Pendine Attractor Project – Eco Hostel building (currently under construction).</p>		

NZC-04		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Continually review and amend design specifications and briefs to reflect new technologies and energy efficient equipment	Property Design Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
<p>We will continue to explore solutions and methods to maximise renewable energy solutions. A further emphasis will be put on establishing optimised solutions in new buildings with calculated investment against the performance level of the building fabric and aimed to provide best value in terms of capital and operation expenditure. We will continue to explore a flexible model to best suit the needs of the Net Zero Carbon agenda on any given project.</p> <p>Examples of how renewable and low energy specifications are being continually developed and adapted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major new build projects incorporate renewable energy technologies where appropriate with solar photovoltaic (PV) installations being incorporated into many recent Modernising Education Provision 21st Century Schools projects (e.g. Ysgol Pum Heol – 12kW PV array completed January 2021; Ysgol Rhys Pritchard – 27 kW PV array completed February 2021) and new housing developments (e.g. Garreglwyd and Dylan sites). • The new housing development currently under construction at Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port includes battery storage to maximise the use of the electricity generated by the solar PV installed on each dwelling. Electric vehicle charge points are also being provided for each property. Also features Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery (MVHR) units in each dwelling. As part of the move towards limiting the use of fossil fuels these properties are totally electric. • Air Source Heat Pumps have been installed to provide heating at each of the flats and communal areas at Llys yr Ysgol Sheltered Housing Complex. These heat pumps replaced inefficient and expensive to run electric storage heaters at the Complex. Air Source is currently being explored on a larger scale in respect of the new development for Ysgol Heol Goffa. • Specifications for all new school developments now include for the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. • LED lighting now being specified as standard. • All new solar PV systems include technology specified to enable web access to generation data that allows more detailed real-time data for the analysis of electricity generation. 		
NZC-05		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Extend 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data	Various	Ongoing
Progress		
<p>A major audit of all our electricity and gas fiscal meters has enabled the roll-out of a comprehensive programme of 'smart' meter installations. We are also doing likewise for our water meters.</p> <p>Gas Metering: <u>Day+1 Half Hourly (HH)</u> data flowing from 209 meters including all the 197 supplies at sites to be retained (100%). Complete.</p> <p>Electricity Metering: Day+ 1 HH data flowing from 256 of 574 known supplies (44.6%). Work in progress, with Western Power Distribution, our distribution network operator, currently installing meters. EDF, our electricity provider, need to action 233 (D0142) upgrades to complete the bulk of our remaining meters. This has been delayed by EDF staff absence, progress anticipated shortly.</p> <p>Water Metering: Day+1 Quarter Hourly (QH) data flowing from 4 of 336 known supplies (1.2%). Work in progress to confirm site list with Welsh Water Dwr Cymru before arranging for data loggers to be installed.</p> <p>This HH and QH data is automatically imported daily to our SystemsLink energy management software system to provide enhanced data accuracy that enables us to better identify opportunities for savings.</p>		

NZC-06		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2021
		Mar 2023
Progress		
Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. The Wales reporting methodologies differ from our current approach and we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31 st March 2023 which will incorporate trajectories for carbon emission reductions in order to develop milestone targets.		

4.2 Carbon Footprint: Street Lighting



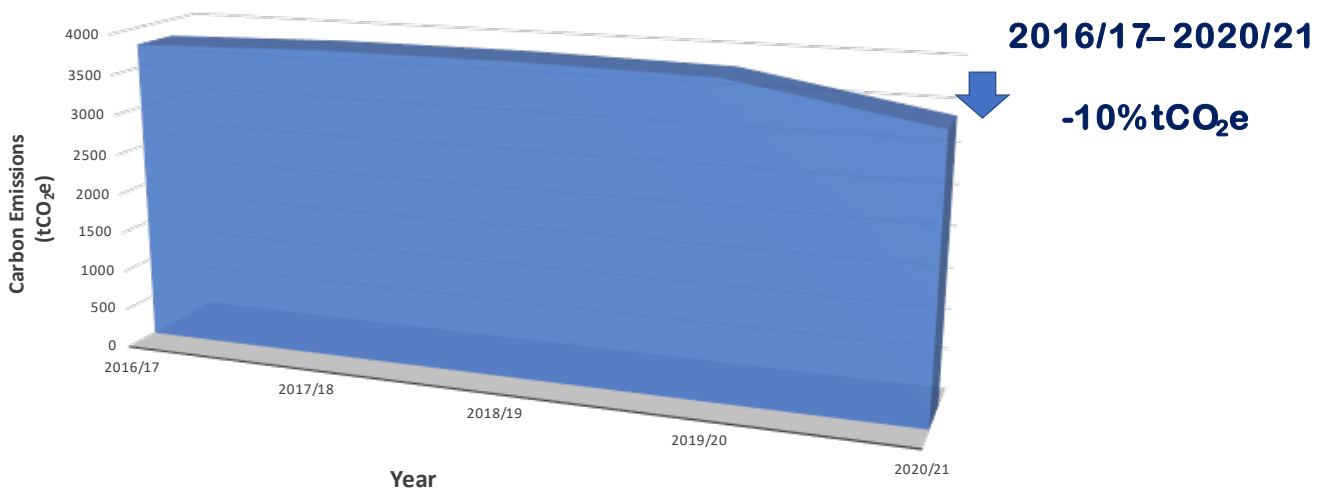
We have completed the conversion of almost 100% of our 20,000 streetlights to low energy light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, funded by the Welsh Government's interest-free Wales Funding Programme. The remainder will be converted at their end of use.

We have also completed a project to upgrade 5,000 community street lighting units to incorporate LED lighting on behalf of the town and community councils which has reduced energy consumption and improved lighting quality in local communities.

Progress against Actions

NZC-07		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's street lighting as part of annual review of action plan	Public Lighting Engineer	Mar 2021 Mar 2023
Progress		
Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. The Wales reporting methodologies differ from our current approach and we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31 st March 2023 which will incorporate trajectories for carbon emission reductions in order to develop milestone targets.		

4.3 Carbon Footprint: Fleet Mileage



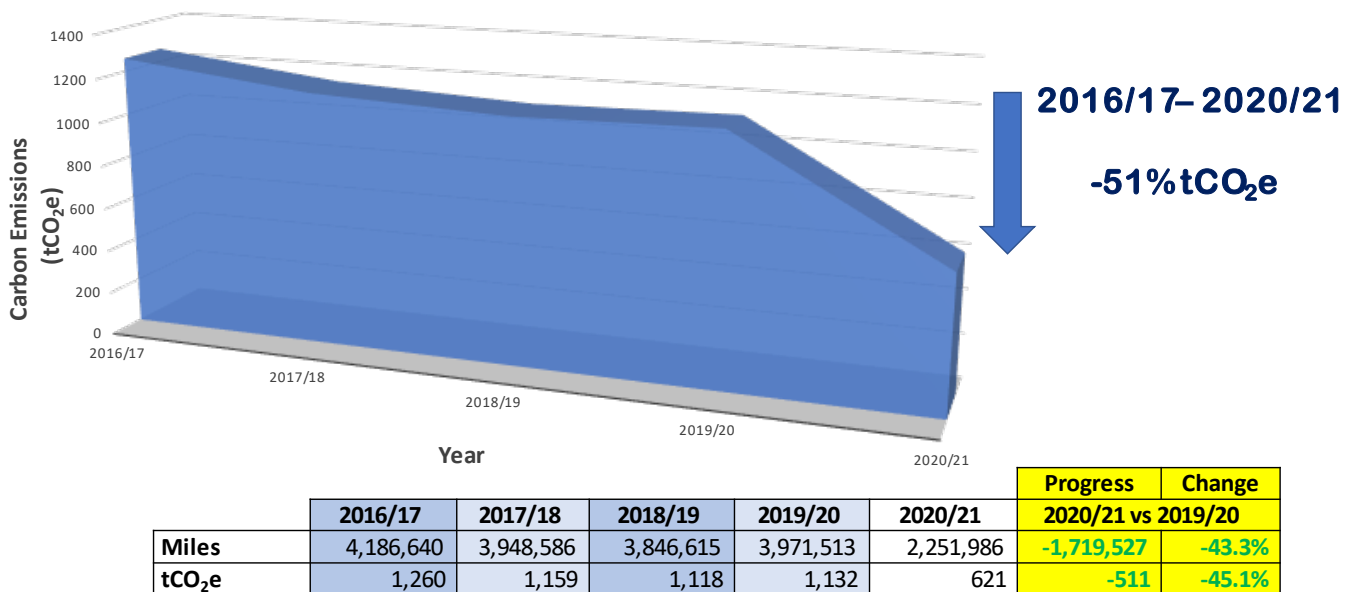
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Progress 2020/21 vs 2019/20	Change
Miles	5,127,150	5,121,289	5,293,249	5,154,668	447,070	-727,598	-14.1%
tCO ₂ e	3,790	3,852	3,856	3,814	3,407	-407	-10.7%

Progress against Actions

NZC-08		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Review the most appropriate fuel powered vehicles for each of the Council's services	Fleet Manager	Ongoing Sept 2022
Progress		
Our Fleet Strategy will set the priorities for investment, the scale of change will be determined by the current state of the market transition to low carbon technologies by vehicle type, the scale of infrastructure development required, life cost evaluation and grant funding available.		

NZC-09		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's fleet mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Fleet Manager	Mar 2021
		Mar 2023
Progress		
Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. The Wales reporting methodologies differ from our current approach and we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31 st March 2023 which will incorporate trajectories for carbon emission reductions in order to develop milestone targets.		

4.4 Carbon Footprint: Business Mileage

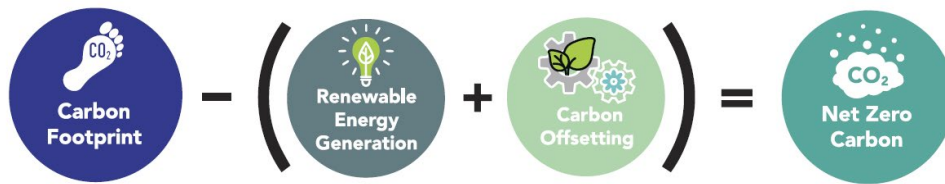


Progress against Actions

NZC-10		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Undertake a review of the Council's pool cars to identify opportunities for carbon reduction	Head of Transportation and Highways	TBC Sept 2022
Progress		
Our Fleet Strategy is currently being updated and will include detail on how we move to electric vehicles in the car and light commercials sector. Electric charging infrastructure is being installed at key depots during 2022 to facilitate increased use of electric vehicles. A work stream will commence in July 2022 to review how low carbon travel can be facilitated as part of the Better Ways of Working.		

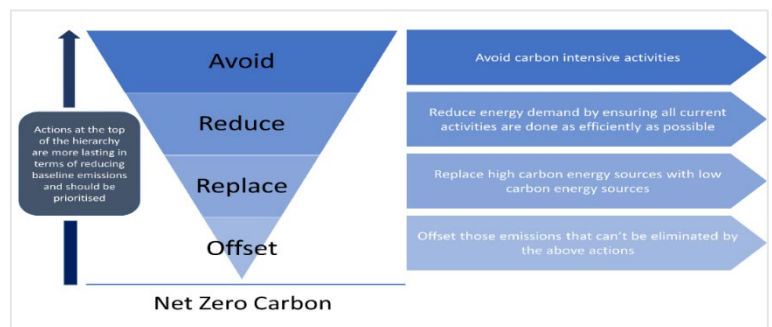
NZC-11		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Finalise electric vehicle strategy for the County	Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Manager	TBC Dec 2021
Progress		
An <u>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy</u> was published in December 2021.		
NZC-12		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's business mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Head of Transportation and Highways	Mar 2021 Mar 2023
Progress		
Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. The Wales reporting methodologies differ from our current approach and we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31 st March 2023 which will incorporate trajectories for carbon emission reductions in order to develop milestone targets.		

5. Renewable Energy Generation + Carbon Offsetting



Whilst we are committed to significantly reducing our carbon footprint, we recognise that however energy / carbon efficient our Services become, we will inevitably still have a residual carbon footprint. This situation is acknowledged by the 'Net' in the Net Zero Carbon equation, which enables our residual carbon footprint to be compensated / offset by the generation of renewable electricity and through carbon sequestration (such as through the planting of trees).

However, we continue to pursue the carbon mitigation hierarchy approach as we do not consider compensation / offsetting as a 'get out clause' for reducing our carbon footprint:



We have continued to add further solar PV installations on our non-domestic buildings, including schools, and currently have a total installed capacity of 1.8 MWp.

Renewable Energy Generation	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21 vs 2019/20	
	Result				Progress	% change
Solar PV						
Installed Capacity (kWp)	1,153	1,193	1,193	1,302	Improved	+9%
Electricity generation (kWh)	937,330	979,071	997,480	1,059,364	Improved	+6%
Equivalent Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)	360	301	277	268	Declined	-3%

Note: Solar PV systems installed as part of our Re:Fit Cymru Phase 1 project are not included as operational after 1st April 2021.

The continuing decarbonisation of the electricity distribution network - National Grid - means that emission conversion factors for electricity are decreasing. Whilst this has a positive impact in reducing our carbon footprint, it conversely has a negative impact in reducing the equivalent carbon savings from renewable energy generation, thus requiring more solar PV panels to offset our (reducing) carbon footprint.

Note: The Council spends in-excess of £5m annually on energy. As is currently very evident, the procurement of energy has become increasingly complex with prices volatile and linked to both UK and global factors. To minimise risk, we procure our energy using Crown Commercial Service Framework Agreements for most supplies. All this electricity is procured from renewable energy sources. Unfortunately, as the consumption of this 'green' electricity is reflected in the UK emission conversion factor for electricity, we are unable to directly benefit from carbon savings resulting from the procurement of 'green' electricity as this would effectively be double counting.

We recently commissioned Land Use Consultants Ltd to deliver a strategy that sets out how to enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure in eight selected towns across the County, and to also analyse our own land holdings to determine the potential for carbon sequestration. This work will inform the development of our new Decarbonisation / NZC Plans, as will the recent declaration of a Nature Emergency by the County Council.

Progress against Actions

NZC-13		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewables	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
We continue to work with Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) to explore and deliver large-scale renewable energy projects. WGES are currently reviewing our land holdings to determine feasibility for renewable energy. We are also actively pursuing other opportunities, including a possible power purchase arrangement with Hywel Dda UHB linked for a proposed 500 kWp solar farm at their Hafan Derwen site – some 50% of the generated electricity would be available to supply our adjoining Parc Dewi Sant offices.		
NZC-14		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with National Procurement Service (NPS) to support greater procurement of energy from locally generated renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
100% of the electricity we procure using the Crown Commercial Service Framework Agreement is from renewable energy. In 2020/21, 86% of this 'green' electricity was generated within Wales (compared to 63% in 2019/20). This sourced from: Hydro (1%); Landfill Gas (7%); Solar (17%); and, Wind (75%).		

NZC-15		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Explore the feasibility of tree-planting and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting	Strategic Asset Manager	Ongoing
<p>Progress</p> <p>5.71ha of native broadleaved woodland will be planted on Council land over winter 2022/23 under the Welsh Government <u>Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) scheme</u>. The area comprises three fields in Tregib, Llandeilo; Pendre, Kidwelly and Maesdewi, Llandybie previously used for grazing purposes. These areas were identified as potential tree planting sites from bare land holdings (i.e. those not in long-term tenancy) owned by the Council. Sites were first screened to exclude those that held unimproved grassland of high biodiversity habitat, then sites of suitable size close to urban or rural communities were prioritised to maximise social benefits. Applications were made to the GWC scheme and three of the sites were selected by Welsh Government for funding under this scheme. The planting will use a range of site suited native broadleaved species to maximise biodiversity benefits. Planting will be designed to allow public access through the sites and community planting days will be held to encourage local people take part in the project.</p> <p>Carbon sequestration over the lifetime of the project will be 2,999 tCO₂e (based on the <u>UK Woodland Carbon Code Small Project Carbon Calculator</u>).</p>		
NZC-16		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of annual review of action plan	Strategic Asset Manager	Mar 2021 Mar 2023
<p>Progress</p> <p>Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. The Wales reporting methodologies differ from our current approach and we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31st March 2023 which will incorporate trajectories for carbon emission reductions in order to develop milestone targets.</p>		

6.1 Collaboration: Working with Welsh Government

Progress against Actions

NZC-17		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Collaborate with Welsh Government and other 'early adopter' Public Bodies to introduce carbon reporting as part of the ambition to achieve a carbon neutral Welsh public sector by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	June 2020
<p>Progress</p> <p>We collaborated with Welsh Government and other 'early adopter' Public Bodies and had anticipated that reporting guidance would be published in April 2020; however, the Guidance has not published until May 2021. Further, revised Guidance was published in June 2022.</p>		

6.2 Collaboration: Working with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board /

Swansea Bay City Deal partners

Progress against Actions

NZA-18		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB) Healthy Environment Delivery Group to undertake a Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment for the County	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	Ongoing
<p>Progress</p> <p>A Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment has been completed and will be supplemented with additional data and information.</p> <p>In May 2021, the Healthy Environment Delivery Group discussed the report commissioned by Natural Resources Wales on climate change risks. This report considered the impact on local communities, and how communities can be better prepared for the effects of climate change with specific reference to Newcastle Emlyn. The report recommended the following priority actions: (1) Community-Led Emergency Response Plan; (2) Citizens' Jury; (3) Newcastle Emlyn 2050 Future Scenario; and, (4) Climate Risks and Assets Map.</p> <p>At its meeting on <u>29th September 2021</u>, the PSB was unable to progress priorities (2) and (3) due to capacity issues. However, priority (1) - Community Lead Emergency Response Plan – is being supported with links to the 10 Towns project, and priority (4) - Climate Risks and Asset Map – is also being supported with the assistance of University of Wales Trinity St David students.</p>		
NZA-19		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with PSB partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
<p>Progress</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) held a virtual SW Wales PSBs Net Zero Workshop on 29th September 2021. This event included speakers from Welsh Government and their consultants who provided an overview of the Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide (May 2021). NRW also shared their experience in determining baseline emissions and developing carbon reduction strategies through their Carbon Positive Project.</p> <p>Hywel Dda University Health Board have secured Welsh Government grant funding to construct a solar farm at their Hafan Derwen site. We had been negotiating a possible power purchase arrangement whereby some of the generated electricity would be available to supply our adjoining Parc Dewi Sant offices. Disappointingly, technical issues associated with the local grid connection meant that this has not been possible.</p>		
NZA-20		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales	Head of Regeneration Head of Place & Sustainability	Ongoing
<p>Progress</p> <p>The <u>South West Wales Energy Strategy</u> (March 2022) was commissioned by the Welsh Government and supported by the Welsh Government Energy Service. It has been developed by the South West Wales Energy Core Group, a sub-group of the Regional Directors' forum from the four constituent local authorities, with additional support from an Advisory Panel and regional stakeholders. It sets a strategic framework to guide the transformational interventions needed to help achieve a net zero Wales by 2050. It has been a collaborative exercise developed by WGES and the four local authorities, with input from a wide range of stakeholders - public, private, and voluntary.</p> <p>Undepinning this regional Strategy will be four <u>Local Area Energy Plans</u> (LAEPs) for each local authority area. <u>Energy Systems Catapult</u> have been appointed by Welsh Government to help support the development these LAEPs which will involve significant coordination across the public, private and third sectors with the involvement of businesses, communities, and agencies. In Carmarthenshire, this will be led by the Place and Sustainability Division.</p>		

6.3 Collaboration: Working with experts from the private and 3rd sectors

Progress against Actions

NZA-21		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with the Council's contractors to explore innovative approaches to carbon reduction	Various	Ongoing
Progress		
We are currently working to explore innovative approaches to carbon reduction with a range of organisations, including: the Active Building Centre regarding extending the Cross Hands Industrial Estate; and, the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University to understand and model our retrofit programme to inform our housing decarbonisation strategy and future investment programmes across our entire housing stock.		
NZA-22		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Participate in the Carmarthenshire 3 rd Sector Environment Network established by Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)	Various	Ongoing
Progress		
The Carmarthenshire 3 rd Sector Environment Network is open to any 3 rd sector organisations or community groups involved with, or concerned by, environmental issues to share information and to collaborate to achieve common goals. The meetings also allow groups to follow the progress made by the Healthy Environment PSB delivery Group in the implementation of the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan.		
During 2021/22, two meetings with were held with presentations from Dyffryn Tywi – Hanes Tirwedd Ein Bro, Renew Wales, The Carbon Community and Learn with Grandma. Information was shared on any relevant volunteering, funding and training opportunities available. Other topics raised included working towards a Circular economy and there was a focus on Climate Change action in the run up to COP26 at the end of October 21.		
NZA-23		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
Progress		
Ynni Sir Gâr have been funded under the Welsh Government Rural Development Fund LEADER programme to identify and explore the feasibility of small-scale community energy projects in the County. The project will work collaboratively with our Ten Towns initiative. We are also supporting Ynni Sir Gâr to deliver a project at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr to install additional solar PV plus EV charging points.		

7. Integration and Communication

Progress against Actions

NZC-24		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Undertake a staff survey to identify how individuals can contribute to the Council's commitment to become a net carbon zero local authority	Media and Marketing Manager	May 2020 TBC
Progress		
<p>The staff survey was put on hold as an action due to communications around COVID-19 taking priority.</p> <p>Carbon Literacy for Elected Members training is being provided in June and October 2022 for all our elected Members. This to be followed-up by carbon literacy courses for our staff.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>Our <u>Prosiect Zero Sir Gâr</u> campaign was originally intended to run for two weeks to coincide with <u>COP26</u> but was extended as we had more stories to share and <u>Wales Climate Week</u> followed.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise awareness of what the Council is doing to tackle climate change and to become a net carbon zero local authority by 2030; and, 2. To encourage residents, businesses, and other organisations to take action to cut their own carbon footprint. </div> </div> <p>This campaign was particularly popular with schools who shared pictures of their '<u>Prosiect Zero Super Heroes</u>' to tackle climate change.</p>		
NZC-25		
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Incorporate climate change / carbon reduction into Integrated Impact Assessment process to be introduced by the Council	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	TBC
Progress		
<p>The integrated impact assessments includes a section which addresses climate change and carbon reduction impacts. Process to be introduced imminently.</p>		

NZC-26

Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Support the 'Walk the Global Walk' project in the County's schools to promote awareness of climate change	Officer for International School Linking	March 2021

Progress

We continue to support the Climate Action Consultation Group that was initiated by participants of the 'Walk the Global Walk' project.

Manifffesto Gweithredu dros yr Hinsawdd, Gŵl-geidwaid Byd-eang Sir Gaerfyrddin

Carmarthenshire Global Goalkeepers Climate Action Manifesto

This manifesto for Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action was created by Carmarthenshire's Global Goalkeepers through the Walk the Global Walk project. Its recommendations were arrived at through discussions with Global Goalkeepers from partner countries, councillors and council officers from Carmarthenshire County Council, teachers, representatives from the Youth Council, Dolan Cymru Lesotho and Keep Wales Tidy.

We, the undersigned, representing the young people of Carmarthenshire, have become acutely aware of the dangers to our own generation and to future generations posed by inaction in the face of climate change. The climate emergency is already affecting millions around the world, hitting hardest those with the least resources to deal with it.

We are making lifestyle changes as individuals and leading actions in our schools and communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change. However, if there is to be a meaningful impact, we cannot do this alone. So we ask that Carmarthenshire County Council pledge its commitment to climate action by:

- Promote development of green spaces and support native tree species planting of a minimum of 10 trees in each school, or school community if school grounds are unsuitable, and ensure their ongoing protection
- Encourage and support safe, sustainable school transport including car-pooling, walking and cycling e.g. providing bike shelters
- Set up a climate action consultation body consisting of a representative group of young people, councillors, council officers, and local businesses which meets every 3 months to ensure progress on this manifesto
- Provide support for developing countries to combat impact of climate change e.g. by supporting the Size of Wales initiative
- Support the development of gardens in schools and local communities to provide food and encourage biodiversity e.g. provide seeds and peat-free compost
- Double the council's use of hybrid and electric vehicles and install electric charging points in appropriate primary and secondary schools by January 2022
- Work together with schools and suppliers to reduce single use plastic in schools by January 2022
- Ensure young people have the support they need to carry out relevant climate actions

Wedi ei gymeradwyo gan gynrychiolwyr o Gyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin ac o Gyrrff Anllywodraethol: | Endorsed by representatives of Carmarthenshire County Council and NGOs:

• Gareth Morgans - Director of Education • Cefin Campbell - Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs • Kandal Davies - Sustainability Manager • Rebecca Stone - Carbon Reduction Officer • Polly Seton - International School Linking Officer • Bethan Evans Phillips - Eco Schools Officer, Keep Wales Tidy • Mandy Ballett & Sharon Flint - Education Officers, Dolan Cymru Lesotho

Wedi ei lofnodi gan Gŵl-geidwaid Byd-eang ac Athrawon o: | Signed by Global Goalkeepers and Teachers from:

Ysgol Dyffryn Aman	Ysgol Bro Dinefwr	Coedcae School	Ysgol Glan-y-Môr	Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade
Sam Bennett Maeslin Smith Gareth Holmes (Teacher)	Milly Jones Isabel Edwards Carol Owen (Teacher)	Lily Evans, Chloe Barlow Rhye Thomas, Sophie Kwan Victoria Colbourne (Teacher)	Liberty Brown Thomas Askley Sophie Bowen (Teacher)	Ieuan Davies Katie George Sion Acclaiell (Teacher)

Queen Elizabeth High School - Anwen Skinner; Carmarthenshire Youth Council

NZC-27

Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Review action plan following the publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new carbon reporting framework	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar-2021 Mar 2023

Progress

Welsh Government were to establish Wales-wide methodologies for carbon emissions reporting by the end of 2019/20. Unfortunately, these were not published until May 2021. This delay has impacted on this Action, and other similar Actions. As identified earlier in this Report, our NZC Plan (February 2020) predates the Wales guidance, consequently there are differences in the reporting methodologies. Welsh Government will be publishing further guidance in May 2022, which we will incorporate into to our new NZC Plan to be published by 31st March 2023.

NZC-28

Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
Publish performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Annual

Progress

This report is the second annual update on progress towards become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

Appendix 1:

Summary of Progress Against Actions in NZC Plan

Ref	Action to be undertaken	Lead Officer	By When
Carbon Footprint – Non-domestic buildings			
NZC-01	Deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy/carbon savings	Head of Property	Apr 2024 Apr 2022
NZC-02	Develop further phases of Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) project, or similar, to achieve accelerated energy / carbon savings	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
NZC-03	Incorporate the 'Passivhaus' standard, where appropriate, in new building construction projects	Property Design Manager	Ongoing
NZC-04	Continually review and amend design specifications and briefs to reflect new technologies and energy efficient equipment	Property Design Manager	Ongoing
NZC-05	Extend 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data	Various	Ongoing
NZC-06	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2024 Mar 2023
Carbon Footprint – Street Lighting			
NZC-07	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's street lighting as part of annual review of action plan	Public Lighting Engineer	Mar 2024 Mar 2023
Carbon Footprint – Fleet Mileage			
NZC-08	Review the most appropriate fuel powered vehicles for each of the Council's Services	Fleet Manager	Ongoing
NZC-09	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's fleet mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Fleet Manager	Mar 2024 Mar 2023
Carbon Footprint – Business Mileage			
NZC-10	Undertake a review of the Council's pool cars to identify opportunities for carbon reduction	Head of Transportation & Highways	TBC Sep 2022
NZC-11	Finalise electric vehicle strategy for the County	Transport Strategy & Infrastructure Manager	TBC Dec 2021
NZC-12	Develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's business mileage as part of annual review of action plan	Head of Transportation & Highways	Mar 2024 Mar 2023
Renewable Energy Generation / Carbon Offsetting			
NZC-13	Work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
NZC-14	Work with National Procurement Service (NPS) to support greater procurement of energy from locally generated renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
NZC-15	Explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting	Strategic Asset Manager	Ongoing
NZC-16	Develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of annual review of action plan	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar 2024 Mar 2023
Working with Welsh Government			
NZC-17	Collaborate with Welsh Government and other 'early adopter' Public Bodies to introduce national carbon reporting framework as part of ambition to achieve carbon neutral Welsh public sector by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Jun 2020






Ref	Action to be undertaken	Lead Officer	By When
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Working with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board / Swansea Bay City Deal partners			
NZC-18	Work with Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB's) Healthy Environment Delivery Group to undertake a Climate Change and Environmental Risk Assessment for the County	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	Ongoing
NZC-19	Work with Carmarthenshire PSB partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing
NZC-20	Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales	Head of Regeneration Head of Place and Sustainability	Ongoing

Collaboration with experts from the private sector and 3rd sectors			
NZC-21	Work with the Council's contractors to explore innovative approaches to carbon reduction	Various	Ongoing
NZC-22	Participate in the Carmarthenshire 3 rd Sector Environment Network established by Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)	Various	Ongoing
NZC-23	Work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects	Sustainable Development Manager	Ongoing

Integration and Communication			
NZC-24	Undertake Staff survey to identify how individuals can contribute to the Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon local authority	Media and Marketing Manager	May-2020 TBC
NZC-25	Incorporate climate change / carbon reduction in Integrated Impact Assessment process to be introduced by Council	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	TBC
NZC-26	Support the 'Walk the Global Walk' project in the County's schools to promote awareness of climate change	Officer for International School Linking	Mar 2021
NZC-27	Review action plan following publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new national carbon reporting framework	Sustainable Development Manager	Mar-2021 Mar 2023
NZC-28	Publish performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030	Sustainable Development Manager	Annual

Key:

-  Overdue
-  Revised target dates due to delay in publishing Wales carbon reporting guidance
-  On track
-  Completed
-  Ongoing. These Actions will continue throughout the lifetime of the NZC Plan

Appendix 2:

Climate Emergency

The initial focus of this action plan for a route towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority is not intended to limit or preclude other potential wider actions that contribute towards addressing the climate emergency.

Some of these actions are identified below (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Civil Contingencies
- Education
- Finance
- Highways and Transportation
- Housing
- Information and Communications
- Leisure
- Place & Sustainability
- Procurement
- Public Protection and Air Quality
- Regeneration
- Waste and Environmental Services

**** Information currently being collated ****

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

To consider and comment on the following:

To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 24th November, 2022.

Reason:

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Programme which identifies the issues and reports which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders:

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)
Cllr. Edward Thomas (Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services)

Report Author:

Janine Owen

Designation:

Democratic Services Officer

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4TH OCTOBER 2022

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. When formulating the Forward Work Programme the Scrutiny Committee will take into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 24th November, 2022.

REPORT ATTACHED?

YES:
List of Forthcoming Items

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Committee's Forward Work Plan	

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FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 24th November 2022

In order to ensure effective Scrutiny, Members need to be clear as to the purpose of requesting specific information and the outcome they are hoping to achieve as a consequence of examining a report.

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
<p>Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update</p> <p>Highways Maintenance Manual</p>	<p>The report provides an annual update as set out within the Highway Asset Management Plan adopted by Council in July 2018 and includes an overview of the highway network</p> <p>The Highways Maintenance Manual sets policies for maintenance of the highways network. The policies are a key part of our Highways Asset Management Plan. It is a portfolio of policies that will be developed over time.</p>	<p>Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested the opportunity to scrutinise this item</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) as the highway network affects all residents in Carmarthenshire. 2) In response to a request received from a Community Council and the highways network affects all residents in Carmarthenshire. 	<p>Cllr Edward Thomas</p>
<p>Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Report</p>	<p>Air quality levels are regularly monitored at various locations across the County in recent years. This report sets out information, the current situation and plans in relation to the Air Quality Management Areas within Carmarthenshire.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Members requested to include this item onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan in order to keep abreast of and scrutinise the situation of the Air Quality Management Areas.</p>	<p>Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen</p>
<p>Carmarthenshire Council Annual Report 2021/22</p>	<p>This report will provide members with details of the Council's performance for 2020/21</p>	<p>Pre-decision report Scrutiny Members requested include this item onto the Forward Work Plan in order to carry out their role in scrutinising performance.</p>	<p>Cllr. Darren Price</p>

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
Review Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document - To review of the Management of fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire	<p>The Committee at its meeting in July 2021 received the Task and Finish Draft Planning and Scoping Document on the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire and established a 6 Member Task and Finish Group</p> <p>The Group met in September, 2021 and in light of information received by the Director of Environment made the decision to defer the review of the Management of fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire 2022 following the Election process. The Group presented a report to the Committee (25th November 2021) which outlined the reasons for the decision which was accepted.</p>	In line with the Committee's resolution on 25 th November 2021, the Committee needs to consider and endorse a revised Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document and establish a new Task and Finish Group so that the review can commence.	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
Extension Of Public Space Protection Order (Carmarthenshire Dog Orders) Engagement Survey to identify Areas / Issues that may require additional orders.	Between the 10 th January 2022 to 11 th March 2022, an engagement took place with all County Councillors / Town & Community Councils and organisations with Asset Transfer agreements. The survey was to identify areas and issues of dog related problems that are being experienced that may require additional orders above the current baseline PSPO's. Any further orders will need to be based on evidence and a proportionate response to the on-going related problems	To afford the Committee the opportunity of commenting on the information in relation to the PSPO.	Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen

Items to be circulated under a separate cover to Scrutiny Committee members

(as agreed at the Committee's Forward Work Programme development session on 21st September 2022)

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
Task and Finish Implementation Report – FESS Financial Exploitation & Safeguarding Scheme	To provide an update on delivering the recommendations developed by the Task and Finish Group and subsequently approved by Cabinet [5 th July 2022].	In accordance with section 3.1 of the Scrutiny Committee Investigations Protocol and the Task and Finish Group's report progress of the implementation of adopted recommendations are required to be monitored by the parent scrutiny committee.	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J.D. James (Chair)

Councillors:

J.M. Charles, T.A.J. Davies, J.A. Davies, K. Davies, S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, E. Morgan, B.D.J. Phillips, J.S. Phillips, D. Thomas and A. Vaughan Owen.

Also in attendance:

Councillor C.A. Davies, Cabinet Member for Communities and Rural Affairs;
Councillor H.A.L. Evans, Cabinet Member for Environment;
Councillor P.M. Hughes, Cabinet Member for Public Protection.

The following Officers were in attendance:

N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy; Interim Head of Planning
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities;
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;
G. Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager;
J. Edwards, Business Improvement Manager;
D.W. John, Environmental Services Manager;
R. S. Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager;
I. Macho, Biodiversity Officer;
A. Eynon, Principal Translator;
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting: 2:00pm - 3:05pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Edwards and A.D.T. Speake.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.

There were no declarations of any prohibited party whips.
There were no declarations of interest made.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. EXTENSION OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS)

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

The Cabinet Member explained that subject to a number of exemptions and restrictions, the Original Order required that people:

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

The Cabinet Member further explained that a targeted consultation period on the extension of the PSPO had taken place with a number of statutory consultees and other relevant stakeholders, a list of which was included within the report. However, it was evident several responses had been received from individuals and organisation who had not been invited to respond. 43 responses were received with 85% of those respondents supporting the extension of the current PSPO for a period of 3 years.

It was reported that a number of respondents had made suggestions comments through the consultation exercise and that the comments and responses were appended to the report at Appendix 8 of the report.

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

The following comments/queries were raised in relation to the report:-

- In response to a query raised regarding Fixed Penalty Notices, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection explained that as stated in 3.1 of the report since the 2016 Order came into force there had been 3002 (Up to 31/12/2021) complaints received in relation to dog fouling. 100 fixed penalty tickets had been issued and 6 prosecutions had been implemented for offenders who had failed to pay the fixed penalty notice. It was emphasised that the difficulty was that an enforcement officer would have to witness the incident at the time of the offence for a fixed penalty notice to be issued.
- It was asked if the PSPO was enforceable outside of an enclosed space and if pavements were included? The Head of Waste and Environmental Services clarified that the PSPO covered any public land and that enclosed fenced off spaces such as a children's playground would include a no dog zone. It was clarified that footways were included as public land and therefore covered by the PSPO.

- In reference to the response from the Kennel Club as part of the consultation, it was commented that farmers in order to obtain insurance must provide documentation to prove that they worm their dogs. However, it was raised that dog owners were able to work their dog on public footpaths crossing agricultural land thus causing a concern of passing on worms to cattle and sheep. It was asked if it was possible to include that the landowner has a right to enquire with the dog owner if their dog had been wormed. The Cabinet Member for Public Protection acknowledged the query as a concern and agreed to include the matter as part of the future consultation. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the concern and would feed it into the consultation.
- In response to a query, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, corroborated by the Head of Waste and Environmental Services confirmed that PCSO's were equipped with the power to issue fixed penalty notices to dog fouling offenders which supplements the Council's enforcement officers.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET:

4.1 that the duration of the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 be extended for a further period of 3 years with effect from the 1st July 2022;

4.2 that the Council makes an Extension Order to give effect to the above extension and endorses the 2016 Order with suitable wording to reflect the fact that the duration of the 2016 order has been extended.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Rural Affairs presented the report explaining that the Communities Departmental Draft Business Plan 2022/23 only included extracts of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan for the ICT & Corporate Policy Division relevant to this Scrutiny Committee which was community safety.

Committee Members considered the extracts relating to Community Safety.

The following comments/queries were raised in relation to the report:-

- In response to a query which sought clarification in relation to the similarities of the descriptions in Key Actions and Measures Reference 1, 2, 4 and 7, the Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager explained that the extract included actions from the departmental plan as well as the divisional plan in order to provide more context. In acknowledging that the wording was very similar in nature, the reason for the similarities was due to the duty in regard to the anti-terrorism element of the Contest Strategy and that there was a new requirement specifically in terms of the 'protect duty'. Furthermore, in accepting the point raised regarding the wording the Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager agreed to rephrase to provide clarity.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Community Safety elements of the Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022/23 relevant to the remit of this Scrutiny Committee be received.

6. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23

The Committee Members considered the Environment Departmental Business Plan 2022/23 presented in turn by the Cabinet Members for Environment, Public Protection and Communities and Rural Affairs in respect of the areas falling within their portfolios and the Committees remit.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Affairs explained that whilst Net Zero Carbon transcended across all areas of the Council's work, the responsibility had been transferred under the Environment Department and therefore the appropriate actions and measures had now included the Environment Departmental Business Plan.

The following comments/queries were raised in relation to the report:-

- Reference was made to the Planned Improvements for 2022/23 in relation to the introduction of the 20mph speed limits as a national default in residential areas. It was raised that there were a number of villages which did not have any limit set under the national speed limit of 60mph, it was asked how would these be affected? The Cabinet Member of Environment explained that the Welsh Government were currently looking at those areas with limits of 30mph and that they would be looking at urban areas as opposed to rural areas. In response to a further query regarding residential areas where no limits were currently set, the Highways and Transportation Manager clarified that the proposed Welsh Government legislation related to the term 'restricted roads', whereby the speed limit would be governed by a system of street lighting. Where street lighting exists on roads currently set with a 30mph limit, the new legislation required these areas to be reduced to 20mph. Therefore, those villages that do not have street lighting or a 30mph speed limit they would not be affected by the new legislation.

In response to a further query regarding residential areas with no current speed limit, the Highways and Transportation Manager stated that whilst these areas would not be considered under the legislation, settlements that may benefit from the introduction of a speed limit could be considered as part of the project.

- Reference was made to the measure cited on page 29 of the report ref E11 – “we will expand this successful approach and use S106 agreements and developer contribution to deliver other necessary biodiversity benefits where this is appropriate. (September 2022 & March 2023)”. It was commented that Members had recently been informed that they could apply for the S106 money to be used in their community. Clarification on the measure was sought with concern that communities would lose out on this S106 money. The Biodiversity Officer explained that for development where there was a significant impact on biodiversity, which could not be mitigated on site or where it was complicated to do so, the Council had successfully adopted an approach where S106 funding for CCC was accepted to undertake appropriate mitigation/compensation for the developer on site or offsite through an agreed funded management plan. This would allow for no net loss of biodiversity, whilst allowing the development to take place. The Biodiversity Officer provided relevant examples to the Committee.

- Reference was made to page 41 of the report – Ref 43 - Improve Active Travel Routes for Communities. The Highways and Transportation Manager, in response to a query of the non-inclusion of the Cardi Bach footway stated that the Active Travel initiative was in the main aimed towards a model shift away from vehicles thus encouraging walking and cycling It was explained that the Cardi Bach project was still in its formative stage in terms of development and that the Council was working with Sustrans and Pembrokeshire County Council regarding the feasibility of the project. Not until the feasibility studies were in a position to provide a definitive proposal together with secured funding for the scheme would it be included within the business plan which would include the necessary milestones for the project.
- Praise was expressed in the development of the new-style business plan, which include more information, more readable, easier to understand, provides the direction of travel and what success would look like. Appreciation was extended to the officers involved in the development of the plan.
- Reference was made to the upcoming agenda Item 9 – Non-submission report which provided an explanation of the non-submission of the Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022/23. It was raised that in line with the explanation, the items would be placed within the Environmental Departmental Plan. It was asked when this would be included? Head of Homes & Safer Communities reported whilst the new Sustainability and Place Division was being established, it would be prudent to consider the current synergies with Public Protection. Following this piece of work, the Communities Departmental Business Plan would be presented to Committee Members in July 2022.
- In response to a query regarding the future plans to start the waste amnesties in the North of the County, the Environmental Services Manager explained that there would be a review of practices as part of the pandemic recovery. The number of amnesties and locations would also be subject to review, communication with local Members be priority whilst moving towards normal working practices.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Environment Department Business Plan 2022/23 be received.

7. FUTURE ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS AT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES (HWRC)

The Committee received a report for information presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment which provided an update position and future option for the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

This report provided information in regard to a future strategy of accessibility for the HWRC service in Carmarthenshire, which would ensure an efficient and accessible service for Carmarthenshire residents whilst maximising our recycling performance in the delivery of this service in the long term.

Members considered the report which provided the current position and the service impacts together with the proposed options that would enable the success of the booking system with the development of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system across the network of HWRC's as follows:

- Retain the IT based appointment system as is currently in place for the next twelve months.
- Retail the IT based appointment system for the next twelve months and pilot a hybrid approach of bookings
- Remove the IT based appointment system
- In 12 months introduce an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and resident registration access system at all four HWRCs.

The following comments/queries were raised in relation to the report:-

- It was commented that residents have reported that residents were happy with the current booking system however, clarification was sought on the method of use. The Cabinet Member agreed that the reports suggest that HWRC users across the County were satisfied with the current booking method both online and telephone. What was being proposed was that the current booking system continue for 12months whilst the ANPR option was being explored.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Future Accessibility Options at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) report be received.

8. PROVISION OF PAVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS

The Committee received a report on the Provision of Pavements in Rural Areas presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment. This report had been written at the request of the Committee following a referral from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee regarding the lack of provision of pavements in rural areas and the backlog of requests.

The Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 1st July 2021 raised a concern regarding a lack of pavements in rural areas to facilitate increased levels of walking and cycling and made reference to the outstanding pool of requests for pavements

The report stated that there had been a longstanding pressure on the County Council from the large number of requests received for highway improvements such as upgraded junctions, traffic calming, new sections of road and new footways. The requests received far exceeded the available resources through the Council's annual capital budget allocated for Highway Infrastructure and Road Safety Improvements. The level of capital funding available was £250k per annum. The level of funding enabled delivery of a maximum of three schemes per year.

Committee members, in considering the information provided within the report the following comments/queries were raised:

- In acknowledging the limited resources available it was emphasised that the current provision of pavement in rural areas continued to be a huge concern. Similar to other development schemes, it was asked if there was a way to sort the ongoing issue of pavements through borrowing money? In response, the Cabinet Member advised would be best discussed as part of the Forward Work Programme following the elections.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Provision of Pavements in Rural Areas report be received.

9. NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Committee received an explanation for the non-submission of the following scrutiny report:

- The Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022/23

Members noted the revised submission date would be after the election period.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the explanation for the non-submission be noted.

10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 1st February, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE

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