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THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 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 THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 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
E-Mail:	JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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
13 MEMBERS**

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. Peter Cooper (Committee Member)
Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles (Committee Member)
Cllr. Tina Higgins (Committee Member)
Cllr. John James (Chair)
Cllr. Gary Jones (Committee Member)

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Sue Allen (Committee Member)
Vacancy

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. UPDATED FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23** 5 - 10
- 5. TASK & FINISH GROUP 2022 -
REVISED PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT -
TO REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT OF FLY TIPPING WITHIN
CARMARTHENSHIRE** 11 - 18
- 6. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22** 19 - 252
- 7. HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN -
ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2022** 253 - 294
- 8. AIR QUALITY UPDATE** 295 - 348
- 9. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE
PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR
CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS** 349 - 378
- 10. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 379 - 408
- 11. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE
4TH OCTOBER 2022** 409 - 416

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATED FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

To confirm and note its updated Forward Work Plan for 2022/23.

Reasons:

The Committee at its meeting held on 4th October 2022 [minute 6.2 refers] resolved that 'the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Forward Work Plan Forward Work Plan 2022/23 with the addition of the pre-decision reports identified from the Cabinet Forward Plan be brought to the next meeting for approval.'

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: *NOT APPLICABLE*

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATED FORWARD WORK PLAN 2022/23

The Committee at its meeting held on 4th October 2022 [minute 6.2 refers] resolved that 'the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Forward Work Plan Forward Work Plan 2022/23 with the addition of the pre-decision reports identified from the Cabinet Forward Plan be brought to the next meeting for approval.'

The Committee held an informal Forward Work Plan development session to consider the Cabinet Forward Plan and identify which reports to include on the Committee's Forward Work Plan.

The outcome of this meeting is now presented to the Committee in the Forward Work Plan for confirmation.

Committee Members, throughout the forthcoming year will consider the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan to identify pre-decision reports they wish to place on the Scrutiny Forward Work Plan.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

**Updated PS&CC Scrutiny Committee 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.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED

N/A

The relevant Cabinet Members to the Committee's remit have been informed of the draft FWP.

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
Cabinet Forward Plan	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s65277/Forward%20Plan.pdf

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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	Highways Maintenance Manual	CCC Strategy for Trees and Woodland	
E&PP Scrutiny Committee Actions Update report 2021/22.	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Report	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy – 12 month review	Revenue Budget Consultation 2023/24 – 2025/26		
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2022/23	County Council Annual Report	Waste Strategy	Departmental Business Plans		
Net Zero Carbon Annual Progress report	To revise the Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on Fly- Tipping		Equestrian Strategy		
Environment Act Forward Plan Update	Public Space Protection Order (Enhancement on dog related controls)		WG Speed Limit Changes in Legislation (20MPH)		

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 Sessions held on 21st September 2022 and 1st November 2022

Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q1	Task & Finish Implementation Report – FESS <i>Financial Exploitation & Safeguarding Scheme</i>	CCC Corporate Strategy	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to October 2022		Budget Monitoring April 2022 to December 2022
Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022-23	Highway Drainage Design Guide	Graffiti Policy	Sandbag Policy 2022 Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q2		
Budget Monitoring - 21/22 Outturn April 22 to June 2022	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to August 2022		CWM Business Plan and Progress Report		

PS&CC Scrutiny Member – Focussed Development Sessions:-

The Committee has requested for the following focused development sessions to take place following each of the scheduled formal Committee meetings (unless otherwise notified).

- Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Statement –**14th November 2022**
- 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 2023**
- Substance Use – **24th February 2023**
- Enforcement / Pollution – **March 2023 (date to be arranged)**
- To be determined – **April 2023**
- WG Speed Limit Change in Legislation (20mph) –Workshop 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. A revised Planning and Scoping Document is scheduled for 24th November 2022.

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”.

Page
10

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

TASK & FINISH GROUP 2022 REVISED PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire

The Scrutiny Committee is asked:

- To consider and endorse the revised aims and scope of the work of the Task and Finish Group.
- To agree on the Membership of the Task and Finish Group.

Reasons:

- To enable the Committee to consider the aims and scope of the work of the Task & Finish Group and agree on the Membership of the Task and Finish Group.
- The Task & Finish Group is required to report the progress of its work to the main scrutiny committee.

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Councillor A. Vaughan Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)

Directorate:
Chief Executive's

Name of Head of Service:
Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:
Janine Owen

Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

Democratic Services Officer

Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

TASK & FINISH GROUP 2022 REVISED PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire

Background

In April 2021, Members agreed that fly tipping was a significant problem in Carmarthenshire which was on the increase. It was acknowledged, that the consequence of fly tipping had a detrimental effect on both the environment and communities and that it would be beneficial to carry out a review on the management of fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire. The Committee, at its meeting on 2nd July 2021 considered and formally endorsed the aims and scope of the review.

The Task and Finish Group, at its first meeting on 8th September, 2021 received an update from the Director of Environment regarding internal matters that had arisen since the Scrutiny Committee's endorsement of the review's planning and scoping document in July 2021. Following the consideration of the information received, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire to 2022, following the Election process. The Scrutiny 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.

The Review revisited

At its informal Forward Work Plan Development Session held on 1st November, 2022, the Committee took the opportunity to discuss the review's Planning and Scoping Document that was endorsed on 2nd July 2021, and revise should Members deem necessary.

Members of the Committee are required to further consider and formally endorse the revised Draft Planning and Scoping document which is appended to this report.

Furthermore, the Committee is required to agree a politically balanced Task and Finish Group consisting of up to 6 Members.

The first meeting will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership. Officers from within Public Protection, Environment and Democratic Services will support the work of the Task & Finish Group.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES - Revised Draft Planning and Scoping document

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 – Officers Communities and Environment have contributed to the development of the Planning and Scoping Document and will continue to support the work of the Task & Finish Group.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE?

YES

**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
Reports and Minutes of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – 25 th November 2021	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=4543&Ver=4
Reports and Minutes of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – 2 nd July 2021	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=4370&Ver=4
Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives from the County Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214849/corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf

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Place, Sustainability & Climate Change Committee

Task & Finish Group 2022

To Review the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire

Draft Planning & Scoping Document

Task & Finish Objective	To review and examine the issue of Fly-tipping and how the current policies, procedures and operational responsibilities are structured to manage fly-tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit.• Fly tipping is an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire. The consequence of fly tipping has a detrimental effect on the environment and communities.• Fly tipping has major impact on resources across various departments across the Council. Clearance, and remediation is costly, sometimes difficult and has implications of criminal activity.• The Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review into the current internal processes and operational issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.• It is recognised that there is a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities of various teams within Carmarthenshire and Natural Resources Wales, this has implications on resources through duplication of efforts resulting in inefficiency.• It is recognised that the authority are utilising resources on responding to complaints and that there is a lack of resources within the Authority to carry out investigations (which can be complex and time-consuming requiring specific skills) and there is a need to develop an approach to prevent issues from occurring.• Elected Members have raised this as a concern for residents throughout the County.

The main aims of the review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and review the definition and drivers of Fly-tipping Carmarthenshire. • Review the procedures and resources dedicated to receiving, clearing, and investigating fly-tipping. • Review of roles and responsibilities of the different teams and agencies. Exploring how the sharing of information between sections and other agencies is currently undertaken, structured and could be improved. • Formulate recommendations and actions for consideration by the Cabinet that can develop a strategic approach to reduce fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.
Scope of the review	<p>This review will focus on the current policies, procedures and how operational responsibilities are structured in response to fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The review will need to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drivers of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. • To identify and review other areas of the UK where there have been successful alterations to policies and procedures which have a positive impact on Fly Tipping. • To investigate best practice from other local authorities across the country in relation to Fly Tipping collection and handling. • To investigate best practice from other local authorities regarding Fly Tipping Education, Information Gathering, Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution techniques. • Exploring how the sharing of information between sections and other agencies is currently undertaken. • Review the current internal processes and operational issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire. <p>The review will need to formulate recommendations and actions for consideration by the Cabinet that can develop a strategic approach to reduce fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire</p>

<p>How it will contribute to achieving corporate / community objectives and well-being objectives</p>	<p>Undertaking this review will coincide with the Council's Vision:- <i>'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment'</i></p> <p>The review will contribute to the following Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives from the County Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23 (http://intranet/media/654960/corporate-strategy-18-23.pdf):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Well <p>Wellbeing Objective 8 Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)</p> <p>Wellbeing Objective 9 Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities</p> • Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Environment <p>Wellbeing Objective 12 Looking after the environment now and for the future</p> <p>Wellbeing Objective 15 Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources</p>
<p>List of key stakeholders [not exhaustive]</p>	<p><i>Direct Stakeholders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Officers • Environmental Health Officers • Planning Officers • Customer Services Officers • Democratic Services <p><i>External Stakeholders to be consulted</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police (Incidents recorded, feedback) • Community Councils (Do they or would they assist with awareness/education). • Carmarthenshire residents • Natural Resource Wales (NRW) • Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service • National Farmers Union (NFU) • Farmers Union Wales (FUW) • Neighbouring Authorities • Fly tipping Action Wales • Keep Wales Tidy • Fly-tipping Action Wales • Common Land contacts • Brecon Beacons National Parks • Wales Tourist Board • Carmarthenshire Tourism Association • CADW • Others as identified

<p>What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study? [not exhaustive]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current data on number and types of fly tipping service requests • All Wales fly tipping matrix • Budget • Corporate Enforcement Policy • The Corporate Local Environmental Quality Strategy • Corporate Strategy
<p>Membership</p>	<p>Up to 6 Elected Members</p> <p>A politically balanced membership of up to 6 Councillors to be agreed at the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Advisors / Support Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Morgan (Head of Housing and Public Protection) • Daniel John (Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services) • Geinor Lewis (Waste Strategy and Policy Manager) • Sue Watts (Environmental Protection Manager) • Robert Williams (Public health Lead) • Hugh Towns (Regional Mineral and Waste Planning Manager) • Stephen Thomas, Senior Enforcement and Monitoring Officer • Gary Baxter (Grounds and Cleansing Manager) • Steven Raymond (Environmental Enforcement Manager) • Janine Owen (Democratic Services Officer)
<p>Timescale for completion of the review</p>	<p>Commencement date is subject to agreement by the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee on 24th November 2022.</p> <p>Review to be completed within the 2022/23 Municipal year.</p>

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Consider and comment on the Council's draft Annual Report relevant to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's remit.

Reasons:

- Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
- Under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance, based, on a self-assessment approach
- This report meets both these requirements in one document.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Corporate Overview:

Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce - Cllr Philip Hughes

Well-Being Objective Portfolio Holders:

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

Cllr Edward Thomas Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

Directorates:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
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Names of Heads of Service:

Ainsley Williams	Director of Place & Infrastructure	AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Stephen Pilliner	Head of Highways & Transport	SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager	JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Daniel W John	Head of Waste & Environmental Service	dwjohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager	jmedwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Report Author:

Rob James

Strategic Performance Manager

01267 224486
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21

The following sections within the document are **relevant to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny**:

Annual Report Sections and Well-being Objectives (WbO)	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member responsible
Introduction	All	
WbO 10: Look after the environment now and for the future	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Cllr Edward Thomas
	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
WbO 11: Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
Appendices	All	

- The Annual Report starts with an overview of our COVID-19 response and outlines some key impacts, challenges and learning.
- The Annual Report then looks in turn at each of our 13 Well-being Objectives and assesses the progress and adaptations that have been made during this difficult year.
- Appendices
 1. a) Statutory Requirements –
b) How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the national Well-being Goals
 2. Success measures for our Well-being Objectives
 3. National Survey for Wales 2021/22 – Carmarthenshire results
 4. Regulatory reports issued during 2021/22
 5. The extent to which we meet 'performance requirements'
 - a. Departmental analysis
 - b. The Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic-unplanned transformation
 - c. Consultation on 'performance requirements'

- Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
- Under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance-based on a self-assessment approach.
The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements. The performance requirements are the extent to which:
 - *we are exercising our functions effectively.*
 - *we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.*
 - *our governance is effective for securing the above.*
- We also have a duty to consult on the extent to which we meet our performance requirements.
- This report aims to meet these requirements within one document.

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:

Ainsley Williams	Director of Place & Infrastructure
Stephen Pilliner	Head of Highways and Transport
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager
Daniel W John	Head of Waste & Environmental Service
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development):	
• Set and publish well-being objectives	Corporate Strategy update was published in June 2019, and further updated in May 2021.
• Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives	
• Publish a statement about well-being objectives	
• Publish an annual report of progress	This will be accomplished by the enclosed Annual Report

Only when a public body can demonstrate it has taken into account the sustainable development principle in the setting, taking steps and meeting of its well-being objectives will it be compliant with the Act. Public bodies may take other matters into account when making their decisions, but in order to comply with the Act they must take into account the 5 ways of working.

1. Long term
2. Integrated
3. Involving
4. Collaborative
5. Preventative

Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021

The Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. It replaces the Local Government Measure 2009.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements

The performance requirements are the extent to which:

- we are exercising our functions effectively.
- we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
- our governance is effective for securing the above.

2. Legal

The requirement to publish a forward-looking Improvement Plan by the end of June and an Annual Report by the end of October no longer applies.

- *The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) replaces the current improvement duty for councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009* para

1.2 Statutory guidance on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) act 2021

The new Act sets a duty to report on performance through self-assessment. It provides that a council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report should be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the financial year to which it relates. However, it is for the council to determine when exactly to do this to best align with its own corporate arrangements. Para 2.28.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than March 31st

It is up to Carmarthenshire County Council when it publishes its Annual Report on 2021/22 so long as it is before March 31st 2023. Though it should be as soon as reasonably practicable.

The requirement to produce a self-assessment report is one for the full council or its executive (as a council may determine). Councils will be required to involve a wide range of stakeholders and local people in its self-assessment. In addition, involving members from controlling and opposition groups.

Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services.

‘Scrutiny committees, as well as internal audit, will be a key part of a council’s self-assessment, and the council should determine and agree how best to involve their scrutiny committees in the self-assessment process itself, not just in considering the outcomes of any self-assessment’.

The self-assessment report must be published within four weeks of it being finalised and approved in accordance with the council’s agreed processes.

This is the first year that we are reporting under the duties of Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

[Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils.](#)

Note: Governance and Audit Committee must receive the Annual Report and its feedback considered.

3. Finance

Well-being Objective 13 – Better Governance and Use of Resources covers financial matters.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS AWARE/
CONSULTED:**

Yes
Cllr. Philip Hughes as Cabinet Member with responsibility for performance management has the overall lead for the report however it references the work of all Cabinet portfolio holders.

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

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		https://gov.wales/well-being-of-future-generations-wales
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021		Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

ANNUAL REPORT for 2021/2022

on the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment'

October 2022



Welcome from the Leader of the Council to our Annual Report for 2021-2022

In writing this introduction I have taken the opportunity to review our year and to look back over our performance and achievements over the last few years. As the new Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council, I appreciate that I have solid foundations to continue to build on, but these past few years have been very challenging, and at the time of writing there are significant challenges ahead. For me, 2021/2022 is the year that marks the tail end of the pandemic and the beginning of the cost-of-living crisis. Despite the challenges, we made great strides in many areas including recovery and regeneration, we made plans for our children's future education, built more homes, and continued to work towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

Early in the pandemic we understood that alongside facing the day-to-day challenges, we needed to put in place a recovery plan. We saw opportunities and found new ambitions that could secure our future development and growth. We presented a comprehensive recovery plan to get Carmarthenshire back on its journey of growth, and set out priorities for supporting businesses, people, and communities. We have continued to work on that plan and during the year we have seen other opportunities for growth. Key to the plan is supporting the county's foundational economy and supporting local people to grow skills and talent in targeted areas so that there is a strong and resilient local workforce. Going forward it is more important than ever that we are able to help ourselves and support local businesses.

We have continued to look at town centre recovery plans for Ammanford, Llanelli and Carmarthen as well as our ten towns initiative, continuing to drive forward an agenda for change for each of the identified towns and their wider communities.

This year, we launched an ambitious ten-year strategy outlining our future vision for education. The plan sets out the council's aspirations for learners and staff for the next 10 years. The strategy aims to build on the good work that has been carried out to date to deliver consistently excellent outcomes for all learners.

We found out in Autumn 2021 that the Tywi Valley Cycle Path project had been awarded £16.7million as part of the UK Government's new Levelling Up fund. We have been campaigning to get the path underway for quite a few years and it is great to see another ambition being developed. The Tywi Valley Path project will create a 20km off-road walking and cycling route linking Carmarthen to Llandeilo, running alongside the River Tywi through stunning scenery which takes in castles, country parks and historical estates as well as attractions including the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and Aberglasney Gardens.

Another of our projects which received funding through the levelling up fund was the creation of Carmarthen Hwb. This project brings the former Debenhams store back to life as a central hub that will pull together a range of key public services under one roof, providing convenient access and a space for people to relax and enjoy. Still in the early stages of development, the exciting venture could feature a state-of-the-art leisure, culture and exhibition space alongside health and educational facilities, tourist information, customer services and more.

As I mentioned earlier, we have been able to grow despite the challenges of the pandemic but now we face the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. We are facing uncertain times and I am not in any doubt that the next few years will be difficult, but we have built strong foundations and as always, we will look to pull together and find a way forward.



Council Leader
Cllr. Darren Price

We welcome constructive comments on our strategies and services. Feedback from customers and service users is essential in identifying opportunities for improvement and we hope that if you have any comments or suggestions that you believe would help that you will share them with us. Please contact us at **Corporate Performance Management**, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen SA31 1JP or email at performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Contents

	Page
COVID-19 and Recovery	4
Introduction	8

Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives

Start Well	1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences	19
	2. Help children live healthy lifestyles	26
	3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	31
Live Well	4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty	39
	5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	45
	6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	52
	7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)	55
Age Well	8. Support community cohesion, resilience, and safety	61
	9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	66
In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	10. Look after the environment now and for the future	72
	11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	79
	12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture	83
	13. Better Governance and Use of Resources	88
Appendices		99

COVID-19 AND RECOVERY

*Life is for living, let's start, live and age well
in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment*

START WELL



CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

The last twelve months, due to COVID-19, have continued to be challenging for all services. However, we continued working through the recovery phase as one Education and Children's Services team, to ensure that our children and young people were successfully supported to access their education and all the services they required.

The Department coordinated plans to sustain schools and learners through lockdowns via an amended national curriculum. The programme emanated early on, following vital multi-disciplinary input from across departmental teams, focussing on the wellbeing of learners and re-engagement in learning.

All schools have utilised their delegated Recruit, Recover and Raise standards grant funding to support learners. School leaders have discussed the focus and impact of this funding with their Educational Support Adviser, focussing on the additional support and provision they are able to provide for learners and their families, including those who are most vulnerable, utilising this grant.

We have continued to ensure that schools are COVID-19 safe environments including supporting School Leaders with updating Risk Assessments, ensuring adherence to changing Health and Safety guidance. We have also continued to provide enhanced cleaning and provided additional resource such as air filters as required.

Whilst children's services continued throughout lockdown to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people, the work adapted in accordance with social distancing arrangements. This year has been even more challenging due to COVID-19, placing significant pressures on families and leading to an increase in demand for our services. The number of Contacts to the department has increased to 11,379 as compared to 9,498 last year. This increase coupled with staff absence due to COVID-19 and sickness, COVID-19 restrictions and recruitment difficulties have all been additional challenges placing increased pressures on childcare teams. However, despite this, workers have been inventive in finding meaningful and innovative ways of carrying out direct work with children and families and services have continued to perform well. 90.2% of all new assessments have been completed within statutory timescales.

The Inclusion Team has continued to deliver all service areas throughout the COVID-19 period. Methods of delivery have been modified following consultation with families, schools, Education and Child Psychologist Service and Health ensuring all best endeavours are undertaken to continue to deliver statutory processes and support services.

New on-line application processes have been introduced for both Free School Meals and Pupil Development Grant Access which provides a far better service to our residents. The continuation of Free School Meal payments has been challenging.

LIVE WELL



ECONOMY

Carmarthenshire's economy has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. To gain an informed understanding of the position in Carmarthenshire, we engaged with over 1,000 businesses to gather evidence on the impact of the pandemic on our businesses, unemployment and our rural and primary town economies. This assisted us to put in place a clear [Economic Recovery Plan](#) (we were first in Wales to do so) with an immediate priority focus on protecting jobs and supporting our small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to upscale.

Businesses have done well to 'bounce back' – restrictions imposed on businesses created a range of operational challenges which hampered income generation and productivity. Consumer demand and changing consumer spending practices were a significant concern but financial interventions and support provided by the Council have assisted businesses to operate and diversify in a post-lockdown economy which was

complemented by a campaign to think and buy local through the '100% Sir Gâr' initiative.

What have we delivered?	
<i>More than 1,100 jobs have already been created and over 700 jobs safeguarded.</i>	<i>We have delivered over £66 million COVID-19 Business Recovery Funds on behalf of the Welsh Government</i>
<i>We have awarded contracts to local businesses, providing skilled work opportunities in the local economy and safeguarding jobs.</i>	<i>We have successfully delivered six jobs' fairs in each of the primary towns, to support sectors experiencing acute recruitment challenges.</i>
<i>We have engaged with well over 3,200 local businesses and provided just under 900 people with training support.</i>	

We will also continue to address the longer-term challenges that constrain growth in Carmarthenshire including low productivity and wages, skills deficits, too few businesses scaling up and the need for investment in modern business infrastructure and premises. *We will support Carmarthenshire's economy to recover as quickly as possible to become one that is more productive than before, more equal, greener and with more sustainable communities.*

AGE WELL



SOCIAL CARE

From a social care perspective, managing the challenges that the pandemic has created has become very much business as usual over the last year. The success of the vaccination programme and the associated very high level of take up by vulnerable adults and social care staff has meant that the impact of community transmission has been very different. With the exception of one isolated incident in the summer, clusters of cases in care homes have become more routine to manage and whilst COVID-19 has still contributed to staff absence, they have returned to work much quicker on the basis that more often than not they are well enough to return to the work at the end of the isolation period. COVID-19 has therefore become something for us to manage on a proactive basis, rather than constantly needing to respond to emergency and different issues on a reactive basis. As a consequence of the above, we have had the opportunity to focus more on our core business and look at how

we develop and shape our services so that they are fit for the future.

Our biggest challenge however has come from the significant recruitment and retention issues we are experiencing both in terms of a qualified social work and non-qualified social care workforce. There are insufficient qualified social workers and non-qualified care staff in the job market to fill all of the vacancies in the county, and we are competing with neighbouring public sector agencies and independent sector

providers in the same limited workforce pool. This position is echoed nationally, and as a consequence, we have had insufficient social workers available to assess all those who need assessments as quickly as we might like as well as support vulnerable people. In addition, we have had insufficient workforce available to provide all of the care that is needed. People are therefore having to wait longer for assessment than we would like, and we are having to prioritise those most in need of support. This means that there is a significant risk that people are not getting the help they need as quickly as they need it, and we are having to effectively manage that risk to keep people safe.

HEALTHY, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS ENVIRONMENT



During lockdown people rediscovered the environment. More than ever before we have realised that our natural environment is vital for our well-being. More people used footpaths and cycleways.

As a consequence of lockdown there was an improvement in Air Quality during the year because of the reduction of road vehicle movements. The main pollutant of concern for Carmarthenshire is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). Waste and recycling collections were crucial to public and environmental health during the COVID-19 crisis, and waste workers were deemed 'key workers' by the Government and continued to carry out essential services during the epidemic. The full range of waste collection services at the kerbside continued throughout the pandemic, despite some of the logistical and resource challenges brought about by COVID-19 at times; this was testimony to the commitment and determination of all the teams involved in

ensuring these important services continued. This was clearly appreciated by our residents.

We have seen an increased challenge with retaining and recruiting staff in several service areas across the department especially where certain expertise is required and this reflects the position Nationally. There are clearly opportunities arising from lessons learnt during the pandemic for us to look at re-shaping our service delivery models and ensure we continue to drive forward digital transformation to meet the increasing demands of the public.

GOVERNANCE



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and new rules relaxing the requirements around the way meetings are held, Carmarthenshire's Democratic Process has changed significantly since June 2020 with all meetings currently being held virtually. This is the same for officers who are office based. As we move into 2022/23, and as COVID-19 rules allow, we anticipate moving to hybrid meetings, whereby some members will attend meetings physically and others remotely, with the public also being able to attend physically or remotely. We already have the systems in place ready for that move.

Information Technology

The Council's decision, before the pandemic, to spend £1.9m of investment in agile working initiatives, including providing staff with the right equipment to allow them to work in a more agile and flexible way, together with improvements to the resilience of the IT network, has helped support an almost seamless move to homeworking. Having the right equipment in place meant that staff could be operational from home immediately with no disruption to customers.

The use of technology, and especially the use of Microsoft Teams, has been a vital component of the Council's response to the pandemic, and is helping to support the adoption of a far more dynamic and productive way of working. It has facilitated improved communication and team working at a local, regional, and national level. It has increased productivity, reduced the amount of travel and therefore carbon emissions and increased flexibility access to information and learning.

Agile and Hybrid working, is more productive and will reduce our accommodation costs and the amount of time we spend travelling and commuting and this will go a long way in supporting our aim in becoming carbon neutral. To support our high streets and help increase footfall we are reviewing how we use our town centre buildings and plan to create spaces that our staff can use to do their work and meet with colleagues. All public sector organisations are facing similar challenges. We want to work with our public sector partners to share the facilities we all have. This approach will allow us to increase the accommodation options available to our staff whilst reducing the buildings we run ourselves. This will provide us with an opportunity to achieve better value for money from our existing or new town centre facilities. Welsh Government is encouraging an increase in multi-located working and has set a long-term ambition for 30% of the Welsh workforce to work at or closer to home. This ambition is intended to help reduce congestion and cut carbon emission.

We currently have over 40 transactional services available to the public online developed over the past 5 years and over the previous Digital Transformation Strategy 2018-2021. Over the past two years in particular, we have had to rapidly and quickly implement and develop solutions in response to the pandemic, cost of living and Ukraine. We have an ongoing programme to introduce more on-line services.

Workforce

COVID-19 continued to present challenges for our workforce during 2021. However, our employees continued to step up to deliver the best possible services, with almost a thousand employees prepared to retrain and step in and help their colleagues, doing very different jobs in a positive and highly supportive manner. Feedback from Carmarthenshire's residents has been extremely positive.

2022 will see the lifting of all restrictions and our workforce will start to see a return to a "new" normal way of working having learnt much from the pandemic. Our Transformation programme will support our workforce and continue to look at ways to improve services by reducing waste, saving money whilst at the same time helping our staff to work in smarter ways.

Staff saw changes in their personal and working lives during the pandemic and we want to use that learning to make sure we build on what has worked well, and address any challenges they might have faced, to improve their working lives.



We also want to make sure that all staff have the skills and support needed to do their jobs. This is about all our staff, whether working out of an office or working in our communities, the aim is to make working lives better.

The health and well-being of our staff continues to be a key priority for us. To support the financial well-being of our workforce, particularly as the cost-of-living crisis hit, we launched a new Staff Rewards scheme during 2021 that gives all our staff access to hundreds of offers and discounts with national and local retailers. We will continue to develop initiatives that prioritise the health and well-being of our workforce. We will also need to develop a new workforce strategy that addresses the recruitment and retention of staff in key areas as well as support the development of skills required to work in a post covid world.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report is produced by the Council because we believe we should provide comprehensive and balanced information to the public about our services, so that they can see how we are performing and the challenges we are facing. It is also a statutory duty under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (*See Appendix 1*).

This annual report and self-assessment addresses two legal duties:

 Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015		Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 	
Requirement	How we meet our statutory obligations		Requirement
Demonstrate the extent to which well-being objectives are contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals	This will be outlined in the Annual Report for each Well-being Objective and outlined in Appendix 1b	Addressed in the enclosed progress report for each Well-being Objective. Starting with an assessment judgement and backed by success measure evidence and progress made, triangulating evidence to support the assessment. Identifying in case studies 'Is anyone better off'	The Act requires each council in Wales to keep under review, through self-assessment, the extent to which it is meeting the 3 ' <u>performance requirements</u> ', that is the extent to which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is exercising its functions effectively 2. It is using its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively 3. Its governance is effective for securing the above
Take all reasonable steps to meet their well-being objectives	We set out steps for each Well-being Objective (WBO) with targets and actions. Progress on these commitments is provided in each WBO		
Demonstrate well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle	We include a Case Study within each Well-being Objective		
		Our Annual Governance Statement will support this	Conclusions as to the extent to which the performance requirements were met during that financial year
		See summary judgements for each Well-being objective	
	Each Well-being Objective concludes with an Action Plan		Any actions to be taken, or that have already been taken, to increase the extent to which performance requirements will be met

Our Approach to self-assessment is via our Well-being Objectives

Using well-being objectives to frame the self-assessment enables the Council to integrate the reporting requirements of both the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act into a single report.

This approach provides the context within which we exercise our functions, use resources, and ensure governance is effective:

- It ensures the self-assessment is strategic, focusing on the organisation, rather than individual services and on the extent to which the Council is achieving its well-being objectives and intended outcomes.
- It allows us to reflect at a strategic level on how all our functions (including corporate activities) are contributing to the achievement of our well-being objectives, how we are operating and what action we need to take to improve further and continue to provide effective services now and for the long-term.
- Using well-being objectives as the overarching framework encourages a more holistic view of Council performance, recognising that many services 'join-up' and contribute to one or more wellbeing objective.
- We continue to manage individual service performance via Divisional and Departmental Business Plans.

Managing Performance in Carmarthenshire County Council

Our Performance Management Framework is based on a Plan/Do/Review cycle and we have strengthened it to enhance self-assessment and will develop it further to reflect the expectations of the Act and statutory guidance.

Our Performance Management Framework - 'Wedding Cake'



Improvements made during 2021/22

See *Appendix 1b* to see how our Well-being Objectives are contributing to the National Goals

We strengthened our quarterly monitoring of our Corporate Strategy with dedicated senior officer performance meetings and more integrated performance information on resources and performance

① See Well-being Objective 13 on *Better Governance and Use of Resources*.

We have also set up a *Data Insight* team to strengthen informed decision making.

To ensure our functions are effective we introduced new Engagement and Assurance Peer sessions to ensure effective support, challenge and assessment of business plans to help provide corporate oversight were introduced.

Recognise/Grow/Together

Individual officers identify how they contribute to the above and have a voice.

Governance

We have also revamped our approach to the Annual Governance Statement. In previous years we outlined what arrangements were in place but for 2021/22 we considered how well are these arrangements doing, how do we know and how can we improve?

Annual Governance Statement

GOVERNANCE ISSUES ACTION PLAN			
ISSUE REF	NEW GOVERNANCE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT		
	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TARGET DATE
AGS 2021/22 No.1	Develop recruitment strategy and workforce plan alongside implementation of new recruitment software to ensure recruitment service can be streamlined and maintained.	People Services Manager	March 2023
AGS 2021/22 No.2	Set up governance group to oversee development of Reward and Benefit hub	People Services Manager	May/June 2022
AGS 2021/22 No. 3	Review employment safeguarding framework and develop training programme for recruiting managers	People Services Manager	March 2023

Working with Partners

Swansea Bay City Deal

The Swansea Bay City Deal is an unprecedented investment of up to £1.3 billion across a portfolio of nine headline projects and programmes delivering a total of 35 individual projects throughout the counties of Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire.

Aligned to three themes of economic acceleration, energy and smart manufacturing, and life science and well-being, the financial year began with five of the nine business cases being approved by the Welsh Government and the UK Government - Yr Egin, Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District, Pembroke Dock Marine, Pentre Awel and Digital Infrastructure. Within nine months, the remaining four business cases were all approved – Homes as Power Stations, Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth, Skills & Talent and Campuses. This represented a significant milestone for the City Deal in December 2021, with the entire portfolio reaching delivery stage, the First of the Welsh City and Growth Deals to achieve this milestone.

Progress has also been made in other areas over the year. Work has commenced on five projects and a further three have completed contractual engagements. The three regional programmes are also gathering pace with pilot schemes and funding opportunities being announced.

With the portfolio in full delivery, this has put the City Deal in a very strong position to be able to deliver the estimated £1.3 billion of investment by 2033 and create over 9000 jobs. This will provide opportunities for many existing and new regional businesses, as well as residents across the region

PARTNERIAETH

PARTNERIAETH was established following the abolition of ERW, as a regional service to support schools. This was done in partnership with Swansea and Pembrokeshire Councils. A new Joint Committee was established, and a Legal Agreement was developed to manage the work of the new entity. Core staff have been restructured to create a team of officers to support and complement school improvement activities in the three counties. A Chief Officer and Senior Management Team have been appointed to lead on partnership working and to work to meet the specific needs of the partners and the Welsh Government. Work continues to strengthen governance, monitoring and holding PARTNERIAETH to account for its contribution to school improvement in the region.

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) has been established as a regional corporate body by Welsh Ministers. Membership consists of the Executive leaders of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea Councils, along with a member of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and a member of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. The CJC will lead on 'Place' based policy interventions covering the South West Wales spatial region in the areas of the Strategic Development Plan, Regional Transport Plan and Economic well-being.

Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB)

The Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's (PSB) Well-being Assessment for Carmarthenshire was completed during the year. Collaboration took place with regional colleagues in Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire and the Regional Partnership Board throughout the year, particularly in the engagement and data analysis stages. A regional survey was developed which was live from early August to early October. The survey was available online with printed forms also available and an easy read version. It was available in other languages such as Polish, Romanian, and Arabic. [The Carmarthenshire We Want](#)

Several engagement events took place during the consultation period. A Regional Data Group was established to take a collaborative approach to the collection and analysis of local, regional, and national data to share expertise and avoid duplication. Following the engagement and data analysis stages, the draft Well-being Assessment was developed, and approved at the PSB meeting in November. The draft Assessment went out to public consultation from early December to mid-January. All feedback was considered and the PSB approved a final amended version and supporting documentation including community profiles, a Consultation and Involvement report, Data Source document and Environment and Climate Change analysis on 8 March. The final Well-being Assessment and supporting documentation will be published in May/June 2022. The PSB will now work towards publishing its refreshed Well-being Plan by May 2023.

Consultation undertaken by the Council

The Council has a well-established method of consulting and engaging with citizens and service users. There are numerous network groups representing a range of interests from the youth forum to the ageing well network as well as fora that we engage to seek the views of those with specified protected characteristics as recognised by The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.

Welsh in Education Strategic plan (WESP): The WESP consultation received over 854 responses which is a considerable increase in comparison to the last time WESP was consulted on in 2017.

A484 Sandy Road Corridor Improvements: We have consulted on a series of improvement options for the A484 Sandy Road Corridor which had been identified and assessed in line with Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). In total, 334 local residents and key stakeholders participated in the consultation.

Carmarthenshire's Future Waste Collection Strategy: We consulted with residents of Carmarthenshire to gather views on proposals for the future of household recycling collections. In total, 4,034 residents participated in the engagement which will guide our recycling strategy in future.

Page 35

Housing and Regeneration Masterplan: The purpose of this consultation was to ensure that we understand the needs, views and priorities of the public and our key stakeholders and reflect these requirements in the new Housing and Regeneration Masterplan. In total, 2,522 residents completed the consultation.

Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy Questionnaire: We made a commitment in the Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan to develop an Equestrian Strategy for the County. To inform and shape the strategy we consulted with the public, groups, clubs, organisations, local businesses and elected members on current equestrian provision in the County. The consultation generated a lot of interest from both equestrians and non-equestrians which resulted in 502 participants taking part. The information collected has helped us build a picture of equestrian demand and need in the County and to seize opportunities for equestrian development according to that need.

Carmarthenshire Assessment of Well-being: Working with the Public Services Board, we conducted an Assessment of Local Well-being. We wanted to find out about the well-being of local people and communities, at present and for the future. In total, 609 residents participated in the consultation.

Gambling Policy Review 2021: This consultation provided an opportunity for residents and key stakeholders to contribute to the review of Carmarthenshire's Gambling policy. In total, 72 responses were received which will now be utilised to maintain an effective licensing system for Carmarthenshire.

Evidence suggests that there has been an increase in participation of online consultations. Specifically, when evaluating comparable consultations. For example, the Welsh in Education strategic plan consultation in 2017 received 21 completes whilst in 2021 the consultation received 854. Additionally, a recent Housing and regeneration masterplan received 2522 completed surveys in comparison to 189 in a similar survey run in 2018. The increase in participation is attributed to the closer relationship developed with the Media and Marketing team ensuring that consultations are promoted on social media and corporate website and are sent to all key stakeholders.

Equality and Diversity

Strategic Equality Plans (SEPs) are important documents that set out how public bodies will consider the needs of groups with protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. This is intended to ensure that all individuals receive just and equitable treatment in respect of service delivery and strategy/policy formulation.

During the year, we have continued to develop our Integrated Impact Assessment process, which ensures due regard and diligence when the Authority makes key decisions. This process includes our responsibilities in terms of the **Equality Act 2010** and the **Socio-economic Duty**, which came into force on 31 March 2021. The key aim of the Socio-Economic Duty is to encourage better decision making and ultimately deliver better outcomes for those who are socio-economically disadvantaged.

The duty should be used to ensure that reducing inequalities of outcome now and for future generations is a central factor in decision-making. Organisations should consider current inequalities and future trends when deciding how they can have the most impact. And organisations must be guided by the voices of socio-economically disadvantaged people in doing this.

Welsh Language (also, please see *Well-being Objective 12*)

We are continuing to implement the **Welsh Language Standards** across the Council with regular dialogue with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Officer. During the year we have undertaken targeted messaging with Council services on identifying and recording linguistic choice of service users, further to feedback from an investigation held by the Commissioner's Office. Messages about the Standards are conveyed to staff through presentations by the Policy and Involvement Team, through the communication streams maintained by Marketing and Media and through the Departmental Language Leaders.

The **Welsh Language County Strategic Forum**, which continues to be led by the Council and includes representation from the County's language promotion organisations, as well as public bodies with language officers, has also continued with its role of developing a programme of promoting the Welsh language in the County and instigated much joint planning for the implementation of the Carmarthenshire Promotion Action Plan, in line with the Promotion standards. The forum met four times and specific attention was given to apprenticeships and post-16 education, the Language in our communities, priority areas and the Local Development Plan.

DRAFT

How we measure the success of our Well-being Objectives

Success Measures

The Well-being Future Generations Act promotes a shift in focus from service productivity to all public bodies working together to progress outcomes that improves the quality of life of citizens and communities, both now and in the future. We have a suite of indicators we use to measure the success of our Well-being Objectives; a list of these measures can be seen in *Appendix 2*.

Other Assessment Information

Citizen Satisfaction

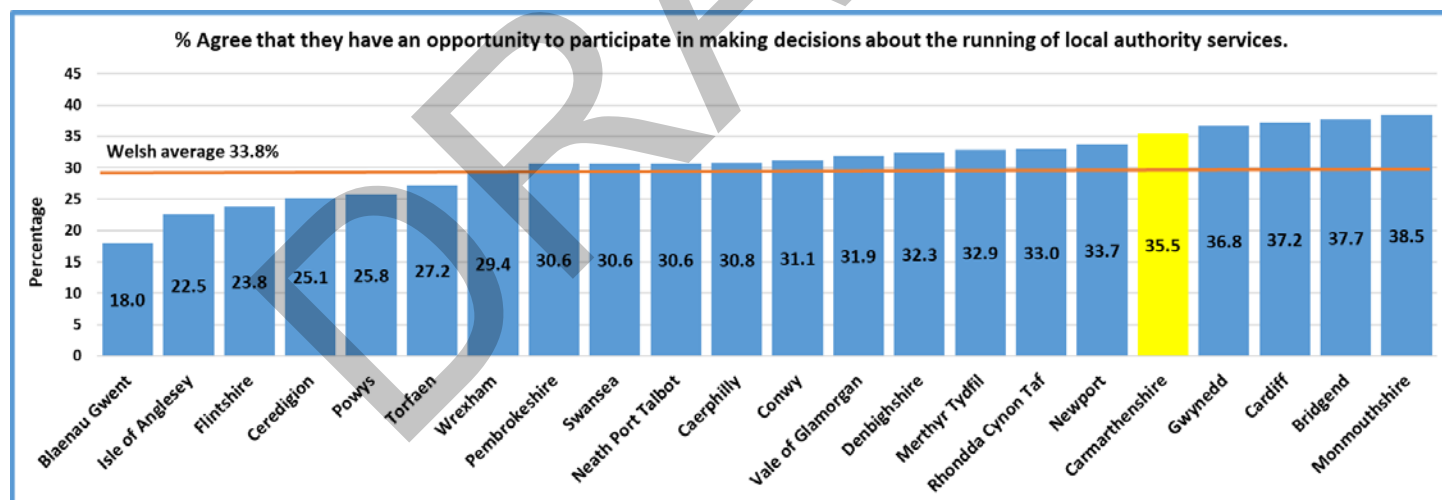


National Survey for Wales

The results of the National Survey for Wales provide a useful benchmark in terms of a sample of residents' views which can be compared across Wales. The 2021/22 headline results were published on 14th July 2022 with additional information being published by Welsh Government as and when available. This survey is based on around 12,000 telephone surveys carried out across Wales with over 500 interviewed in Carmarthenshire.

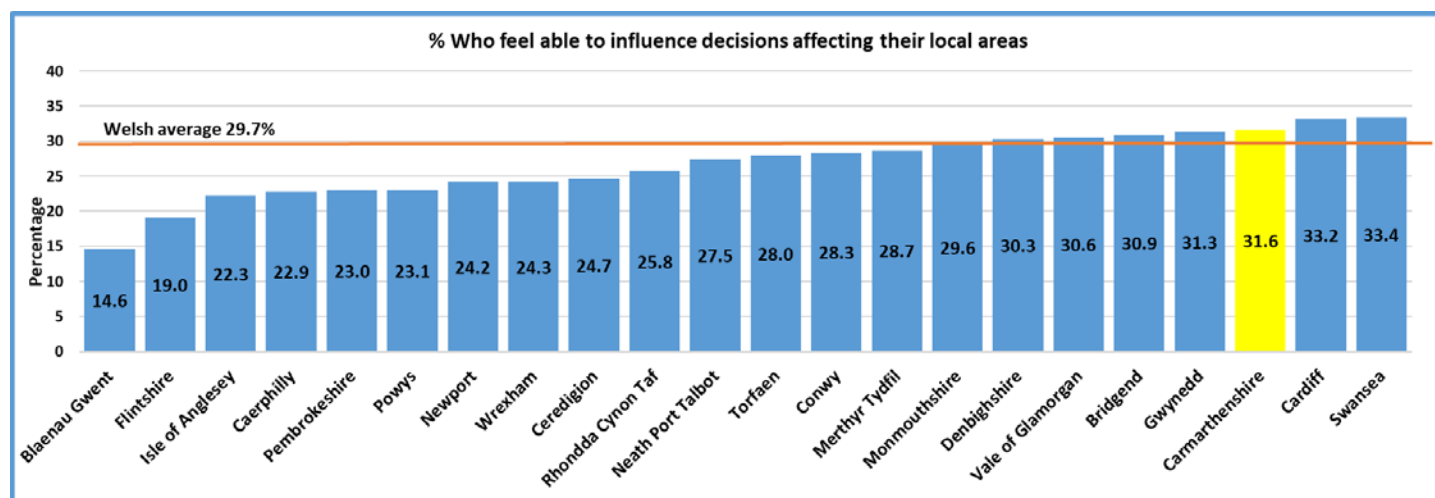
Since the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, the National Survey has taken place over the phone instead of face-to-face as previously. Some results from previous years are included to provide context, therefore care should be taken when making direct comparisons.

Local Authority Services



Source: National Survey for Wales 2021/22 – Sample size 12,050

When participants were asked about their opportunities to participate in making decisions about the running of their local services, more people gave a positive response than before the pandemic. **35.5% agreed in 2021/22, compared with just 9% in 2019/20**, this also increased across Wales with the Welsh average going from 17% to 33.8%



Source: National Survey for Wales 2021/22 – Sample size 12,100

When participants were asked *whether they felt able to influence decisions affecting their local areas*, more people gave a positive response than before the pandemic, with **31.6% agreeing in 2021/22, compared with just 18.8% in 2019/20**, this also increased across Wales with the Welsh average going from 18.8% to 29.7%

We have extracted the results currently available at Local Authority level and ranked the results for all 22 authorities from worst position (22nd) to best (1st) - See **Appendix 3**. Please note that not all of these results are attributable to the Councils performance



[Link to Welsh Government's National Survey for Wales](#)

Regulatory Verdict

During the year our Regulators issued a number of reports and these are listed in **Appendix 4**



<https://www.audit.wales/>



<https://www.estyn.gov.wales>



<https://careinspectorate.wales/>

This Annual Report looks at a wide range of evidence to make a self- assessment of how we are performing, and this is also an expectation of *The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021*.

Life is for living, let's start, live and age well
in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment



Well-being Objectives

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.

2. Help children live healthy lifestyles.

3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners.

4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work & improving the lives of those living in poverty.

5. Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county.

6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity).

8. Support community cohesion, resilience, and safety.

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

10. Looking after the environment now and for the future.

11. Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

12. Promoting Welsh language and culture.

13. Better Governance and use of Resources

Cabinet Members and the Well-being Objectives

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



Cllr. Darren Price
LEADER

WBO5 - Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county

WBO13 - Better Governance and use of Resources

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES



Cllr. Linda Evans
DEPUTY LEADER

WBO4 - Tackling poverty

WBO6 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

WBO8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & WELSH LANGUAGE



Cllr. Glynog Davies

WBO1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

WBO2 – Help children live healthy lifestyles (Childhood Obesity)

WBO3 – Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners

WBO12 - Promoting Welsh Language and Culture

CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Cllr. Jane Tremlett

WBO1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

WBO7 - Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and adult obesity)

WBO9 - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM



Cllr. Gareth John

WBO2 – Help children live healthy lifestyles (Childhood Obesity)

WBO5 - Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county

WBO7 - Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and adult obesity)

WBO12 - Promoting Welsh Language and Culture

CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES



Cllr. Alun Lenny

WBO13 - Better Governance and use of Resources

CABINET MEMBER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS & PLANNING POLICY



Cllr. Ann Davies

WBO5 - Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county

WBO8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety

WBO10 - Look after the environment now and for the future

CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, DECARBONISATION & SUSTAINABILITY



Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen

WBO7 - Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and adult obesity)

WBO8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety

WBO10 - Look after the environment now and for the future

CABINET MEMBER FOR ORGANISATION & WORKFORCE



Cllr. Philip Hughes

WBO5 - Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county

WBO8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety

WBO13 - Better Governance and use of Resources

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, WASTE & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES



Cllr. Edward Thomas

WBO10 - Look after the environment now and for the future

WBO11 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Start Well





Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

At 167, the number of children looked after remains one of the lowest in Wales

The impact of COVID-19 has placed significant pressures on families and as a result the demand for our services has risen. This coupled with the effects of staff absence and recruitment difficulties has created increased challenges. However, despite this the pandemic has also created opportunities and more innovative ways of working in order to increase engagement with those who were previously harder to reach. The number of children looked after remains one of the lowest in Wales, and outcomes achieved by looked after children and care leavers overall has remained positive.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- Because giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course
- Early intervention is key to long term health and well-being. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status
- Because Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to multiple risks associated with poor long-term outcomes before entering care.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

The % of children in care who had to move 3 or more times has reduced to **6.6%**



Of the 167 children looked after up to 31 March 2022, 11 children experienced 3 or more placement moves. This is a slightly higher result than last year of 4.7% with 7 of the 148 looked after children experiencing 3 or more placements. The children who experienced moves had Adverse Childhood Experiences, are less settled and have challenging and complex needs. We continued to focus on maintaining placement stability with good placement support being offered across the service to achieve this. (See Chart 1)

Chart 1
% of Looked After Children on 31 March who have had 3 or more placements during the year

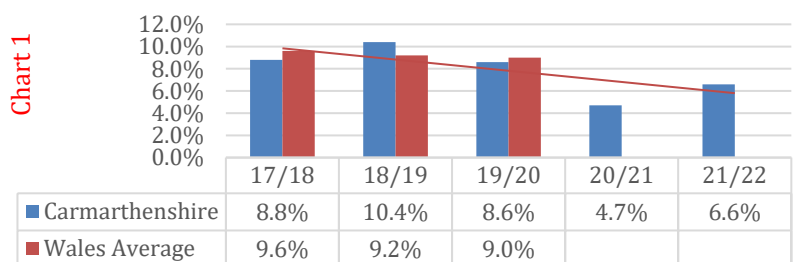
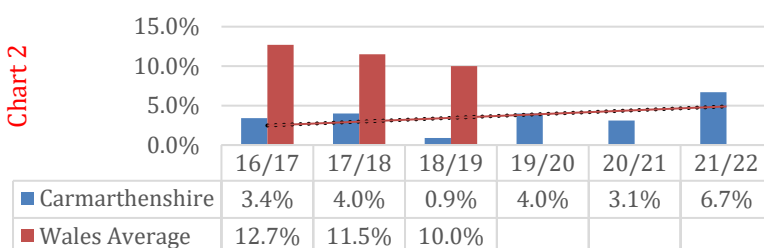


Chart 2
% of Looked After Children on 31 March who have experienced 1 or more changes of school during the year




We have continued to work hard across teams to maintain placement stability, which remains excellent despite the added effects of COVID-19. We have successfully managed to maintain the majority of looked after children within county and in the same school which is important in helping improve outcomes. Seven children (out of 105) experienced a change of school during 2021/22. The increase in number compared to last year (which was 3 out of 96) can be partly attributed to sibling groups requiring a change of school. Stability is maintained wherever possible however this is not always in the best interest of a child e.g. distance to travel or child's academic needs not being met (See Chart 2).

Our long-term aim is preventing the need for children needing to become looked after. There are robust systems in place to help achieve this including Accommodation Panel and provision of preventative services, focusing on good quality family network meetings. Early intervention working in partnership with families through care and support plans is key to achieving this.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Supporting Families

INTERNAL AUDIT	SAFEGUARDING - CHILDREN	ASSURANCE RATING						
	<p>During the year Internal Audit looked at Safeguarding referrals, to ensure that relevant policies and procedures have been established and relevant legislation is complied with.</p> <p>COMMENT</p> <p>An action plan to address identified issues was agreed and these are monitored on PIMS. a follow up review will take place in the next audit plan year.</p>	<table><tr><td>HIGH</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>ACCEPTABLE</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Low</td><td></td></tr></table>	HIGH		ACCEPTABLE	✓	Low	
HIGH								
ACCEPTABLE	✓							
Low								

- Children's services have seen significant increase in demand for services and support with the **number of contacts** to the department continuing to rise. However, it continues to perform well despite these added pressures.

Demand	2020-21	2021-22	Comment
Contacts	7644	9625	Increasing
Referrals	1854	1754	Decreasing
Total	9,498	11,379	Overall increase

- 90.2% of new assessments were completed within statutory timescales.
 - There continues to be **good evidence in assessments of the views of children and what life is like for them.**
 - As part of the assessment process social workers are speaking to both parents whether they are involved or not on a daily basis.
 - Increasingly assessments refer to the contribution that a family network meeting has made to the assessment in terms of identifying sources of support and has helped in devising a safety plan.
- The relationship-based approach to delivery of social work services to children and families incorporating systemic thinking and the principles of Signs of Safety is embedded in all childcare teams including the 0-25 disability team. Contributions from Adult Services has incorporated different perspectives about a family into pod discussions and consequent actions and plans.
- We continue to ensure regional thresholds are working effectively in respect of multi-agency child protection arrangements and in line with agreed policies and procedures that are designed to keep children safe and at the heart of practice and decision-making.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic all vulnerable children have continued to receive support via the childcare teams and Corporate Parenting team to ensure they are safeguarded and able to reach their potential. Outcomes for looked after children and care leavers is also regularly monitored.
- The Flying Start App has continued to be integral in reaching families, providing key messages and links to support services, supporting engagement with families, especially those harder to reach. We have met with Welsh Government to evaluate the success of the App, especially during COVID-19, with the aim of it being rolled out to other local authorities as a tool to communicate and engage with families.
- ! The number of children on the **child protection** register increased last year – 102 (as at 31/3/22) compared to 78.
- ! The number of **children looked after** has also seen an increase this year, 167 (as at 31/3/22) compared with 148 at the same time last year. However, Carmarthenshire remains proportionately, amongst the lowest LAC population in Wales.

- Choice of available **foster carers** is something we continue to make steady progress on. We have recruited 12 new foster carers during 2021/22 which is an improvement as previously the pandemic had impacted on recruitment.
- We have continued to develop our services for **disabled children aged 0-25** since implementing the new structure during 2020/21 bringing together our statutory and non-statutory teams for children and young people.

External Regulatory Findings

REGULATORY REPORT



In November 2021, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) published its [Assurance Check 2021 letter on Carmarthenshire County Council](#)

In summary:

Children's Social Care Assurances

- Approachable and supportive leaders
- Culture of co-production and personal outcomes being developed with people
- Clarity in operational methodology
- Strong multi-agency cooperation
- Positive integrated approach to a culture of prevention through joint working
- Low children looked after population
- Makes a positive contribution to the well-being of people in the pandemic period

Additional Learning Needs

- The Council continues to support Welsh Government's (WG) Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation programme by supporting schools and a diverse range of stakeholders to implement all transformation plans with an ongoing schedule of work that is reviewed and updated regularly to capture updates from WG.

THE NEW ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS SYSTEM

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales is changing.

From September 2021, Welsh Government has brought in a more flexible and responsive system of meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to deliver a fully inclusive education system for the learners of Wales.

Key changes include:

- The term Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will replace the terms Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD).
- The current graduated system of Early Years/School Action, Early Years/School Action Plus and Statements is being replaced. All children and young people with an identified additional learning need (ALN) that requires additional learning provision (ALP) will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which will replace all other individual plans.
- There will be increased opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to contribute to the creation and maintenance of IDPs through Person-centred Planning.

CASE STUDY

Process of admission to school:

Learner A is currently a foundation phase aged pupil attending a Carmarthenshire mainstream primary school. Prior to commencement at school, there was the need for a carefully planned transition package due to significant and severe physical and mobility needs.

Learner A was previously attending the local Ysgol Feithrin. It was apparent that Learner A was settled, progressing and thoroughly enjoying their time there. Learner A became known to the Inclusion Department via the Entry to Education system where the need for a carefully planned transition was identified. A person-centred planning meeting was arranged, where services known to the family worked in partnership with the family to plan for transition including representation from the Ysgol Feithrin, primary school, specialised health colleagues and the local authority's inclusion team. Key information was shared with all participants and the case was discussed using a clearly defined decision-making process, with Learner A being central to all discussions and decisions. It became apparent that Learner A was a sociable, confident and determined young child who would thrive within a mainstream primary setting, albeit with the correct level of support to ensure her safety and successful transition due to her complex additional needs. Following the person-centred planning meeting, the views of all attendees were captured in an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which contained the specific and achievable outcomes for Learner A along with the proposed level of provision. Carmarthenshire's Inclusion Panel then considered the IDP and agreed to issue and secure the proposed provision. Building adaptations soon followed in readiness for transition.

Progress in school? What have they achieved?

Learner A transitioned well into school. Progress is evident as Learner A feels included, all barriers have been removed and they can access all learning. Independence is encouraged whenever possible and specific support utilised, as necessary. Despite complex physical and mobility needs, Learner A has transitioned into a busy mainstream environment with her peers where she is happy, settled and progressing. Not feeling any different to all those around her thanks to a carefully planned transition and implementation of suitable inclusive provision - developed and agreed in partnership with all who know the learner best.

How did all participants, family and professionals, feel about the process?

All were extremely positive about the process. A new process to all with many commenting on the benefit of less bureaucracy. All being empowered to have an equal voice in the purposeful discussions and action planning around the learner. They felt that time was well spent and there were less barriers and 'loopholes' to overcome. Purposeful, efficient and effective.

⦿ Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Provision

The Department for Education and Children currently (21/22 academic year) has the following places across the county to facilitate specialist provision for pupils with Autism:

- Primary – 64
- Secondary - 84

! Since September 2021, there has been a significant increase in the demand for ASD provision and in the 2021/22 academic year there was a shortfall of 30 places which is an over capacity of 20%.

In recent months a significant increase in the demand for specialist ASD places for the 2022/23 academic year has been experienced by the department and the projected position for September 2022 is as follows:

- Primary – Required number of places / available - 20
- Secondary – Required number of places / available -10

There will also be a projected continued shortfall for the academic year of 23/24 of a minimum of 26 places as it currently stands which does not take into account incoming pupils and mainstream school pupils with identified needs over the 22-23 academic year.

The significant increase in demand experienced as a result of:

- Inward migration – families relocating to Carmarthenshire
- A significant increase in the number of pupils being diagnosed with the additional needs/ASD medical diagnosis which is recognised as a national trend. Health Board has increased the capacity of the neurodevelopmental team to process the backlog of ASD referrals resulting in an increase of ASD diagnosis. Across the last 3 years this has seen over a 100 children in Carmarthenshire with ASD diagnosis in our schools.
- School capacity - growth in local school population/building suitability
- Covid related disruption of well-established early identification processes
- Early identification processes re-established

The Local Authority has a legal obligation to make provision for these pupils by September 2022 and could face costly legal challenge that has the potential to cost up to £30,000 in legal fees per case. If need is not met locally this could result in the legal obligation to secure expensive out of county independent placements costing upwards of £150,000 for a given year.

Parents have already advised the Department that if specialist provision is not provided they will be taking legal action via SEN appeals processes.

- ⦿ Going forward we have been chosen as a “*pathfinder*” by Welsh Government for developing closer integration across childcare, health and early years education.

Childcare Provision

- ⦿ The 5th [Carmarthenshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27](#) has recently been drafted and has been forwarded to Welsh Government. It gives an overview of the childcare market and the impact of COVID-19. We consulted extensively and response rates were exceptional. Some key conclusions are:-
 - Since our last full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2017-2022) the number of childcare places and providers has increased and remained fairly stable despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - A number of childminders have de-registered since our last Assessment and we will need to recruit, train and support prospective childminders to fill these gaps.
 - Affordability of childcare for those families that cannot access funded childcare continues to be a significant issue.
 - Childcare is acting as a barrier to certain parents’ employability and is not sufficient for some of these parents’ needs
 - The extension of the Childcare Offer for 3 and 4 year-olds (the 30 hour free childcare offer) suggests an increased demand is expected for part time registered childcare.
- ⦿ Almost a third of children are living in poverty. See Well-being Objective 4

Is anyone better off?



JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021



OCTOBER '21 TO MARCH '22

The Welsh Government provided Carmarthenshire with £270,00 towards the Summer of Fun and £434,689 towards the Winter of Well-being to support children and families as part of their recovery from the pandemic and its restrictions and ensure that no family or child was left behind because of the pandemic. Approximately 15,000 children and young people have benefitted from these activities across the county from 0-25 years old. A significant package of support was provided to fund initiatives designed to help children, young people, families, and the services they use to recover and move forwards. Several organisations and services within Carmarthenshire received funding. These included Family Centres, Children's Centres, the Youth Service, Menter, Urdd, Actif, Pembrey Country Park and theatres where children and young people were able to access free activities that were designed to have a positive impact on their well-being. Some of the activities included holiday clubs, swimming sessions, mountain biking, horse riding lessons, soft play sessions, cookery classes, baby massage groups and outdoor play activities in rural areas. Workshops included music, writing and podcast development, along with trips to Folly Farm, soft play, trampoline park, botanical garden, and visits to see Father Christmas and Christmas shows.

Well-being and activity boxes were created and a range of state of the art sensory and IT equipment were purchased that continue to have a positive impact on children and young people.

Some of the parents and children who benefitted from the programme said:

"Just seeing my child enjoy himself, and I enjoyed being with other parents"

"It was amazing -Thank you. Just to see other parents and socialise was so good for my mental health"

"It's so cool to just play what I want"

"Can we come here every day?"



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Supporting Families		
1	We will continue to transform children's social work practice through a Relationship based approach that incorporates systemic thinking and the principles of Signs of Safety. <i>(PIMS ref. 15351)</i>	March 2023	John Fleming
2	We will continue effective management oversight & challenge of Assessments & Care & Support plans to ensure they are outcome focused, evidencing the voice of the child, & reflect the underpinning principles of the Social Services & Well-being Act (SSWBA). <i>(15352)</i>	March 2023	John Fleming
3	We will review and monitor the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy ensuring the council fulfils its Corporate Parenting role and that our looked after children and care leavers have the opportunity to reach their full potential. <i>(15368)</i>	March 2023	Rebecca Robertshaw
4	We will continue to develop and deliver the early intervention support services (0-25) for disadvantaged children, young people, and families across the county in line with the Family Support Strategy, utilising opportunities for integrating services across the Children and Communities Grant and flexible funding opportunities with the Housing Support Grant. <i>(15356)</i>	March 2023	Noeline Thomas
5	We will maintain the focus on increasing the range of placements to ensure placement stability and stability in education in respect of looked after children, including accommodation through the implementation of an in-house supported lodgings service. <i>(15375)</i>	March 2023	Jayne Meredith
6	We will continue to aim to reduce the number of children becoming Looked After and number of care proceedings in accordance with our LAC reduction target as agreed with Welsh Government, utilising appropriately Edge of Care (EOC), Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) and Family Intervention Team (FIT). <i>(15364)</i>	March 2023	Jayne Meredith
B	Additional Learning Needs		
1	We will continue to ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs transformation programme. <i>(15453)</i>	March 2023	Rebecca Williams
2	We will continue to support schools to develop their person centred planning approaches to identify need, deliver personalised additional learning provision and provide holistic integrated responses through multi-agency working. <i>(16126)</i>	March 2023	Rebecca Williams
C	Childcare Provision		
1	We will work towards addressing the gaps identified in our fifth Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2022-27) and accompanying Action Plan and continue to promote and further develop Welsh medium childcare within the County. We will support the childcare sector to recover from the Pandemic and remain sustainable. <i>(15357)</i>	March 2023	Noeline Thomas
2	We will share the findings of the new Play Sufficiency Assessment (2022-27) with key stakeholders and partners and agree and implement the 2022/2023 Action Plan to address the gaps identified to ensure that local children and young people have access to wide and varied play opportunities and experiences. <i>(15359)</i>	March 2023	Noeline Thomas



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 2

Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

Levels of childhood obesity in Carmarthenshire are amongst the worst in Wales

The 2018/19 Child Measurement Programme data published in March 2021 shows that over 30% of children aged 4 to 5 in Carmarthenshire are overweight or obese, the 5th highest figure in Wales.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has interrupted data collection across Wales for the Public Health Wales - Child Measurement Programme. Data collection is now back on track and data will be reported for the 2021/22 academic year in April or May 2023.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- Obesity causes ill health including diseases of the heart and circulation as well as some cancers and causes early death. There is an increased rate of Type 2 diabetes among obese children. Evidence shows that 80% of children who are obese at age 4-5 years remain obese into adulthood.
- One of the primary methods of tackling increasing levels of obesity in children is through encouraging them to engage in physical activity.
- We need to seek to build healthy relationships, families and communities. During school years, children experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) may display a heightened emotional state of anxiety and consequently be distracted from educational pursuits.
- The parent and carer survey, undertaken in 2021, that supports the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessment, found that 61% of families value play more as a result of the pandemic with discussions in focus groups highlighting the important role of play in children's physical health, mental health, and well-being. However, 64% say COVID-19 has resulted in their family playing less.
- Living healthy lives allows children to fulfil their potential and meet education aspirations.
- Habits established early in life remain with people to allow them to play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.

How well are we doing and (how do we know)? Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

30.4% of children are overweight or obese (2018/19)

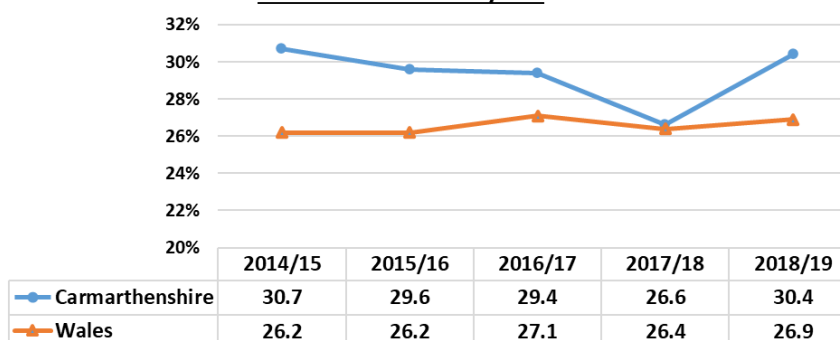
(This is an increase on the previous year of 26.6% 2017/18)



The programme of child measurements is carried out by [Public Health Wales](#) with children attending reception class in schools in Wales.

Carmarthenshire is the 5th worst county in Wales for levels of childhood obesity. The latest figures available showed a concerning spike in obesity in children, following a downward trend which had been seen since 2014/15. In 2018/19, almost a third of children aged 4 to 5 were overweight or obese. Our figure of 30.4% for this period showed a 4% rise on the previous year and was 3.5% higher than the Welsh average.

4 or 5 year olds overweight/obese trend over the last 5 years



Source: Public Health Wales

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Physical Activity

- ⦿ Leisure Services successfully secured an *All Wales Play Opportunity Grant* to re-develop and enhance a fully accessible playground offer at Pembrey Country Park.
- ⦿ We are developing a *School Sport* festival to coincide with the County hosting the start of Stage 5 of the Women's Tour of Britain Cycle race on Friday, 10 June 2022 from Pembrey Country Park to the top of the Black Mountains in Llangadog. The festival will aim to bring key partners and schools together to kick-start sport and physical activity participation.
- ⦿ In the Summer of 2021, our Actif Communities Team received £50,000 through Welsh Government's *Summer of Fun grant* to deliver a sustainable programme of free activities in the 10 most deprived areas of the county. The project was made up of 2 stages
 1. the delivery of sports activities in the communities every day throughout the summer holidays
 2. recruiting volunteers from the communities to continue these activities for future school holidays.The package of support included upskilling and mentoring, multiskill and cycling equipment and marketing support. The targeted approach saw over 2,000 children and young people take part in the activities with a legacy for the future
- ⦿ In January 2022, we received £46,000 through *Welsh Government's Winter of Well-being grant* to deliver on a range of projects sustainable including Cycling, Paddleboarding, Canoeing and Outdoor Pursuits, SENSEsport, Actif Restart and Physical Literacy.
- ⦿ The Young Ambassador Scheme continues to be a success in 96% of schools across the county developing children and young people's leadership skills, confidence and providing over 50,000 participations in sport and physical activity sessions.
- ⦿ We implemented a physical activity intervention project targeting foundation phased aged pupils within 10 primary schools who are on the highest percentage of Free School Meals. The aim of the project is to develop competency within a child's physical skill level ensuring they have the confidence and motivation from a young age, for a lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.
- ⦿ Ready Set Ride project - 9 Additional Learning Needs Units within Primary Schools have received equipment, training and ongoing support from our Actif Communities Team to provide accessible inclusive opportunities for all pupils to develop confidence when on a bike and to progress from a balance bike to a pedal bike.
- ⦿ Since September 2021 the Actif Communities Team have implemented a physical activity intervention project targeting foundation phase aged pupils within 10 primary schools who are on the highest percentage of Free School Meals. The aim of the project is to develop competency within a child's physical skill level ensuring they have the confidence and motivation from a young age, for a lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.



Mental Health

- ⦿ We have been supporting Hywel Dda University Health Board's Whole School Approach to Mental Health (WSA to MH) supporting 8 schools to complete Phase 1 of the Pilot Project.
- ⦿ A Task & Finish Group has been established in order to produce an Anti-Bullying Toolkit for local schools. The toolkit will promote and support the Mental & Emotional Health of school pupils.
- ⦿ Throughout the year the Scheme has raised awareness to a number of National Mental Health Campaigns and provided schools with a set of Educational and Generic resources to support these campaigns.
- ⦿ During the year we have arranged a series of courses for school staff to address Mental Health issues amongst our learners including; Improving the Mental Health & Well-being of LGBTQ+ Children & Young People; Positive Body Image & Self Esteem; Strategies to Support an Anxious Young Person and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Healthy Eating

- ⦿ The Healthy Schools Scheme (HSS) is used as a platform to remind schools of the current *Healthy Eating Regulations* e.g. informing schools of obvious breaches to the Statutory Regulations such as rewarding pupils with unhealthy treats and provide schools with further statutory guidance.
- ⦿ School Catering have responded well to new ways of working because of COVID-19 and have continued to provide a hot meal service in all schools. The service continues to put food safety and allergens compliance as a high priority.
- ⦿ The School Catering and Breakfast Club Service experienced significant staffing issues at times throughout the year. School kitchens were temporarily closed if not enough staff could be deployed to ensure safe operations.

Raising Awareness

- ⦿ We raised awareness of a range of campaigns during the year including National Fitness Day; Outdoor Awareness Month; Outdoor Classroom Day; Bike to School Week; Walk to School Week and Active Million Minutes Campaign; World Mental Health Day; Children's Mental Health Week; Stress Awareness Month; Anti Bullying Week; The Big Lunch; Eat Like a Champ; BNF's Healthy Eating Week; National Obesity Awareness Week and Eating disorders week.
- ⦿ In relation to the School Health Research Network Pupil Health & Well-being Survey, 11 out of the 12 Secondary Schools in Carmarthenshire registered with the Network and completed the Surveys. All 11 of these Secondary Schools also completed the School Environment Questionnaire.

Flying Start

- ⦿ **Flying start** have continued collaborative work providing a holistic approach to support families sharing ideas and resources. The *Flying Start App* has been pivotal in delivering services, sharing key messages, and providing information to families. With covid restrictions still in place **Flying Start** went out into the local community to see families over the summer. Working in partnership with Communities for Work Plus, legacy, Fusion, Activ and Carmarthenshire Libraries outdoor play sessions took place in local parks. Being able to see families face to face was really beneficial in the promotion of all services on offer, and since restrictions have now eased FS are now able to provide more face-to-face one to one support within the home or at venues (covid compliant).

Early Years Transformation Programme

- ⦿ Working with regional partners a Maternity and Early Years Strategy is being developed. It sets out how we intend to provide better integrated, more effective, and more efficient Maternity and Early Years services for thousands of families in West Wales.
- ⦿ The Cwm Gwendraeth Integrated team is now firmly established and is identifying families in need as early as possible via the Midwifery and Health Visiting service. Families are referred to the Family Support Workers for 1:1 support and are sign-posted to the various groups that are available.

LEARNING IN THE OUTDOORS

The use of outdoor spaces to enrich curriculum delivery and support the well-being of all learners continues to be a priority across all schools in Carmarthenshire. Accessing the outdoors to gain a deeper connection and understanding of their local environment provides all learners with the opportunity to become active members within their community.



Several community garden initiatives and food schemes are underway. Two Carmarthenshire Schools, Llandeilo Primary School and Ysgol Bro Banw are currently running the Welsh Government funded 'Big Bocs Bwyd' scheme. This food share model operates a 'pay as you feel' system which is available to families within the local area. An additional two schools, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant and Ysgol Trimsaran have also recently secured funding for this programme.



As a part of this programme each school provides nutritional guidance and recipe cards for families. The learners experience practical cooking sessions where they explore new recipes which they share with their families. This is an excellent method of promoting healthy eating and increasing understanding of the nutritional value of foods.

<https://gov.wales/welsh-government-funding-roll-out-award-winning-food-project-valleys-schools>

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Physical activity		
1	Help children live healthy lifestyles focussing on our work with schools and young people in the community	March 2023	Ian Jones
2	To develop a new model for a County-wide residential and non-residential outdoor education offer (15073)	June 2022	Ian Jones
3	We will continue to increase the level of physical activity in schools by developing schemes such as the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Project, our annual Pedometer Challenge and continue to embed the Food & Fitness Health topic within Schools. (15102)	March 2023	Louise Morgan
B	Mental Health		
1	We will continue to support schools in their implementation of the Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being Health topic including Anti-bullying strategies and healthy coping mechanisms such as mindfulness and Speaker. (15443)	March 2023	Louise Morgan
2	Continue to develop and use a range of Strategies, such as the Equity Strategy, to ensure the emotional wellbeing and mental health of all learners. (15427)	March 2023	Aeron Rees
C	Healthy Eating		
1	We shall continue to ensure that schools are abiding by the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards & Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013. (15419)	March 2023	Louise Morgan
2	Support with reviews relating to FSM Provision and Tackling Poverty (to include School Holiday Enrichment Programme). (15382)	March 2023	Helen Bailey
D	Raise Awareness		
1	We will continue to promote and raise awareness to campaigns specific to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health and promote the School Health Research Network. (15443)	March 2023	Louise Morgan



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners

Despite the extreme challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic we have worked effectively as one Education and Children's Services team to ensure that our children and young people were successfully supported to access their education and all the services they required to ensure achievement and outcomes remained positive.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⊙ We want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- ⊙ We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21st Century living and the world of work.
- ⊙ Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015).
- ⊙ Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document [Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#).
- ⊙ Reducing the number of NEET young people reduces the effects of poverty and the wider cost to society of support services, reliance on benefits and offending.
- ⊙ It is essential to maximise the life opportunities of children, ensuring that as many young people as possible are able to progress to school 6th forms, Further Education Colleges, apprenticeships, training provision or work.
- ⊙ It enables young people to contribute positively to their local communities.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⊕ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

367.2 is the average score (best 9 exam results) for Year 11 pupils 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year)



6th highest in Wales
Source: StatsWales



93.9% Attendance at Primary Schools

93.5% Attendance at Secondary Schools
Source: StatsWales

95%

are satisfied with their child's primary school

(Up on the previous year of 84%)

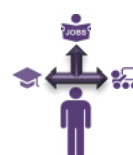
89% in Wales

Source: National Survey for Wales



1.1% year 11 pupils & **2.7%** year 13 pupils are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

(Previous year - Yr 11: **1.8%** & Yr 13: **3.5%**)



- ⊙ No results for the **Education Attainment or Attendance rates** have been published since 2019/20 (2018/19 Academic Year) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as students were unable to sit final exams. Instead, their grades reflect predicted results based on coursework and mock examination results. Results by County were not published and would not be comparable to previous years if known. Summer exams 2022 are due to go ahead as scheduled.
- ⊙ **95%** are **satisfied with their child's Primary School** according to the most recently available National Survey for Wales data (2019/20).
- ⊙ The % of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) have improved in the last year. With Year 11 pupils reducing from 1.8% (32/1,181) to 1.1% (21/1,885) and Year 13 reducing from 3.5% (23/652) to 2.7% (18/678). Work continues to address leavers not in education, employment or training with a particular focus on projects previously funded by the EU. The

Youth Support Service have staff identified to support young people in all secondary schools and in Post 16 community outreach settings. Work continues to identify replacement funding for ESF projects and we are liaising closely with Welsh Government on this matter.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Improvement in pupil and young people progress, wellbeing and outcomes

- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-21 academic year's assessment and qualification process has been different to previous years with summer examinations cancelled. Instead, a new system was designed and delivered by schools and colleges based on a range of assessment evidence on which to determine a learner's grade. Final results show that over a quarter (28.7%) of GCSE students earned A*-A grades nationally. Almost three quarters (73.6%) received A*-C grades, and overall 98.5% of students passed their GCSEs with grades of A*-G. Welsh Government did not publish local authority level results, as these could not be compared to previous years, and instructed local authorities not to aggregate schools data to county level. Summer 2021-22 exams are due to go ahead as scheduled.
- At A Level, a total of 99.1% of A level students in Wales achieved A* - E grades and 21.3% of learners receiving an A* grade. At AS level, 37.1% of all grades awarded were A in Wales this year, with 96.7% of candidates achieving A - E grades.

Address low School Attendance

- Due to the pandemic, annual school attendance data for academic year 2020-21 was not collected or published.

An excellent school in the right place

- Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Swansea Councils have formed a formal partnership, 'Partneriaeth', to deliver services to schools in the new region. There is a new Legal Agreement which outlines the role of the new Consortium, how the budget and business plan are to be developed and governance arrangements. The new Staffing Structure as agreed by the Joint Committee has been completed and a Lead Officer appointed. Initially the consortium will focus on delivery of high-quality professional development to support curriculum reform and leadership. The work of the consortium is informed and monitored by regular meetings between key Local Authority and Partneriaeth (LA&P) officers. There are clearly defined roles and responsibilities between LA&P and who is best placed to lead on an initiative is identified. There is a new website and regular communication with schools. Early indications are that the new provision is far more focused and responsive to local needs.
- We are currently undertaking a review of our Modernising Education Programme. However the current agreed programme continues and we have recently completed projects at [Ysgol Rhys Prichard](#), [Ysgol Pum Heol](#) and [Ysgol Llangadog](#) with on-site progress at Ysgol y Castell and Ysgol Gorslas. Work on [Ysgol Pembrey](#) has commenced in January 2022.
- Construction costs are experiencing an unprecedented spike and it is causing a significant challenge to the deliverability of the Modernising Education Programme with schemes on site and in development.
- The Environment Department have already been engaged and worked up schemes across five school sites:
 - Burry Port Community School (Primary)
 - Y Bedol CP School (Primary)
 - Ysgol Heol Goffa (Special)
 - Llangennech CP School (Primary)
 - Ysgol Glanymor (Secondary)

The total budget cost to carry out these urgent works for September 2022 is £1.76 million. Given that the budget costs are significant a virement approval is necessary.

Workforce development and succession planning

- Educational support advisers work routinely alongside our headteachers, their senior leadership teams, teaching and support staff, ensuring that they have a robust understanding of the strengths of their schools and the areas in need of further focus or development. Support provided is tailored to the needs of the school and we ensure additional capacity for all schools requiring more regular input. The team monitors progress alongside senior leaders, ensuring suitable support; this has become increasingly possible as COVID-19 restrictions have eased.

- ⦿ The department's collegiate approach to school improvement, as well as the strategic focus group approach has ensured a more efficient use of time and an improved focus on the challenges that schools are addressing, informing the services' professional learning programme. The work of the department has been updated this term, aligning to the Education and Children's Services 10-year plan and to the outcomes of the headteachers' survey and the headteacher Well-being Charter consultations. In addition, the department remains focussed on inspiring leaders for the future, succession planning and upskilling through a comprehensive professional development programme which complements nationally delivered strategies. This programme is well underway however additional marketing of this opportunity is still needed in order to attract further participants.
- ⦿ Revised recruitment processes are robust and more accurately assess candidates' competencies, skills and experiences. These expectations are explicitly shared through our development programme and this has been valued by our participating heads of the future.
- ⦿ Feedback from the updated approach to supporting school governors is extremely positive. Regular online meetings are valued and are enhancing leadership and governance skills across a range of strategic, operational and COVID-19 related matters.
- ⦿ Leaders have responded robustly to requests from schools to address staff wellbeing and constructed a wellbeing charter tackling workload and work life balance of our education workforce. Related actions underpin departmental business planning.
- ! Due to the fall out of the pandemic there is a national shortage of teachers.

The development of Welsh in all our services

- ⦿ Following public consultation held in Autumn 2021 we have produced a revised Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). This has been submitted to Welsh Government for approval. The WESP will become operational from 1 September 2022.
- ⦿ We are increasing the number of teachers and support staff who can confidently teach through the medium of Welsh. Training courses across all linguistic levels as well as for Gloywi Iaith are offered to all schools. A language audit gives detailed information for school staff language levels and so can be targeted for specific language courses. On-line courses and language learning coupled with Pedagogy in the Foundation Phase, are proving to be a positive way of implementing Welsh language learning.

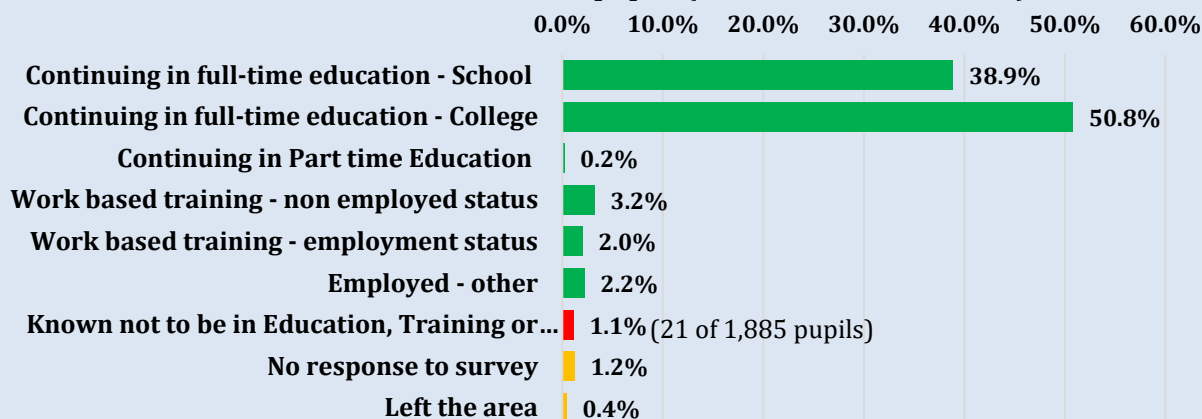
Focus on skills demands and employability to ensure that local and regional demands are met

- ⦿ We have continued engaging with partners and stakeholders over the design of the new curriculum. We are undertaking a project on the theme of 'Decolonising the Curriculum' in partnership with Swansea University's Dr Kirsti Bohata who is head of the National Centre for Writing on Wales in English (CREW). This project is focussing on different aspects of Carmarthenshire Learners' experience of and understanding of concepts including 'identity' and 'over-population' in relation to the notion of decolonisation. Schools will provide their feedback during the summer term. We liaised with the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership which are producing their skills barometer in February 2022, with a view to working with schools to identify how we can develop pathways and courses that meet the skills and competences required by the 8 Regional industry and business development areas. With the publication of the Skills Barometer we have begun our own scoping exercise of the pathways and experiences offered in our schools and supported by us through an [online survey](#) and face to face discussions. We will formulate a plan emanating from this.

Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

- ⦿ The Youth Engagement and Progressions Framework continues to be implemented in line with Welsh Government Guidance, which contributes to improved service outcomes in terms of more effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET. Of the outcomes known to us, 98.9% of pupils remained in education, employment or training.

Destination data for Carmarthenshire Y11 pupils (Academic Year 2020-21)



European Social Fund projects

- ⊙ We continue to explore alternative funding sources to replace European Social Funded projects, developing funding bids. The Chair of the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee wrote to Welsh Government to raise concerns about the delivery of NEET work into the future. Welsh Government responded that they are still awaiting the UK Government's plans to replace EU funding.

REGULATORY REPORT

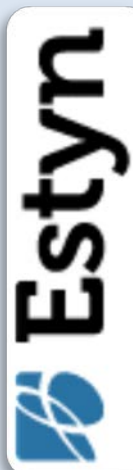
Assurance and Risk Assessment – Emerging Risks and Next Steps (3 February 2022)

Assurances:

- Leaders have a good understanding of issues in the authority including around schools causing concern.
- Leaders maintained the good communication between departments throughout the pandemic to ensure that support for schools and other providers was available quickly.
- A substantial number of primary schools have been removed from Estyn Review.
- Pre-inspection reports show that the authority generally knows its schools well.
- Local Authority is proactive in increasing Welsh medium provision in the primary sector.
- Local Authority officers appear to have suitable plans in place to deal with the issues regarding leadership of smaller schools, for example by federating or merging them.
- The authority has supported schools and providers to understand and embed the new Additional Learning Needs Act.
- Effective scrutiny arrangements.

Concerns:

- There are a very few primary schools in a statutory category.
- With the local authority leaving ERW, there is uncertainty over some arrangements with Partneriaeth.
- Recruiting headteachers to lead a few primary schools is causing concern.
- Although overall, the number of pupils who did not progress from year 10 to 11 in Carmarthenshire is slightly below the national average for the last two years, the rates of pupils who cannot be matched to a destination are high in a minority of schools over the last two years.
- Budget balances in schools



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT



A review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities. The report outlines 20 recommendations. At Cabinet on the 31 January 2022 the recommendations of the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group to review Carmarthenshire's Education Admissions Policy was approved.

Sustainable School Gardens

School gardens and community connections are also gaining momentum across Carmarthenshire. An excellent example of working with the wider community and connecting with organisations such as Incredible Edibles has been witnessed at Ysgol Pembrey. The school has developed a productive and sustainable garden which includes numerous raised beds and a well-stocked polytunnel. The success of the garden is a result of all learners taking part in the planting, watering and weeding. A whole school programme of maintenance and management with delicious produce made available for the local community.



Ysgol Bro Dinefwr has established an impressive outdoor learning space. The school has a multi-purpose outdoor learning area to facilitate hands-on learning and enable delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. They have worked closely with organisations, local businesses and charities on a number of projects including a large outdoor learning area, an outdoor performance area and a peace garden.

Angharad, Year 13 pupil, *"I think, especially in light of the growing environmental movement that our age group has been so involved in, it's really nice to have something where we have a real sense of urgency, and we can be involved on lots of different levels."*

Cerys, Year 12, *"It's a matter of our lives now. I think it should be important to everyone, and this is why we've started the outdoor learning area, so that we can protect the environment and try and combat climate change."*

Chloe, Year 9, *"This whole garden, it's supposed to focus on the environment and appreciating the world around us and I think it brings that back home to pupils in the school - because to have this area where it's full of natural beauty, it makes us appreciate what we've got here."*





**Ysgolion Awyr Agored
Sir Gaerfyrddin**
Carmarthenshire
Outdoor Schools

[Climate change: Carmarthenshire school's zero-carbon secondary bid - BBC News](#)



Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools

The Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Network (CODS) launched its programme for 2022-23 in late March as a part of Outdoor Learning Week, Wales. The CODS programme offers all Carmarthenshire schools the opportunity to share good practice, resources and work collaboratively. A professional dialogue to ensure all schools are supported and confident to develop purposeful learning in the outdoors. The aim of the network is to offer opportunities for all learners to appreciate and connect with nature and become ethical and informed citizens of today and the future. A group of six Carmarthenshire schools are currently working in strong partnership with Natural Resources Wales and the Brechfa Windfarm Company. All six schools visit the Brechfa Forest site each term. As a result of this project the schools are currently developing a range of curriculum resources which will be available in September 2022.

Climate Action Consultation Group

The Climate Action Consultation Group was launched in November 2021 during the week of COP26. The group was formed to action an eight-point Climate Action Manifesto which was developed as part of the global citizenship programme, Walk the Global Walk. The Climate Action Manifesto was approved unanimously by the full Executive Board in October 2021. A formal consultation meeting takes place each term which offers an opportunity for the group, invited guests, local councillors and council officers to discuss issues relating to climate change and implement their manifesto's recommendations. The consultation group meetings are chaired by the students and ensures their thoughts and concerns on climate issues are shared across a broad platform. At the last meeting students met with Deputy Minister for Climate Change Lee Waters to highlight how we can reduce the use of single use plastics. Future discussions will include reducing food waste in schools, climate change gardening and sustainable school transport initiatives. [News Article](#)

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Improvement in pupil and young people progress, wellbeing and outcomes (Abbrev.)		
1	Considering the impact of COVID 19, we will support our schools to ensure the wellbeing and progress of all learners, including those who are vulnerable, eligible for free school meals or looked after. (15459)	March 2023	Elin Forsyth
2	We will base a new suite of measures based on the on the new WG measures when published. (15415)	March 2023	tbc
B	Address low School Attendance		
1	Improve attendance reporting systems to enable challenge to schools. (16127)	March 2023	Allan Carter
C	An excellent school in the right place		
1	We will review the MEP, bearing in mind COVID-19 implications, and initiate a new programme. (14998)	March 2023	Sara Griffiths
D	Workforce development and succession planning		
1	We will ensure greater headteacher engagement in collaborating on our strategic development and review of progress. (16128)	March 2023	Elin Forsyth
2	Further strengthen our approach to developing the 'self-improving' school, facilitating collaboration and sharing effective practice, basing our approach on the principles of a school as a learning organisation. (16129)	March 2023	Elin Forsyth
3	Develop a new recruitment drive with assistance from HR and Communications colleagues in order to attract more applicants for the current vacancies, this will form a key part of the new Workforce Strategy being developed for the Council. (16130)	March 2023	Elin Forsyth
E	The development of Welsh in all our services		
1	Endeavour to implement a purposeful and robust 10 year WESP for all stakeholders. (15434)	March 2023	Catrin Griffiths
2	We will work with the County's schools to move them along the Welsh language continuum and also ensure that individual pupils within relevant schools are provided with opportunities to continue with their Welsh medium education throughout all key stages. (15433)	March 2023	Catrin Griffiths
3	We will increase the number of teachers and support staff who can confidently teach through the medium of Welsh. (15032)	March 2023	Catrin Griffiths
F	Focus on skills demands and employability to ensure that local and regional demands are met		
1	We will continue with the design of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum in partnership with schools and other providers, framed within the national context. We will pursue opportunities to link corporate and economic strategy with the design of the new curriculum (15424)	March 2023	Aeron Rees
2	We will dovetail local opportunities for curriculum enrichment and extension with the national architecture with a view towards developing a Carmarthenshire Learner Offer. (15425)	March 2023	Aeron Rees
G	Youth Engagement and Progression Framework		
1	We will continue to use the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the Vulnerability Assessment Profile as a means of effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET/at risk of NEET. (15408)	March 2023	Gill Adams
H	European Social Fund projects		
1	We will ensure continuation of planning and delivery of the local elements of the European Social Fund (ESF) projects. (15441)	March 2023	Gill Adams



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

Live Well



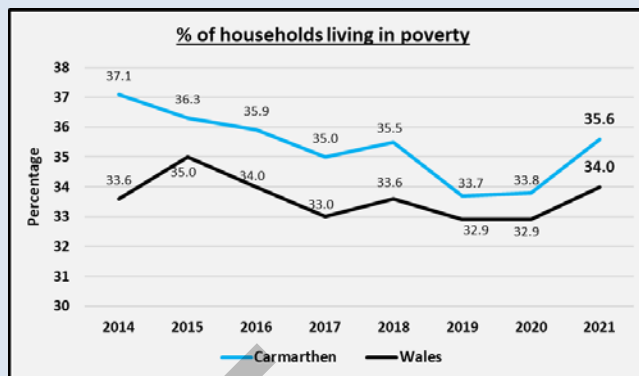


Well-being Objective 4

Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty

The number of households in Carmarthenshire living in poverty has increased

During 2021, **29,444** households in Carmarthenshire were classed as living in poverty, this is an increase on the previous year of 27,691.
In work poverty is an increasingly common problem.



Poverty is defined as when a "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income" (in 2021 less than £19,642)

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⦿ Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects, impacting across all aspects of well-being.
- ⦿ It limits the opportunities and prospects for children and young people and damages the quality of life for all. The UN report [Leaving no one behind](#) outlines the imperative of inclusive development.
- ⦿ Poverty is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now, and in the future.
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire has 5 areas within the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Wales (there are 191 in this category - that is within the 10% most deprived). [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD 2019\) - Stats Wales](#)
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire is now seeing its highest levels of child poverty in recent years (31.3%), which is a similar pattern across Wales. [UK Government Children in low income families \(March 2021\)](#)



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ① Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

35.6% of households are living in poverty



Previously 34% (2020)
Source: CACI Paycheck

50.5% of households threatened with homelessness were successfully prevented from becoming homeless
Previous year 46.4%



17.9% gap in the results of pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who don't (2019/20)
(19.7% gap in the previous year – 2018/19)

Source: Stats Wales



12% of households are living in material deprivation (2021/22)
Reduced from previous year 11.3% (2019/20)

Source: National Survey for Wales

Households Living in Poverty

- ⦿ Well over a third (35.6% or 29,444) of our households are living in poverty which is a concern and has increased in the last year, this is the 8th highest % in Wales and above the Welsh average of 34%. 24 wards exhibit rates higher than the Carmarthenshire average, suggesting that the effects of poverty are not felt equally across the county. As food prices, energy bills and general costs continue to rise across the UK it is becoming harder for households to stay above the poverty line. Wages are not rising to meet the extra costs. This means that more working households are experiencing poverty. This has been compounded by the impact of Covid on job losses particularly in the tourism and hospitality sector. The effects of the pandemic were not felt equally by all, evidence suggested that the effects are felt disproportionately by the younger generation and those from low-income households.

Child Poverty

- ⊙ 30.6% of children in Wales are living in poverty, an increase of 1.6% over the last five years. The figures for Carmarthenshire show a 2% increase over the same time period, with 31.3% of children living in poverty.
- ⊙ This is the 10th highest level of all local authorities in Wales and the joint fifth highest rate of change over the last five years.
- ⊙ At a Wales level, the largest proportion of children living in poverty live in workless households. However, more concerning is the increasing rate at which children living in working households are living in poverty.
- ⊙ At a Wales level 17% of children in poverty live in households where all adults are in work, an increase of 5% from 12% over the last ten years.

Homelessness Prevention

- ⊙ As a result of reviewing operational practices (listed below), we have adopted a new approach to withdrawn cases, better reflecting the positive outcomes for applicants. We have ensured that staff are reminded of the appropriate sections to end our duties, so we can better capture this successful preventative work we are achieving. Development of a Power Business Intelligence (BI) Dashboard will allow us to better manage and analyse cases within each duty. The impact of applying our new way of working during the year shows an improvement from stand-alone Quarter 1 performance of 43.16% to 52.73% in the last quarter of the year, this giving a cumulative annual result of 50.5%. Steps we have taken include:
 - Reviewing our first point of contact service and developing a Housing Hwb to provide early homelessness prevention advice and assistance.
 - Analysing who presents to us, from where and why, in order to identify what support we need to provide and what training staff may need to be competent and comfortable with responding to challenging people and cases.
 - Reviewing our practices to ensure resources are in the right place to respond to the increased casework.
 - Reviewing how we utilise the existing legislation and allocations policy to help prevent homelessness as quickly as we can, looking to other councils for best practice.
 - Further develop and automate the Power Business Intelligence Dashboard to enable to team leaders to regularly monitor performance.
 - Continue to monitor and ensure staff utilise the appropriate duty for prevention.

Gap in exam results for pupils receiving Free School Meals and those who do not

- ⊙ The gap between exam results for pupils receiving Free School Meals (FSM) and those who don't (Non-FSM) has reduced by 1.8 percentage points but remains the 7th smallest gap in Wales.
The most recent data available for this measure is 2019/20 (2018/2019 Academic Year)
- ⊙ Free school meal eligibility has increased markedly in Carmarthenshire over the last five years from 16% in academic years 2016/17 to 20% in academic years 2020/21. The largest increase of 3% was seen between 2019/20 and 2020/21. This is 1% above the average for South West and Mid Wales and 1% lower than the Welsh average.

Living in material deprivation

- ⊙ The 2021/22 National Survey for Wales showed that **12%** of participating households in Carmarthenshire were classed as **living in material deprivation***, this is above the Welsh average of 11.3% and an increase on the previous result of 11.3%.
**Material deprivation refers to the inability for individuals or households to afford those consumption goods and activities that are typical in a society at a given point in time, irrespective of people's preferences with respect to these items.*
- ⊙ Five of Carmarthenshire's LSOAs are identified as being in the top 10% most deprived in Wales and rank highly in a number of the domains most closely related to poverty, namely; income, employment, health, education and housing. These areas are; Tyisha 2, Glan-y-môr 4, Bigyn 4, Tyisha 3, Llwynhendy 3.
- ⊙ Since 2011 the number of areas in Carmarthenshire included in the 30% most deprived in Wales has increased by 25% which further corroborates the increasing poverty rates evident in the county.
- ⊙ A more detailed analysis of the 2019 WIMD data for Carmarthenshire can be accessed [here](#).

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Review of our approach to Tackling Poverty

- ⦿ Work on developing the Council's *tackling poverty plan* has progressed with a number of cross-service sessions held to improve alignment and understanding of support services the Council currently provides. This has led to greater cross-service understanding and collaboration and identification of areas for further development in terms of a holistic Council response whilst also working with a range of external partners.
- ⦿ This will be a key priority for the Council moving forward with further development of cross-service working in order to streamline access to support services and targeting of specific interventions and campaigns based on identified need within the county.

Preventing poverty

- ⦿ We have continued to develop and deliver early intervention support services (0-25) for disadvantaged children, young people and families. Families First (FF) projects have been providing a broad range of support to families/young people in a variety of locations including schools, office/community basis and families' homes as well as continuing to provide support virtually:
 - 6792 individuals supported from the FF programme, of which 4876 (72%) were new individuals.
 - 3569 families supported from the FF programme, of which 2683 (75%) were new families (as a result of working with people on a one-to-one basis)
- ⦿ During the year we have trialled the development of a Hwb Advisor model working through the Council's Customer Service and Contact Centres. We will be looking to further develop and enhance this provision as we aim to work towards providing a holistic support service across all Council services. The Hwb in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli offer pre-booked appointments and drop-in advice to an average 8,000 residents per month, as well as providing advice and access to training and employment support. For tackling poverty since May 2021 when the staff were appointed, we have helped and advised a total of 528 cases.
- ⦿ 'The Council's website has been updated to provide a range of information and advice to residents as part of the national [Claim What's Yours](#) campaign. The content aims to make it easier for residents to know what support is available with an option to self-refer for further advice. This will form part of future campaigns to raise awareness of support and advice available.



The Ombudsman published his first ever own initiative investigation into homelessness review processes in Wales [Homelessness Reviewed: An Open door to positive change](#). We were one of three councils in the sample report. The review identified some concerns and examples of good practice.

- ⦿ An action plan response to the Ombudsman's recommendations for improvement has been prepared and will be implemented as part of further development within the service.
- ⦿ The Front of House '*Housing Hwb*' has been implemented and new priorities have been identified around Homeless Prevention as part of the Housing Support Programme Strategy which replaces the Homelessness Strategy.
- ⦿ As an employer we are committed to guaranteeing the equivalent of the 'real living wage' and our lowest paid employees continue to receive the equivalent of the Real Living Wage which is currently £9.90 per hour. We have achieved this via the payment of a supplement – the Real Living Wage Supplement. This means that all employees, regardless of whether they are over the statutory age of 25, are paid at a minimum of the voluntary Real Living wage rate. We also pay supplements for weekend working (8%) and term only working (4%) which increase the pay of mainly lower paid employees. This means that, with the above-mentioned supplements, many of our lower graded posts now attract a total remuneration higher than the Real Living Wage of £9.90 per hour.

Helping people into work

- ⦿ The number of adults receiving support through Communities 4 Work Programmes during 2021/22 is back to pre-COVID figures with over 1,000 adults receiving either employability or digital inclusion support. All (100%) of the participating adults felt more positive with improved confidence about seeking work or more confident in using a computer and gained IT skills.
- ⦿ 271 accredited qualifications were achieved by residents attending Employment related courses within the Communities 4 Work programmes during 2021/22.

Improving the lives of those living in poverty

PRE-TENANCY SUPPORT

- ⦿ For the financial year April 2021/2022, we have **supported 438 new tenants** (helping with **£200k+ supported savings**). This is higher than the previous year due to the Covid restrictions that were in place for 2020/21.
 - Pre-Tenancy Team Staff helped with income maximisation and completing several different benefit applications that financially impacted the tenants.
 - We are trusted partners to apply for grants for white goods, off grid fuel and Emergency Assistance Payments.
 - We issue Foodbank vouchers and make referrals as required for more complex cases.
- ⦿ Pre-Tenancy support has been expanded into the Private Rented Sector (PRS) and we have also supported 103 new tenancies in the PRS, through Housing Support Grant funding. Our PRS Pre-Tenancy Officer now sits in the 3 main Job Centre Offices, taking referrals for anyone making a claim for Universal Credit and have housing costs in the PRS.
- ⦿ We are also in the process of re-starting our Pre-Tenancy training courses now that COVID-19 restrictions are being relaxed. As well as this, we are working in partnership with other teams such as Pre-Tenancy training for foster cares and their placements.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO CLAIM ALL THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THEY ARE ENTITLED TO

- ⦿ Since November 2021 we have administered the winter fuel support scheme and processed 9,480 cases and paid out £3,409,200.
- ⦿ We have paid out £397,584 of discretionary housing payments and up to mid-March received 10,754 self-isolation support payments applications and paid out over £4 million.
- ⦿ We are processing the cost-of-living payments to approximately 63,000 Carmarthenshire households with the value of around £9.5 million to support residents of Carmarthenshire during these challenging times.
- ⦿ Whilst processing claims and dealing with customer enquires housing benefit staff are often able to identify if people need to be referred for more detailed benefit maximisation advice, personal budgeting or debt advice. They will refer individuals for support or signpost to grants and benefits.
- ⦿ We have established a dedicated Transforming Tyisha Team to lead on specific activity to support community and physical development in Tyisha, which is the most deprived Ward in the County.
 - An ambitious masterplan to transform the area will deliver new mixed-use housing developments, develop more community facilities, and bring vacant business premises back into use; improve the environment and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour; and provide opportunities for education, training, and employment.
 - Four flats have been demolished to clear a site for development; expressions of interest have been submitted by prospective development partners; and a feasibility study is being prepared on a potential community hub.



Audit Wales are currently conducting a National Review on 'Are local authorities doing all they can to help tackle and alleviate poverty?'. The report is due to be published in July 2022. We will take stock of the findings and ensure we embed any relevant recommendation into our tackling poverty plan.

Pre-Tenancy Support to JG

- JG was presented to us in March 2021. He had been kicked out by his family due to his antisocial behaviour and his family no longer felt able to cope. JG was subsequently placed into the care of the local authority and at the time of the referral he was neither in Education or Training, therefore being classed as NEET.
- Within three months of presenting as homeless, JG had been referred to Pre-tenancy with the intention of being placed in a training house. The Pre-Tenancy officer accommodated JG's wish not to complete the course as part of a larger group due to his anxiety and it was completed on a one-to-one basis.
- Before allocating JG a place in the training flat, we took the necessary steps to ensure that the current resident met JG prior to moving in. JG then became a resident at the property in August 2021. During his time at the property, JG completed several models of training undertaken with his Youth Support Worker. This training is aimed at providing the necessary skills required to sustain a successful tenancy.
- As a result of early intervention and by providing the right support at the right time, JG has now not only secured employment but is currently successfully maintaining a tenancy out of county. As well as success on a housing level, he also now has a long term and supportive partner.
- The training that was provided by Youth Support Services and support from the Housing Officers has allowed JG to flourish into an amazing young man who is working and living independently

Hwb advisor help to Mrs H

- Mrs H called into a Hwb as she had received a summons for her council tax, as I was talking to her, I could see that there were other financial difficulties there, I offered my service as a Hwb advisor and she agreed.
- She was a single parent of 3 and a homeowner. Her only income was ESA, Industrial injuries, PIP (lower rate) and child benefit, struggling with day-to-day bills and school dinners. She had applied for Free School meals but had been turned down.
- We helped-
 1. Issued with a council tax reduction form and to apply for back dating
 2. Checked council tax and could see there was no SPD in place, husband had left 2 years previous, Issued SPD form
 3. Advised to apply for UC
 4. Advised to appeal PIP and apply for enhanced rate
 5. Advised to apply for a blue badge due to health condition
 6. Phoned FSM who advised to apply again if UC awarded and

Outcome

1. Council tax reduction awarded and backdated 3 months
2. SPD awarded and backdated – refunded £1200
3. Awarded UC
4. Awarded the enhanced PIP
5. Awarded a blue badge
6. FSM awarded

Mrs H was delighted with the help and support that she had received from the Hwb and advised that she was now approximately **£800 a month better off** and not struggling.

Governance Arrangements

To make sure that we are maximising our efforts to tackle poverty we have a cross departmental officer working group and an elected member Advisory Panel.

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date / Target	Owner / Resp. Officer
A	Reviewing our approach to tackling Poverty		
1	We will implement and update the Tackling Poverty Plan to respond to the current challenges faced by residents and communities (15490)	June 2022	Gwyneth Ayers
B	Preventing Poverty		
1	Review of homelessness and temporary accommodation services (15334)	Sept 2022	Jonathan Morgan
2	Improve the % of household successfully prevented/relieved from becoming homeless (baseline 50.5% in 2021/22)	60%	Angela Bowen
3	Develop Carmarthen Hwb to include partnership working with employability projects and other agencies (15597)	30/06/2023	Eifion Davies
4	Develop and promote the Claim <i>What's yours</i> initiative to support the Council's tackling poverty initiative which is responding to the current challenges faced by residents and communities (15598)	31/03/2023	Deina Hockenhull
C	Helping People into work - Also see Well-being Objective 5		
1	% of adults that feel more positive with improved confidence about seeking work after receiving employability support through Workways, Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus Programmes (EconD/020) – 2021/22 Target: 100	100%	Amy Wakefield /Shan Williams
2	% of residents that feel more confident in using a computer and gaining IT skills after receiving digital inclusion support through Workways, Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus Programmes (EconD/021) – 2021/22 Target: 100	100%	Amy Wakefield /Shan Williams
3	The number of accredited qualifications achieved by residents attending Employment related courses within the Workways, Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus Programmes (EconD/022) – 2021/22 Target: 200	200	Amy Wakefield /Shan Williams
D	Improving the lives of those living in poverty		
1	We will work with partners to deliver a range of support services to support the development and growth of the third sector within the County (15518)	March 2023	Helen Morgan
2	We will continue to maximise the draw-down of funding from external sources via the new funding programmes and support/undertake their delivery, e.g. the £2.9m award from UK Government's Community Renewal Fund (15521)	March 2023	Helen Morgan
3	That the Council works with partners to develop a co-ordinated approach to identifying, supporting and developing volunteering across the County (15522)	March 2023	Helen Morgan



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 5

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

Economically things haven't been as bad as we first feared, our interventions have helped but challenges remain

Towards the start of the pandemic, the intelligence gathered at that time clearly demonstrated that we faced an extremely difficult time over the next 24 months as the effects of the COVID-19 crisis put huge pressure on jobs and demand.

As a response to the pandemic and Brexit, in consultation with business, we introduced an [Economic Recovery Plan](#) (ERP) that identified our priority intervention actions for supporting *Business, People and Place* to strengthen the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy from the social and economic impacts. With this support intervention now in place, Carmarthenshire's economy has generally improved from where we were and can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before, more equal, greener, healthier, and with more sustainable communities.

However, some challenges, remain:

! *Employment rates reduced from 71.7% in March 2020 to 68.6% March 2021, resulting in us having the third lowest rate of employment compared to the rest of Wales* *Stats Wales - several industries (most notably the Health & Social Care, Tourism & Hospitality and Haulage sectors) face acute recruitment challenges.*

! *Still have a large and persistent productivity gap with the rest of the UK* *South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan*

! *Demand for our business funds has far outstripped the budgets available to support the private sector* *ERP*

! *Supply chain issues are a severe concern for several sectors, made worse by increasing costs and increased bureaucracy with regards to importing and exporting because of Brexit* *ERP*

! *Evidence suggested that COVID-19 effects were not felt equally by all, with a disproportionate effect by the younger generation & those from low-income households (Kickstart scheme introduced for support)* *ERP*

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⊙ Providing secure and well-paid jobs for local people is central to everything we are seeking to achieve.
- ⊙ Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
- ⊙ We need to build a knowledge-rich, creative economy by maximising employment and training places for local people through creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities, to have an on-going skilled and competent workforce to face the future



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



Employment figure

is **69.5%**

(April 21 – March 22)

3rd lowest rate in Wales

(Previously 68.1%)

Source: Stats Wales

According to the annual population survey, as of March 2022 Carmarthenshire continues to have the third lowest rate in respect of employment compared to the rest of Wales. Despite this, employment rates have increased from 68.1% in March 2021 to 69.5% (year ending March 2022). This is again amongst the lowest in Wales and below the national average of 73.6%.



37.7% Qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above

@ December 2021

(previously 39.9% December 2020)

Source: Stats Wales

For those reaching NVQ Level 4 or above in Carmarthenshire, figures have reduced for the second year running from 41.4% in 2019 to 39.9% in 2020, and 37.7% in 2021. This is below the Welsh average of 41.6% which continues to increase. The number with no qualifications has also increased slightly in 2021 to 7.8% from 6.7% in the previous year.

Page 69



78.9% Satisfied with their jobs

during 2019/20
(previously 82.5%)

17th highest in Wales (was 11th)

Source: National Survey for Wales

Being happy in work is important for well-being and the latest figures in April 2019 showed that the percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs was 79% - but this was over 3% lower than both the figure two years previously and the Welsh average. This ranked Carmarthenshire the 17th highest in Wales. A number of factors can affect job satisfaction therefore it is difficult to determine the exact cause of falling rates in the county.



Median Gross Weekly Pay is £566.9 (2021)

(Down from £574.5 in 2020, from 4th
highest in Wales to 11th position)

Source: Annual survey of hrs & earnings

The median gross weekly pay of £566.90 for Carmarthenshire is below that of the Wales figure of £570.6. Figures in Carmarthenshire are 11th highest in the whole of Wales, compared to being the 4th highest in 2020.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

In January 2022 we formally adopted the [South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan](#) as the Council's over-arching economic regeneration policy, that replaced the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy (2013). It builds on our distinctive strengths and opportunities to develop a more prosperous and resilient South-West Wales economy (Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot & Swansea). Together with our local Recovery Plan we aim to achieve the vision and objectives contained in the policy.

Our Economic Recovery Plan

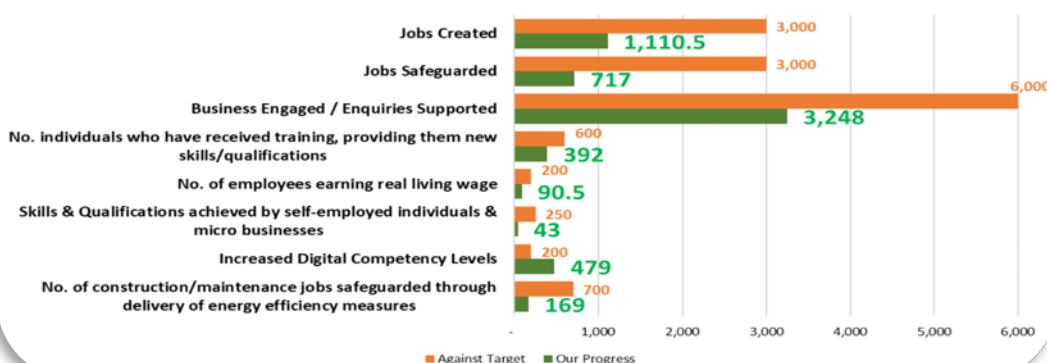
Following our assessment in 2020 of the impact that COVID-19 had on Carmarthenshire businesses, and what was important to them in the short, medium and long-term, a business, economy and community recovery group was established to co-ordinate the development and delivery of the themed actions. Together with an overarching advisory group (that also comprised of key private sector industry leaders), an [economic recovery and delivery plan](#) was formally adopted in June 2021 after an independent review.

Key to the plan is ultra-reliable digital connectivity, actions that support the County's foundational economy and supporting local people to grow skills and talent in targeted areas so that there is a strong and resilient local workforce.

Our economy is made up by a large number of self-employed and micro sized enterprises together with significant employment within the [foundational economy](#) (business activities that we use every day and see all around us e.g. retail, care and food industries). So our path to recovery has focused on: Localism - support within our local economies and increased local spend; and Competitiveness - increasing productivity and competitiveness.

With the support/intervention plan, Carmarthenshire's economy has started to recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before. We are not able to deliver everything, so working across all departments, with public sector partners, external organisations, including the private sector, ensures coordination of activity wherever possible to support our Plan for recovery and growth.

OUR ERP OUTCOMES Against our 2 Year Targets



Note: Our Economic Recovery Plan has been in place since July 2021, therefore our progress against our targets are over a 9 month period not 12. Our outcomes are attributed to all our service areas across the Authority that contribute towards our economic recovery.

BUSINESS:

Over 90% of our nearly 8,000 businesses in Carmarthenshire are micro-businesses (i.e. with fewer than 10 employees), so we need to support these businesses to maintain, upscale and grow our economy. We also have more than 10,000 self-employed people who need support to survive and thrive in business. Therefore, safeguarding our existing businesses, supporting new start-ups and growing businesses in our foundational and growth sectors to become more productive and competitive is key.

- Throughout the pandemic we delivered *over £66 million COVID-19 Business Recovery Funds* on behalf of the Welsh Government, which provided a lifeline to businesses in what was a challenging time, enabling the businesses to safeguard jobs. The £66 million was broken down to:

<i>Business Recovery Grants</i>	<i>£586k</i>	<i>Discretionary Grants</i>	<i>£265k</i>	<i>Non-Domestic Rates Business Grants</i>	<i>£65.1m</i>
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- We also supported businesses to *safeguard 717 jobs* via the Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund and the emergency flood grants (that were set up in response to the adverse weather conditions we experienced in County that directly impacted businesses).

! Demand for our business funds has far outstripped the budgets available to support the private sector across Carmarthenshire. Following a new round of business grant funding totalling £500K for business start-up and growth grants being launched in January 2022 we had to close the opportunity due to the volume of interest, hence there will be a number of applications that will not be able to be funded.

- To help the UK prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) (EU replacement funding programme), the UK Government announced a new funding programme, the UK **Community Renewal Fund**. Carmarthenshire was awarded 12 of the 13 shortlisted Community Renewal Fund bids in November 2021 totalling £2.97M.

! Conversely, EU funded services we currently provide will end next year (e.g. Workways+; Community for Work, Short Term Unemployed, Cynnydd, LEADER, etc.), but we have been awarded nearly £37m through the SPF successor funding for activities running up to March 2025.

- Through our Modernising Education and Housing and Highways programmes we awarded contracts to local businesses, providing skilled work opportunities in the local economy and safeguarding jobs.

- Six new industrial units in Glanamman were completed by March 2022 as part of a £2.5 million investment. The former empty workshops were transformed and brought back into use in Phase 2, having set aside money from our Five-Year Capital Works Programme in 2017. The new steel workshops are expected to accommodate six small businesses with an additional 15-20 jobs.

- Progressive Procurement: We made significant steps in understanding community wealth building through localising spend to raise awareness of tender opportunities to support local businesses. We launched a business survey to gain an in-depth understanding of the support local businesses require to become 'tender ready' – we will use this information to engage with businesses on a one-to-one basis and provide the support needed.

! *Increasing Capital Costs:* There has been a marked increase in the cost of delivering capital regeneration schemes over the past year. These increases are industry wide and are believed to have been triggered through a number of factors including Brexit, COVID-19 and more recently the conflict in Ukraine. These increases are putting pressure on what is achievable with budgets that were set at project outset. As such, projects are having to be amended where possible to meet these increasing pressures.

- Over 97% of the 342,000 invoices received by the Authority were paid within 30 days, retaining our best ever performance of last year despite a 15% increase in the number of invoices. Prompt payment is essential for businesses especially at a continued time of uncertainty.





Digital Economic Growth The £55 million SBCD Digital Infrastructure programme will benefit residents and businesses in all parts of the Swansea Bay City Region, which includes Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The programme is estimated to be worth £318m to the regional economy over the next 15 years.

- ⦿ **The Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure Programme:** The Digital Programme Business Case, Board, and Governance of it was established; Access to City Deal funding for the Digital Programme together with additional public sector funding was secured across the region; A central team for the Digital Programme was also established
- ⦿ **Our Digital Regeneration Programme:** There has been significant commercial investment in Gigabit fibre at Cross Hands, Llangennech, Burry Port, Llanelli, and Carmarthen; together with Superfast Cymru 2 investment has been secured to connect 3,300 of Carmarthenshire's worst served rural premises.
- ⦿ We have trained and supported more than 330 people by improving their digital skills (one of the key areas of targeted intervention), in order they are well equipped with better employment prospects.

PEOPLE:



Regional Learning & Skills Partnership (RLSP) Carmarthenshire is the Lead Body for the Regional Learning & Skill Partnership (RLSP). The RLSP is leading on the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Regional Skills and Talent Programme over the next 5 years. The key aim of the programme is to deliver the skills needs of the 8 City Deal projects and to support the skills needs of the region.

- ⦿ The [Regional Learning and Skills Partnership](#) has worked with employers and training providers to measure and understand the economic and skills impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, culminating in a 'wrap up' report being submitted to Welsh Government.



David TC Davies MP meeting students

- ⦿ The **Skills and Talent Programme** for the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme was officially launched in March 2022 when the UK Government Minister for Wales - David TC Davies (MP) met students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Gower College Swansea to hear how it will benefit young people across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

- ⦿ We took the lead on the Young Person's Guarantee for the region - a Welsh Government initiative to support young people between 16–24 to gain the right skills and experience and support to get into work - working with Careers Wales, Working Wales, Communities for Work and other stakeholders in identifying their needs and delivering the support needed.
- ⦿ Our dedicated employability team have worked with both short term and long-term unemployed individuals in Carmarthenshire to support them into sustainable employment opportunities.
During the last year we have collaboratively, with the RLSP, successfully delivered *six job fairs* in each of the primary towns, to support sectors experiencing acute recruitment challenges.



Supporting People at a job's fair

PLACE:

Urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire Throughout all the town centres, businesses are supported to make best use of digital communications to grow their market reach, turnover and footfall; with decarbonisation encouraged through low carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and sustainable developments; and Welsh language and culture supported and promoted to celebrate Carmarthenshire's identity.



Audit Wales undertook a national review on [Regenerating Town Centres in Wales](#) (September 2021) and concluded that **town centres are at the heart of Welsh life** and can be vibrant and sustainable places, but addressing the many challenges they face requires brave decisions and ambitious leadership. In a digitally dominated world, investing in digital infrastructure and basic skills can play a vital role in revitalising high streets.

We recognised that our Restart, Revive, Renew recovery strategy, developed in response to the economic impact of COVID-19, provides a good summary of the 'live' challenges facing towns in the county. Our action plan response to the review and existing changes occurring within town centres had already been acknowledged through our recovery plans for our town centres, which have been accelerated by the pandemic, Brexit and other market forces.

- Our Recovery Plans for our three primary towns (Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford) were bespoke to the town and set out the impact that COVID-19 had on the town centres in terms of loss of spending, increased vacancy rates and decline in footfall. In developing the Plans, we worked closely with key members of the towns stakeholders. The Plans highlighted key issues and opportunities and provided a delivery framework of interventions specific to the individual town centres. It is envisaged moving forward these Plans will be owned and delivered by the stakeholders in the respective towns, supported by ourselves by helping to secure funding opportunities and contributing capital funding.
- Alongside the three main town centres, we delivered a programme of investment to support the growth of our 10 rural market towns. Bespoke plans were developed to benefit the town and surrounding areas of Cross Hands, Cwmaman, Kidwelly, Laugharne, Llandeilo, Llandovery, Llanybydder, Newcastle Emlyn, St Clears and Whitland. The development of the growth plans are part funded via the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the EU.
- In 2021/22 we submitted 2 grant applications under the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund Programme and were successful in securing funding for the Tywi Valley Path (nearly £17m), and a collaborative bid for the Carmarthen Hwb (nearly £16m) and the Pembroke Hwb (over £4m). The Tywi Valley Path project will provide a continuous shared use path between Llandeilo and Carmarthen.

Carmarthen Hwb: We are progressing at pace with plans to deliver the £18.5m (additional £3.5m match funding from our Capital programme) project at the former Debenhams shop. It is being repurposed into a Hwb centre that will bring together a range of health, well-being, learning and cultural services. Our Customer Service Centre was also relocated to the Hwb.



Browsing at a 100% Sir Gâr Pop Up Shops

- Following the success of our 100% Sir Gâr virtual shop window website platform that promotes over 300 independent businesses from Carmarthenshire, highlighting their products, we launched in August 2021 our 100% Sir Gâr Pop up Shops initiative. This ran for two weeks out of the old Topshop in Carmarthen, followed by a further week in Pembrey Country Park. It was relaunched in December 2021, with a Pop-up Shop in Llanelli and in the old Debenhams, Carmarthen - which generated just under 22,500 visitors to the store, benefiting the wider town centre economy. Most businesses (83%) exceeded their anticipated income targets.

- The establishment of a dedicated Development Management team to focus on 'Major Projects' has been instrumental in driving forward the priority focus that deliver jobs and growth in support of the Economic Recovery Plan. Continued progress has been made in addressing the backlog of Planning Applications and moving forward Major Planning Applications. Un-determined Applications (major planning applications & others with job creation) reduced from 133 (July 2021) to 42 at end of year.



Pentre Awel part-funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal - brings together business, research, education, community healthcare and modern leisure facilities all at one prime location along the Llanelli coastline. It is the first development of its scope and size in Wales providing world-class medical research and health care delivery and supporting and encouraging people to lead active & healthy lives.

As well as improving health and well-being, the project will create almost 2,000 jobs (750 to 950 in Zone 1), training/apprenticeship opportunities and is expected to boost the local economy by £467million over the next 15 years.

- Site works underway:** During 2021, Pentre Awel went from strategic planning to implementation and delivery. Site clearance and ground investigation works started on the Delta Lakes site to help progress detailed design and to allow main building works to start on Zone One later this year, with construction scheduled for completion by early 2024.

The project is being developed in phases across Four Zones and we appointed Bouygues UK to design and build Zone One following an extensive tendering process via the South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework - one of the largest ever published by the Authority. The contract has a key focus on social value to ensure that local people and businesses reap the benefits of the ambitious scheme. Work also commenced on procurement of consultants for design of Zone Three.

Rural Economy / Foundational Economy and Community Resilience

The economic and policy context has changed considerably since 2013 at both Welsh and UK level, particularly in light of the UK's decision to leave the European Union, the impact of the pandemic and changes regionally.

- ⦿ The economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for more affordable homes. As more people work from home and look to leave busy urban areas, the demand for homes in rural and coastal areas has inflated property prices, widening the affordability gap for many local people. Therefore, in support of this demand we published the [Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan \(December 2021\)](#) that set out our plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years. It also supports economic growth by investing over £300m into our communities and directly supports the actions in our Economic Recovery Plan - supporting businesses, people and places.



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

There has been significant improvement on the determination of planning applications and the determination of major projects that has led to several hundred full and part time posts being created over the last 12 months.

Is anyone better off?



Steven Avery is the owner of Craie Crepes who previously traded from a van on Burry Port Harbour, selling crepes, waffles, milkshakes, hot and cold drinks and much more. As their reputation grew, so did their customer base and as such they wanted a new, larger and more permanent premises from which to operate.

Seeking to maintain their ideal location at Burry Port Harbour, Steven acquired the lease for the former toilet block and after receiving approval for planning, refurbished the building. In 2019 the business was awarded a

£10,000 business grant from Carmarthenshire County Council, which supported the business to purchase a number of items such as fridges, freezers, tables, chairs, crepe machines and kitchen equipment to ensure the business operated at maximum efficiency and to maintain the quality of their product range.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic their plans to open were delayed but they continued to trade from their mobile unit in between the Government restrictions. During the challenges of the pandemic Steven received support from our COVID-19 helpline where support and advice was offered to the business, and as a result Steven was successful in receiving the Welsh Government Discretionary grants in the various tranches of funding during 2020 - 2022.

Craie Crepes has since opened the new café and take away facility in their new premises, and the business is going from strength to strength and is a facility that complements Burry Port Harbour as a destination for visitors.

Steven said 'Crazie Crepes Cafe is extremely grateful for the grant received. It enabled us to fulfil our vision for the harbour. Without the grant we would have been struggling to complete the project. It enabled us to buy quality equipment that enables us to do the job to the best of our ability. The Council officer that guided us through the process did an amazing job throughout the process. We are very, very grateful for the time she spent making sure all the paperwork was correct and that all procedures were followed correctly. We currently employ double what we expected to. We now have a thriving business on the harbour with a top reputation for quality food at reasonable prices, exceptional cleanliness and amazing customer service. We are currently busier than we could have imagined and are looking into the possibility of extending the building to cater for the demands. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.'



Governance

A business, economy and community recovery group was established to coordinate development and delivery of actions aligned to our economic recovery and delivery plan (ERP) and an overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, was also established.

Challenges Ahead: Welsh Government have set 50 National Well-being Indicators (NWBI) to measure progress towards the achievement of Well-being goals. These are population based indicators. In December 2021, Ministers agreed to set Milestones on 8 of these indicators, some of which are relevant to this Well-being Objective:

National Well-being Indicator	National Milestone	Current result - Wales	Current result - Carmarthenshire
NWBI-17 - Pay difference for gender, disability and ethnicity	An elimination of the pay gap for gender, disability and ethnicity by 2050	<u>2021</u> Gender Pay Gap - £0.72 <u>2018</u> Disability pay difference - £1.10 Ethnicity pay difference - £0.16	<u>2021</u> Gender Pay Gap - £0.96 Neither Disability or Ethnicity pay difference is currently available at LA level
NWBI-21 - Percentage of people in employment	Eradicate the gap between the employment rate in Wales and the UK by 2050, with a focus on fair work & raising labour market participation of under-represented groups	<u>March 2021</u> Wales - 72.2% UK - 74.7%	<u>March 2021</u> Carms - 68.6% UK - 74.7%

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective is everything we are doing in our Economic Recovery Plan (ERP)

- ⦿ We will continue to focus on supporting 3,000 people into work, providing 2,000 additional homes, maximising the community benefit of development schemes and supporting businesses to take advantage of key grants
- ⦿ We will for each of the individual town centres, manage the overseeing of the recovery plans passing responsibility to the stakeholders in the respective towns. Each of the plans highlight key issues and opportunities and provide a delivery framework of interventions specific to the town centres
- ⦿ Moving forward the RLSP will continue to work with Employers across the region to ensure that the RLSP inform Welsh Government what skills are required in the region and where WG funding needs to be allocated in order to fulfil the skills demands identified by employers



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

We have delivered over 1,400 additional affordable homes

Good quality affordable homes are the bedrock of healthy and sustainable communities. We have delivered 1,437 additional affordable homes since 2016 as part of the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan and the new Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- Good quality affordable homes promote health and well-being, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the People and the Environment – our homes are well insulated and have the latest innovative technologies (solar panels and batteries to store energy) that do not only significantly reduce our carbon emissions, they promote affordable warmth for our tenants. The average savings to fuel bills can be as much as 60% per year.
- It is good for the Social Structure - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents, in both rural and urban areas.
- It is good for the Economy - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce. Affordable housing developments ensure that working families will remain in their community.
- It is good for the Economy – our plans to increase affordable housing will see an investment of over £300m over the next five years in the County. This will help stimulate the local economy, grow the construction industry, the local supply chain and the green economy. This will also create jobs for local people as well as providing more homes to help local people remain in their communities.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

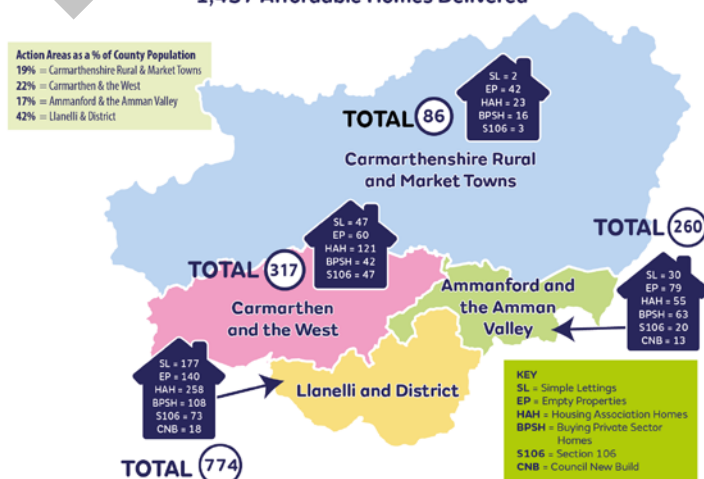
Success Measures / Explaining the Results



308 Additional Affordable Homes during 2021/22



Affordable Homes Performance - Overall Performance from April 2016
1,437 Affordable Homes Delivered



Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

- Through our Affordable Homes Delivery Plan we aimed to deliver over 1,000 additional affordable homes between 2016 and 2021. We exceeded this target and continue to be committed to delivering more affordable homes through our new Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan. So far, we have delivered **1,437** additional affordable homes through the following solutions:

31: Council New Build Homes

(31: 21/22)

256: Simple lettings agency

(32: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 61: 18/19; 61: 19/20; 30 20/21; 9: 21/22)

321: Empty homes brought back into use

(28: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 67: 18/19; 64: 19/20; 34 20/21; 65: 21/22)

253: Buying private sector homes

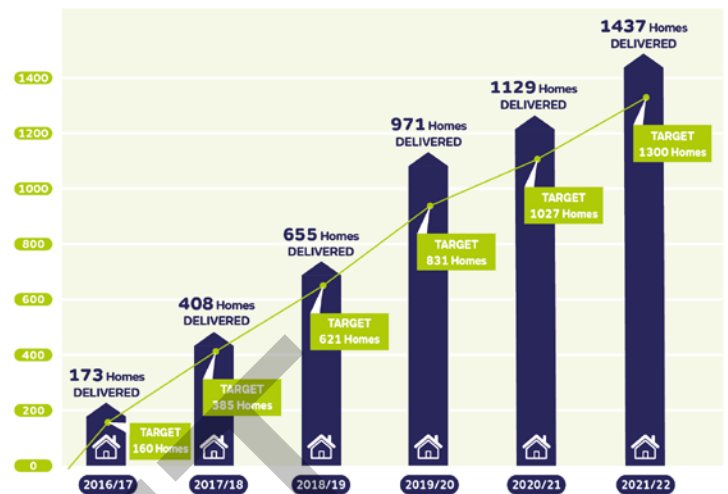
(45: 16/17; 69: 17/18; 81: 18/19; 43: 19/20; 7: 20/21; 8: 21/22)

433: Housing Association new build development

(45: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 17: 18/19; 107: 19/20; 51: 20/21, 193: 21/22)

143: Section 106 Contribution by Developers

(23: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 21: 18/19; 41: 19/20; 36 20/21; 2: 21/22)



- In July 2021 we asked the public and our key stakeholders for their views and priorities on how we should deliver more affordable homes in the future. Over **2,500 consultation responses were received** and the key messages from the consultation are summarised below and have shaped our new five-year Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan which was approved in March 2022.



This plan will build on the success of the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan and aims to support the delivery of 2,000 additional homes throughout the County. This plan will also support economic growth by investing over £300million into our communities directly supporting the action in our Economic Delivery Plan supporting businesses, people and places.

Our new energy efficient affordable homes are well insulated and have the latest innovative technologies and support the Council's Net Zero Carbon principles. They will reduce our carbon emissions by on average 70% and reduce fuel bills for tenants by up to 60% promoting affordable warmth, growing the green economy and creating sustainable communities.

- Our first 3 council new build developments have been completed and let these include: Garreglwyd, Maespiode and Glanamman. We have also completed the first 4 homes on the Dylan Development. These developments have provided 31 new affordable homes for local people. A further 24 sites are either on site, being prepared for planning or tender. This includes 6 sites in rural areas that will be developed on a mixed tenure basis and will provide homes for low-cost home ownership.

- ⦿ We maximise all external funding opportunities that help us deliver more homes in our communities including Social Housing Grant, Integrated Care Fund, Land Release Fund and the Land for Buildings Fund. In 2022 we secured over £19m of external funding to support our development programmes
- ⦿ We have robust governance process in place to ensure we maximise the delivery of affordable homes across the County. This is made up of a number of working groups and sub working groups that report directly to the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team, CMT Cabinet and Council.

Supporting the delivery of over 2,000 affordable homes in our communities



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Step....		
1	Delivery of first year of the five-year housing regeneration and development delivery programme (15332)	March 2023	Rachel Davies



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 7

Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

Excellent progress has been made in enhancing our health and well-being offer for the residents of Carmarthenshire by developing opportunities to engage online whilst investing in our physical infrastructure to encourage and support people to stay healthy.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- Our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- The challenge is to prevent ill health.
- Living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- Many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.
- Mental ill health is something that one in four adults will experience in the course of their lifetime.
- Playing a part in providing accessible, inclusive, exciting, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ① Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



68.6% of
Adults who
say their
general health

is Good or Very Good
(2021/22)

Previously 69.7% (2020/21)
Source: National Survey for Wales



40.1%
of Adults
who say
they have a

long-term illness (2021/22)

Previously 51.2% (2020/21)

Source: National Survey for Wales



Adult Mental
Health
score of
48.8

(Out of a maximum of 70
Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-
being Scale)

Previously 51.1

Source: National Survey for Wales

92.4%

of Adults who
have **two or
more** healthy
lifestyle
behaviours

(2021/22)

Previously 87.6%
(2018/19 & 2019/20)

Source: National Survey for Wales



The following [National Survey for Wales](#) shows:

General Health Good or Very Good

- 68.6% of Carmarthenshire participants said their general health is Good or Very Good, this has reduced slightly from 69.7% in the previous year, but comparatively we have remained in 18th position in Wales. We continue to work with partners such as Public Health via the Public Services Board to promote a healthy environment for Carmarthenshire residents, including exercise, nutrition and cleaner air.

Long-term Illness

- 40.1% of Carmarthenshire participants said they had a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity, this has reduced considerably from the previous survey results which has been around 50%. The Welsh average has also reduced from 45.7% to 33.4%, but comparatively we have moved from 17th to 20th position in Wales. The lower number with a longstanding illness or disability or infirmity the better.

Adult Mental Health

- Our mental health affects how we think, feel and act. Looking after our mental health is as important as our physical health, the link between the two factors of health is becoming increasingly better understood. Poor psychological and emotional well-being can act as a barrier to full participation in society. Issues such as confidence, anxiety, fatigue and stigma can limit an individual's capacity to interact with others or to find work for example.

Data from Public Health Wales is gathered from the National Survey for Wales and analysed according to the [Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale](#). It shows that Mental Well-being in Carmarthenshire has declined from a score of 51.1 (out of a possible score of 60) in 2018/19 to a score of 48.8 in 2021/22. The decline is in line with the rest of the country and is representative of the Welsh average of 48.9.

The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale was developed to enable the monitoring of mental wellbeing in the general population and the evaluation of projects, programmes and policies which aim to improve mental wellbeing. It is based on statements about feelings and thoughts, whereby individuals would indicate which best describes their experience of each over the last 2 weeks. Some of the statements include: *I've been feeling useful; I've had energy to spare; I've been thinking clearly; I've been feeling loved etc.*

Two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours

- Based on questions asked in the 2021/22 National Survey for Wales, participants were asked if they have **two or more** healthy lifestyle behaviours which include:
 - not smoking
 - not drinking above weekly guidelines
 - eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day
 - being physically active for at least 150 minutes in the previous week
 - maintaining a healthy weight/body mass index

Lifestyle choices impact on our future health and well-being. Carmarthenshire residents compare well to the rest of Wales in some areas such as physical activity, not drinking too much and eating healthily, however, there are a number of lifestyle choices where we compare poorly such as overweight or obese and smoking. 92.4% of participants in Carmarthenshire have two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours this has increase on the previous result of 87.6%, we continue to be below the Welsh average of 92.9%, but we have moved up from 18th to 13th best in Wales.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Eat and breathe healthily

- An Air Quality Delivery Plan has been developed and adopted by the AQ Action Steering Group. Local authorities are responsible to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) if national air quality objectives are not likely to be met. In Carmarthenshire there are three active AQMA

AQMA Name	Pollutants
<small>Source: Defra, UK</small>	
Llandeilo AQMA	Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂
Llanelli AQMA	Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂
Carmarthen AQMA	Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂

- Investment at Pembrey Country Park includes a new playground, an expansion of the cycling pump track, new mobile catering units, glamping pods, and enhancements to paths and eating areas at our camping and caravan site.

- ⦿ Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park has also recently secured close to £86k of external funding investment to enhance walkways, and bio-diversity at that site.
- ⦿ We have invested over £200k of internal and external funding at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park including a new toddlers play area, improved walks, and interpretation.



Physical Activity

- ⦿ We successfully hosted the 2021 Men's Tour of Britain professional cycle race in September 2021, as part of our wider commitment to developing sporting events and activities across the County to inspire future generations to lead healthy, active lifestyles
- ⦿ Llandovery Leisure Centre site masterplan completed, with creation of new fitness and multi-purpose rooms to complement the existing 20m pool. Outdoor multi-use courts also being incorporated into the community offer, working closely with Ysgol Gynradd Rhys Pritchard.
- ⦿ We have secured £2m of internal and external funding, £1.7m CCC capital funding /£300k external grant funding to develop the next phase of the Amman Valley Leisure Centre site masterplan. This will provide a state of the art full size, floodlit school and community use 3rd Generation all-weather artificial turf pitch and enhanced athletics facilities for school, public and club users.
- ⦿ Work is ongoing with the development of our Actif Anywhere online platform to stream classes and activities to people's homes; community halls; care homes; surgeries; hospital physio support (linking with the National Exercise Referral Scheme); and schools (pilot of 18 schools completed with potential to roll this out across Wales as a paid for extra-curricular service, with our USP being bi-lingual delivery).
- ⦿ We have appointed a main contractor to develop the new Leisure Centre in Llanelli as part of the Pentre Awel development.

Mental Health

- ⦿ Carmarthenshire Libraries have introduced new digital, technological and creative "Maker" services at key Library points, where users and communities are encouraged and supported to participate in an increasingly digital world. As part of our libraries core offer, maker services promote hands-on learning, creativity and collaboration, where people of all backgrounds and abilities can come together to share ideas and equipment that inspires confidence and helps users acquire new skills, building and igniting individual ambitions and encouraging learning for life.
- ⦿ The council has invested significant growth resource to address this which will be used to recruit more social work and social care staff to focus on two specific areas: early intervention and prevention, and a more robust and timely crisis response.
- ⦿ We have been collaborating with the Health Board and the third sector to develop initiatives in this regard developing a Single Point of Access and a 24/7 crisis response service.
- ⦿ The Twilight sanctuary crisis response in Llanelli, which was council led, goes from strength to strength and the model is now being rolled out across the region.
- ⦿ We are embarking on an ambitious programme of change in relation to accommodation. Our vision is to reduce the reliance on residential care and develop more community options accommodation, which promote choice and independence



Substance Misuse

- ⦿ We have been working with colleagues in the health board ,and third sector to improve access and intervention for those who have substance misuse and mental health issues ,and also for those who have alcohol related brain damage .
- ⦿ The Fulfilled Lives Scheme has been a successful pilot which supports people with Alcohol Related Brain Damage to remain living independently within the community

Is anyone better off?

ACTIF RESTART – WINTER OF WELL-BEING GRANT



The aim of the Actif Restart project was to improve the overall health and well-being of identified NEET (not in education, employment or training) population as they are supported through a journey to prepare for integration into their community through sport either as participants or voluntary/paid roles.

Throughout the project opportunities were provided to the participants to further enhance transferable job-based skills and qualities such as confidence, communication and leadership which can be taken forward with them in their futures.

Project Participants benefited from the following:

Actif Adult workshops	Tag leaders award
Coaching experience at rugby festivals	Coaching development opportunities
Club integrations	CV and interview preparation
Paid employment opportunities within Actif	Links to apprenticeships and further education
Opportunities to reflect on the project both individually and as a group	

The need for the project was identified after consulting with local organisations with a heavy focus to prepare young people for future careers or further education that were currently not in Education or Employment. Further discussions then took place with Dyfed Powys Intact project and CCC departments such as Youth Services and Employment Support. The data below highlights how important links with the listed partners are to provide young people with positive role models and support groups to help reduce the risk of crime in the local area. By introducing participants into social and safe environments within sports teams and encouraging ongoing involvement with clubs after the project the aim is to help reduce the risk of the individuals becoming involved with any criminal activity.

Through individual consultations with participants, it was possible to identify suitable sports clubs to signpost them to as a player or volunteer. Introductions into sports teams created a sense of affiliation and belonging for the Actif Restart participants within their chosen teams, providing them with a positive surrounding and reinforcing rules and disciplines to follow whilst at training and playing games. For this target group, embracing principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, and interactions with peers were all incredibly valuable aspects of the project for the participants to develop important life skills and help strengthen self-belief. Having positive experiences within these sports clubs has now allowed participants to increase their physical activity levels and encouraged them to restart or continue their physical literacy journey.

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/ Target	Owner/ Resp. Officer
#			
1	We will work to reduce waste and our carbon footprint across our Leisure and Cultural services, whilst increasing opportunities to lead healthy, fulfilled lives (16119)	31/3/23	Ian Jones
2	Development of a 10-year future direction document for discussion, input, and endorsement by the new political administration for the County in early 2022/23 (16120)	1/9/23	Ian Jones
A	Eat and breathe healthily		
1	Air Quality action plan progress and matters arising will be reported through the Net Zero Carbon plan report (16131)	31/3/23	Rhodri Griffiths
B	Physical Activity		
1	We will implement a Cycling Strategy for Carmarthenshire that will focus on 5 key strategic themes: Education, Development and Training; Infrastructure and Facilities; Marketing & Branding; Tourism Events (13195)	31/03/23	Carl Daniels
2	We will develop Ammanford Leisure Centre facilities with upgrades to internal wet-side changing facilities (phase 1 - completed); and improvements to parking infrastructure and external sports facilities linked to wider school site masterplan (phase 2) (14705)	30/03/23	Carl Daniels
3	We will need to work towards regaining and exceeding membership and income to pre-covid levels - with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic changing lifestyles and habits, this will be the services' greatest challenge (16121)	31/3/23	Ian Jones
C	Mental Health		
1	Implement Service delivery changes in Mental Health as part of the transforming Mental Health Agenda (16122)	March 22	Avril Bracey
D	Substance Misuse		
1	See Mental Health action	March 22	Avril Bracey



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

Age Well



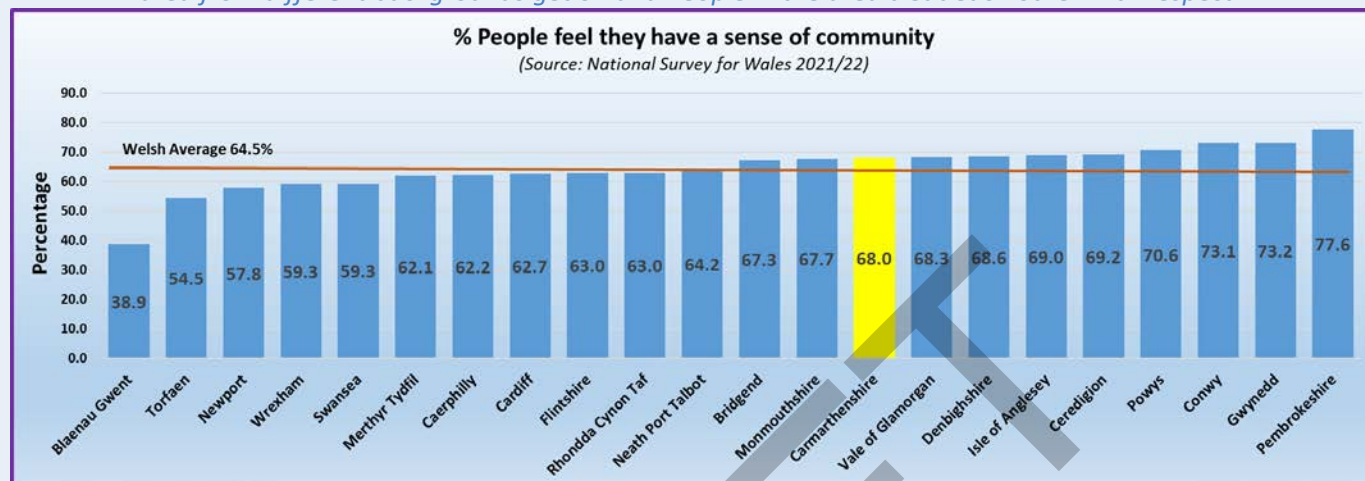


Well-being Objective 8

Live Well/Age Well - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

Sense of Community survey results have reduced slightly in Carmarthenshire from 68.6% to 68.0%

The 'Sense of Community' is derived from three questions; *People feel they belong to their local area; People in the area from different backgrounds get on and People in the area treat each other with respect*.



Despite an reduced result we move up from 13th to 9th position in Wales.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⦿ Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being and more people now appreciate the value of kindness and being part of a community.
- ⦿ A cohesive community is an area where those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in their neighbourhood, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values.
- ⦿ **Community Resilience** is also essential to enable communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. The COVID-19 crisis has shown what can be achieved when communities work together.

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

68.0% People who feel they have a sense of community
(9th Highest in Wales)
Previously 68.6% (13th)
Source: National Survey for Wales



66.7% People feel safe
Previously 74.6%
11th Highest in Wales



Source: National Survey for Wales

A sense of community

- ⦿ According to the 2021/22 [National Survey for Wales](#), 68.0% of participants felt they had a 'Sense of Community', this is a slight reduction on previous result of 68.6%. This result was derived from three questions: People feel they belong to their local area; People in the area from different backgrounds get on and People in the area treat each other with respect. Despite the slight decline, when compared with other results in Wales, we have moved up from 13th to 9th position.
- ⦿ Recent consultation in 2020 (as part of Carmarthenshire's [Well-being Assessment](#)) with representatives from a number of sectors of the community showed overall positive opinions towards current

community cohesion in Mid and South-West Wales. Focus groups were held with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities; EU (non-Welsh) citizens, rural and isolated communities, first language Welsh speakers, Gypsy / Traveller Communities, Syrian Refugees, LGBTQ+ people, disabled people and/or people with health conditions and young people. **77% of the interviewees referred to community cohesion as good.** It was recognised that there was potential for improvement and perceived “tensions” or “problems”.

Feeling Safe

- ⦿ According to the 2021/22 [National Survey for Wales](#), the number of **participants feeling safe has reduced from 74.6% to 66.7%**, but keeping just above the Welsh average of 66%. Comparatively, we have moved from 6th to 11th place. This result was derived from three questions: *people feeling safe at home; walking in the local area; and when travelling in the dark.*
- ⦿ As part of Carmarthenshire’s Well-being Assessment consultation work, our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic residents were equally concerned with threats of extremism, prejudice and hate crime. **In terms of community cohesion, our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community noted concern regarding community resources being closed, prejudice and lack of investment in their local community.** Raising concern about unfair treatment and reporting a hate crime were the top two things that Carmarthenshire residents would consider doing to help make things fairer for everyone in their community when asked as part of the 2021 Well-being Survey.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Develop and implement how we provide information, advice, and assistance.

- ⦿ We continue to work in partnership with Delta Well-being as our Single Point of Access into community health and social care. Through the expertise of the Information, Advice and Assistance team, wherever possible, we support people with information and advice without the need for referral to formal ongoing assessment. In 2021/22, on average 25% of contacts were resolved at information and advice without the need for further statutory support.
- ⦿ We have strengthened the role of Delta Well-being in our hospitals, and now have Well-being Officers working on the wards who act as the link between health and social care to aid timely discharge from hospital.

Greater community cohesion

- ! In 2019, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee undertook a **Task and Finish Review of Loneliness**, which put forward recommendations for the Council to consider. In light of these recommendations, plans are in progress to appoint a Senior Manager for Prevention and also a cross population Prevention Strategy and Action Plan. A key pillar of this plan will be Loneliness and addressing any gaps that are identified to help the wider population feel more socially included.
- ⦿ The regional dementia strategy is now in its final draft and waiting official sign off from the regional partners. The regional Dementia Steering Group is meeting regularly and progressing all aspects of the dementia funding workstreams. A regional Dementia Strategy Coordinator is currently being recruited to and will be in post shortly. We are working towards the re-opening of day services to include dementia clients.
- ⦿ The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions has led to a surge in enquiries from a wide range of event organisers – community organisations seeking to re-establish annual events cancelled due to the Pandemic as well as more commercial ones seeking to create new brands or those seeking to start the building up again of former events.

Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population and community resilience

- ⦿ A feasibility study is being undertaken within Tyisha for the establishment of a Community Hub. Based on the feasibility study a business plan will be developed. Asset Based Community Development Training has been planned for residents, officers, and local groups. A great deal of community based activities have taken place throughout the year to develop positive community relationships such as litter picking, play events and sessions, creative play sessions for parents and gardening projects.

- ⦿ Summer of Fun and Winter of Well-being initiatives have been successfully delivered via funding from Welsh Government to key wards across the County. Targeted initiatives were delivered in partnership with agencies like the Police and Crime Commissioner, CYCA, Inspire Recruitment and the Scarlets to re-engage Children and Young People back into physical activity. The funding was a catalyst to create new initiatives and partnerships which will form part of our service moving forward.
- ⦿ Over 60s in Carmarthenshire were given more options to enjoy exercise as the country recovers from the pandemic, as part of a £1m investment by Welsh Government. In a drive to reduce health inequalities and social isolation as part of Welsh Government's Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales Action Plan 2020-22, the funding allocated to Sport Wales was shared among all 22 local authorities for use on projects. Adults aged 60+ were able to access free and discounted sport and physical activity sessions in facilities and the community
- ⦿ As part of a Sport Wales Rescue Package numerous workshops and webinars were held with community clubs across the County to support club recovery and development plans, linked to Covid recovery. Actif Communities Officers supported clubs with recruiting and training volunteers, expanding their age groups, risk assessments and return to play protocols as well as supported funding bids.
- ⦿ Actif Carmarthenshire's Sports Awards Sports are one of the most prestigious Awards ceremonies in the county, recognising and celebrating sports successes and contributions throughout the year. In the absence of a ceremony in 2021 because of the Pandemic, January 2022 was an opportunity to reflect on the last 2 years and despite the pandemic, celebrate huge achievements from individual athletes to teams. Nominations were received from Sports Clubs, individuals and local Councillors, for awards for participation such as Sportsman of the Year and Young Sports Woman, as well as awards for those that the sport cannot function without such as Volunteer of the Year and Coach of the Year.

Support Safer Communities

- ⦿ The pandemic has provided opportunities for criminals to exploit persons who may be more exposed to fraudulent approaches due to lockdown/shielding and isolation from support networks. There has again been an overall rise in the numbers of frauds reported nationally with the Office of National Statistics reporting that there were 5 million fraud offences in the year ending June 2021, a 32% increase compared with the year ending June 2019. trueCall© Nuisance Call Blocking Devices, which have been installed in elderly and vulnerable residents' homes in the county have for the year 2021/22 blocked 15,831 nuisance calls. Based on national intelligence 4,340 of those calls were identified as being from numbers used by known criminals.
- ⦿ The innovative alert system Seraphimbeta© developed in the wake of the pandemic to notify authority officers when a trueCall user was experiencing high volume of calls from suspected fraudsters has for the year 2021/22 generated 94 high level alerts (an increase of 28 from the previous year). These alerts have led to welfare calls and officer intervention to prevent vulnerable residents engaging in telephone fraud approaches. Funding secured to increase the existing fleet of 220 call blockers has been used to purchase a further 500 call blockers and these are currently being deployed with authority partners Delta Well-being. Based on current average nuisance call volumes, we predict our combined fleet of call blockers has the potential to block in the region of 83,000 nuisance calls in Carmarthenshire annually. This work is being led by Trading Standards.
- ⦿ During Hate Crime Awareness Week, the Community Cohesion team helped coordinate a regional calendar of events, capturing content from partners who include Victim Support, Dyfed Powys Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hywel Dda University Health Board and Race Council Cymru. The cohesion team led on a number of projects during that week and throughout the year including:
 - A project in collaboration with Victim Support and youth clubs for young people to design a T-shirt, focusing on diversity and inclusion.
 - An Online Hate Crime Workshop tackling the issues around hate crime and social media.
 - A series of online Hate Crime Awareness events, in collaboration with Victim Support
 - Promoting the Community Cohesion Hate Crime Awareness film

The team led on a number of training opportunities for professionals including a series of sessions focusing on Awareness and Counter Narrative on Right Wing activity and Incel.

- ⦿ The Community Cohesion team ran a Small Grants fund across the region to encourage community groups and organisations to apply for funding. A number of successful projects ran across Carmarthenshire including:
 - *Queering Wales. Representation as a means to inclusion - On your face collective:* On your face is a LGBTQ+ platform aiming to bring the queer creatives of Wales to the forefront. The Cohesion team funded an event at The Nurture Centre in Carmarthen and will include an exhibition by various artists from the collective, live music, workshops, talks, open mic and a food stall. The exhibition would last up to 3 weeks but the event would be from 10 to 8 on the opening day.
 - *Future Proof, the Well Together Community - Create Me Happy / Rivki Rose Training:* The project combines two online workshops for Carers, to improve individual and community resilience through Self-advocacy Community Champions / Active Citizenship. The workshops were delivered to commemorate Carers Rights Day and International Day of Disabled people.
 - *Spoken Word Saturday, Community Connectivity Events - People Speak Up:* The project consisted of 5 bilingual spoken word face-to-face/digital community connectivity events at Y Ffwrnes Fach (Old Zion Chapel) in Llanelli. Events were an opportunity for the community to share their own stories and personal experiences of oppression, disconnection, loneliness, and post COVID-19 reactions. The events also had open community conversation times which will be an opportunity for individuals to chat, share, listen over cake and tea. The first event saw storyteller Phil Okwedy share his story of Nigerian descent, being brought up in a children's home, and how it feels to be a black man living in Wales.

Is anyone better off?

WINNER OF THE YOUNG SPORTS VOLUNTEER

Keeping team training together again safely

Joshua Edwards won the Young Sports Volunteer award for his role within Carmarthen Town AFC. Joshua has been a key part of the club for many years. When Josh was 16 years of age, he started a walking football group for over 50s in the area creating more opportunity for people to get involved.

Throughout the pandemic Josh has ensured all risk assessments and procedures were in place for the team to continue training with confidence and become socially active again, safely. Josh has also taken the role of Wales development squad manager and coach for age group males.'



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/ Target	Owner/ Resp. Officer
A	Develop and implement how we provide information, advice, and assistance		
1	Implement the requirements of the new Liberty Protection Safeguards in line with legislation (16124)	March 2022	Avril Bracey
2	We will ensure we respond to adult safeguarding concerns in accordance with the SSWBA (Part 7) and evolving statutory guidance (16125)	March 2023	Avril Bracey
3	We will develop a formal agreement between the Local Authority and Health Board, outlining collective responsibilities whilst agreeing a new staffing structure in Integrated Services to support our approach to develop strong communities, help people help themselves and provide support when is needed. (15101)	Dec 2022	Alex Williams
B	Greater Community Cohesion		
1	Publish a cross population Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, a key pillar of which will address loneliness (15342??)	TBC	TBC
2	We shall continue to develop a more strategic approach to strengthen and develop the preventative network of services & build community resilience, especially in relation to the third sector, housing related support and the wider community, including carers. (15083)	March 2023	Alison Watkins
C	Mental Health and Resilience		
1	See Well Being Objective 7 Action C1	NA	NA
D	Safer Communities		
1	To ensure the Council fully considers and responds to the requirements of the Counter Terrorism Protect Duty once published (expected in 2022-23) (15495)	March 2023	Kate Harrop
2	We will ensure the Council fulfils its duties relating to the current Contest Strategy (counter terrorism) and respond to any duties as they arise (15494)	March 2023	Gwyneth Ayers



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 9

Age Well - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

We have continued to keep older people safe in our communities in the most challenging of times, during which, as experienced nationally, demand for social care by far outweighs the limited care and support available in our communities. Ensuring that we target support where it is most needed has allowed us to help people to age well whilst maintaining their dignity and independence. As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the key challenge has been how to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of skilled and experienced social care workers to provide the support that our communities need. Efforts to do this has become our primary focus and top priority for our integrated health and social organisations.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⦿ Carmarthenshire has a high proportion of residents over 65 years old who are a vital and vibrant part of the community. We want the county to be a place to age well.
- ⦿ Consultations have demonstrated that 'what matters' to older people is to be able to be as independent and as well as possible for as long as possible.
'Being respected as an older person and not being seen as a burden on the local health and social care system'
- ⦿ Research shows that a vital factor of healthy ageing for older people is social participation, respect and inclusion.
- ⦿ Older people contribute to the economy in Carmarthenshire by caring for their grandchildren or other family members.
- ⦿ Wider services can make an important contribution in supporting and sustaining the independence of older people and reducing the demand on Social Services and Health Care.
- ⦿ The Council has determined to make Carmarthenshire a dementia friendly County along the lines of the [Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Community Programme](#).
- ⦿ The impact of COVID-19 on our care homes.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



66%

Agree there's a good social care service available in their area

(Previously 47.5%)

Source: National Survey for Wales



It takes us an average of

259

calendar days to deliver a

Disabled Facilities Grant

(Previously 347 days)

15.4% of people feel lonely in Carmarthenshire



(Previously 17.3%)

Source: National Survey for Wales

Good Social Care Service available in the area

- ⦿ According to the 2020/21 [National Survey for Wales](#) **66%** of participants believed that there is **good Social Care Service available in the area**. This is an improvement on the last survey result of 47.5% and above the Welsh average of 63.9%.

Disabled Facilities Grant

- ⦿ Delivering Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations during the last couple of years has been challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions with delays and the ability to complete ongoing site work. Our average number of days to complete these adaptations pre COVID-19 was 176 days, and well below the Welsh average

Page 90

of 204 days. This greatly increased during 2020/21 to 347 days and above the Welsh average of 261 days. This disruption created a backlog with a continued high number of days during 2021/22, but as the backlog is being addressed during the year, the average number of days has improved significantly to 259 days.

Feeling Lonely

- According to the 2021/22 [National Survey for Wales](#), **15.4%** of participating adults in Carmarthenshire **classed themselves as lonely**, this has reduced from the previous result of 17.3% but continues to be above the Welsh average of 12.8%, and comparatively we have moved from 19th to 18th position in Wales.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective


Improved population health and well-being

- Our Theatrau Sir Gâr service delivered a live stream of a Christmas Show to 6 care homes
- Actif received £46k from Welsh Government to promote and deliver free and discounted physical activities to the 60+ population. These included a range of Walking Sports (rugby, football and netball), Nordic Walking, Paddleboarding, Curling, fitness classes, gym activities and racket sports.
- Actif Adult Officers in the Actif Communities team have worked in partnership with clubs and organisations to facilitate and establish a number of walking sport sessions and clubs across the County.
- Our Delta Connect service has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months. Over 3,000 individuals have now registered for the service in Carmarthenshire, and the rapid response element of the service where a registered team of carers can provide emergency support has proved vital to keeping people safe and well at home. The service has responded to individuals almost 6,000 times and has often negated the need for a hospital admission or an emergency placement in a care home. The reassurance that Delta Connect is available at the end of a phone provides for Carmarthenshire residents and their families makes a huge contribution to improved population health and wellbeing.
- Thankfully, the impact on Older People of the pandemic has started to lessen over the last 12 months. The success of the vaccination programme has meant that COVID-19 is now more routine to manage in care settings, and risk of serious illness or death has decreased to levels comparable with other more routine seasonal illnesses such as flu. The impact psychologically cannot however be underestimated, and many older people have become increasingly isolated and are still living in fear of the risk of COVID-19. Initiatives such as Delta Connect are therefore vital to help support emotional health and well-being.



Better quality and more accessible health and social care services

- There is a national shortage of both qualified social workers and skilled and experienced care staff. At the same time, we have seen the impact that lockdowns linked to the pandemic and difficulties in accessing routine services have had on increasing the health and social care needs of our older population. The combination of these two factors has created a perfect storm. There are consequently an increased number of older people requiring social work assessment and consequently care at home, whilst there are less social workers available to carry out those assessments and less care hours available to support people in the community.

 <p>Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru Care Inspectorate Wales</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>‘People and their relatives speak highly about the care and support they receive. Care records are person centred and reflect people’s individual needs. Care staff are well trained, have a good knowledge of the people they care for and are enthusiastic about working in the service. Dedicated and knowledgeable managers who are well supported by the Responsible Individual (RI) lead the service. The managers are accessible and well respected by all involved. The RI has good oversight of the service and there are robust systems in place</p>
<p>May 2022</p>	

Carmarthenshire County Council In-house domiciliary care service Inspection Report	to support this. The leadership team have good working relationships and a clear vision about the service'
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- ⊙ We are doing all we can to prioritise those in most need of assessment and those that are waiting for care. However, it does mean that we have waiting lists for both assessments and care and consequently people are having to wait longer than we would like to get the support that we need.
- ⊙ In light of the above, we have had to be as creative as we can in finding alternative ways to support people. This has led to us rethinking the way in which we work and the success of one such initiative, the Intermediate Care Multi-Disciplinary Team (IC MDT), has been recognised as a finalist in the IESE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2022. The team adopts a 'Home First' principle to support people to leave hospital sooner or help keep people at home, by providing short-term support health to help people return or remain at home as independently as possible.



Higher value health and social care

	<p>In November 2021, Care Inspectorate Wales published its Assurance Check 2021 letter on Carmarthenshire County Council.</p>	
	<p>Adult Social Care Assurances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative working • Good communication and support across organisation • Shared vision of addressing the needs of people • People (including carers) given the opportunity to tailor and manage their own support • A positive integrated approach to a culture of prevention • Makes a positive contribution to the well-being of people in the pandemic period 	<p>Adult Social Care Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider Market • The demand pressure in the system is greater than the capacity available • Fragile position for in-house service • Delivery of care and support in some geographical areas

- ⊙ In context of the workforce challenges, making best use of our resources has never been more critical. This year we have gone out to tender for our new Care and Support at Home Framework which, notwithstanding the recruitment and retention challenges, will allow us to provide a more equitable service across the County.

<p>Internal Audit</p>	<p>Internal Audit has undertaken a recent review of the grant: ENABLE – Support for Independent Living</p>	<p>Internal Audit concluded that the project's aims and objectives had been met and that grant expenditure had been properly incurred in accordance with the grant offer.</p>
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- ⊙ In addition, we have used creative means such as the Well-being Support Grant, to financially recompense carers and families to support their loved ones whilst they are waiting for long-term care arrangements to be put in place.

A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce

- ⊙ The growing number of qualified social work and care worker vacancies, combined with increase in demand and people presenting with much more complex issues to resolve has seen waiting lists growing to much higher levels than we would like. Our primary focus has therefore been to develop

and implement our Social Care Recruitment and Retention Plan to give us every chance possible to recruit and retain staff to the level that we need.

- Over the course of the last 12 months, we have carried out comprehensive recruitment campaigns both internally and in support of the wider sector.
- We have also offered our social care staff a variety of retention payments to encourage them to continue to work for Carmarthenshire.
- We are developing career progression routes for staff so that they can develop their careers with us enabling us to succession plan for the future.
- We are in the process of launching our Care Academi which will provide career opportunities for those wishing to go into care to pursue professional routes such as social work.
- There is still much work to do, but we were starting to see a slightly improved position particularly in relation to social work vacancies.



Carmarthenshire's Delta CONNECT offers "a lifeline" to Edward during pandemic lockdown

When 82-year-old widower *Edward returned to his Llandovery home from a long spell in hospital at the end of 2019, his son, daughter in law and daughter would visit several times a day to help support him in his everyday life and keep an eye on him.

However, everything changed when the lockdown started. Edward began shielding and frequent visits were no longer as easy.

Edward began using the Delta CONNECT service in March 2020 and it has meant the world to him. His mood was extremely low after his lengthy stay in hospital and he had lost a lot of weight, which left him feeling frail and vulnerable.

As part of the CONNECT service, his assigned Community Wellbeing Officer (CWO) Louise called him weekly to check how he was and whether he needed any help. He also had a Lifeline home unit with pendant to call for help in an emergency.

"I'd been in hospital for four months and was really down in the dumps." Edward said, "It really helped when I spoke to Louise. She brought me back from the depths of despair."

For many clients, the service includes food or medical supplies, but Edward was lucky enough to have his family living locally to help with this.

"I'm so lucky to have a fantastic family nearby and they really look after me, but sometimes it's easier to talk to someone outside of your family because you don't want them to worry any more that they already are."

"I can't speak highly enough of CONNECT. Knowing that there was someone at the end of the phone for me was a lifeline and so reassuring for my family as well."

The CWOs are trained to identify clients who may need additional support, even when the client hasn't recognised that need themselves - this has helped Edward's family know that he is safe and supported at home even when they can't be there

Edward's son *Jonathan said: "The Delta service means a lot to my dad and he feels genuinely privileged to be able to access it. The Lifeline system is invaluable for him and although we're close by, it's reassuring for the family to know that help is on hand should he need it.

"The wellbeing calls have been fantastic - he enjoys having someone different to talk to and really looks forward to the calls every week. In a few years I'll probably be signing myself up."

***Names have been anonymised**

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Improved population health and well-being		
1	We will provide proactive and planned care to people in the community with chronic long-term health conditions/ increased frailty and those that require support at the end of their life (16132)	March 2023	Alex Williams
2	We will develop and implement a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire which will include continuing to work in partnership with Delta Wellbeing in support of our residents (15342?)	March 2023	Rhian Dawson
3	We will continue to reshape our approach to support patient flow and home first by developing the discharge to assess pathways and ensure that monitoring and escalation processes are maintained to ensure effective flow across the Carmarthenshire system (15348)	March 2023	Alex Williams/ Rhian Dawson
B	A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce		
1	We will grow the professional Social Work and Occupational Therapy workforce by ensuring that Carmarthenshire is an attractive place to work, there are opportunities for career progression and development of career pathways for non-qualified staff to become qualified (16133)	March 2023	Alex Williams



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

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Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

A large, diverse crowd of people is shown from a low angle, looking towards the background. The crowd is dense and fills the frame. In the center, there is a large, faint, stylized number '22' overlaid on the image. The text 'Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment' is positioned in the upper left corner.



Well-being Objective 10

Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

We have significant Environmental challenges to address

- ! A big challenge will be delivering against the decarbonisation priorities. We'll need to significantly increase future carbon savings to meet the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) local authority by 2030.
- Our Planning Service had significant and long-standing performance issues and an external audit brought this to the fore and in year the Council has intervened and made significant progress.
- ! Maximising recycling has been difficult following a fire at our main materials recovery facility and with COVID-19 relaxation of black bag rules. We have a new recycling contamination action plan and a new waste strategy which will help us deliver improved performance.
- Compared to previous years, 2021/22 has not seen as many significant flooding events resulting in high numbers of Carmarthenshire businesses and residents affected by internal flooding.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⊙ A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supporting social, economic and ecological resilience.
- ⊙ A good planning service is essential to deliver the Council's ambitions.
- ⊙ We have declared a climate emergency as a Council and were the first in Wales to have published our [Route Towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030](#).



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ^① Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



We generated
1,059,364 kWh of
renewable energy
during 2020/21
(increased from 997,480 kWh in
the previous year)



The Council's Energy
Consumption
(kWh) decreased
by **9.5%**
from 70,332,391 kWh in 2019/20
to 63,684,340 kWh in 2020/21



Our recycle rate is
61.68 %
(This is a decrease
on the previous
year's figure of 62.20%.)

- ⊙ In 2020/21, our overall Energy Consumption reduced by 9.5% 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.

- ⊙ A fire at the Nantycaws Materials Recycling Facility this has meant that achieving the 64% recycling rate target for the 2021/22 financial year has not been possible. This is due to the restrictions and difficult market position facing CWM Environmental and the Council following the fire and continuing to have to rely on third party facilities throughout the year. This remains the case going into 2022/23, however we do have specific plans for improving recycling capture and quality going forward.

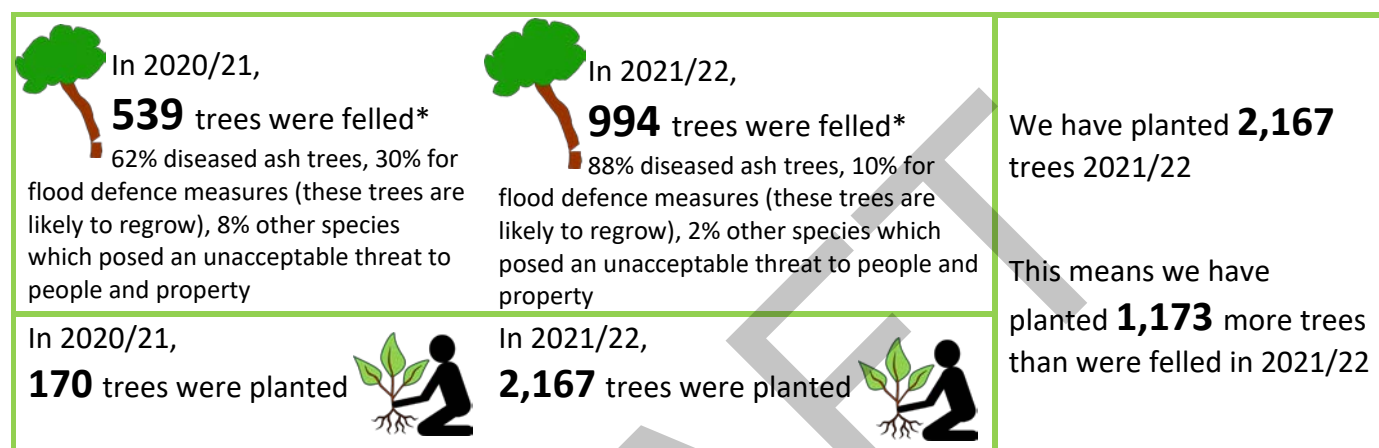
Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Address requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Declaration of Nature Emergency:

! A nature emergency has been declared by Welsh Government and we are setting up a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Advisory Panel to address this issue. We are delivering several projects to ensure nature recovery:

- We have improved heath and bog habitats at Figyn, Mynydd Figyn and Mynydd Staffalu Carn.
- Restored a pond at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park that can now be used for pond dipping.
- Enabled the Wildlife Trust to train staff and use tracking tunnels for monitoring dormice.
- Purchased grass cutting equipment to experiment with pollinator friendly practices.




*Trees are being felled due to ash die back, storm damage, safety, and some development requirements

Phosphate in Rivers

! New evidence about the damaging effects of phosphates to water ecosystems and species has resulted in the publishing of new targets by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to reduce river phosphate levels in special areas of conservation (SAC) across Wales. We have implemented several positive interventions, some of which are noted below:

- Developing and implementing the first and only Nutrient Calculator in Wales.
- Published a [phosphate webpage](#) which has been replicated by other authorities.

Deliver planning according to Planning (Wales) Act 2015

	<p>Audit Wales published the 'Planning Service Review' report in July 2021 that contained 17 recommendations and stated that:</p> <p><i>"Significant and long-standing performance issues in the planning service need to be urgently addressed to help support delivery of the Council's ambitions".</i></p> <p>A range of interventions were implemented to focus on delivering the recommendations and a turnaround in performance has been achieved.</p>
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There has been significant improvement on the determination of planning applications during the year. This is demonstrated by the following End of Year 2021/22 results:

	2020/21	2021/22	Improved by
% applications determined in time (PAM/018)	60.3% (735 of 1,219)	80.8% (1,536 of 1,900)	20.5%
% of planning appeals dismissed (PAM/019)	53.8% (7 of 13)	76.5% (13 of 17)	22.7%

The approval of major planning applications has a significant impact on job creation and the improvements made in planning during 2021/22 has resulted in the creation of 539 full-time and 52 part-time jobs (including 300 locating with the County) from the 95 applications approved. (See more WBO5 – Create More Jobs and Growth).


Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Local Authority by 2030

There have been 2 Internal Audits completed on NZC arrangements and their audit ratings were High.


Internal Audit	Rating	Good Systems in Place	Good Governance
	High	✓	✓
	Acceptable		
	Low		

- Our Re:Fit Cymru Phase 1 project has now been completed. This comprised various energy conservation measures, including solar PV installations, at 29 of our non-domestic buildings including schools. Phase 1 is projected to save £315,726 | 675 tCO2e each year.

Working towards Net Zero Carbon we are trying to reduce energy consumption and emissions:

 Annual Report Link	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21 vs 2021/22 % change
Non-Domestic Buildings				
Consumption (kWh)	66,407,242	59,808,497	TBC	
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	14,443	12,581	TBC	
Street Lighting				
Consumption (kWh)	3,925,149	3,875,843	3,599,124	7%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,088	981	832	15%
Continued reduction in annual electricity consumption (kWh) in 2021/22. Virtually 100% of all CCC managed street lighting has now been converted to LED. Future savings will plateau until more energy efficient technologies become available and installed.				
Fleet Mileage				
Mileage (Miles)	5,154,668	4,427,070	4,262,681	3.7%
Diesel Used (Litres)	1,419,336	1,267,437	1,320,551	4.2%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	3,814	3,407	3,573	4.9%
Whilst total mileage has marginally reduced, there was a marginal increase in the total diesel consumed which resulted in higher emissions in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. [Note: The BEIS calculation is a very blunt instrument that defaults to a national average for fleet vehicles. This could be refined by calculating actual carbon emissions for each individual CCC vehicle. I understand that a Fleet Review is to be completed by September 2022 – this which inevitably result in the procurement of more electric / ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) which will significantly reduce carbon emissions]				
Business Mileage				
Mileage (Miles)	3,971,513	2,251,986	2,511,091	11.5%
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,132	621	693	11.6%
There was a very significant reduction in emissions in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 (-45%). This was largely attributable to the impact of COVID-19 resulting in far greater homeworking and the use of ICT technology which reduced the need for travel. Whilst there has been a marginal increase in mileage and associated carbon emissions in 2021/22, emissions have not returned to the pre COVID-19 levels. [Note: The BEIS calculation is a very blunt instrument that defaults to a national average for fleet vehicles. This could be refined by calculating actual carbon emissions for each individual vehicle].				
Total				
Consumption (kWh)	70,332,391	63,684,340	TBC	
Mileage (Miles)	9,126,181	6,679,056	TBC	
Carbon Footprint (tCO2e)	20,477	17,590	TBC	

- As well as procuring all its electricity from renewable energy sources, the Council has made other efforts to reduce carbon emissions including converting street lights to low energy LED and upgrading its fleet to include electric cars and more energy efficient refuse and gritting vehicles.


	<p>Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030: July 2022</p> <p>In the report, the Auditor General makes the following five calls for action from public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration;</i> <i>Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation;</i> <i>Get to grips with the finances you need;</i> <i>Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity; and</i> <i>Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making</i>
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NB: Early feedback shows that we are one of only a few authorities in Wales to have Net Zero Carbon plans in place

Prosiect Zero Sir Gâr 2030: Carmarthenshire County Council has engaged thousands of children through this initiative - a targeted effort to bring people together to support the Council's journey towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030. Primary school children across the county have been challenged to become '[Prosiect Zero Super Heroes](#)', sharing their super powers and ideas to help Carmarthenshire tackle climate change.




Flood & Water Management Act & Shoreline Management Plan

Internal Audit	Flood Defence (May 2021)	Assurance Rating:			
	<p>The review sought to provide assurance that the Authority is managing flood risk in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Flood Risk Management Plan.</p>	<table><tr><td>High</td></tr><tr><td>Acceptable</td></tr><tr><td>Low</td></tr></table> <p>Actions being tracked to improve rating</p>	High	Acceptable	Low
High					
Acceptable					
Low					

- Compared to previous years, 2021/22 has not seen as many significant flooding events resulting in high numbers of Carmarthenshire businesses and residents affected by internal flooding. That said, the winter of 2021/22 did result in significant flooding in places in October; which was followed up with Storms Arwen and Barra in late November and early December. The Council does not have responsibility for main river flooding, that rests with Natural Resources Wales.
- Our flood incident management work has developed in 2021 and we are utilising more technology to advise on flood risk and prioritise resources.
- Following the flooding events in Kidwelly in October 2021, we undertook a formal investigation and have successfully applied for Welsh Government grant funding to make improvements.
- We have met with community leaders regarding current flood risk and future capital schemes. We continue to work collaboratively with partners, including Natural Resources Wales on the evolution of flood risk management interventions where appropriate.
- The move from traditional sea defence to coastal adaption will be key in the future. In addition, all our coastal assets were inspected, and defects actioned accordingly.

- In 2021/22, following the development of business cases, we received £650,000 in revenue and capital grants from Welsh Government. Furthermore, we have received grants for developing feasibility work and business cases for various specific flood mitigation works worth circa £245,000.
- This year we have managed a £2.5 million works programme across 15 mitigation projects.

Towards Zero Waste strategy

	<p>During the last year Audit Wales undertook a review of the Waste Services, it's principal finding was that: "The Council has met its statutory recycling targets and has recently drafted a strategy to make its waste service more sustainable, but it has not finalised the strategy or got a clear plan for dealing with the large number of fly-tipping incidents in the county"</p> <p>An action plan to fully address the report's recommendations has been implemented.</p>
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- We have finalised our [Waste Strategy](#). This strategy sets out the considerations and measures proposed for future improvement of the waste service to achieve 70% recycling by 2024/25 and the expected 80% target by 2030.
- Our consultation and engagement on the Future Waste Strategy had over 4,000 responses and directly shaped our future service design. We have listened to that feedback, and from next year we will be carrying out separate collections of nappies and glass so that there is less waste to put in black bags.

Local Environment Quality (LEQ)

- We have published a [LEQ Management Plan 2022-2026](#) which details the direction of the Council's litter management within the county for the next 4 years.
- We have responded to 5,026 fly tipping requests with an average response for clearance within 2.4 days. This response rate has returned to pre pandemic rates.
- We have worked with our volunteers from communities throughout Carmarthenshire to tackle Local Environment Quality (LEQ) issues. In the past twelve months, the Council, community groups, schools and partners have collected over 2,000 bags of littered and fly-tipped waste from throughout the County. This fantastic result has been achieved with help from almost 1,400 volunteers working hard to help keep Carmarthenshire clean, with almost 350 litter picks organised in partnership with us.



Cleanliness Performance Data	2020/21	2021/22	Comment
Keep Wales Tidy Cleanliness Index for Highways (STS/005a)	80.7% (740.5/918)	76.8% (903.5/1,176)	! These measures are on target but <u>have declined on the previous year</u> . The number of inspections undertaken this year are back to pre-COVID numbers and we have exceeded the number of inspections and plot hotspot areas.
We will maintain a high level of streets that are clean (PAM/010)	98.1% (177/181)	94.1% (369/392) This result exceeds the National Target of 92%	

SIOP ETO

The Eto shop opened in February 2022 and has a real buzz about it. Popular with locals and visitors alike it is an Aladdin's cave of all sorts of affordable domestic goods ranging from, sports equipment, pictures, ornaments and much, much more. These are all items that would have otherwise been thrown away. Now though they are brought back to life and benefiting others.



This project is the start of a long-term ambition for the Council to ensure that as much of these items can be reused to benefit the environment and reduce the need to create further products. Preventing the waste entering the waste stream through repair and reuse is the overall goal so that local people can benefit from the project.

Since opening in late February over 750 items have found new homes, this equates to just under six tonnes of waste items being reused rather than being landfilled. Staff at the shop are continuously helping shoppers to look for what they need and note down items of interest or would like to see stocked in the shop.

Working in partnership with CWM Environmental on this project has allowed for a collaborative approach with residents to provide goods which they will benefit from buying. The shop has a community feel and our aim is to connect with the people of Llanelli town and the County to make this project meet their needs and ensure they are able to benefit from it.



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Address requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016		
1	To advise and shape our response to the Nature Emergency declaration by Welsh Government in June 2021 Action ID 15665	March 2023	Rosie Carmichael
2	Three new areas of woodland are being established for the creation of new wildlife habitat that will contribute towards nature recovery, sequestration of carbon, creating areas for nature close to where people live and work. Action ID 15711	March 2023	Rosie Carmichael
3	To continue to work with partners to meet the damaging challenge of Phosphate in Rivers. Action ID 15681	March 2023	Ian Llewellyn
B	Deliver planning according to Planning (Wales) Act 2015		
1	To implement the adopted LDP and monitor its success or otherwise against its identified delivery measures ensuring policies, procedures and practices are being adhered to. Action ID 15674	March 2023	Ian Llewellyn
2	Ensure determination of all Planning Applications within agreed Welsh Government timescales. Measure PAM018	March 2023	Hugh Towns
3	To learn the lessons from the Planning Audit Wales report and the successful intervention approach taken and use as a blueprint if needed in future. Action ID 15682 (relates to audit report only)	March 2023	Rhodri Griffiths

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/ Target	Owner/ Resp. Officer
C	Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030		
1	The development of a strategic regional Eco- Park. Action ID 15662	March 2023	Dan John
2	To produce and manage the implementation of the Authorities Net Zero Carbon Plan to achieve the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon Plan local authority by 2030. Action ID 15699 + 15705	March 2023	Kendal Davies
D	Flood & Water Management Act & Shoreline Management Plan		
1	Manage and mitigate flood risk within our communities. Action ID 15993	Oct 2024	Ben Kathrens
E	Towards Zero Waste strategy		
1	Maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of the built and natural environment through the reduction of litter pollution, thereby creating a healthy and safe environment. Action ID 15689	Sep 2022	Geinor Lewis
2	Improve the way we manage waste in Carmarthenshire, increasing the waste reused, recycled or composted. Delivering against national beyond recycling strategy. Measure PAM030	March 2024	Dan John



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

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Well-being Objective 11

Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Continued deterioration of highways infrastructure

We have adopted a risk-based approach which has focused investment in road surfaces predominantly on the higher-class roads.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

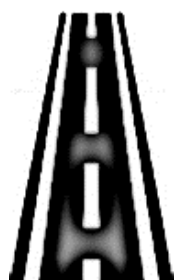
- Transportation & highways play a key role in supporting and sustaining our communities, it provides the vital infrastructure which connects people to one another, binds communities and enables businesses to grow and expand. A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and shopping.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? [Sources of evidence](#)

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

Roads that are in poor condition:



3.6% of our A Class

(An improvement on 4.1% in 2020/21)

2.8% of our B Class

(An improvement on 3.4% in 2020/21)

11.8% of our C Class

(An improvement on 12% in 2020/21)

The number of people being killed or seriously injured on the roads during 2021 to **81**

(2nd highest in Wales)

(55 in 2020)

Source: Stats Wales

- The condition of our main roads in Carmarthenshire has improved during 2021/22.**

Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales, more than double the Welsh average, and although we are a predominantly rural County, we have the third highest traffic volumes. Through additional investment and in line with our risk-based approach we have improved the condition of our main roads, and this benefits a large number of road users. Compared to other local authorities we are still within the lower quartile for road condition, so more investment is required to maintain this key infrastructure than is available.

- Carmarthenshire has the second largest road network in Wales and the third highest traffic levels which has an influence on road collision statistics. In 2020 the covid pandemic suppressed travel levels in Wales generally which then rose in 2021 towards pre-pandemic levels. This has unfortunately led to an associated increase in the number of casualties killed or seriously injured on our roads, from 55 in 2020 to 81 in 2021 (111 in 2019). The overall trends remain downwards, and our Traffic & Road Safety Team continue to work in partnership with emergency services to promote improved road safety through education, enforcement and engineering. Specific initiatives focused on motorcyclists such as Dragon Rider provides training sessions to enhance riding skills and the Bike Down training sessions for motorcyclists to provide first aid skills in emergency situations to enable those first on scene to preserve life. The number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on our roads increased to 16 in 2021 from 10 in 2020 but remains lower than pre-pandemic figures of 25 in 2019. The number of 16-24 year olds killed or seriously injured reduced to 5 in 2021 (from 8 in 2020 and 17 in 2019). Our work with partner agencies to influence further reductions continue with a range of measures and engagement events, such as our Pass Plus Cymru initiative, where we work with driving instructors to give our young drivers enhanced skills as they take to our roads and our Mega Drive initiative focuses on 16-18 year olds to enhance road safety awareness and is delivered in partnership with Go Safe and our emergency services.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Developing highway infrastructure

Key projects:

- **Cross Hands Economic Link Road** - this will be completed in the Summer of 2022. This represents the culmination of many years of planning and construction to deliver a key project which opens access to strategic employment and economic areas in Cross Hands and the wider area and will significantly improve traffic flows in the area. A shared use path is also being created along the link to encourage and support more walking and cycling in the area.
 - **M4 Junction 48 Improvements** - working in partnership with Welsh Government this major highway improvement scheme was completed in the winter of 2021. The project has significantly improved traffic flows at this crucial artery serving the Llanelli area and eased traffic congestion.
 - **Tywi Valley Path** - this ambitious project will create a 20Km off-road walking and cycling route linking Carmarthen to Llandeilo running alongside the River Tywi. **We have secured £16.7m of Levelling Up funding to enable the development and delivery of this key project.**
- For Active Travel, we have installed bike hire stations at key travel nodes such as Carmarthen Bus and Llanelli Railway Stations.
- Internally, there is a need to align and adapt our services to ensure we can meet the major challenges ahead. Several of our IT and information systems need to be developed and modernised, our workforce has adapted and will need to adapt further for the future, to enable us to digitally transform our operational processes to improve customer experience and efficiencies.
- Public Rights of Way service which manages an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Route Type	Number of Routes	Length (KM)
Footpath	2956	2282.0
Bridleway	138	166.06
Byway Open to All Traffic	88	81.3
Restricted Byway	1	1.6
Totals	3183	2530.96

*September 2022

We are improving Electric Charging Infrastructure. We now have 41 fast charging points across the county. We have launched our ten-year Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. The superfast charging hub, pictured, is located off the A48 in Cross Hands and will provide four 50KW rapid chargers and one 150KW super rapid charger. The chargers draw power from 100% renewable energy sources and the photovoltaic cells on the canopy roof linked to battery backup storage on site will help reduce draw from the national grid. The project is funded through the Welsh Government's Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Fund.



Our new, first of its kind in Wales, electric vehicle charging hub in Cross Hands

Integrated Public Transport Network

- We are working with our regional partners and Welsh Government to develop a strategic passenger transport project, referred to as the Metro for South West Wales. This will provide sustainable travel with rail and bus corridors through the region along key corridors routes which integrate with local connections.
- We are currently actively progressing the introduction of electric buses on the well-established T1 bus service between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth (see case study) and to explore the potential role and feasibility of piloting hydrogen powered buses in the region. This exciting project may represent a key alternative fuel source for the future with significant transport implications.

- ! The passenger transport industry has experienced very turbulent times and there are continuing factors impacting the industry. COVID-19 has had a fundamental impact on passenger numbers and hence revenues for operators. We have worked with Welsh Government to support the bus industry through this very difficult time and further global influences such as high fuel prices, driver shortages and staff sickness continue to create challenges within the industry. Our Passenger Transport Team have worked with operators to support them through this difficult time to continue providing essential services for customers. People in Carmarthenshire feel the pressures of the loss of public transport.
- ⦿ To improve the customer experience, we have utilised Welsh Government funding to install 42 Real Time Information displays, high quality bus shelters, wayfinding signage, significant infrastructure enhancements at Carmarthen and Llanelli Bus stations. These improvements are designed to encourage modal shift away from the private car thereby contributing to carbon reduction, social inclusion and economic activity, as well as improving the attractiveness, accessibility and vitality of our economic centres.

Support Community and Rural Transport

- ⦿ We successfully manage and provide a lead role in the LINC project on behalf of Welsh Government which includes the Fflecsi, Bwcabus and Trawscymru networks. These initiatives provided essential transport services throughout COVID-19, enabling key workers to continue to access employment. The service continued to be available 6 days a week 7am-7pm throughout the pandemic. Bwcabus has formed a new partnership with Viavan and Transport for Wales in May 2021, utilising Transport for Wales' new booking system and launching the rebranded service Fflecsi Bwcabus in October 2021. Fflecsi Bwcabus now enables passengers to book and manage journeys via an App as well as via a new call centre.

Road Safety Strategy

- ⦿ A new 20mph speed limit has been introduced in large areas of North and South Llanelli. These two large scale Welsh Government funded projects have involved working in partnership with local communities, elected representatives and schools.

Modernising our vehicle Fleet

- ! Our vehicle fleet are an essential supporting part of the services provided across the Council. Continuing to support our fleet and bringing in additional vehicles to maintain services through the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly challenging but nevertheless achieved. Whilst the pandemic is now receding, new challenges are emerging such as high fuel prices, driver shortages across the logistics industry and a shortage of vehicle fitters which continue to provide a stern test.
- ⦿ We are currently reviewing our Fleet Replacement Strategy which will include a transition to vehicles with sustainable fuel sources. This must carefully align with market supply as it continues to develop to ensure that the technological risks and financial risks to the Council are minimised and will need to ensure supporting infrastructure for fuelling and maintenance are in place.
- ⦿ The market supply for electric vehicles, and particularly for cars and small vans has developed quickly and is now providing reliable electric vehicle options for our Council Fleet. To support this transition Welsh Government funding has been secured to introduced 2 additional electric pool cars in 21/22. We also have the following programme to install 6 rapid and 13 fast chargers at our depots:
 - Trostre Depot (Llanelli) – 3 Rapid chargers (50kW) and 6 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - Cillefwr Depot (Carmarthen) – 2 Rapid Chargers (50kW) and 4 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - Cwmamman Depot (Glanaman) – 2 fast chargers (7-22kW)
 - County Hall (Carmarthen) – 1 Rapid Charger (50kW) and 1 fast charger (7-22kW)

The market supply for larger and heavy goods is less developed and operational challenges exist. Alternative fuel sources such as hydrogen are likely to be part of a future solution, but this area requires further development.

Electric Buses for the TrawsCymru T1 Service: Carmarthen to Aberystwyth

We are bringing forward an exciting project in partnership with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales to replace the current bus fleet operating the T1 Carmarthen to Aberystwyth service with a brand new electric bus fleet. This £5m+ project is being funded by Welsh Government and will include the construction of a new bespoke bus depot located adjacent to the Nant y Ci Park and Ride site in Carmarthen just off the A40.

The service will operate with a fleet of 8 new electric buses which are currently being built. The new fleet of electric buses are expected to come into service in September 2022. Thousands of customers every year will benefit from an improved ride quality on high specification vehicles with wi-fi facilities and know that the journey is being made on a zero-emission vehicle.



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Highway Infrastructure		
1	Deliver key infrastructure schemes Action ID 15713/15714	Sep 2022	Adrian Harries
B	Integrated Public Transport Network		
1	We will continue to work with national and regional bodies to develop the Southwest Wales Metro to support carbon reduction and the local economy Action ID 15759	March 2025	Stephen Pilliner
2	Monitor supply market for passenger transport to adapt services where required to changing supply conditions Action ID 15764	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
C	School Transport network		
1	We will continue to support the delivery of the Modernising Education Programme – redesigning networks to facilitate the movement of pupils as set out in our home to school transport policy Action ID 15767	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
D	Support Community and rural Transport		
1	Develop Community Transport Strategy to enable access to essential services from rural communities Action ID 15773	March 2023	Alwyn Evans
E	Integrated Public Transport Network		
1	We will support the development and delivery of a new railway station at St Clears Action ID 15787/15788/15789	Nov 2023	Simon Charles
F	Modernising our vehicle Fleet		
1	Update Fleet Replacement Programme & Strategy to transition towards Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and Depot Infrastructure Action ID 15716/15717/15718/15719/15720/15721/15722/15723	March 2023	Antonia Jones



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective



Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language & Culture

Following a challenging COVID-19 impacted 2 years for our Cultural services, we have made significant progress in protecting and enhancing our Cultural offer across the County with investment in key strategic facilities and services.

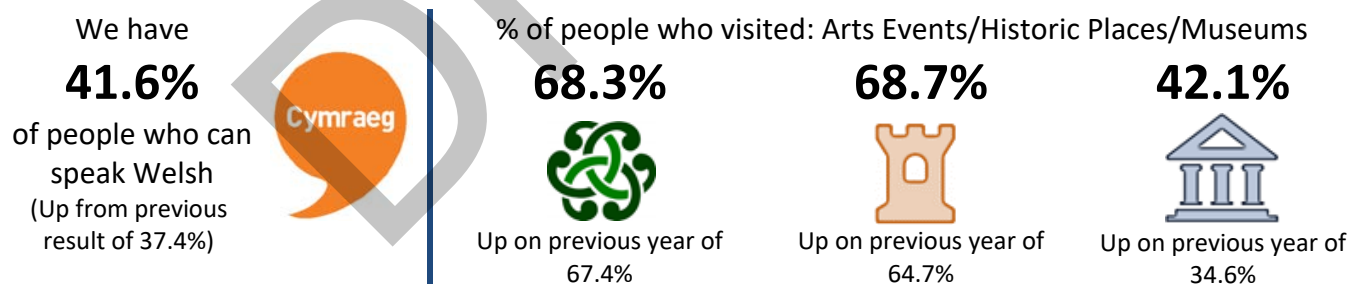
Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⦿ We have the highest number of Welsh speakers in our county compared to the rest of Wales, which makes Carmarthenshire a key strategic stronghold for the future of the Welsh language; however, we are also the county with the greatest reduction in the percentage of Welsh speakers according to the 2011 Census figures, which makes taking positive action crucial. The social and economic benefits of bilingualism are widely recognised, and research shows that 86% of individuals in Wales feel that the Language is beneficial to both the economy and individuals through cognitive and social benefits.
- ⦿ It is a unique selling point. Tourist and hospitality industries throughout Europe are now realising the importance of offering unique experiences. Having two languages and a sense of Welsh history and culture places Carmarthenshire in a strong position.
- ⦿ The pandemic has had a significant impact on opportunities to use Welsh socially and consistent action needs to be taken to safeguard its use as a living language.
- ⦿ The proportion of children acquiring the Welsh language in the home has decreased significantly over the last half century. Positive action needs to be taken to ensure all children can become bilingual.
- ⦿ Research has shown that, in general, people in Wales who regularly attend or participate in cultural activities are more likely to report higher subjective well-being and potential mental health benefits are seen.



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



Source: National Survey for Wales (sample size 600)

People who can Speak Welsh

- ⦿ 2021/22 National Survey for Wales data published in July 2022 showed that **41.6%** of participants said they could **speak Welsh** (based on a sample of 600 residents), this is the 3rd highest in Wales moving above Ceredigion for the first time in this survey. Our result also shows an improvement on the previous survey result of 37.4%. The National Survey for Wales gives a good annual indication of the number of Welsh speakers; however, the Census is the only source that gives a whole population figure, with 43.9% (78,000 speakers) noted in 2011, the highest number of Welsh speakers in any county. The initial Census 2021 findings were published in the July 2022 and the main releases two years after the Census (Spring 2023). This will provide the firmest evidence base for Welsh language skills in the County.

People who visited Arts Events, Historic Places and Museums

- ⦿ The most recent data published in June 2020 for participants from Carmarthenshire **attending an arts event, visiting historical places or visiting a museum** had increased. Both visits to Arts events and Museums were below the Welsh average of 70.4% and 42.5% respectively but the % visiting historic places are above the Welsh average of 62.5. *Please note that the questions asked whether they attended or visited these places in Wales and not specifically in Carmarthenshire.* Updated National Survey for Wales data may be published June/July 2022

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Implement and monitor the Welsh Language Standards

- ⦿ 30 members of staff from various departments have received training and enabled us to further strengthen our network of Welsh Language leaders who have an extended knowledge of the Welsh Language Standards within the Council's departments.
- ⦿ We provided a continuous flow of internal communication to ensure staff awareness of their responsibility under the Standards and published new and revised guidelines and flowcharts to promote appropriate working practices.
- ⦿ We established a new, monthly on-line opportunity (Y Clwb Clebran) for staff to use their Welsh language to mitigate the potential detrimental effect of the new ways of working on staff Welsh language skills and their ability to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

The development of Welsh in all our Education services

- ⓘ Please see WBO3 - The development of Welsh in all our (Education) services

The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

- ⦿ Extensive work was done to gather information and establish a set of measures from partner organisations to compile a report on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan 2016-21.
- ⦿ Preparatory work was done, including consultation with partner organisations, to form the new direction and content of the Welsh language Promotion Strategy for 2022-27.
- ⦿ We have facilitated the multi-agency Fforwm Iaith Sirol / County Welsh Language Strategic Forum, organising quarterly meetings to drive the work of the Promotion Strategy forward.
- ⦿ Extensive inter-departmental work was done to establish the Welsh language at the core of the Council's economic development work, to ensure that our regeneration programme is carried out in a way that will have a positive impact on the Welsh language.

Promoting our Welsh Culture & Heritage

- ⦿ Our investment into an exhibitions gallery on the first floor of Carmarthen Museum has enabled us to establish a partnership with the National Gallery London, to showcase world renowned artwork and collections here in Carmarthenshire, raising the profile of our Cultural offer and engagement with our local and visiting population.
- ⦿ £500k has been invested at Parc Howard Museum to replace the roof and to create a new café space for community use over the coming months and years. Working closely with the Friends of Parc Howard, Parc Howard Association and Llanelli Town Council, plans are being realised to relocate an accessible museum reception and retail area, as well as enhance interpretation and exhibition.
- ⦿ The new Museum of Land Speed, part of the Pendine Attractor project which also includes a new 44 bed hotel is due for completion in late Summer 2022. Working in partnership with Pendine Community Council over the past 2 years, this project will further enhance our Cultural and Tourism offer within the County, whilst regenerating this key coastal destination, a few miles down the coast from our iconic Dylan Thomas Boathouse in Laugharne.
- ⦿ A brand new £2m Archive has been completed and is scheduled for opening in July 2022 as our invaluable collections return to the new depository, situated at Carmarthen Library.
- ⦿ Our Theatrau Sir Gâr service undertook a research and development project for a new Welsh language comedy

- Libraries 24/7 - Remote Locker solutions are being installed at Whitland, Brynaman and Newcastle Emlyn Libraries to allow for greater access and flexibility for users to book, deposit and collect books at rural locations. Self-check in/out Beacons are now established at all Libraries with the All-Wales Library app now operational across the County network of libraries.



Support our Annual Cultural awards and promoting Annual Village and Town of Culture

- Our Town and Village of Culture programme is re-starting, following a difficult COVID-19 impacted 2 years, whilst our annual Cultural awards evening re-established itself in early Spring 2022 with a fantastic evening at our flagship Ffwrnes Theatre in Llanelli, celebrating our fantastic cultural offer and the work of our partners and volunteers across the County.

Is anyone better off?

We have worked in collaboration with the Tywi Gateway Trust to secure external funding and invest over £2m into the redevelopment and long-term sustainability of the Bishop's Park, the grounds of the Old Bishop's Palace and home to Carmarthenshire Museum in Abergwili, Carmarthen. A new Visitor Centre for the park with its glass-roofed Café is completed, bringing the old palace outbuildings into public use. Landscaping to improve access, habitat management and biodiversity conservation, with interpretive signage throughout the park help people enjoy and connect with their heritage and environment.

The Trust involves volunteers and the local community as part of the long-term investment into the site, which has also seen the local authority and external funders investing over £1m into its County Museum building. The museum is managed by CofGâr, Carmarthenshire County Council's Museum service. Restoring the historic museum, creating an accessible entrance, and refurbishing galleries preserves and promotes our County's unique cultural heritage collections. And special exhibitions and programmes explore themes connected with the environment, wellbeing, and current issues, helping people to learn from the past to improve today and plan for tomorrow.

The holistic development of the site now known as **Carmarthenshire Museum and the Bishops Park** is a collaboration unique in Wales between a local authority and charity. Connectivity is a shared value, helping build more cohesive, resilient communities, whilst creating opportunities for people to live healthier, more connected lives.

The project is live and new elements continue to be added. An accessible ramp into the Great Meadow will be installed, creating access into a unique habitat previously in private ownership. A grant has been awarded to the Trust to develop detailed plans and costs for the Walled Garden, a project focussing on social impact, sustainable food production, and skills development. And as Carmarthenshire Museum and the Bishops Park becomes a major hub at the start of the Tywi Valley Path, the benefits of walking and cycling for local communities, businesses and tourism will be realised.



What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Implement and monitor the Welsh Language Standards		
1	We will publish an annual report on the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards for the period 2022/23 (13280)	June 2023	Llinos Evans
2	We will review the current Internal Use of the Welsh language Policy and prepare a framework to support departments to increase the use of the Language in administration (15486)	March 2023	Gwyneth Ayers
3	We will publish and adopt a policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh language (16112)	March 2023	Gwyneth Ayers
4	The % of staff at Level 3 of the Welsh language skills framework (Cym/001) (Baseline 2021/22= ? %)	No target	Gwyneth Ayers
5	The % of posts recruited at the required level of the advertised post (Cym/002) (Baseline 2021/22=? %)	No target	Gwyneth Ayers
6	The number of staff following Welsh language skills learning and improvement courses (Cym/003) (Baseline 2021/22=?)	No target	Gwyneth Ayers
B	The development of Welsh in all our Education services		
1	See Well-being Objective 3		
C	The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy		
1	We will review and refresh the County's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan considering the progress to date and the Census 2021 results, which are expected during the year (14896)	March 2023	Gwyneth Ayers
2	We will publish a report on the current Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (16113)	March 2023	Llinos Evans
3	We will work with partnership organisations on the promotion of the Welsh language in Llanelli (16115)	March 2023	Llinos Evans
4	We will lead and administer the County Welsh Language Strategic Forum and instigate the delivery of the revised action plan (16116)	March 2023	Llinos Evans
5	We will continue to work in partnership to ensure the delivery of the county's regeneration work has a positive impact on the Welsh language (16117)	March 2023	Llinos Evans
D	Promoting our Welsh Culture & Heritage		
1	We will work with the Marketing & Media Team and other key services to lay the foundations for, and welcome, the Urdd Eisteddfod to Llandovery in 2023 (16118)	June 2023	Llinos Evans
E			
1	We will deliver a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum and Museum of Speed Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors (13289)	April 2023	Ian Jones



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

Better Governance and Use of Resources





Well-being Objective 13 Better Governance and use of Resources

Better Governance

We have improved performance management arrangements

We have:

- ♦ produced a Performance Management Framework
- ♦ improved engagement and assurance on business planning to improve self-assessment
- ♦ introduced more integrated quarterly performance management monitoring and assessment

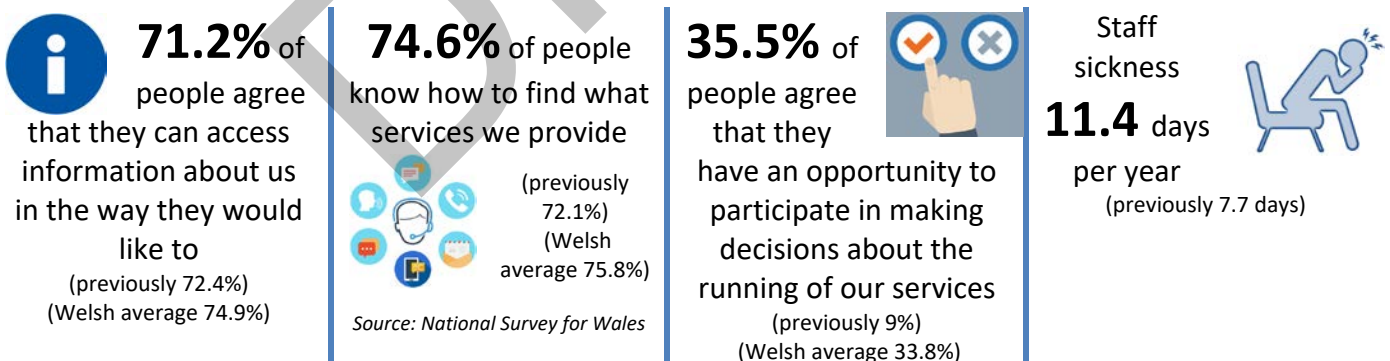
Why this Well-being Objective is important

- ⦿ The general purpose of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the Well-being of Wales take the needs of future generations into account. To make this work there are key areas of corporate change that are required by the Act.
- ⦿ There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.
- ⦿ The way we work needs to focus on the long term, working in partnership and collaboration, involving people more, preventing problems before they materialise and ensuring we work in an integrated way to maximise our resources and reduce duplication; one of the ways we do this is through the Public Services Board (PSB).

1 Corporate Planning	Covered by Better Governance
2 Performance Management	
3 Workforce Planning	
4 Financial Planning	Covered by Better Use of Resources
5 Assets	
6 Procurement	
7 Risk	

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ① Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



According to the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales:

- ⦿ **71.2%** of participants agreed that they **could access information about us in the way they preferred**, below the Welsh average of 74.9%, and in 17th position.
- ⦿ **74.6%** agreed that **they knew how to find what services we provide**; below the Welsh average of 75.8% and in 13th position in Wales.
- ⦿ 2021/22 National survey for Wales results published in July 2022 shows that **35.5% agreed that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of our services**, this is a vast improvement on the 2019/20 result of only 9% and is above the Welsh average of 33.8%. There has been a general increase across all authorities and comparatively, we have moved up to 5th position from 21st previously.

Staff Sickness

- ⊙ **Sickness figures** at the end of 2021/22 of **11.4 FTE days** is 3.7 days higher than last year and above the 2019/20 Welsh average of 11.2 FTE days (Authority 2019/20 performance was 10.74 FTE days). This is our highest sickness figure since 2008/09 (11.7 days) **However, it is important to note that this has been impacted by COVID-19 related sickness absence, which accounted for 2 FTE days per employee during 2021/22.** National benchmarking data indicates this increase is evidenced across all industries particularly sectors delivering frontline/operational services where working from home was limited.
- ⊙ The service areas with the highest sickness absence figures are Waste & Environment, Adult Social Care, Access to Education and Housing Property & Special Projects and Special Schools which are mainly front-line operational services which have been at the forefront of supporting our communities during the pandemic. The causes of absence are monitored and the impact and legacy of COVID-19 continues. People Management division provides advice and support for managers, who have the responsibility to manage attendance, they are provided with sickness data and analysis to plan appropriate action to ensure cases are managed and employees supported, in line with our sickness policies and guidelines.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Corporate Planning

- ⊙ To judge the progress of the Corporate Strategy we set out a table of 44 success measures. Despite being blindsided by the COVID-19 Pandemic, over the last 5 years 60% of these measures have improved since the start of the Strategy. **See Appendix 2.**
- ⊙ The Corporate Strategy was updated twice during its course to make sure that our Well-being Objectives were still relevant and we consulted on them each year to ensure continued support. For each of our 13 Well-being Objectives we identified the key steps we were taking to achieve them and then via business plans identified key actions and measures for each step.
- ⊙ During 2021/22 it was evident that Scrutiny Committees wanted to see an improvement in the measurements and actions set out in business plans so that they could hold the Services to account and see what success looked like. As a result of this feedback, and in response to new Local Government & Elections Act requirements relating to performance and governance, Business Plan measurement and SMART Action planning has been improved.
- ⊙ To further strengthen the development of departmental business plans an officer **Engagement and Assurance process** was set up during 2021/22 to discuss departmental business plans with each Departmental Management Team.

Performance Management

- ⊙ During 2021/22 a **new Performance Management Framework was introduced.** This framework sets out the Council's approach to monitoring and managing the performance of the Council's services.
- ⊙ Actions and targets to deliver the Corporate Strategy are monitored on a quarterly basis. The Corporate Management Team, Cabinet Members and Scrutiny committees receive quarterly Performance Management reports as well as the end of year report.
- ⊙ During 2021/22 **we developed a more integrated quarterly performance monitoring approach.** These more analytical reports added Member Task and Finish Scrutiny investigation findings, customer feedback (complaints and compliments) financial, internal and external audit findings, risk, people, asset management and other relevant data to build up a more rounded picture of progress.

INTERNAL AUDIT



REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The overall objective of the review was to assess the adequacy of the performance and reporting arrangements in place.

ACTION

An action plan has been drafted to improve this rating.

ASSURANCE RATING

HIGH	
ACCEPTABLE	✓
LOW	



As part of our response to the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 we requested support from the Welsh Local Government Association to assess and challenge the adequacy of the Council's self-assessment arrangements and to provide advice on what further developments would encourage a culture of continuous improvement.

- ⊙ As a Council we already have a lot of data that we report and this needs to be better harnessed and consolidated. We want to make better use of data and in February 2022 we have set up a 'Data Insight' unit to corporately ensure that we become a data driven authority.
- ! We are taking a more critical assessment approach to producing the Annual Governance Statement so that it does not just set out what arrangements we have in place but how well they are working, how we know and what can we do better. We will also improve the timescales for its production.

Workforce Planning (People Management)

Carmarthenshire County Council has some 8,000 employees who each contribute to the achievement of our Corporate Priorities. We ensure that all staff are managed and developed in a fair and consistent way.



- ⊙ Our staff are encouraged to develop, and we are accredited with Investors in People.
- ⊙ Following Local Government Elections, we will **ensure learning & development is fully aligned with corporate priorities**, with needs and transformation plans integrated into our new Corporate Strategy.
- ⊙ The management of attendance and supporting **the well-being of staff** is a high priority for the Council. A robust attendance management framework and policy is in place and the Occupational Health function offers well-being support and advice with the aim of keeping people in work, providing advice and guidance on healthy living, stress management and mental health in the workplace. This has been particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic where support to staff has been stepped up via well-being initiatives and COVID-19 specific policies.
- ⊙ During 2021, a revised attendance management policy was introduced and associated e-learning to further support managers to manage attendance effectively. This is a priority for the Council, and management information is regularly provided to the Corporate Management Team and service managers for monitoring purposes.
- ⊙ Using existing governance arrangements (People Strategy Group) we will need to review our workforce strategy in light of the pandemic to support the organisation to recover.
- ⊙ During 2021 we held dedicated Local Government Association (LGA) facilitated workforce planning sessions with Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service; and developed an online workforce data dashboard for Heads of Service / Service Managers. We now need to build on this learning and consider the impact of COVID-19 on our workforce and develop a Strategic Workforce Plan.
- ⊙ Our annual **equal pay** audit does not suggest any evidence of discrimination within the pay structures, nor the allowances paid. The pay gaps are generally because of segregation of the sexes between job types rather than application of the allowances. As required, the Council publishes a Pay Policy each year to provide transparency on setting the pay of its employees. The Pay Policy is agreed by Full Council and is published on the Council's website.
- ⊙ The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated a move to **agile working** and it is intended that this will inform how the Council manages its workforce in the future through smarter and better ways of working. This will impact on accommodation requirements and contribute to our ambition to become net zero carbon by 2030 by reducing the need to travel. The Staff Travel Policy will be reviewed to reflect the move to new ways of working.
- ⊙ Our Whistleblowing Policy is being used by employees to report serious concerns which may be in the public interest. Online learning, promotion of the policy and monitoring of whistleblowing complaints continues to ensure that employees are aware of it.

Springing Forward - Strategic management of its workforce



Audit Wales undertook an all-Wales project to examine the local government overall arrangements and approach to transforming, adapting, and maintaining the delivery of services. For Carmarthenshire it found that - *The Council is improving the strategic planning for its workforce and is taking action to address staff capacity issues in key service areas but recognises that performance monitoring of workforce management needs strengthening.*

Ensuring Effective External Communication

Since the introduction of *My Hwb* account (for online services and payments), 78,163 residents have signed up for the service. We're adding more services online and reviewing our existing e-forms to ensure that they are easy to use.

- ⦿ The Hwb in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli offer pre-booked appointments and drop-in advice to an average 8,000 residents per month, as well as providing advice and access to training and employment support. This had to be taken forward in a different way during 2020/21 due to COVID19 restrictions and the establishments having to be closed. Customers have been able to contact online and telephone and virtual meetings have been held. The increasing use of Social Media has allowed open engagement and conversations with members of the public. In addition to this Social Media is an excellent tool for promoting council services.
- ⦿ Throughout 2021/22 we have seen an increase in residents and businesses accessing information, support and council services online, the number of visits to our website has increased yet again this year by a further 7%.
- ⦿ The pandemic without a doubt has supported this increase to the website and how we present information bilingually, often at very short notice has been welcomed and complimented by the public.
- ⦿ Accessibility of information is key and we are proud to have this year passed the accessibility standard. It is so important to remember that residents, visitors and businesses are now accessing the website in various ways and interestingly 58.9% access using their mobile device. This is key when considering how to present information to ensure we engage to as a wider audience as possible.
- ⦿ Key stats CCC website 2021/2022
 - Pageviews: 6,144,228
 - Sessions: 3017983
- ⦿ Key stats for social media, email marketing and video
 - 19.3m Twitter reach
 - 8.82m Facebook reach
 - Published 3259 posts
 - Dealt with 4055 'inbound' posts, enquiries via comments, written on our wall or sent as a direct message
 - 53.3k link clicks
 - Facebook – New followers – 1,201. Total followers: 20,451
 - Twitter – New followers – 372. Total followers 11,151
 - 443,141 emails sent to MyAccount, businesses and 3rd sector. 267,018 unique opens.
 - Video – 115,800 views

Is anyone better off?

Tackling Employee Poverty

The Council continues to support its lowest paid employees and workers by **continuing to pay the Real Living Wage supplement** to ensure that our lowest paid receive the equivalent of £9.90 per hour (including fixed allowances).

What and how we can do better

Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/ Target	Owner/ Resp. Officer
A	Corporate Planning		
1	Following Local Government Elections in May 2022 and the publication of the new administrations manifesto we will reset the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives (15488)	July 2022	Gwyneth Ayers
2	We will further develop business planning processes and engagement and assurance approaches (15496)	July 2022	Gwyneth Ayers
B	Performance Management		
1	We will continue to develop the Performance Management Framework and our self-assessment processes (15496 & 15487)	March 2023	Rob James
2	We will continue to develop our Integrated Quarterly Performance Management Observations reporting (15496)	March 2023	Rob James
3	We will improve on the timescale for producing the Annual Governance Statement (16134)	March 2023	Helen Pugh
4	Develop an engagement and consultation plan for the authority (15580)	March 2023	Deina Hockenhill
C	Workforce Planning (People Management)		
1	We will develop a new Transformation Strategy; ensuring that Learning & Development priorities and programmes are fully aligned with corporate priorities and needs; further developing the Council's Leadership and Management Programme to support key corporate priorities (15516)	September 2022	Jon Owen / Bernadette Dolan
2	Further improve our recruitment processes via the introduction of new integrated recruitment IT system. (IIP) (15512 & 15507)	March 2023	Alison Wood / Jon Owen
3	We will evaluate the employee experience and undertake research to develop a Workforce Engagement Strategy that will underpin the new workforce strategy (15499 & 15500 & 15501)	June 2022	Cheryl Reynolds
4	We will develop more proactive preventative solutions such as promoting good health and educating employees on healthy lifestyle choices (15502)	March 2023	Heidi Font
5	Developing a set of performance and outcome measures that reflect the Council's ambitions for its workforce (16135)	March 2023	Cheryl Reynolds
D	Ensuring Effective External Communication		
1	Deliver the council's corporate communications strategy following the key principle of <i>One Council, One Vision, One Voice</i> . As part of the launch of this strategy, communicate and embed a corporate communications standard across all departments to ensure the basic principles of communication are understood and utilised by all - for example, communications are always accessible, bilingual, friendly and with a clear call to action (15569)	August 2023	Deina Hockenhill

Making Better Use of Resources

Through careful financial planning we have been able to set a balanced budget that will support the Council to continue delivering vital services and will allow us to continue to provide first class services to the residents and businesses of Carmarthenshire.

Why this Well-being Objective is important

- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.

The general purpose of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the Well-being of Wales take the needs of future generations into account. To make this work there are **7 key areas** of corporate change that are required by the Act.

- 4 Financial Planning
- 5 Assets
- 6 Procurement
- 7 Risk

Better Use of Resources



How well are we doing (and how do we know)? Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



5.85% increase of online payments
(From 53,454 to 56,582 transactions)

Financial Impact:

We have administered and have paid:
£78m of grants to support local business
£3.4m of Winter Fuel Support Scheme payments.
£397.6k of Discretionary Housing Payments.
Over £4m of Self Isolation Support Payments and 10,754 applications received.



Through our delivery of
Community Benefits
548 person
weeks of targeted recruitment & training was delivered

9.9% of people agree that we ask for their views before setting our budget
(previously 11.3%)
(Welsh average 9.2% and in 9th place)
(Source: National Survey for Wales)

Online payments

- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and with increased access to online services, this has created a natural shift with many customers contacting us, submitting forms and documents and paying for our services electronically with a 5.85% increase in the number of online payments from 53,454 in 2020/21 to 56,582 transactions during 2021/22.

Organisational 'running costs'

- We have administered a total of £78 million from Welsh Government Grants to the Carmarthenshire Business Community to support businesses during these challenging times.
- Since November 2021, we have administered the Winter Fuel Support Scheme and processed 9,480 cases and have paid out £3,409,200 to support Carmarthenshire residents.
- We have paid out £397,584 of Discretionary Housing Payments and up to mid-March received 10,754 Self Isolation Support Payment applications and paid out over £4 million to eligible claimants.

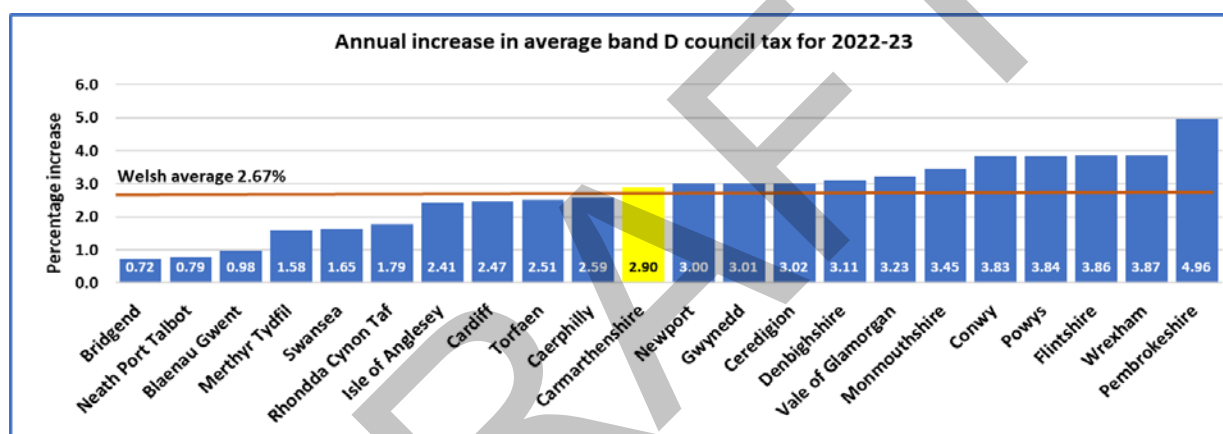
- Through our delivery of Community Benefits over 548 person weeks of targeted recruitment and training was delivered in 2021/22 through the Council's 21st Century Schools project across the County.
- We have claimed £27.4 million from Welsh Government via hardship claims to support additional COVID-19 services. We have also claimed £4.5million relating to claims for loss of income.
- Despite inflationary pressures on a truly unprecedented scale, the Council was able to set a balanced budget of £416 million which provided sufficient funding to sustain service levels, realised efficiency savings where possible and curtailed council tax as much as possible to 2.5%.

People agree that the Council asks for their views and as part of Carmarthenshire County Council budget consultation we sort views of members and public before setting the budget

- The 2019/20 National Survey for Wales showed the number of participants agreed that *we ask for their views before setting our budget* was 9% (Welsh average 9.2%), this is a decline on the previous year of 11.3% and in 9th position (previously 7th). Due to COVID-19 there is no updated data available for the measure, although we continued to hold our annual budget consultation and engaged with councillors and members of the public.

Progress on the steps we are taking to achieve this Well-being Objective

Financial Planning



- Carmarthenshire has the 11th lowest annual % increase at 2.90% and just above the Welsh average of 2.67%. This is the lowest % increase since 2012/13 at 2.38%. The Council Tax levels in Carmarthenshire is the 9th lowest in Wales (Band D) at £1,799.92 an almost £320 less than the highest level in Wales and just above the Welsh average of £1,777.18.
- Audit of Financial Statement** – An unqualified Audit report was received from Audit Wales on all statements (financial year 2020-21) and the audit found no major issue other than generic-all Wales matters, considering we have undertaken £140 million of additional COVID-19 related funding across dozens of specific grants.
- A mixed methods approach to ascertain views on the 2022-25 budget took place and this was publicised in local and regional press, local radio advertisements and via equality groups including Equality Carmarthenshire, Ageing Well Forum, Carmarthenshire Disability Coalition of Action and via Town and Community Councils. There was a low response rate, possibly due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. Responses were received via the Council's online consultation page on the website, emails were submitted together with social media responses via Facebook and Twitter and all comments and views were taken into consideration. [REVENUE BUDGET 2020 to 2023 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/revenue-budget-2020-to-2023)



- There have been 3 Internal Audits completed during 2021-22 looking at the following areas and their audit findings were:

INTERNAL AUDIT



RATING	COUNCIL TAX	NNDR	AGS
HIGH			
ACCEPTABLE	✓	✓	✓
LOW			

We are tracking action plans to improve these ratings

Assets

- Just under £2.9m was generated from Capital receipts during 2021/22 which exceeds our target by almost £0.75m, this covers some of the £0.4m shortfall in 2019/20 and £1.8m shortfall 2020/21.

SPRINGING FORWARD – STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS



Audit Wales undertook an all-Wales project to examine the local government overall arrangements and approach to transforming, adapting, and maintaining the delivery of services. Overall, it found that: *The Council is strengthening its arrangements for asset management and recognises that there are opportunities to use the sustainable development principle more to improve this work and that performance management of assets could be improved.*

Procurement

- We have addressed the key findings, highlighting good practice and recommendations from the 'Procuring well-being in Wales' report (published 25/02/2021) from the Office of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales [procuring-well-being-in-wales](#).



- We have amended our Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) template which ensures that the sustainability issues such as environmental, social, economic & cultural issues can be factored into the specification for individual tenders to incorporate elements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We also include service provision information relating to the 5 ways of working i.e. Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration & Involvement. We have produced an Ethical Employment in Supply Chains Policy and drafted the Council's first annual written statement on the steps taking during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in our organisation and our supply chains.

Risks

- The Corporate Risk Register is reported to the Governance and Audit Committee every 6 months and is reviewed by the Corporate Management Team every quarter as part of the performance management information and in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We use a **"Web Based Risk Register Software"**, which allows Departments to input, access, maintain and manage both Corporate, Service and Project Risks.



A TIC review that concluded in December 2021 noted that *'Although the COVID-19 pandemic initially impacted on the ability to progress the recommendations contained within the Audit Office Review and follow-up Internal Audit Review, a number of key actions have now been implemented and good progress has been made across the action plan in general.'*



Sell2Wales

Sell2Wales
All our procurement opportunities over £25K are listed on the Sell2Wales website.



Community Benefits
Community Benefits in Public Sector Procurement ensures that wider social, economic and environmental issues are taken into account in our tendering activity.



Find a Tender Service
Find a Tender Service (FTS) is free to use and displays information on public sector contract opportunities in the UK.



Busnes Cymru | Business Wales

Business Wales
Business Wales can help small or medium sized enterprise SME (employing up to 250), who want to improve their chances of winning public and private sector contracts.



Terms and Conditions
These terms and conditions set out the basis of the relationship between the Council and the successful supplier.

Business is about people

We value our diverse range of suppliers and acknowledge the importance of having access to a quality and diverse supplier base, recognising that ***business is about people by talking to them, listening to them, and understanding them.*** To this aim we have held 7 Live Tender Webinars virtually via Teams with a total of 164 suppliers in attendance over the last financial year. The aim of these sessions was to inform prospective tenderers of the forthcoming tendering opportunities and the requirements of these service/goods.

We also understand that the prospect of tendering for business with us can sometimes appear to be a daunting task. Therefore, we have actively engaged with 63 suppliers through a series of first point of contact sessions (1-2-1 meetings) over the same period, engaging with suppliers who are interested in working with the Council.

A Meet the Buyer Event was organised by the appointed main contractor Bouygues for the Pentre Awel Zone 1 Development and was held at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli. A total of 107 suppliers/contractors attended the event throughout the day with Procurement and Community Benefits Officers representing the Corporate Procurement Unit at the event. This Meet the Buyer event was aimed at giving opportunity to second tier, local suppliers to learn of potential sub-contracting opportunities.

We have developed a Supplier Guide for current and potential contractors, suppliers, and providers with the aim to help provide organisations who want to work with us a clear understanding of how to bid for contracts and what is required during the quotation or tendering process. This is now available electronically and appears on our website [Supplier Guide to Tendering \(gov.wales\)](#). It contains a variety of helpful information, advice, and guidance in relation to procurement and “How to Tender” with Carmarthenshire County Council.

Supplier Guide to Tendering

In this section

→ 1. Introduction

→ 2. What do we spend our money on?

→ 3. Where and with whom is our money spent?

→ 4. How We Buy

→ 5. What rules, regulations & procurement procedures do we follow?

→ 6. How does the tendering process work?

→ 7. Where do we advertise our contract opportunities

→ 8. What is included in a Tender document/package?

→ 9. The Dos and Don'ts of Tendering

→ 10. Supplier Engagement Events

→ 11. Getting Ready to Tender

→ 12. Procurement Glossary

→ 13. Advice and Support

What and how we can do better

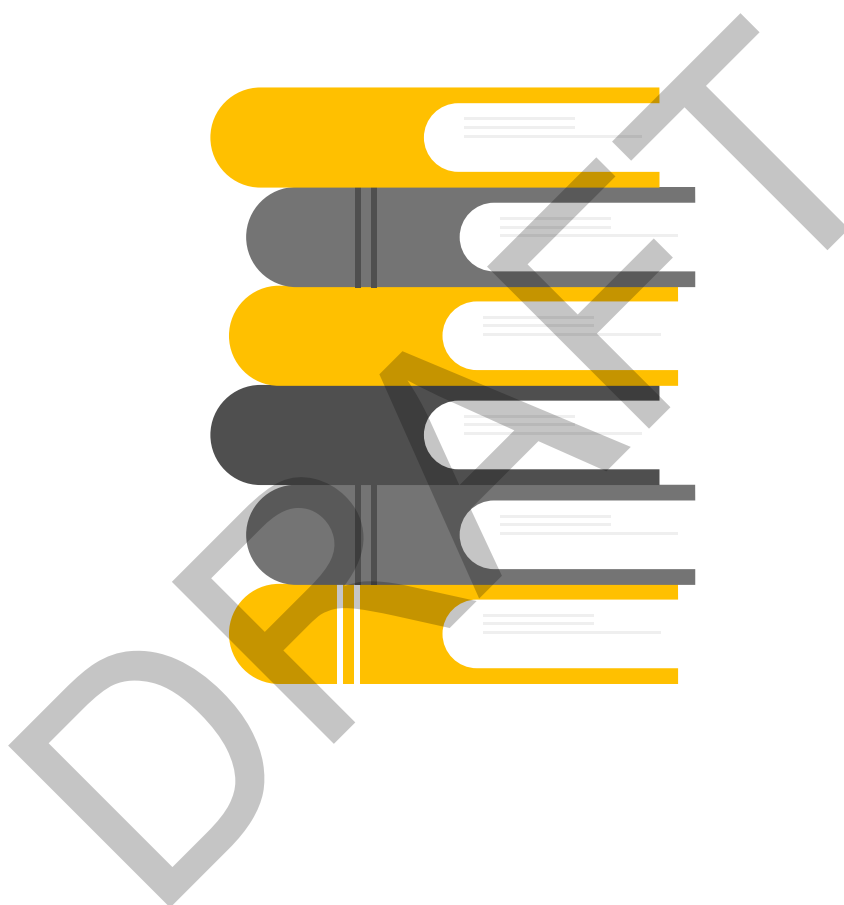
Our delivery plan to achieve this objective

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target	Owner/Resp. Officer
A	Financial Planning		
1	Use of the Council's reserves to invest in the County and support future development (Moving forward in Carmarthenshire) 16063	March 2023	Chris Moore /Randal Hemingway
2	Ensure the Council manages its budgets effectively and prudently (Moving forward in Carmarthenshire) 16064	March 2023	Chris Moore /Randal Hemingway
3	We will undertake the closure and Audit of the Accounts within the appropriate timescales 16061	June 2023	Chris Moore /Randal Hemingway
B	Assets		
1	We will commence work on the transformation of the former Debenhams Store to provide a multi service hub covering health, education and leisure	March 2023	Jason Jones/ Stuart Walters
2	Delivery of Phase 1 Pentre Awel providing business, research, education, community healthcare and modern leisure facilities 15155+12985	March 2023	Jason Jones/ Steffan HG Jenkins
3	We will apply and embed the sustainable development principle in the way it plans, delivers and monitors the management of its assets # Audit Wales Recommendation -Springing Forward 16136	March 2023	Jason Jones/ Stephen Morgan
4	<i>We will improve the performance management of our assets.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a set of performance and outcome measures that reflect the Council's ambitions for its assets and monitor these measures at a corporate level, including reporting to overview and scrutiny committee benchmarking performance on asset management with other organisations # Audit Wales Recommendation-Springing Forward 16137	March 2023	Jason Jones/ Stephen Morgan
5	We will review and formally adopt the Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan by March 2023 15541	March 2023	Jason Jones/ Stephen Morgan
C	Procurement		
1	We will work with departments to deliver compliant tender exercises through the implementation of a category management approach. 15286	March 2023	Chris Moore /Helen Pugh /Clare Jones & Gemma Clutterbuck
2	We will continue to develop our approach to early engagement of Local Businesses. 15288	March 2023	Chris Moore /Helen Pugh /Clare Jones & Gemma Clutterbuck
D	Risks		
1	Continue to implement the action plans developed in response to the WAO/Internal Audit Review, with priority to be given to ensuring that the Risk Toolkit is formally adopted and used to inform development sessions for managers at a divisional level and dedicated development sessions for Departmental Risk Champions. 15292 (Sub Actions: 14302, 14303 & 16040)	March 2023	Chris Moore /Helen Pugh /Julie Standeven



View our [detailed progress commitments and targets here](#) for 2021/22 against this objective

APPENDICES



Statutory Requirements

Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

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

- a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is ***'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'***
- b) We must demonstrate use of the 5 ways of working: Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- c) We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.



The Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we are required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximise our Contribution to the Well-being Goals.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

The **Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021** provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. It replaces the Local Government Measure 2009. [Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils](#) and includes specific duties for the Council:

- Duty to keep performance under review;
- Duty to consult on performance;
- Duty to report on performance – based on self-assessment approach;
- Duty to arrange a panel performance assessment;
- Duty to respond to a panel performance assessment report.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements

The performance requirements are the extent to which:

- we are exercising our functions effectively.
- we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
- our governance is effective for securing the above.

How our Well-being Objectives contribute to National Well-being Goals

Carmarthenshire's 2021/22 Well-being Objectives			7 National Well-being Goals						
			Prosperity	Resilience	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant culture & Welsh Language	Global responsibility
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	2	Help children live healthy lifestyles	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	3	Support and improve progress, achievement and outcomes for all learners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Live Well	4	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	5	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	6	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	7	Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Age Well	8	Support community cohesion, resilience and safety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	9	Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	10	Look after the environment now and for the future	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	11	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	12	Promoting Welsh Language and Culture	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	13	Better Governance and Use of Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Success measures for our Well-being Objectives

Details and explanation of performance for each of these success measures can be found under the relevant Well-being Objective in this report.

The Result column is based on the two most recent years results.

Wellbeing Objectives and Success Measures	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Result
WBO1 - Best Start in Life							
Children in care who had to move 3 or more times <i>(PAM/029)</i>	9.2%	8.8%	10.4%	8.6%	4.7%	6.6%	Declined
WBO2 - Children - Healthy Lifestyles							
Childhood obesity <i>(Child Measurement Programme NHS)</i>	29.4%	26.6%	30.4%				Declined
WBO3 - Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners							
Educational attainment - Average Capped 9 points score <i>(Year 11 pupils) (PAM/032)</i>			363.1	367.2			Improved
School attendance rates (Primary) <i>(PAM/007)</i>	94.8%	94.4%	93.9%	93.9%			Same
School attendance rates (Secondary) <i>(PAM/008)</i>	94.5%	94.3%	93.8%	93.5%			Declined
Satisfaction with child's primary school <i>(NSW)</i>	93%	90%	84%	95%			Improved
Number of leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training <i>(NEETs)</i>	Year 11 <i>(PAM/009)</i>	2.1%	1.4%	1.8%	1.5%	1.8%	Improved
	Year 13 <i>(5.1.0.2)</i>	2.0%	3.0%	4.9%	3.5%	2.7%	Improved
WBO4- Tackle Poverty							
Gap in the Average Capped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) for those eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not eligible <i>(NWBI)</i>			19.7%	17.9%			Improved
Households successfully prevented from becoming homeless <i>(PAM/012)</i>	64%	65.1%	59.4%	46.4%	46.4%	50.5%	Improved
Households in material deprivation <i>(NWBI)</i>	15.3%	15.8%	13.5%	11.3%		12.0%	Declined
Households Living in Poverty <i>(CACI's 'PayCheck' Data)</i>			35.5%	33.7%	33.8%	35.6%	Declined
WBO5 - Creating Jobs and Growth							
Employment figures <i>(ONS – Annual Population Survey) (NWBI)</i>	75.2%	73.7%	71.6%	71.7%	68.1%	69.6%	Improved
Average Gross weekly pay <i>(ONS – Annual Survey of hours and earnings)</i>	£494.5	£517.8	£511.3	£536.2	£574.5	£566.9	Declined
Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above <i>(Stats Wales) (NWBI)</i>	37.4%	37.8%	38.0%	41.4%	39.9%	37.7%	Declined
People moderately or very satisfied with their jobs <i>(NSW) (NWBI)</i>	80.0%	82.5%		78.9%			Declined
WBO6 - Affordable Homes							
Number of affordable homes in the County <i>(7.3.2.24)</i>	173	235	247	315	158	308	Improved
WBO7 - Healthy Lives							
Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good <i>(NSW)</i>		69.0%	66.0%	69.6%	69.7%	68.6%	Declined
Adults who say they have a longstanding illness <i>(NSW)</i>		50.0%	53.0%	50.5%	51.2%	40.1%	Improved
Adult mental well-being score <i>(NSW) (NWBI) (score out of 70)</i>	50.2		51.1			48.8	Declined
Adults who have two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours <i>(NSW) (NWBI) (Not smoking, drinking < 14 units or lower, eating 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week).</i>		91.8%	91.2%	87.6%		92.4%	Improved

Details and explanation of performance for each of these success measures can be found under the relevant Well-being Objective in this report.

The Result column is based on the two most recent years results

Wellbeing Objectives and Success Measures	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Result
WBO8 - Community cohesion, resilience & safety							
% Say they have a sense of community (NSW)(NWBI) (Derived from feeling of belonging; different backgrounds get on, treat with respect')	47.7%		51.6%		68.6%	68.0%	Declined
People feeling safe (NSW)(NWBI) (At home, walking in the local area, and travelling)	76.9%		76.1%		74.6%	66.7%	Declined
WBO9 - Older people to age well							
Agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area (NSW)	56.2%		47.5%		66.0%		Improved
Number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015)	167 days	161 days	157 days	176 days	347days	259 days	Improved
People who are lonely (NSW)(NWBI)	17.1%	16.6%		17.3%		15.4%	Improved
WBO10 - Look after the environment							
Renewable energy generated (kWh)	670,400 kWh	937,330 kWh	979,071 kWh	997,480 kWh	1,059,364 kWh	TBC	
Council's Energy Consumption (kWh)			69,059,743 kWh	70,332,391 kWh	63,684,340 kWh		Improved
Rates of recycling (PAM/030)	66.23%	63.64%	58.95%	64.66%	66.08%	61.68%	Declined
WBO11 - Highways & Transport							
Road conditions (PAM/020) A Roads	4.3%	4.1%	5.2%	5.4%	4.1%	3.6%	Improved
(PAM/021) B Roads	3.5%	3.1%	4.2%	4.7%	3.4%	2.8%	Improved
(PAM/022) C Roads	11.6%	11.9%	12.5%	12.5%	12.0%	11.7%	Improved
Road casualties (5.5.2.21)	102	83	97	111	55	81	Declined
WBO12 - Promote Welsh Language & Culture							
Can speak Welsh (NSW)(NWBI)	40.1%	43.6%	37.8%	37.4%		41.6%	Improved
People attended arts events in Wales in last year (NSW)	69.3%	67.4%		68.3%			Improved
People visited historic places in Wales in last year (NSW)	63.8%	64.7%		68.7%			Improved
People visited museums in Wales in last year (NSW)	36.0%	34.6%		42.1%			Improved
WBO13 - Better Governance and use of Resources							
'Do it online' payments	29,020	34,494	39,321	46,044	53,454	56,582	Improved
People agree that they can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to. (NSW)		70.8%	72.4%	71.2%			Declined
People know how to find what services the Council provides (NSW)		71.9%	72.1%	74.6%			Improved
People agree they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services. (NSW)		11.4%		9.0%		35.5%	Improved
Staff sickness absence levels (PAM/001)	10.8 days	10.1 days	9.8 days	10.7 days	7.7 days	11.4 days	Declined
People agree that the Council asks for their views before setting its budget. (NSW)		8.0%	11.3%	9.9%			Declined

2021/22 National Survey for Wales

The following are results of the 2021/22 National Survey for Wales that are currently available at local authority level, but not all of these are attributable to the Councils performance.

Where the same question was asked in a previous survey, the table below shows whether we have improved our performance and our rank position.

In AR	Questions asked in the 2021/22 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator	Has our result improved			22 nd	21 st	20 th	19 th	18 th	17 th	16 th	15 th	14 th	13 th	12 th	11 th	10 th	9 th	8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	3 rd	2 nd	1 st
		Previous available result	2021/22 survey result	Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓	Worst results										Best Results											
					Arrows start from our previous position										to our 2021/22 position											
1	✓	% Agree that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services.	9.0	35.5	↑	18.0																				38.5
2	✓	% Who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local areas (NWBI/23)	18.8	31.6	↑	14.6																				33.4
3		% Say they have access to good services and facilities (NWBI/24) <i>(within a 15 to 20 minute walk from home)</i>	91.0	85.2	↓	72.5																				92.1
4		% Satisfied with their ability to get to local services they need	79.6	85.2	↑	72.5																				92.1
5		% Satisfied that good services and facilities are available in their local area <i>(15 to 20 minute walk from home).</i>	64.4	65.8	↑	48.6																				86.9
6		% Satisfied with local area as a place to live (NWBI/26)	88.4	90.3	↑	68.5																				96.4
7	✓	% of adults who can speak Welsh (NWBI/37)	37.4	41.6	↑	Below 8.2																				68.8
8		% of adults who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words (NWBI/36)	30.4	32.1	↑	Below 5.4																				60.4
9		% of adults who can understand spoken Welsh	50.3	60.1	↑	12.2																				80.5
10		% of adults who can read Welsh	38.9	46.0	↑	Below 10.4																				69.1
11		% of adults who can write Welsh	35.2	41.9	↑	Below 9.5																				66.6
12	✓	% of households with internet access*	92.7	91.5	↓	87.0																				94.9

In AR	Questions asked in the 2021/22 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator	Has our result improved			22 nd	21 st	20 th	19 th	18 th	17 th	16 th	15 th	14 th	13 th	12 th	11 th	10 th	9 th	8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	3 rd	2 nd	1 st
		Previous available result	2021/22 survey result	Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓	Worst results											Best Results										
					Arrows start from our previous position											to our 2021/22 position										
13	% that used the internet (including Smart TV and handheld devices)	92.4	91.3	↓	89.4																					96.7
14	% that accomplished 5 digital skills in past 3 months**	73.1	72.0	↓	67.0																					83.7
15	% of people participating in any sport or physical activity	62.6	56.7	↓	43.4																					66.3
16	% of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling (NWBI/25)	74.6	66.7	↓	46.6																					85.0
17	% of people feeling safe at home after dark	96.8	95.3	↓	90.5																					99.0
18	% of people feeling safe in local area after dark	84.4	80.7	↓	58.7																					89.9
19	% of people feeling safe on public transport after dark	82.5	76.2	↓	59.7																					89.9
20	% of people feeling safe travelling by car after dark	96.6	97.3	↑	95.1																					99.4
21	% of people who agree that there is good community cohesion in their local area (NWBI/27)	51.6	68.0	↑	38.9																					77.6
22	% of people felt that they belonged to their local area	84.6	81.5	↓	70.6																					89.4
23	% of people who are lonely (NWBI/30)	17.3	15.4	↑	17.8																					7.0
24	Average satisfaction score for the education system in Wales (scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is 'extremely bad' and 10 is 'extremely good')	6.0	6.9	↑	6.0																					7.2
25	% of people that have any plans to start an education or training course in the next three years	23.1	23.2	↑	16.9																					33.8
26	% of people that contacted their local councillor in the past 12 months. (i.e. with an enquiry, complaint or problem)	12.9	15.7	↑	10.0																					24.2
27	% of people agreed their local councillor worked closely with their community.	new question	38.8	new question	25.3																					58.1

In AR	Questions asked in the 2021/22 National Survey for Wales and available at Local Authority level NWBI - National Well-being Indicator	Has our result improved			22 nd	21 st	20 th	19 th	18 th	17 th	16 th	15 th	14 th	13 th	12 th	11 th	10 th	9 th	8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	3 rd	2 nd	1 st	
		Previous available result	2021/22 survey result	Improved ↑ Standstill ↔ Declined ↓	Worst results											Best Results											
					Arrows start from our previous position											to our 2021/22 position											
28	% of people with a good understanding of what their local councillor does for their local community.	new question	40.3	new question	32.6																						59.0
29	✓ % of people who say their general health was Good or Very Good	69.7	68.6	↓	64.1				Same																		79.3
30	✓ % of adults who say they have a longterm illness	51.2	40.1	↑	41.1																						26.9
31	✓ % of adults who have 2 or more healthy behaviours not smoking / not drinking above weekly guidelines / eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day / physically active for at least 150 minutes in the previous week / maintaining a healthy weight/body mass index	87.6	92.4	↑	83.1																						97.5
32	% of adults who smoke	16.2	15.7	↑	19.8																						6.3
33	% of adults who are a E-Cigarette user	6.7	6.4	↑	10.3						Same																0.9
34	% of adults who drink more than 14 units	21.5	15.1	↑	23.3																						8.9
35	% of adults who eat more than 5 portions of fruit and vegetable	21.7	33.5	↑	14.3																						42.4
36	% of adults who are active for more than 150 minutes a week	55.6	64.8	↑	38.3																						69.5
37	% of adults who are active for less than 30 minutes a week	27.6	21.7	↑	50.1																						17.3
38	% of adults who are overweight or obese (BMI 25+)	63.6	68.2	↓	79.9																						50.0
39	% of adults who are obese (BMI 30+)	28.2	28.4	↓	36.5						Same																17.9
40	✓ Adult Mental Well-being score (NWBI/29) (Out of a maximum score of 70)	51.1	48.8	↓	46.1																						51.6
41	✓ % of Households in material deprivation (NWBI/19)	11.3	12.0	↓	14.1																						7.1
* Households with internet access - NOTE - The 2021/22 survey was based on a sample of 12,500 in Wales compared to a far smaller sample in 2020/21 of just 3,500, which may well have affected the result.																											
** 5 digital skills are 1. Being safe and legal online; 2. Problem solving; 3. Transacting; 4. Communicating; 5. Handling information and content)																											

Regulatory Reports 2021/22

Several regulatory reports were issued during the last twelve months.

- There are some local reports that are specific to Carmarthenshire, these are noted in **bold** below.
- National / Thematic reports are undertaken by regulators to look at all councils in Wales (in an integrated programme of work consulted and agreed upon with local government) to identify best practice.
 - Most of these reports contain recommendations. Sometimes the recommendations are for Welsh Government and / or local government or other stakeholders.
 - Not all recommendations contained in reports may apply to Carmarthenshire as in some instances we could be the area of best practice proposed, be already doing what is identified or it may be, just not be applicable.

The following list of regulatory reports were issued during the last twelve months:



August 2021	<u>Review of Planning Services Carmarthenshire County Council</u>
September 2021	<u>Review of Waste Services Carmarthenshire County Council</u>
September 2021	<u>Regenerating Town Centres</u>
September 2021	<u>A Picture of Public Services</u>
September 2021	<u>A picture of local government</u>
October 2021	<u>A Picture of Higher and Further Education</u>
October 2021	<u>A Picture of Schools</u>
September 2021	<u>Financial Sustainability of Local Government – COVID Impact, Recovery & Future Challenges</u>
November 2021	<u>Carmarthenshire County Council – Financial Sustainability Assessment</u>
November 2021	<u>WG Cosy homes programme</u>
December 2021	<u>Commissioning Care Homes for Older People</u>
January 2022	<u>Emergency Services in Wales Collaboration</u>
January 2022	<u>Annual Audit Summary</u>
April 2022	<u>Direct Payments</u>



November 2021	<u>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Assurance Check 2021: Carmarthenshire County Council</u>
April 2022	<u>Direct Payments for Adult Social Care</u>
May 2022	<u>Carmarthenshire County Council In-house domiciliary care service</u> <u>Inspection Report</u>

May 2021	<u>Turning learners into users of the Welsh Language – Effective Practice</u>
May 2021	<u>Creating a digital platform for the Welsh for Adults sector</u>
June 2021	<u>How schools and colleges used RRRS and catch-up grants for post 16 learners</u>
July 2021	<u>Summary of findings from our national thematic reviews 2020/21-Thematic Report</u>
July 2021	<u>The teaching of Welsh history including, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic history, identity and culture</u>
Oct 2021	<u>Developing pupils social and emotional skills</u>
December 2021	<u>Supporting Resources</u> <u>We don't tell our teachers-Experiences of peer-on-peer sexual harassment among secondary school pupils</u>
January 2022	<u>All-age schools in Wales - A report on the challenges and successes of establishing all-age schools</u>
February 2022	<u>Summary of engagement calls and visits to schools and PRUs-autumn 2021</u>
February 2022	<u>Welsh Immersion Education - Strategies and approaches to support 3 to 11-year-old learners</u>
March 2022	<u>The curriculum for Wales-How are regional consortia and local authorities supporting schools?</u>
April 2022	<u>We don't tell teachers, but schools need to know – a report for learners</u>
May 2022	<u>Effective practice- Placing children at the centre of learning</u>

Performance Assessment on the extent to which we are:

- we are exercising our functions effectively;
- are using resources economically, efficiently and effectively; and
- our governance is effective for securing the above.

Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 we have a duty keep under review the extent to which we are fulfilling the above 'performance requirements'

Our self-assessment uses the Well-being Objectives set out in the body of this report to give a more holistic view of Council performance.

However, we have also examined performance in a departmental manner to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

Chief Executive's Department

Duty to Keep Performance Under Review	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>How can we do better? (see bullet points)</p>
Performance Requirements	
<p>1. <i>exercising functions effectively</i></p>	<p><u>Administration and Legal including Democratic Services</u></p> <p>The service has performed well during this period despite significant challenges. Officers have continued to work closely with and support their client departments and elected members</p> <p>The level of complaints received about the service continues to be very low.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity for S106 agreements. Additional staff resources have been secured to address this. • Develop participation and petition scheme for Democratic Services <p><u>ICT and Corporate Policy</u></p> <p>Our first Digital Transformation Strategy 2017-2020 set out the Council's strategic digital priorities and aspirations and ensured that when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we as an authority and our service were in a very strong position to respond and recover. Annual Reporting of the Digital Transformation Strategy shows good progress.</p> <p>Our work with the PSB has progressed well and a Well-being Assessment has been produced. Key Council Annual Reports in Equalities, Welsh Language and the overall Council's progress on Corporate Strategy show good progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT resource and capacity is limited to meet increasing demand for transformation. • More can be done with improving our Security (Cyber) and Disaster Recovery. • Continue to improve the approach to embedding integrated quarterly performance monitoring.

exercising
functions
effectively
(continued)

People Management

COVID-19 continued to present challenges for our workforce during 2021. However, our employees continued to step up to deliver the best possible services, with almost a thousand employees prepared to retrain and step in and help their colleagues, doing very different jobs in a positive and highly supportive manner

Our staff are encouraged to develop, and we are accredited with Investors in People.



One of the post-pandemic legacies, and a significant risk for the service, has been the Division's capacity to manage increased vacancy volumes and demand for our services, which has been compounded by Brexit.

There have been significant Social Care and Teaching recruitment problems.

Platinum Corporate Health accreditation and accredited to Occupational Health and Standards SEQHS.

A June 2022 Audit Wales report found that:

The Council is improving the strategic planning for its workforce and is taking action to address staff capacity issues in key service areas but recognises that performance monitoring of workforce management needs strengthening.

Springing Forward Workforce Management- Carmarthenshire County Council

- Develop a new People Strategy; ensuring that Learning & Development priorities and programmes are fully aligned with corporate priorities and needs.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated a move to agile working and it is intended that this will inform how the Council manages its workforce in the future
- Agree a suite of People Management Performance Measures and strengthen the sustainability principle.

Regeneration Division

Carmarthenshire's economy has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. To gain an informed understanding of the position in Carmarthenshire, we engaged with over 1,000 businesses to gather evidence on the impact of the pandemic on our businesses, unemployment and our rural and primary town economies. This assisted us to put in place a clear [Economic Recovery Plan](#) (we were first in Wales to do so) with an immediate priority focus on protecting jobs and supporting our small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to upscale. We are monitoring the action plan quarterly and it is on track.

- In each of the individual town centres, we will pass on the overseeing of the recovery to the stakeholders in the respective towns. Each of the plans highlight key issues and opportunities and provide a delivery framework of interventions specific to the town centres.

Business and Cabinet Support

The Business Unit continued to respond and contribute to the Authority's response to the pandemic in a pragmatic manner, ensuring all essential services to staff and Members were prioritised and provided, to ensure continuation of core services. The Unit supported *all Gold Command meetings* for COVID-19 and major floodings. We have also supported the *Planning Assurance Board and Planning Intervention Board* who met weekly.

- As part of better ways of working, we will continue to work with business unit managers to further develop paperless processes and systems.
- Following the elections in May 2022, the Service is working with the incoming administration to develop a cabinet Vision Statement and agree member portfolios.

Electoral and Registrars

Both Electoral Services and Civil Registration are statutory services. The Registration Service includes the registration of births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages and civil partnerships, the provision of a certificate service and the provision of Citizenship Ceremonies. Electoral Services is responsible for the update and maintenance of the Register of Electors and the conduct of all elections relevant to Carmarthenshire. The work of the *Registration Service* has been under such continuous spotlight during the last year as we moved through the global pandemic. We successfully run elections.

- To determine if our opening times still meet customer trends and business needs by participating in relevant consultation with our customers, staff and key stakeholders to seek views that will help make a decision on service improvement.
- We will analyse our performance indicators, both internal and external.

Media and Marketing

The Media and Marketing service have again this year played a key role in supporting all divisions across the authority to effectively communicate in both Welsh and English relevant information to residents, businesses and stakeholders throughout the county ensuring consistency and relevancy across all communications

As well as additional external communications that has been required for us to publish, the team has delivered a wide range of additional internal communications to support staff who have had to change the way they work including a growing demand on simultaneous translation of all democratic virtual meetings.

The Hwb in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli offer pre-booked appointments and drop-in advice to an average 8,000 residents per month, as well as providing advice and access to training and employment support. This had to be taken forward in a different way during 2020/21 due to COVID19 restrictions and the establishments having to be closed. Customers have been able to contact online and telephone and virtual meetings have been held. The increasing use of Social Media has allowed open engagement and conversations with members of the public. In addition to this social media is an excellent tool for promoting council services.

We passed *the accessibility standard* for our website.

Key statistics for Council website 2021 / 2022:

- Pageviews: 6,144,228
- Sessions: 3,017,983

Key statistics for social media, email marketing and video:

- 19.3m Twitter reach
- 8.82m Facebook reach
- Published 3,259 posts
- Dealt with 4,055 'inbound' posts, enquiries via comments, written on our wall or sent as a direct message

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 53.3k link clicks - Facebook: New followers – 1,201. Total followers: 20,451 - Twitter: New followers – 372. Total followers 11,151 - 443,141 emails sent to MyAccount, businesses and 3rd sector. 267,018 unique opens. - Video – 115,800 views • To deliver the Council’s key principle of One Council, One Vision, One Voice. Moving forward the service will be driven by the priorities, services and activity outlined in the corporate plans and we will use our resources and focus our energy to meet these priorities. • Identify other services where the first of point of contact enquiries could be dealt with by Contact Centre/ adopt a Hwb approach
<p>2</p> <p><i>using resources economically, efficiently and effectively;</i></p>	<p><u>Administration and Legal including Democratic Services</u></p> <p>Legal Services use management data to identify where the service has a lack of capacity and if necessary, work is outsourced.</p> <p>The service ensures decisions are taken through the democratic process in a timely manner. A new integrated impact assessment and committee report template is being development and will be rolled out in 2022.</p> <p>Regulatory reports on Scrutiny and Audit Committee effectiveness have been addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a set of key performance indicators for the Legal Services and Land Charges service <p><u>ICT and Corporate Policy</u></p> <p>We produce an Annual Report on our Digital Transformation Strategy to ensure resources are being used effectively. ICT will underpin Better Ways of Working initiatives.</p> <p>Our Annual Reports on Equalities and Welsh Language Standards demonstrate good progress in these areas.</p> <p>Our Annual Report on our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives had a certificate of compliance from our regulators Audit Wales.</p> <p>A Performance Management Framework was introduced, and we commissioned the WLGA to undertake a review of our Performance Requirements preparedness which identified areas for improvement.</p> <p>We developed a more integrated performance monitoring report adding a wider range of evidence to the process.</p> <p>We also improved engagement and assurance arrangements for Departmental and Divisional Business Plans.</p> <p>Internal Audit found our Performance arrangements Acceptable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny feedback requested more measures and SMARTER action planning • We want to make better use of data and information, and as a result we have set up a <i>Data Insight Team</i> to become a more data driven organisation. • We will address the recommendations of the WLGA review of our self-assessment arrangements. • We will improve engagement and consultation on our self- assessment arrangements.

- We will further develop our quarterly integrated performance monitoring arrangements and our engagement and assurance arrangements for business planning.

People Management

96 members of staff provide people management support to the entire organisation (in the region of 8,500 employees)

The Council Sickness figure at the end of 2021/22 of 11.4 FTE days is 3.7 days higher than last year and above the 2019/20 Welsh average of 11.2 FTE days (Authority 2019/20 performance was 10.74 FTE days). This is our highest sickness figure since 2008/09 (11.7 days) However, it is important to note that this has been impacted by COVID-19 related sickness absence, which accounted for 2 FTE days per employee during 2021/22

The causes of absence are monitored, and the impact and legacy of COVID-19 continues.

The Council continues to support its lowest paid employees and workers by continuing to pay the Real Living Wage supplement this supports our Tackling Poverty Well-being Objective.

- Develop a Transformation Strategy building on the Better Ways of Working Project to improve economic use of resources, Value for Money, productivity, working lives and customer focus.
- Further improve our recruitment processes via new integrated recruitment IT system. (IIP)
- We will evaluate the employee experience and undertake research to develop a Workforce Engagement Strategy that will underpin the new workforce strategy
- We will developing proactive more preventative solutions such as promoting good health and educating employees on healthy lifestyle choices.
- Further support and encourage Workforce Planning in Departments
- Develop performance measures

Regeneration Division

More than 1,100 jobs have already been created and over 700 jobs safeguarded We have awarded contracts to local businesses, providing skilled work opportunities in the local economy and safeguarding jobs

We have engaged with well-over 3,200 local businesses and provided 900 people with training support.

We have delivered over £66 million COVID-19 Business Recovery Funds on behalf of the Welsh Government

We have successfully delivered six jobs' fairs in each of the primary towns, to support sectors experiencing acute recruitment challenges.

% of people in employment -	UK:	Wales:	Carmarthenshire:
	74.7%	72.2%	68.6%

Pentre Awel part-funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal - brings together business, research, education, community healthcare and modern leisure facilities all at one prime location along the Llanelli coastline. As well as improving health and well-being, the project will create almost 2,000 jobs.

- We will continue to focus on supporting 3,000 people into work, providing 2,000 additional homes, maximising the community benefit of development schemes and supporting businesses to take advantage of key grants
- Moving forward the RLSP will continue to work with Employers across the region to ensure that the RLSP inform Welsh Government what skills are required in the region and where WG funding needs to be allocated in order to fulfil the skills demands identified by employers

Business and Cabinet Support

Working on the forward work programme for Corporate Management Team ensuring reports are tabled at the appropriate timings and in line with the democratic committee cycle.

The Unit proactively supports managers within a number of functions, such as HR processes, financial regulations, procurement

- Produce a forward work programme for Corporate Management Team (CMT).

Electoral and Registration

Under the governance arrangements, Carmarthenshire Registration Service is committed to the service delivery standards developed by the General Register Office (GRO) and adheres to good practice guidance and the codes of practice. GRO guidance provides information on specific national standards the Local Authority must meet together with aspirational standards

Follow up discussions with the General Register Office Compliance Officers have confirmed that Carmarthenshire Registration Service continues to deliver services to an excellent level.

- To take all opportunities to engage, contribute and support the retention of the current easements continuing with regards death registration being enabled by telephone and electronic transmission of documents.
- To build upon and strengthen the partnerships established during the pandemic i.e. hospitals, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors, Coroner, health board and our mass fatalities project group to ensure we meet our statutory duty and to support bereaved families through their registration journey.

Media and Marketing

The additional demand on customer services during the past 12months has been dramatic. It has been challenging to deliver a service due to the increase in service demand. It has been inevitable that there has been an increase in waiting times and number of abandoned calls.

New processes and further discussions with specific services are taking place to reduce this as best we can. Recruitment has proved to be difficult, and we continue to look for additional staff to join the team to build resilience into the staffing structure.

The team also successfully trialled standby arrangement to assist with communication outside of normal working hours. This has been critical during recent events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Media and Marketing team will restructure to ensure the service can deliver and achieve the communication and marketing needs of the Authority and build on the high-class service to its internal and external customers. • Pushout and enhance the ‘<i>claim what’s your service</i>’ and develop a consistent approach within the Council to ensure all services manage customers with financial and well-being concerns in the same manner to avoid confusion and to build confidence and clarity. • Develop New Social Media performance indicator
<p>3. <i>governance</i> is effective for securing the above</p>	<p><u>Administration and Legal including Democratic Services</u></p> <p>The Corporate Governance Group ensures the Code of Governance is adhered to and produces an Annual Governance Statement as part of the Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>The Constitutional Review Working Group ensures the Constitution and its development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously the AGS outline the governance arrangements in place. This year we have questioned how good these arrangements are, how we know and how we can do better. We will review how this process has gone <p><u>ICT and Corporate Policy</u></p> <p>We have begun enhanced business plan challenge through Engagement and Assurance Process.</p> <p>A significant part our Annual Governance Statement (AGS) evaluates our Corporate Policy and Performance Management Arrangements</p> <p>Steering Groups for both Poverty and Rural Carmarthenshire give direction and oversight to key priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to enhance business plan format and engagement and assurance. • Strengthen links between AGS and performance reporting - approach and content. • As the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives are identified we will ensure the creation of appropriate steering groups/advisory panels to ensure direction and progress • Address Internal Audit findings on Performance Management. <p><u>People Management</u></p> <p>Our People Strategy Steering Group provides oversight of People Management Strategy.</p> <p>The Transformation Strategy will provide the key driver to ensure arrangements are delivered.</p> <p>The TIC programme Board Terms of Reference will be reviewed, and governance arrangements strengthened.</p> <p>A significant part our Annual Governance Statement (AGS) evaluates our People Management Function.</p> <p>The liP accreditation provides Quality Assurance on our processes.</p> <p>Our annual equal pay audit does not suggest any evidence of discrimination within</p>

the pay structures

Frequent Internal Audit reviews

Significant role in supporting Corporate Safeguarding

Employee Well-being Annual Report to CMT every year

- Using existing governance arrangements (People Strategy Steering Group) we will need to review our workforce strategy in light of the pandemic to support the organisation to recover.
- We are starting to see a significant increase in the number of occupational health referrals, in particular referrals to our Well-being Support Services. To stem this increase we need to invest more time in developing proactive preventative solutions such as promoting good health and educating employees on healthy lifestyle choices.

Regeneration Division

A business, economy and community recovery group was established to coordinate development and delivery of actions aligned to our economic recovery and delivery plan (ERP) and an overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, was also established.

A dashboard was set up to monitor the delivery of our 'Economic Recovery Plan'

- For each of the individual town centres, we will manage the overseeing of the recovery plans passing responsibility to the stakeholders in the respective towns. Each of the plans highlight key issues and opportunities and provide a delivery framework of interventions specific to the town centres.

Business and Cabinet Support

CMT & Cabinet support feedback

Electoral and Registrars

The Council is committed to delivering the service in accordance with the Good Practice Guide with achievement to National Standard as a minimum. All Key Performance Indicators for both Statutory Standards and Operational Delivery Standards within the guide are measured. Achievement is reported to General Register Office (GRO) in the Annual Performance Report.

Electoral Services are required to comply with the National electoral register data matching test then analyse results and act upon those results. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 gave the Electoral Commission powers to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services.

- To discharge the Council's increasing statutory responsibilities, required by Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and future proposed electoral reform, within the context of extraordinary financial constraints.

Media and Marketing

Profiled within AGS Para 2.3.2.4 *Ensuring External Communications* (under the principle of

Openness and engagement - *Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement*).

Duty to Consult	
<p><i>Consultation on assessment of performance?</i></p>	<p><u>ICT and Corporate Policy</u></p> <p>Consultation as part of well-being assessment.</p> <p>Residents Survey undertaken.</p> <p>Complaint's feedback</p> <p>When available the Authority makes extensive use of the annual <i>National Survey for Wales</i> commissioned by Welsh Government. The results are used to help the Authority in its self-assessment of services and are included in our Annual Report. However, parts of this survey has been accepted by COVID-19 Pandemic and the same level of detail is not as available as in previous years</p> <p><u>People Management</u></p> <p>Corporate Employee Relations Forum - last year, we doubled the amount of paid facilities time we offered to our recognised Trade Unions and have continued to consult regularly with Union colleagues on a range of policies and other areas</p> <p>Staff survey undertaken June-August 2022 with a section on performance.</p> <p><u>Regeneration Division</u></p> <p>We engaged with over 1,000 businesses to gather evidence on the impact of the pandemic on our businesses</p> <p><u>Electoral and Registrars</u></p> <p>The Registration Service regularly asks customers to complete satisfaction surveys so that we can understand what is working well and meeting expectation and what isn't working well and could be improved upon</p> <p>Elections worked collectively with the Association of Electoral Administrators, Electoral Commission, Cabinet Office and Welsh Government to deliver a safe and fair election in May 2021. An elections project group was established that ensured all elements of the election planning was controlled and shared by key players.</p> <p><u>Media and Marketing</u></p> <p>Evidence suggests that there has been an increase in participation of online consultations. Specifically, when evaluating comparable consultations. For example, the Welsh in Education strategic plan consultation in 2017 received 21 completes whilst in 2021 the consultation received 854. Additionally, a recent Housing and regeneration masterplan received 2,522 completed surveys in comparison to 189 in a similar survey run in 2018. The increase in participation is attributed to the closer relationship developed with the Media and Marketing team ensuring that consultations are promoted on social media and corporate website and are sent to all key stakeholders. But we plan to resume full analysis when available</p>

Corporate Services Department

Duty to Keep Performance Under Review	How well are we doing and how do we know?
Performance Requirements	How can we do better?
<p>1. <i>exercising functions effectively</i></p>	<p>The review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control and Governance arrangements is informed by the work of the Internal Auditors on which the Authority gains assurance. Internal Audit is required to undertake its work in accordance with the standards as set out in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) established in 2013 are the agreed professional standards for Internal Audit in Local Government.</p> <p>The overall opinion is that the Authority has an 'Acceptable' control environment in operation. There are clear Governance arrangements with defined Management responsibilities and Committee Structures in place, Risk Management and the control framework is generally sound and operated reasonably consistently. The Authority has an established Constitution, has developed Policies and approved Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules that provide advice and guidance to all staff and members. Sufficient assurance work has been carried out to form a reasonable conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control environment. Where weaknesses have been identified through reviews, Internal Audit have worked with management to agree appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement.</p> <p>Strategic and Annual Audit Plans were presented to Governance and Audit Committee in the March meetings. Quarterly updates are provided on the work carried out and the Annual Report is presented every July. Actions to deliver recommendations made in 2018 Quality Assessment are complete.</p> <p>We could consider any improvements identified through the external assessment of Internal Audits arrangements. We are introducing new performance indicators for 2022/23 with the aim to assisting the service in becoming more efficient.</p>
<p>2. <i>using resources economically, efficiently and effectively;</i></p>	<p>The 2020/21 budget monitoring has probably been the most complicated ever due to value and all-pervasive impact of COVID-19 on services. We have claimed over £27 million from Welsh Government via hardship claims to support additional COVID-19 services and have also claimed £4.5 million relation to claims for loss of income. Corporate Services has risen to the challenge to support departmental spending decisions, the claims through the Welsh Government hardship scheme, as well as the identification of possible ineligible expenditure - this picture has evolved through the year with both changing nature of the pandemic as well as greater clarity over hardship scheme rules.</p> <p>We have continued to investigate and develop new ways of working which will result in delivering an even more efficient and effective service. We have been working closely with the Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) team in their agreed 6 strategic areas of work (Income, Expenditure, Digital Transformation, Demands and waste, Service improvement, Supporting transformation & change in Schools and Supporting Better Ways of Working). As part of the Income strategic area our</p>

	Debtors team have been working both with TIC and Legal looking at how well we recover debt. We are working closely with the Better ways of Working strategic area, for example on the E-Signatures project evaluating the potential of using Adobe and DocuSign to avoid the need for staff to travel into offices to add wet signatures into documents and the Invoices Project investigating the reduction of hard copy invoices with the Purchase Order Compliance Pilot which has commenced.								
3. <i>governance is effective for securing the above</i>	<p>The Corporate Governance arrangements of the Council are acceptable. It is important that a Governance Statement includes an evaluation and conclusion and provides a clear judgement on whether the governance arrangements outlined are fit for purpose. To enable this judgement our Internal Audit service conducted a review of our arrangements against the adopted standards.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Findings of Carmarthenshire County Council Internal Audit review of AGS and Corporate Governance</th></tr> <tr> <th>Post Review Assurance Level</th><th>Description for Assurance Level</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Acceptable</td><td> Moderate controls, some areas of non-compliance to agreed controls Medium/Low risk of not meeting objectives Medium/Low risk of fraud, negligence, loss, damage to reputation </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Internal Audit found no fundamental control issues to be addressed as a high priority.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of Corporate Governance, providing a source of assurance about the Authority's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial as well as non-financial performance.</p> <p>The Authority has a Risk Management Steering Group which reports directly to Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and Chief Officers Team (CMT). The Risk Management Steering Group examines how Risk Management can be developed and ensures that Risk Management is embedded in decision making throughout the organisation. The Group meet quarterly and is supported by the work of its Subgroups i.e. Property & Liability Risks, Motor Fleet Risks and Contingency Planning Subgroups. TIC's December 2021 review concluded that <i>'The Terms of Reference of the Risk Management Steering Groups and its various sub-groups have recently been reviewed. This will allow the Strategic Group to adopt more of a strategic approach to its consideration of risk management issues, such as undertaking regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register.'</i></p> <p>The Steering Group's role in allocating the £250k of risk management funding could be strengthened by introducing clearer criteria for how this funding is prioritised and spent on annual basis.</p>	Findings of Carmarthenshire County Council Internal Audit review of AGS and Corporate Governance		Post Review Assurance Level	Description for Assurance Level	Acceptable	Moderate controls, some areas of non-compliance to agreed controls Medium/Low risk of not meeting objectives Medium/Low risk of fraud, negligence, loss, damage to reputation	Internal Audit found no fundamental control issues to be addressed as a high priority.	
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Duty to Consult									
<i>Is there any consultation on your assessment of performance?</i>	A mixed approach to ascertaining views on the 2022-25 budget took place. We invited residents, businesses and community and voluntary organisations to have a say on the draft budget so the Councillors can consider feedback before making a final decision. A series of departmental seminars for all County Councillors took place over a five-day period: 17 th to 21 st January 2022. All efficiencies across each department were considered in detail and feedback sought. Alongside councillor engagement public consultation took place via an online survey. The survey was								

	administered electronically via the Council's online consultation page on our website. Emails were also submitted, and social media was utilised to encourage residents to complete the online survey and some provided comments on Facebook and Twitter. The results of the consultations were considered and presented to Cabinet and County Council as part of the Budget Strategy Report.
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Communities Department

Duty to Keep Performance Under Review	How well are we doing and how do we know?
Performance Requirements	How can we do better? (see bullet points)
1 <i>exercising functions effectively</i>	<p>Adult Social Care & Commissioning</p> <p>Within Adult Social Care and Commissioning Services challenges have been significant with many care homes experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks with multiple homes experiencing acute workforce pressures. Additional resources have been provided by in-house services, via mutual aid and health. Enormous collective efforts together with our partner organisations who have worked extremely well together have focused on resident safety and the prevention of care home collapse.</p> <p>Feedback from the sector has been positive and relationships have improved with the sector as a result. This has been evidenced by an independent review carried out regarding maintaining dignity and respect in the care homes during the pandemic.</p> <p>The impact from the pandemic and the on-going demands are significant but there are some notable areas of progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to Safeguarding of Adults, Multi-agency forums have continued to meet virtually, and an additional regional forum was set up to have assurance that safeguarding processes were being followed during the pandemic. 2. The service received a positive report from CIW following an assurance visit in February 2021, which is quite remarkable during a pandemic. 3. The Director of Social Services Statutory report concludes that these functions are operating effectively. <p>Within Homes and Safer Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We responded to the COVID-19 crisis through our TTP (Test, Trace, Protect) team which has given confidence that we have up to date intelligence on what is happening in the County and that we can react quickly when circumstances change such as the emergence of new COVID-19 clusters or an outbreak in a Care Home etc. This is from an infection control as well as advice and enforcement perspective. • Our in-house care continues to receive really positive feedback from our regulator CIW as well as from the residents, family and professional surveys. We have also started to look at a significant care home investment

programme to ensure that the facilities and environment match the standard of care provided.

- Our Development and Investment team have continued to deliver, despite COVID-19, and we are continuing to deliver additional affordable homes and have a clear three-year delivery plan moving forward. This will link with wider corporate and departmental priorities such as Town Centres, Rural Ten Towns and key regeneration projects e.g. Pentre Awel, Tyisha, Brynmefys (Llanelli) and Wauniago House (Carmarthen). We have responded positively and proactively to UK and WG initiatives around resettlement programmes and were the first in Wales to house Afghan families in May 2021.
- Environmental Protection and Business and Consumer Affairs services have continued to deliver in what was a particularly challenging year for public protection. We have had to balance our response to COVID-19 whilst still maintaining core services as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted during the year. This was particularly challenging as expectations and demands increased. We are in a relatively strong position in terms of Food Standards and Hygiene, Animal Health and Proceeds of Crime (POCA). We have also been commended for our work around Financial Exploitation and have had notable successes around illegal dog breeding.
- Our housing management service continues to perform reasonably well (evidenced by the Tenant Survey carried out in the Autumn 2021). We are performing on a par with other housing organisations. We are also reasonably well placed in terms of our approach to the collection of current tenant income and have developed a strong pre-accommodation that helps to sustain tenancies. The team have currently been shortlisted for a national award, in conjunction with the Youth Service, as a result of the innovative approach being taken.
- Whilst we have done really well to respond quickly to the change in homelessness legislation as the result of COVID-19, we need to make sure we make this response sustainable for the long term. Processes and working practices, and performance itself (e.g. Homelessness Prevention PI bottom quartile), need to be reviewed in order that we can fully support those in most need, and staff themselves. The Public Services Own Initiative Report (September 2021) begins to outline some current issues that clearly need addressing. Our new approach and the creation of the Housing “Hwb” is already beginning to see positives.
- Internal Audit reports around procurement of repair works to temporary accommodation/social lettings agency.

Housing Property & Strategic Projects

Within Housing Property & Strategic Projects, COVID-19 significantly impacted on our services as non-essential maintenance was suspended. As a result, there is significant latent maintenance work and a backlog of enquiries which we are currently working through. Response times for essential maintenance that we have been able to undertake has continued to improve, although the average time to respond to non-essential work has worsened. The 4 Tys have also been demolished as a first phase of the physical regeneration of the area. We have now completed an early market engagement process which will input into our selection process for a partner developer and to prepare key sites for development. An Internal Audit report around procurement of repair works

contract management and Welsh Government Enable Funding for Independent Living improvements has been conducted.

Leisure

Many areas within Leisure continue to operate with restrictions including our Outdoor Education offer, Theatres, and Leisure classes in terms of occupancy levels. With many posts kept vacant and numerous staff re-deployed, it has been challenging to re-engineer our services through the multiple phases of lock-down, and as various restrictions were applied and lifted. The operating procedures, safe working practices and risk assessments around every location, activity and customer engagement has had to be re-written multiple times throughout the year, with our focus always being on maintaining public safety and confidence to ensure people return in the long term, and clubs and partner organisations survive and prosper into the future.

We have a very high accreditation for our Library service meeting all targets set by Welsh Government through the 'Welsh Public Library Standards'. Also establishing stronger links across the Communities Department, developing a greater focus on the prevention of ill-health, whilst collectively promoting general well-being and long-term sustainability for the Leisure, Housing, Health and Social Care teams.

From a public health perspective, despite Leisure being a very significant positive contributor to this agenda, we must influence and work in partnership to drive this issue forward with health sector partners. Despite it only being one national metric, around a third of our children and young people are classified as overweight or obese in the County, with the figure being one of the highest in Wales. This area must continue to be a focus for our work to change life-long habits and to intervene as early as we can.

Departmental Actions Moving Forward

Adult Social Care & Commissioning

Operational challenges have made it difficult to find the space and time to strategically plan for the future. Programme of works have been suspended and need to be resurrected.

There has been an increase in complexity and demand and in order to manage demand going forward, we have to ensure that we have a robust prevention strategy to provide advice, information, assistance, early intervention and timely response to those in crisis. This will allow us to, wherever possible, help people to maintain their independence for as long as possible, and prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and residential care. Person centred practice will be at the heart of everything we do, as well as supporting carers to continue in their caring role. Getting this right must be our key focus for the next financial year. We will:

- develop a 10 Year Strategy for Social Care incorporating Children and Adult Services.
- develop and implement a Digital Transformation Strategy for the department.
- develop and deliver a Workforce Plan to recruit, retain and develop staff to ensure a sustainable workforce for the future.

- ensure we implement the new Domiciliary Framework which effectively addresses the lack of availability of domiciliary/home care to support vulnerable adults.
- re-model and grow a quality, sustainable and efficient in-house Home Care service alongside an effective private and micro enterprise sector.
- develop and implement a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire which will include continuing to work in partnership with Delta Wellbeing in support of our residents.

Homes and Safer Communities

Within Homes and Safer Communities and Housing Property and Strategic Projects we will work to:

- Review of our prevention of homeless, homelessness case work and temporary accommodation services. This needs specific focus as a result of evidence from the re-structuring process, the Ombudsman Own Initiative report and Internal Audit report on procurement of some services. This review will focus on:
 - Working practices and processes; and
 - Improving performance
- Increase focus on Council House Void numbers and turnaround times
- Improve performance around Adaptations and DFG turnaround times
- Review of the New Homes Team to be undertaken February – April 2022
- Achieve the Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire Key Actions for the Division:
 - Review social housing arrangements in Station Road, Llanelli
 - Maintain the Carmarthenshire Home Standard for all Council owned properties
- Develop a pilot project in the Tyisha ward

Leisure Services

Within Leisure Services the following are the priorities:

- 10 Year Leisure Strategy: The development of a 10-year future direction document for discussion, input, and endorsement by the new political administration for the County in early 2022/23
- Income and membership/activity recovery: With the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic changing lifestyles and habits, the service's greatest challenge will be to regain and exceed membership and income to pre-COVID-19 levels. Whilst government hardship funding has helped during periods of restricted opening, our 2022/23 business plan will be fully focussed on this income and engagement recovery process.
- Capital Projects: Completion/further development of ongoing capital projects at: Oriel Myrddin; Amman Valley; Abergwili Museum; Parc Howard; Pembrey Country Park; Llyn Llech Owain Country Park; Carmarthen Archives; Pentre Awel; Pendine Attractor and Museum of Land Speed; the National Museum store and 24/7 fitness suite elements of the successful Carmarthen Town Centre Levelling up bid;
- A new Outdoor Education offer for the County: Presenting a new model for a County-wide residential and non-residential Outdoor Education offer for comment and endorsement on the back of an asset appraisal of existing

	<p>infrastructure and ongoing COVID-19 related challenges for schools, whilst aligning with the new Donaldson curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing our Social Value: Further developing our work and influence on the health prevention agenda, demonstrating the impact and value of integrated and collaborative working as exemplified by schemes such as the National Exercise Referral scheme (NERS), and Mental Health exercise referral, and how these can mainstream leisure activity whilst reducing costs for core health services. • The following will also underpin all of our work going forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Workforce development plan: re-visiting the draft Communities department workforce plan to create specific actions for the division, focussing on recruitment, retention, training, competencies, and coaching, with the aim of growing our own workforce and creating an attractive offer for young people. - Reducing waste and our Carbon Footprint: As part of the County Council's aim to become carbon neutral by 2030, we recognise the significant energy usage footprint that many of our large buildings carry and will continue to work to reduce and offset this footprint. • Developing our online offer: Our ability to broadcast products digitally and to connect sites and services with end users is also becoming more important than ever, including our links into the education and health sectors. This development allows more choice for users on how and where they can engage with our services and improve their well-being.
<p>2 <i>using resources economically, efficiently and effectively;</i></p>	<p>We ensure we are using Resources economically by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budget monitoring • undertaking cost modelling within Commissioning services • monitoring recruitment and retention, fortnightly. • Sickness monitoring, vacancies and waiting lists for assessments and care as part of the recruitment and retention meeting. • holding a robust recruitment marketing campaign for social care is underway to mitigate the short falls within the Department. • investing in new digital IT systems along with Wifi in Care Homes and frontline staff have been provided with electronic devices. <p>We ensure that we are using Resources efficiently by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having robust Performance Management Framework meetings to measure activity and budgets effectively, held on a monthly basis. • Risk management and business plan actions are monitored as part of this process. • produce a Director's Annual Report ensuring a self-assessment of Social Services functions. • have forward work programmes and action plans. • Regular communication within the Department working with our Marketing and Media Colleagues. <p>We ensure that we are using Resources effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We undertake a consultation for the Welsh Government on Social Services functions and survey residents and service users in Care Homes and Home

	<p>Care under the CIW Regulation and Inspection Act. The residents within the Care Homes rated the overall quality of the service received within care homes as Great (this is calculated through a NPS metric)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within Leisure services we undertake a NPS Customer Satisfaction survey. • We survey 6,000 housing tenants as part of our grant conditions in respect of the Welsh Government MRA application and Grant which has shown that 77% of respondents were satisfied with the Service overall. • We undertake an annual staff survey within the department calculated through a NPS metric and this showed our overall score as Good. • We hold an Improvement Board regarding Housing Needs on a weekly basis. • We have CIW feedback and Wales Audit feedback and locally commissioned audit feedback.
3 <i>governance is effective for securing the above</i>	<p>The following ensure that we govern our services appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We produce a Director's Annual Report ensuring a self-assessment of Social Services functions which is audited by the Care Inspectorate Wales • We have a Corporate Safeguarding Board regulated by Wales Audit Office and Regional Safeguarding Board is regulated by CIW and Welsh Government where by a governance structure has oversight of policies and procedures. During 2021/22 Internal Audit reviewed Safeguarding in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children's Services – arrangements were found to be acceptable ○ and Adult Services – findings to be concluded • Performance Management Framework and scheduled dedicated Performance focused meetings • Integrated Executive Group along with the Health Board • Trade Union Meetings • Commissioning and Programme Group • Recruitment and Retention • SMT/DMT/CMT/Scrutiny/Full Cabinet/Website • Cabinet Member – Outstanding Team Award – • Supervision/Appraisals / 1 to 1s • Welsh Language Board • Llesiant Delta Wellbeing Board • National Meetings – ADSS Cymru/AWASH/Public Service Board • Regular meeting with Welsh Government, Hywel Dda Health Board and various bodies for relevant services such as Sport Wales for Leisure Services. • Corporate Governance Group • Business Planning and Risk Management • Provide regular reports to Scrutiny and Audit Committee.
Duty to Consult	
<i>Consultation on assessment of performance?</i>	<p>Regular consultation is undertaken with staff, service users and tenants. We undertake a consultation for the Welsh Government on Social Services functions and survey residents and service users in Care Homes and Home Care under the CIW Regulation and Inspection Act. Within Leisure services they undertake a NPS Customer Satisfaction survey. We regularly survey our tenants within our Housing Division. We monitor compliments and complaints within the department. Monthly meeting with CIW on our statutory function as well as Estyn linked with Children Services.</p>

Department of Education and Children's Services

Duty to Keep Performance Under Review	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>How can we do better? (see bullet points)</p>
Performance Requirements	
<p>1. <i>exercising functions effectively</i></p>	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>The Department's vision, priorities and Business Plan is co-constructed by a purposeful coalition of officers and headteachers and is usefully shared and debated with stakeholders e.g. Scrutiny Committee, Headteacher Groups, through staff and Governor briefings. We strive to ensure a golden thread through our business planning processes at all levels of our corporate 'wedding cake'.</p> <p>CCC has a well-established annual business cycle. Initiated every Autumn, it is drafted in deference to corporate priorities and departmental self-evaluation, ensuring a bottom up and top-down dynamic. Links to the budgetary process are made early on and the finalised version is subject to elected member scrutiny. Longer term planning is conditioned by the departmental plan to 2032 and is helpfully arranged under 20 specific 'purpose pieces'.</p> <p>The Department's Performance and Information Officer provides valuable assistance in ensuring that the Business Plan is aligned with corporate priorities and service level performance metrics. Quarterly reporting (PIMS system) ensures that officers are held to account in terms of progress and quality of service delivery with respect to priorities.</p> <p>Scrutiny reports are insightful and comprehensive and are effectively challenged, promoting active debate.</p> <p>A biennial Headteacher questionnaire provides important feedback and constructive suggestions for adapting and developing future service delivery. Pupils and parents are also consulted, and all information is cross-referenced and triangulated against corporate priorities, against information gleaned from focus groups such as several Head Teacher fora, unions, and officer staff groups. A notable feature of departmental structure are the eight Strategic Focus Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and Learning; • Leadership; • Sustainable Communities for Learning; • Cymraeg; • Well-being; • Digital Learning; • Supporting Vulnerable Learners Group; • Children and Families; <p>which provide important opportunities to implement key issues for schools. These groups are making a sound and evolving impact in terms of delivering on important issues identified at school level by Heads and the school improvement team, whilst</p>

also keeping an eye out for strategic developments at county, regional, national, and international levels.

Improvement planning is developing well and is currently focussed on arriving at a smaller number of key priorities. The Departmental data unit is being bolstered with a couple of important new posts to enhance our analysis and interpretation of data trends over time.

The Performance Information Management System (PIMS) is well established. SMART targets are monitored quarterly and require both qualitative and quantitative updates.

The Department's COVID-19 response is considered very laudable and has been praised by regulators. A Continuity of Learning plan was quickly put in place and enacted. Resources to support care hubs and well-being in schools was supplemented by external input from Prof. Barry Carpenter. In addition, the recovery curriculum, and the imperative to support vulnerable pupils' teaching and learning was assisted by Prof. Lee Elliot Major. Weekly (and sometimes daily) Health & Safety briefings provided vital support, which was augmented by weekly drop-in sessions on various topics pertaining to emergency response.

Each member of staff is afforded an annual Appraisal. These are structured opportunities to consider what is going well and whether there are any constraints or blockages with aspects of service delivery. The 'Recognise, Grow, Together' approach focusses on strengths and helps service areas to grow by exploring what has been done well and how people can work together to achieve our ideas.

Scrutiny is well-established in CCC and has been referenced above. There are opportunities for Heads of Service to meet our Portfolio holder. All main policy directives enter the corporate process and are discussed at DMT, CMT, Pre-Cabinet and cabinet with a number progressing to Scrutiny and full Council.

2012 inspection areas for development

Estyn thematic reports are tallied on a spreadsheet and are all assigned to the relevant strategic Group for implementation. Other regulators influence business planning in a very positive manner such as aspects of Children's Services and the Youth Justice Board.

There are demonstrable improvements to service delivery. The YSS has developed very well over the last five years as testified by now achieving a range of external rewards and earning national recognition. Similarly, the behaviour and engagement service has developed well.

Complaints and compliments are considered at DMT on a quarterly basis and the annual report is acted upon promptly. These reports are often insightful and prompt definitive action.

Service reviews have been completed for DMT with 3rd tier managers invited in to discuss performance.

There is a comprehensive Self Evaluation Report process which included 2 away days during summer 2022 and an on-going review and evaluation process.

Pupil Admissions – all statutory targets met and currently facilitating applications for

	<p>refugees along with all other admission applications to schools.</p> <p>School Organisation Code – All changes to schools that require a statutory consultation process under the School Organisation Code have been completed in line with the Code’s requirements.</p> <p>School Catering have adapted well to new ways of working and have continued to provide a hot meal service in all schools. The service continues to put food safety and allergens compliance as a high priority.</p> <p>How can we do better?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are currently undertaking a review of department Business Planning and Monitoring processes, one recommendation being to produce Business Plans in line with our Strategic Focus Groups rather than Divisional Business Plans. • Our Service Reviews state how each service can improve (too many examples to list) and we are using this list to inform our next round of Business Plans.
<p>2. using resources economically, efficiently and effectively;.</p>	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>The Council’s allocation of resources reflects the priority afforded to education services. The local authority spends above the indicator-based assessment for education services and has increased and protected schools’ budgets against a backdrop of financial pressures across the council. The local authority also has a significant capital programme in relation to schools both in terms of new school builds and investment in its existing schools’ estate. In 2021/22 Carmarthenshire delegated 87.9% of the education budget (excluding school transport) to schools which was above the Welsh average of 87.3%.</p> <p>The authority has a comprehensive range of service level agreements in place with nearly all schools buying in to all the SLAs.</p> <p>For the last 5 years the County Council has protected schools’ budgets and have not required schools to make efficiency savings.</p> <p>Over the last few years growth funding has been allocated to address pressures within schools. The local authority has established task and finish groups involving schools’ representatives to consider key pressures and how the formula can be adapted and growth funding utilised. For example, in 2022/23, following consultation with our Headteachers, supplementary funding in addition to honouring pay awards and inflation, £500k was allocated to support well-being and behaviour in our Secondary Schools, £500k to support ALN in primary schools, and £1 million into primary school formula funding to support the cost of maintaining current provision.</p> <p>The review of our investment programme in schools is expected to provide cabinet with advice and recommendations to address the budget pressures and challenges of provision in primary schools.</p> <p>The authority is aware of current financial risks and those on the horizon. They recognise that it will be necessary to respond to increasing challenges, including potential increases in costs relating to staff pay and pensions, energy and transport. Additional funding has been provided to schools on a regular basis to reflect demands. The Schools’ Formula Funding is regularly reviewed to ensure that the formula remains appropriate, given the changes in the provision of education services and the contextual challenges of individual schools. Adaptations have been made to address emerging pressures and new priorities e.g. review of ALN funding.</p>

The School Budget Forum, which is representative of the different sectors, has constructive discussions and helps inform decisions in regard to allocating resources. The local authority has arrangements in place to work with the schools in deficit and has intervened appropriately. Over the last few years, the number of schools in a deficit position has reduced from 47 in 2019 to 20 in 2022. Reserves have moved from a deficit £1.9m position in 2019 to £15.2m surplus in 2022. This is due to a robust process of holding schools to account, additional funding awarded to schools from the corporate budget and additional WG funding.

A significant amount of work has gone into understanding the current and projected financial position of Carmarthenshire schools.

During 2021/22:

- aggregate primary school balances increased by £3.2m (approximately 5% of formula funding),
- 19 primary schools had 'in-year' deficit of which 13 of these had 80 or fewer pupils, with an average overspend of 13% in year.

2022/23:

- 13 of the 20 schools (65%) which require a licenced deficit have below 80 pupils.
- The average licenced deficit forecast for these schools is 32% of their formula funding.

Schools have taken advantage of significant additional grant funding released during the pandemic. This has impacted positively on many school budgets this year and into next year:

- Additional Grant funding from Welsh Government, both during the year (e.g. Additional Learning, RRRS) as well as specific grants late in the financial year (e.g. ALN COVID-19 received in February, Caretaking & Cleaning grant funding)
- Reduced activities normally funding from non-capitation budgets e.g. school trips
- COVID-19 related absence cover have been claimable from Welsh Government hardship fund.

The authority has received appropriate plans from schools indicating how they will address deficits and use the additional balances.

The substantial grant funding received from Welsh Government and additional COVID-19 related funding has been welcomed and has been delegated to schools whilst also funding some core school improvement support services. Funding allocated to Partneriaeth, the regional consortium, is allocated to whomever is best placed to meet the grant conditions i.e. Partneriaeth or Local Authority. There are robust monitoring systems in place and regular internal audit of systems, processes and expenditure to ensure that the funding is used effectively to support learners. The Local Authority supports schools in securing external funding e.g. Taith and have taken advantage of European funding to provide support for vulnerable learners. The Youth Support Services have accessed substantial ESF funding to provide bespoke solutions to support young people and reduce NEETS.

The County Council secured substantial Welsh Government funding to support schools to address COVID-19 challenges. To enable schools to focus on teaching and learning key grants such as RRRS were delegated to schools whilst the County Council took the strategic decision to manage centrally key provisions such as additional cleaning, PPE and TTP.

	<p>Schools are well supported to maximise income generation and the Schools' TIC Officer has helped reduce costs and share best practice. The School Development Fund was introduced in 2018 and has provided seed funding for schools to implement value for money proposals.</p> <p>The local authority compares its costs and outcomes with those of other similar authorities, however comparisons are difficult due to issues such as number of schools, rurality, language and pupil numbers.</p> <p><u>We provide the Lead Officer role for the delivery of the procured Independent School and Community-Based Counselling Service to ensure service delivery maximises access and outcomes for children and young people experiencing emotional distress who want to seek support from an independent counsellor.</u></p> <p>Efficiency</p> <p>Realising the benefits of collaborative and partnership working, Carmarthenshire was instrumental in establishing Partneriaeth to provide services to schools across the new region. During Summer 2022 Estyn undertook a focus piece of work on the new regional arrangement noting</p> <p>Partneriaeth has a robust, transparent governance structure led by a Joint Committee consisting of the Leader of each County Council and Cabinet Members for Education. There are SLAs with councils to provide key services e.g. Finance, HR, Legal. The Strategic Boards support the JC to ensure that the regional service meets Local Authority requirements. A regular LA/Partneriaeth Quality Assurance Meeting allows Carmarthenshire officers to discuss local issues and challenges and address any concerns. Partneriaeth is audited via an SLA with Pembrokeshire County Council. Carmarthenshire work with a range of other local authorities/partners on a range of initiatives. Carmarthenshire, along with Swansea and Pembrokeshire established Partneriaeth, a new regional school improvement consortium to provide professional development opportunities for our schools.</p> <p>Across other service areas we work with partners in the South West and Mid Wales region ensuring best value for money and sharing effective practice e.g. CYSUR-Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Board Safeguarding children and ALN Transformation work.</p>
3 <i>governance is effective for securing the above</i>	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>Scrutiny Committee Safeguarding Board Admissions Forum – meets on a regular basis to oversee school admissions process to scrutinise admissions arrangements Corporate Programme and Project Governance Boards (e.g. .MECP)</p> <p>How can we do better?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger communications with schools so that they understand their role in the admissions process.
Duty to Consult	
<i>Is there any consultation on your assessment of performance?</i>	<p>The department endeavours to consult with stakeholders through a variety of consultations. Some of these processes were disrupted during the period of the pandemic but as schools and Departmental services returned to a more normal way of working these processes have returned.</p> <p>As the end of summer term approached, we conducted separate surveys with Headteachers, pupils and parents to ascertain their views on the services we offer</p>

through schools and other departmental services, which in turn are reflected in our Service Evaluation Report.

Estyn carried out a number of school inspections throughout the academic year and their recommendations are taken on by the schools governing body and the School Improvement Team as part of their workplan.

Estyn Local Authority Link Inspector (LALI) virtual visits are conducted throughout the year, which gives Inspectors an opportunity to focus on current priorities, for example Self-evaluation and future priorities for improvement. There's also an opportunity for the LA to share any current issues. Likewise, Estyn can discuss inspection developments with school leaders. The link inspector can help us reflect on and refine their strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department has a rolling Programme of Internal Audit Reports, whereby Service Managers produce a report on their areas of responsibility and are invited to attend a DMT meeting which reviews and challenges the report. If deemed necessary the reports are forwarded to corporate committees, CMT, Pre-Cabinet, Scrutiny, etc, for further examination.



In November 2021, Care Inspectorate Wales published its Assurance Check 2021 letter on Carmarthenshire County Council

[211104-carmarthenshire-en.pdf \(careinspectorate.wales\)](#)

This was a very positive report

Children's Social Care Assurances

- Approachable and supportive leaders
- Culture of co-production and personal outcomes being developed with people
- Clarity in operational methodology
- Strong multi-agency cooperation
- Positive integrated approach to a culture of prevention through joint working
- Low CLA population
- Makes a positive contribution to the well-being of people in the pandemic period

Children's Social Care Risks - CIW identified no significant areas of risk:

The Assurance Check identified inconsistency for some care leavers in relation to their PAs

Next Steps *CIW identified strengths and areas for priority improvement and will review the progress of these areas through performance evaluation review meetings with the heads of service and director. CIW expect the areas of improvement identified to be included in the local authority's improvement plans.*

Children's Education Assurances

- Leaders have a good understanding of issues in the authority including around schools causing concern
- Leaders maintained the good communication between departments throughout the pandemic to ensure that support for schools and other providers was available quickly
- A substantial number of primary schools have been removed from Estyn Review.
- Pre-inspection reports show that the authority generally knows its schools well
- LA is proactive in increasing Welsh medium provision in the primary sector

- LA officers appear to have suitable plans in place to deal with the issues regarding leadership of smaller schools, for example by federating or merging them
- The authority has supported schools and providers to understand and embed the new ALN act
- Effective scrutiny arrangements

Concerns

- There are a very few primary schools in a statutory category.
- With the local authority leaving ERW, there is uncertainty over some arrangements with Partneriaeth
- Recruiting headteachers to lead a few primary schools is causing concern
- Although the overall, the number of pupils who did not progress from year 10 to 11 in Carmarthenshire is slightly below the national average for the last two years, the rates of pupils who cannot be matched to a destination are high in a minority of schools over the last two years.
- Budget balances in schools

Environment Department

Duty to Keep Performance Under Review	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <p>How can we do better? (see bullet points)</p>
Performance Requirements	
<p><i>1 exercising functions effectively</i></p>	<p>Place and Sustainability</p> <p>The Planning service was subject of an Audit Wales review in 2021/22 that found significant and long-standing performance issues in the planning service that needed to be urgently addressed to help support delivery of the Council's ambitions.</p> <p><i>The Council considered the findings and recommendations and prepared a detailed response and action plan which looks to address the issues identified.</i> There has been a turnaround in % planning applications determined in time.</p> <p>Net Zero Carbon - the Council declare a climate emergency and was the first in Wales to publish an Action Plan. Internal Audit reviews of Net Zero Carbon found High level systems and controls in place.</p> <p>Waste</p> <p>Waste was subject of an Audit Wales review in 2021/22</p> <p><i>It found that the Council has met its statutory recycling targets and has recently drafted a strategy to make its waste service more sustainable, but it has not finalised the strategy or got a clear plan for dealing with the large number of fly-tipping incidents in the county.</i></p> <p>8 recommendations have been addressed. <i>The Waste Strategy has now been approved. There needs to be a clear action focused plan on the agreed steps to recover county rates to 65% and then the steps to get to 70%.</i> Fly-tipping clearing performance is back to pre-COVID-19 levels despite a 33% increase in the number of incidents cleared.</p> <p>Highways and Transportation</p> <p>The Division produces an Annual Highways Asset Management Plan that</p>

	<p>is reported to Scrutiny. There is not a lot of Performance information available.</p> <p>Service Improvement</p> <p>We have successfully implemented a hub within Place & Sustainability to support the Development Management and Enforcement Officers. The collaboration between Cleaning Services and Education has been pivotal for Cleaning Service and Property Services in relation to COVID-19, PPE and Maintenance.</p> <p>How can we do better?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Business Planning • Improve SMART action planning and Performance Indicator suites • Introduce better data driven decision making • Improve access and use of performance dashboards • Prioritise improvement areas based on evidence • Ensure more integrating reporting of performance at department and corporate levels.
<p>2. <i>using resources economically, efficiently and effectively.</i></p>	<p><u>Economically</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department has adapted to many years of budget reductions whilst maintaining services. • The Revenue Budget strategy is consulted on every year with Scrutiny. <p><u>Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department has strengthened its business planning and extending its PI suites. • The department is monitoring both departmental and divisional business plan content • The Director has increased the service challenge processes within the department. • Revenue and Capital Budgets are monitored by Scrutiny every quarter of the year. <p><u>Effectively</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,034 residents participated in engagement on the new waste strategy • Consultation on various schemes e.g. Sandy Road corridor 334 participants • Internal Audit of Ash Dieback, Departmental Expenditure, Flood Defence & Coastal Protection were found to be acceptable. <p>How can we do better?</p> <p><u>Economically</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to make better use of data and intelligence to help inform future workforce development requirements. Ensure that the service is able to further respond to the on-going recruitment and retention challenges especially within some of areas that compete with the private sector such as Planning, Property Design. <p><u>Efficiently</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of identified capacity within the Department to support change and transformation objectives has been highlighted as a

	<p>significant area for us to focus upon, and this has the potential to impact on its ability to progress a number of key priorities such as service improvements that are critical moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will be reviewing its Performance Monitoring arrangements to ensure they align with the new Corporate Performance Monitoring Framework to establish a full picture of both Strategic and Operational performance. • We will develop and establish Outcome focused measures and Performance Indicators to support service improvement and identify gaps in our monitoring arrangements. <p><u>Effectively</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of our web content is key for our department moving forward. Our aim is improving the information available and to develop further web forms which integrate with back-office systems to eradicate the need for manual input and paper applications. We aim to add electronic payments to as many of our application processes and an end-to-end process where the customer receives updates on their enquiry/order/report as it progresses. We have identified some areas of web development that will be key to improving customer satisfaction and reducing failure demand such as planning applications.
<p>3. <i>governance is effective for securing the above</i></p>	<p>How well are we doing and how do we know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue and Capital Budgets are reported quarterly to Scrutiny Committee • Departmental Business Plans are produced and reviewed every year. They are submitted to various scrutiny committees. • All outcomes are monitored through quarterly reports to DMT and Scrutiny committee. <p>The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of Corporate Governance, providing a source of assurance about the Authority's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial as well as non-financial performance.</p> <p>The Authority has a Risk Management Steering Group which reports directly to Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and Chief Officers Team (CMT). The Risk Management Steering Group examines how Risk Management can be developed and ensures that Risk Management is embedded in decision making throughout the organisation. The Group meet quarterly and is supported by the work of its Subgroups i.e. Property & Liability Risks, Motor Fleet Risks and Contingency Planning Subgroups. TIC's December 2021 review concluded that <i>'The Terms of Reference of the Risk Management Steering Groups and its various sub-groups have recently been reviewed. This will allow the Strategic Group to adopt more of a strategic approach to its consideration of risk management issues, such as undertaking regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register.'</i> The Steering Group's role in allocating the £250k of risk management funding could be strengthened by introducing clearer criteria for how this funding</p>

	<p>is prioritised and spent on annual basis</p> <p><u>Cabinet Advisory Panels</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Local Development Plan –To take political ownership of the LDP and ensure that the LDP process is managed in accordance with the Development Agreement. • Cross Party Advisory Panel on Climate Change – to be established. <p>How can we do better?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure to improve governance and compliance
Duty to Consult	
<i>Is there any consultation on your assessment of performance?</i>	<p><u>Highways and Transportation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our design teams work with a range of key clients and ensuring their designs meet the needs of clients and service users is a fundamental requirement. • Public engagement is a cornerstone of the development of our engineering projects. Developing schemes for highway improvements and traffic management changes involve public consultation. • Involving local communities and engaging with members of the public for Traffic Regulation Orders which change speed limits, alter parking provision or traffic management is a statutory duty which we undertake and manage on a significant scale. • The Division works closely with Town and Community Councils on a range of issues including the management of public lighting, the recent introduction of LED lighting, key consultation of traffic and highway improvements, development of PROW maintenance and management, and Traffic Regulation Orders for speed limit, parking and other traffic management improvements. • The Division actively support the promotion of events our partner organisations bring forward to promote places, activities and events in the County such as the Tour of Britain, Llanelli Pride, Christmas Markets and this also includes free parking offers. • The County Council is a partner in both the Llanelli and Carmarthen BID providing financial support and partnership working with a range of stakeholders and businesses. • The Division works with volunteer groups on issues such as the maintenance of Public Rights of Way in conjunction with Ramblers 'Paths to Well-being' officers were initiated • Our Passenger Transport Team continues to consult with service users and stakeholders and work regionally with Welsh Government/TfW and neighbouring Authorities to understand demand for public transport services in a changing post COVID-19 environment.

- Our Transport Planning Team also promote School Travel Plans in our schools to involve pupils in participating and encouraging health travel patterns and our Road Safety Teams reinforce this with kerbcraft and cycle training.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic the Highways & Transport Division introduced public realm changes to support the town centre recovery and undertook a widespread consultation exercise which had comments from 52 businesses and 286 members of the public which were incorporated within a review of measures

Place and Sustainability

- Facilitation of Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership
- Intelligence gathered by planning hwb can identify service improvements.
- Full public and focused consultation undertaken during the preparation of the LDP and other policy documents and planning interventions such as LDOs.
- Key stakeholder and other forums (including viability/developer forum).
- Facilitate, participate and lead on local, regional and national thematic groups.
- Establishment of schools climate action consultation group and implementation of the manifesto for NZC.
- Opportunities provided for the residents to engage with us during the process of a planning application.

Waste

- Our budget consultation work has been identified as best practice in Wales and we are building on this. We will be further developing the Council's consultation and engagement approaches during 2021.
- Our Consultation and Engagement on the Future Waste Strategy had over 4,000 responses and directly shaped our future service design.
- Recycling Participation Surveys (door to door) to recommence by Community Recycling Team once Covid- 19 restrictions allow with a view to increasing participation in the various recycling schemes. Outcomes to be incorporated into future waste services delivery.

Property Maintenance

- We consult on a regular basis with our internal customers. Consultation can include building maintenance, compliance and condition of buildings, and property design.

Service Development

- We are the lead support for Integrated Impact Assessments within our department, however we have limited resources.

The Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic – unplanned transformation

In March 2020, Carmarthenshire County Council was about to enter one of the most challenging periods ever faced by local government. The impact of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic presented a unique set of challenges for the whole country, and there was an acceptance that Councils would need to be at the heart of the local response to the crisis.

When in July 2020, the Council began to emerge from the immediate period of the crisis, there was a recognition that 'things would never quite be the same' and that we were already not the same organisation that we had been only five months earlier.

The Council was keen therefore to capture the learning from its response to the pandemic; what worked well/didn't work so well, and how this could potentially change 'what we do' and 'how we do', it in the future.

The emergence of the COVID-19 crisis meant that services had to adapt quickly to put in place alternative delivery arrangements for users and staff to ensure continuity of provision. This often required innovative and creative thinking and a multi-team approach to be adopted between services within the Council and with other public sector partners, and this experience can only benefit the way that we shape and deliver our services moving forward. Services have also demonstrated themselves to be extremely resilient and are now armed with more robust service continuity plans and a more mature approach to risk - this means that they can move with greater confidence and ambition in seeking ways of developing more purposeful services.

The move to more remote working and less reliance on face-to-face meetings and paper-based processes, alongside changing customer expectations and demands, will provide an opportunity for the Council to consider the type of services that it provides in future and how it delivers them. The pandemic may also have changed customer expectations of 'how' and 'when' they access services, and therefore the Council may need to consider adopting more flexible service delivery models e.g., 7 day/ 24 hr working.

However, there will also be a need to ensure that services continue to respond to customer needs and expectations. Alternative delivery models put in place as part of a response to a pandemic may not be what the customer wants during more normal circumstances. Co-production therefore should be a central feature of the Council's approach to reviewing and re-designing its services moving forward.

This is also now an opportunity to re-set or go back to basics in using some core principles that underpin service delivery. We do not always have to have extensive service remodelling or to spend significant amounts of money to deliver better services. Simple behavioural and process changes around the way we treat customers can result in dramatic improvements in service provision – it doesn't always require a big investment in staff and systems to achieve this.

The benefits of having a more flexible, dynamic, empowered workforce will now be equally as important to support our transformation programme, and to help the Council achieve its wider aims and objectives. The likelihood is that our staff recruitment challenges are likely to be with us for at least the medium term, and therefore there will need to be a greater focus on the development and retention of staff, which will be a priority of our Workforce Strategy moving forward. The Council is seeking to develop a more sustainable approach to meet its future workforce needs by adopting a 'grow your own' strategy. The Council is currently about to launch its 'Future Workforce' programme which will seek to increase graduate, apprenticeship and work experience opportunities.

There also needs to a considerable focus on the well-being agenda moving forward, including developing a sustainable approach to remote working and re-connecting the organisation to a whole generation of new starters who will have not met their colleagues at all on a face-to-face basis.

The following emerging priorities have been identified for the next phase of the Council's transformational journey

Emerging Priority	Transformation Aims
People	To oversee the development of a Workforce Strategy and delivery of key workforce priorities to enable the Council to become a more modern and responsive organisation and an 'Employer of Choice'.
Service Design & Improvement	To provide for a more sustainable and creative approach to the review, remodelling and improvement of Council services
Efficiencies and Value for Money	To continue to deliver financial savings through efficiencies or cost reductions and smarter ways of working.
Income & Commercialisation	To develop a more commercial approach to the delivery of Council services with a view to increasing the level of income generated.
Customers & Digital Transformation	To continue to make better use of technology to deliver smarter, efficient service processes and to deliver a better experience for customers
Buildings	To exploit the opportunities presented by a move to hybrid working to further rationalise the Council's accommodation portfolio and to modernise and improve the working environment within the remaining core buildings.
Net Zero Carbon	To support the Council in delivering transformational change in support of key NZC targets
Schools	To assist schools in identifying cost reductions and better ways of working and support the development of more sustainable school budgets and help protect front line academic provision.

Consultation on Performance Requirements

We consulted on our performance as a Council with residents, businesses, staff and Trade Unions. It is important that our self-assessment of performance is as realistic as possible and that we do not 'mark our own papers' but triangulate our assessment between performance data, regulatory findings and our customers views. The consultation periods on the surveys is now closed and responses are currently being analysed and will be reported in due course with proposals for improvement from the findings in order to influence our development work in terms of future business planning and organisational improvement.

Staff Consultation

The survey took place during the period from 27 June 2022 to 5 August 2022 and a total of 1,733 responses were received which equates to 22% of Carmarthenshire County Council staff.

In undertaking this survey staff were asked a series of 11 statements in direct relation to the Council's performance. These were worded in a way in which the respondent answered these questions from the perspective of their service area rather than the organisation as a whole.

Findings will be reported in due course.

Residents Consultation

The survey took place during the period from 23 June 2022 to 5 August 2022 and a total of 2,195 responses were received. In undertaking this survey residents were asked a series of 5 statements in direct relation to the Council's performance.

Findings will be reported in due course.

Business Consultation

The survey took place during the period from 26 August to 30 September and a total of 36 responses were received. In undertaking this business owners were asked a series of 8 statements in direct relation to the Council's performance.

Findings will be reported in due course.

Trade Unions

The survey took place during the period from 12 August to 23 September and a total of 5 responses were received.

A series of five statements were posed with a focus on the way that the Council uses its resources, its services and governance.

Findings will be reported in due course.



We would welcome your feedback,
please send your thoughts, views and opinions to:



Performance Management
ICT and Corporate Policy
Chief Executive's Department
County Hall
Carmarthen
Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



Tel: **01267 234567**
Email: **performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**



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DETAILED PROGRESS COMMITMENTS AND TARGETS



Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Supporting families			
We will implement & monitor the Corporate Parenting Strategy via Corporate Parenting Panel, ensuring the council fulfils its Corporate Parenting role & that our looked after children & care leavers have the opportunity to reach their full potential. (Ref 15001) MF5-40	✓	Corporate Parenting Panel has resumed meeting virtually since Nov 21. All Looked After children and care leavers have continued to be supported via the childcare teams and corporate parenting service. A number of care leavers are studying in colleges and universities and others participating in training. Outcomes are also monitored via the Multi-Agency Care Management Meetings (MALAC) and CYSUR Audit and Evaluation meetings that have continued to take place regularly to ensure the council fulfils its corporate parenting role and progress monitored as part of the corporate parenting strategy. Whilst the pandemic created challenges for children's services during 2021/22 outcomes being achieved for LAC and care leavers has remained very positive.	E&C
We will ensure the Council fully responds and delivers the Childcare Offer of 30 hours of free education and care for working parents in line with Welsh Government guidance. (Ref 15002) MF5-41	✓	Promotion of the Childcare Offer has continued with vigorous and multi-media advertising. During 2021/22 the number of enquiries to the webpage was 463, with 12,168 hits to the webpage. On average 500-600 children accessed the childcare offer each month during 2021/22. The new national digital service is planned to be rolled-out nationally in January 2023. Carmarthenshire is participating in a small pilot working with Ceredigion commencing September 2022.	E&C
We will continue to develop the Flying Start programme, reflecting the impact of COVID-19, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families with children (0-3) living in specific deprived communities, ensuring good multi agency support to families. (Ref 15003) MF5-82	✓	Collaborative work has continued within Flying Start providing a holistic approach to communicate and engage with families, sharing ideas and resources. The Flying Start App has been integral in engaging families, keeping them informed and providing vital information. We have used mobile data devices to help families unable to download the app. The FS team met with WG to evaluate the success of the App, especially during COVID, with an aim of it being rolled out to other LA's. Challenges have continued due to ongoing Covid restrictions and lack of access to suitable venues for face-to-face delivery. Staffing issues due to covid and vacancies have also made it difficult to run full services. Language and Play (LAP) services have worked closely with the advisory teacher and educational psychologist has enabled them to offer bespoke support to individual childcare settings to support children's developing communication skills.	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will continue to transform children's social work practice through a Relationship Based approach that incorporates systemic thinking and the principles of Signs of Safety. (Ref 15004)	✓	This approach is embedded in all childcare teams. Contributions from adult services has also offered a different perspective and contribution to action plans. Pod discussions are now taking place face-to-face again and staff value this peer support. Mandatory sessions for adult and children's social workers in their first year of practice will include systemic practice enabling workers the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in this area. Over 20 managers and senior social workers have also undertaken Foundation level training during 2021/22. In collaboration with 'Collective Space' practitioners have developed a training package which will be delivered on a regular basis in future in addition to more specialist risk assessment training.	E&C
We will continue effective management oversight and challenge of Assessments and Care and Support plans to ensure they are outcome focused, evidencing the voice of the child, and reflect the underpinning principles of the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSWBA) (Ref 15005)	✓	Assessments are audited monthly by senior managers and there continues to be good evidence of collaborative work with children, parents, and extended family via Family network meetings to develop care and support and safety plans. Feedback is given to practitioners on examples of good practice and areas for improvement. Covid restrictions, staff absence/sickness, recruitment difficulties as well as an increase in referrals to the department have all been additional challenges this year.	E&C
We will ensure the regional threshold and multi-agency child protection arrangements are working effectively. (Ref 15006)	✓	We have continued to follow regional threshold and multi-agency child protection arrangements ensuring early intervention and utilisation of preventative services to reduce the need for statutory involvement wherever possible. A regional development day was held in May where staff had the opportunity to consider guidance and share good practice across the region to ensure consistency. It enabled reflection and provided assurance that arrangements are working effectively across the region.	E&C
We continue to work towards addressing the childcare gaps identified in our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2017-22) whilst taking into account the impact of Covid-19 in order to ensure that the LA fulfils its statutory childcare sufficiency duty, and local parents/carers are supported to balance their working and caring responsibilities. (Ref 15009)	✓	Despite continued difficulties due to Covid-19 on-going support for prospective and existing childminders has been provided on an individual basis and via smaller groups. Eight childminder briefings have been delivered with 10 attendees to date. There have been six new registrations this year and another two imminent. There have been 10 de-registrations. Currently we have 101 registered childminders with a total of 779 childcare places. Significant grants from WG went towards the 'Summer of Fun' and 'Winter of Wellbeing' to support children and families as part of the covid recovery. Approx. 15,000 children and young people have benefitted from these free activities across the county from 0-25 year olds.	E&C
We will continue to extend and refine the Team Around the Family (TAF) approach across the county for 0-25 year olds, and will improve the interface between TAF, School Attendance and Safeguarding and focus on Elected Home Educated (EHE) children. (Ref 15013)	✓	Team Around the Family (TAF) are continuing to re-shape their service to meet future need. The TAF-in-Schools team has been amalgamated with the TAF Central team as part of the reshaping TAF to be a more efficient, place based, and community focused organisation. TAF are continuing developing links with the third sector, and work closely with	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		schools, Safeguarding and Attendance and Early Help team as part of the behaviour support agenda. The team have operated at a much reduced capacity (less than 50%) to meet the needs of families primarily through digital means. The first peer parent support group is in the early stages of development going forward into 2022/23.	
We will work in partnership with the Inclusion Service to develop the 'local offer' of support for disabled/autistic children and young people and their families. This will include the piloting of a proactive provision of information, advice and assistance to families. (Ref 15014)	✓	Work has been undertaken within our Early help team to develop a web based local offer of support. Joint discussions and decisions with Inclusion and web designers has taken place and work is near completion. It can be built upon and amended over time, working together to ensure important information, advice and guidance is included, plus sign-posting for specific services.	E&C
% of child assessments completed within statutory timescales (PAM/028 - CH/006a/012) 2020/21 Result - 93.6% (3,591÷3,835) 2021/22 Target - 93.9%	x	Off Target and declined 2021/22 Result - 90.2% (3,876/4,298). The increase in referrals coupled with staff absence and COVID restrictions have increased pressures on the assessment teams that carry out the majority of the Assessments of Care and Support, undertaken through a combination of face to face and remote visits. A monthly sample audit of assessments has continued with feedback to practitioners on examples of good practice and areas for improvement. There continues to be good evidence in assessments of the views of children. As part of the assessment process social workers are speaking to both parents whether they are involved or not daily with the care of their child. Increasingly, assessments refer to the contribution that a family network meeting has made to the assessment in terms of identifying sources of support or family/friends who have devised a safety plan with the parent. Timescales are calculated at Authorised Date by senior managers; therefore, it is imperative that assessments are approved as soon as possible.	E&C
The average number of days a child is on the Child Protection Register. (CH/035/036) 2020/21 Result - 221.0 days (23,427÷106) 2021/22 Target – 237.7days	x	Off Target and declined 2021/22 Result – 280.3 days (34,198/122). Recent times have proved very challenging due to the COVID pandemic. Families have faced difficulties in relation to safeguarding issues when under lockdown and having to adhere to restrictions. As a result, some children may have remained on the Child Protection Register for a longer period of time to ensure their safety under demanding circumstances. De-registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. Limitations on staff undertaking direct visits during the year have also existed. Increased use of IT equipment and PPE have assisted staff to manage and undertake work to the best of their ability in line with Welsh Government guidance. We continue to use preventative services to reduce the number of children being subject to child protection plans. Prevention is key to practice. The childcare teams are supported in this work by the	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Family Intervention Service, Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care Teams with intensive packages of support implemented in a variety of ways to keep children safe. Support services are offered to maintain safe care for children at home together with the emotional health and well-being team who provide psychological support to children working with childcare teams across Carmarthenshire. Systemic and Signs of Safety practices are in place.	
% of children in care with 3 or more placements in the year. (PAM/029 - CH/043) 2020/21 Result - 4.7% (7÷148 × 100) 2021/22 Target - 7.9%	✓	On Target and Declined 2020/21 Result - 6.6% (11/ 167). Of the 167 children looked as 31st March 2022, 11 children experienced 3 or more placement moves. This is a slightly higher result than last year of 4.7% with 7 of the 148 looked after children experiencing 3 or more placements. We continued to focus on maintaining placement stability with good placement support being offered across the service to achieve this.	E&C
The number of children re-registered on the Child Protection Register within 12 months. (CH/024) 2020/21 Result - 11.4% (12÷105 × 100) 2021/22 Target - 10.5%	✓	On Target and Improved 2020/21 Result - 4.4% (6/136) Six of the 136 children on the Child Protection Register have been on the register before in the previous 12 months. This is half the number of the previous year. We continually use preventative services to reduce the need for children being subject to child protection plans.	E&C
The % of looked after children who experience a change of school during the year. This excludes transitional arrangements and moves associated with adoption or moves home. (CH/044) 2020/21 Result - 3.1% (3/96 x 100) 2021/22 Target - 4%	x	Off Target and declined 2021/22 Result - 6.7% (7/105). Despite not meeting the target, education stability of Looked After Children remains excellent, with figures historically being very low. The increase in numbers for this year can partly be attributed to sibling groups requiring a change of school. Stability is maintained wherever possible by ensuring a child remains in the same school, however, this is not always in the best interest of a child e.g., distance to travel or child's academic needs not being met. We continue to use preventive services and teams such as Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care to keep children at home with much success in many cases. The work of the Family Intervention and childcare teams is progressive in keeping children with their families. Support services are offered to maintain safe care for children at home together with the emotional health and well-being team who provide psychological support to children working with childcare teams across Carmarthenshire. We work and develop good family network meetings to ensure all options of care are considered within friends and family instead of foster care so that children can remain in their own school and environment.	E&C
The % of child attendance at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement for eligible 2–3-year-olds to prepare for school readiness. (9.1.8.1) 2020/21 Result - 38.9% (24,535/63,010)	x	Off Target and improved 2021/22 Result – 72.6% (49,498 / 68,189). Disappointed to have not reached this target We continue to work with families, but it has been	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
2021/22 Target - 80%		difficult with positive COVID cases, this includes families and staff.	
<p>The % of unauthorised absence at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement for eligible 2–3-year-olds to prepare for school readiness. (9.1.8.8)</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 1.58% (995/63,010)</p> <p>2021/22 Target - 2.75%</p>	✓	<p>On Target and improved</p> <p>2021/22 Result - 2.33% (1,591 / 68,189).</p> <p>Disappointed to have not reached this target We continue to work with families, but it has been difficult with positive COVID cases, this includes families and staff.</p>	E&C
B – Additional Learning Needs			
<p>We will ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs transformation programme which aims to transform expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people by developing a unified system for supporting learners with additional needs from 0 to 25 years of age. (Ref 15035) MF5-39</p>	✓	<p>We continue to support Welsh Government's Additional Learning Needs Transformation programme by supporting schools and a diverse range of stakeholders to implement all transformation plans with an ongoing schedule of work that is reviewed and updated regularly to capture updates from Welsh Government.</p>	E&C



Well-being Objective 2

Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Increase physical activities for children			
We will continue to work towards addressing the gaps identified in our most recent Play Sufficiency Assessment whilst taking into account the impact of Covid-19 in order to ensure that local children and young people have access to wide and varied play opportunities and experiences (Ref 15010)	✓	The Welsh Government provided Carmarthenshire with £270,00 towards the Summer of Fun and £434,689 towards the Winter of Wellbeing to support children and families as part of their recovery from the pandemic and its restrictions. A significant package of support was provided to fund initiatives designed to help children, young people, families, and the services they use. Approximately 15,000 children and young people have benefitted from these activities across the county from 0-25 years old. The Play Streets Project funded via the WG Playworks Holiday Grant has also been utilised with 53 sessions delivered, plus 7 pop-up events (324 children benefitted; 62 adults engaging with support). We commissioned Pleydell Smithyman to complete the Play Sufficiency Assessment, Action Plan, and summary document to be submitted to WG by 30/6/22.	C&R
Pendine Outdoor Education centre – new service delivery model to be developed to include review of existing site, plus options for additional or alternative onsite and offsite provision, both residential and non-residential. (Ref 15073)	✓	Future options report in place. Interim arrangements looking at basic staffing provision and reduced capacity residential offer at Pendine from Easter 2022. Alternative non-residential and off-site (at school) offers developed as options too. Condition survey and site options paper being developed with property services to inform long term service offer later in 2022.	C&R
We shall increase the range of physical activity opportunities available for children and adults to increase ongoing participation rates. (Ref 15076)		Following the introduction of the Actif Strategy, existing programmes and activities have been mapped against its objectives and areas where additional need and opportunity were identified are continuously being addressed. This has resulted in an increase in the range, as per target. This includes growth of walking sports for adults and older adults countywide, expanding the cycle opportunities (e.g. 'Back on your bike'), converting and upgrading spaces in leisure centres to offer a wider and enhanced programme, increasing partnerships to result in activities (including in community halls/hubs), etc.	C&R
Through the Healthy Schools Scheme we will continue to increase the level of physical activity by developing the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Project, continue to hold our annual Pedometer Challenge and continue to embed the Food & Fitness Health topic within Schools. (Ref 15102)		As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, school closures, and having to re-direct our work as instructed by the National Lead of the Healthy Schools Scheme, as Officers we have been unable to develop CODS to its full potential. The scheme no longer have the capacity to Lead on the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Scheme. As a result Louise Morgan who has recently been appointed as an Associate Education Support Advisor will take on the lead of CODS going forward with a focus on the links with the Health & Well-being AOLE (Areas of learning and experience). She has now produced a plan in relation to moving the scheme forward.	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		The scheme continues to work in partnership with the Active Young People (AYP) Team in promoting the projects that they are delivering in terms of increasing Physical Activity levels within the school. We'll continue to deliver Termly Cluster meetings in partnership with the AYP team.	
The % of children who can swim 25m aged 11 (3.4.2.1) 2020/21 Result - 58.3% (74/127) 2020/21 - Target - 65%	✗	2021/22 Result not available This is based on the 2020/21 academic year when no school swimming took place due to Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent facility closure, therefore there is no result available. School swimming resumed in September 2021 which will be included in 2022/23 financial year result.	C&R
The number of young people (0-16) accessing free swim sessions (3.4.2.2) 2020/21 - Result 0 2021/22 - Target 1,200	✗	2021/22 Result - 697 This is an improvement on last year's figures but unfortunately, we have not met the target because of limited numbers allowed in pool due to covid-related restrictions. Also U8's needed an adult accompanying them further reducing the number of spaces available. Going forward, we now have increased capacity in free swimming sessions since covid restrictions have eased.	C&R
The number of attendances at Sporting Opportunities facilitated by Sport & Leisure Officers (3.4.2.8) 2020/21 Result - 56,791 2021/22 Target - 157,834	✗	2021/22 Result – 106,888 This result is off target but is showing an improvement on last year. The main reason is that schools did not engage in our programmes as they have done previously. This is largely due to a lack of extra-curricular activity. Schools are slowly re-engaging with our programmes through their COVID-19 recovery and as weather improves, they are able to utilise outdoor spaces more.	C&R
B – Address mental health and Adverse Childhood Experiences			
Through the Healthy School Scheme, we will continue to support schools in their implementation of the Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being Health topic including Anti-bullying strategies and healthy coping mechanisms such as mindfulness and Speakr. (Ref 15105)	✓	Since Autumn 2021, the Lead Healthy Schools Officer has been supporting Hywel Dda's Implementation Lead for the Whole School Approach to Mental Health (WSA to MH) in relation to supporting the 8 Pilot schools who are completing Phase 1 of the Pilot Project. The Lead Officer has supported the Implementation Lead in setting up workshops and attended most of them in order to share good practice. The Lead Healthy Schools Officer is also an active member of the Task & Finish Group that has been established in order to produce an Anti-Bullying Toolkit for local schools. The toolkit will promote and support the Mental & Emotional Health of school pupils. Throughout the year the Scheme has raised awareness to a number of National Mental Health Campaigns via the Healthy Schools Network on HWB, the Healthy Schools Twitter Page, Termly Cluster meetings and Training events. The Scheme updated the National Health Campaigns calendar as it usually does on an annual basis, which was shared with schools via the Network and cluster meetings. The scheme also provided schools with a set of Educational and Generic resources that will have supported them in raising awareness to the campaigns. All resources shared are available on the Network for future use. In addition, the scheme signposted schools to useful websites such as Mentally Healthy Schools, Anna Freud National Centre	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		for Children and Families and the Charlie Waller Memorial website where further reputable resources could be accessed in relation to Mental & Emotional Health promotion. The scheme also used the Mental Health Campaigns as an opportunity to remind schools of the age-appropriate Directory of Support Lines and Self-Care apps that the scheme has produced. The Directories have been categorised into specific areas such as Anxiety, Bereavement and LGBTQ+ related issues providing a source of support to pupils.	
C – Promote healthy eating			
We shall continue to ensure that schools are abiding by the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards & Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013. (Ref 15103)	✓	The Healthy Schools Scheme (HSS) is used as a platform to remind schools of the current Healthy Eating Regulations e.g. informing schools of obvious breaches to the Statutory Regulations such as rewarding pupils with unhealthy treats and provide schools with further statutory guidance. A Range of guidance documents have been shared with schools and all Schools which are focussing on Food & Fitness as a health topic in preparation for a Healthy Schools Award or schools working towards the National Quality Award are provided with support directly from officers.	E&C
We will increase the % of schools achieving phase 5 of the Healthy Schools Initiative (8.3.1.6) 2020/21 Result - 36% (40/111) 2021/22 Target - 37%	✗	2021/22 Result - 35% (39/110) 39 out of 110 schools have achieved Phase 5 of the Healthy Schools scheme. The scheme now runs in 110 schools (previously 111). One special school is not included in the calculation which affects the result and therefore the result is now below the previous year. Progress in the scheme has slowed during the pandemic, with schools having prioritised learning and delays in Healthy Schools Officers being able to undertake on-site inspections during restrictions.	E&C
D – Increase awareness of healthy lifestyles			
We will continue to promote and raise awareness to campaigns specific to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health and promote the School Health Research Network. (Ref 15104)	✓	In relation to the School Health Research Network Pupil Health & Well-being Survey, 11 out of the 12 Secondary Schools in Carmarthenshire registered with the Network and completed the Surveys. All 11 of these Secondary Schools also completed the School Environment Questionnaire. We raised awareness of a range of campaigns during the year including National Fitness Day; Outdoor Awareness Month; Outdoor Classroom Day; Bike to School Week; Walk to School Week and Active Million Minutes Campaign; World Mental Health Day; Children's Mental Health Week; Stress Awareness Month; Anti Bullying Week; The Big Lunch; Eat Like a Champ; BNF's Healthy Eating Week; National Obesity Awareness Week and Eating disorders week.	E&C
E – Flying Start programme			
Please see Step A of Well-being Objective one for actions and measures on Flying Start			
F – Early Years Transformation Programme			
We will continue to work in partnership with Health Board & other partners on WG 'Early Years Integration Pathfinder Programme' from segmented to integrated model, across boundaries. Undertake pilot in Cwm Gwendraeth,	✓	The Regional Maternity and Early Years Steering Group has met on a termly basis throughout the year and is chaired by Head of Children Services. The Steering Group discusses progress, challenges and barriers to integration and draws upon the experience of group	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
based on Flying Start model of multi-agency delivery in accordance with the plan submitted to WG. (Ref 15042)		<p>members to advise on solutions. The Carmarthenshire Maternity and Early Years Operational Group has been established and meets on a regular basis throughout the year. Members of the Operational group filter into the CCG subgroups whereby actions specific to Early Years Transformation are worked towards. Following strict LA procurement regulations the company Panda were commissioned to work with the region to develop a Maternity and Early Years Strategy and their contract commenced in December 2022. Panda have been working with regional partners in developing a web based Regional Maternity and Early Years Strategy. The strategy is now in the final stages of development and the next steps will be consultation with key stakeholders and launching the Strategy. The Regional Maternity and Early Years Outcomes Framework continues to be developed. A set of population indicators have been agreed across the region and the data leads from each Local Authority are working in partnership in utilising the Gorwel data dashboard for storing both Qualitative and Quantitative data relevant for maternity and early Years.</p> <p>The Cwm Gwendraeth Integrated team is now firmly established within the area and systems have been developed to identify families in need as early as possible via the Midwifery and Health Visiting service. Families are referred to the Family Support Workers for 1:1 support and are sign-posted to the various groups that are available. Families are offered home safety sessions at 25 weeks of the pregnancy. Good working relationships have developed with third sector partners operating within the Cwm Gwendraeth area and beyond and some co-delivering of projects has occurred with Tumble Family Centre, Cymraeg I Blant and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The Cwm Gwendraeth Early Years webpage continues to be updated and is an information source for both families and professionals to find out the various services available along with advice and support.</p>	
G – Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people			
We will ensure that we have a through age approach to community support ensuring equal access to education, training, employment and community inclusion. This will include new models of service delivery to respond to Covid - 19 and the opportunities this presents to escalate our Learning Disability Transformation plan. (Ref 12540) (MF-37)	x	<p>The proposal for our Supported employment project has been submitted to the new Regional Integration Fund and an expression of interest made to the DWP to be part of the Local Supported Employment initiative. This additional funding will provide capacity to re-establish this programme of work and a link to best practice in this area of work. To compliment the supported employment programme, we continue working with colleagues in education to develop enhanced options for school leavers and initial discussions have taken place with adult learning Wales to explore inclusive education and training for employability, enterprise and skills development as well as further development of our sensory curriculum. The supported employment project plan is yet to be finalised however the memorandum of understanding between ourselves, environment and CWM has been drafted and circulated for agreement. This will then</p>	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		allow us to progress the circular economy opportunities. Links have been made with Parc Yr Esgob with a view to establish work prep activities around grounds maintenance and increasing the number of volunteering opportunities. Discussions have taken place regarding the building requirements for a new enterprise hub to allow us to merge these activities across the county and we are now part of a developing regional initiative on micro enterprises.	



Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A – Improvement in pupil progress, wellbeing and outcomes			
We will continue to take forward the Equity Strategy to ensure that every child and young person is valued and valued equally. (Ref 15030)	✓	<p>All strategic focus groups include a focus on ensuring that learning provision across our schools meets the varying needs of all of our learners.</p> <p>The Equity and Wellbeing Pilot project is ongoing, having been disrupted by the impact of COVID. Our next step is to capture the learning from this project and to disseminate wider to other schools through the Curriculum clusters.</p> <p>In brief, Ysgol Burry Port, who has successfully embedded person-centred practices has focussed on the recovery curriculum and on the losses encountered by pupils and their families during the pandemic. The needs of individual pupils are addressed through a progressive curriculum as part of the school's universal provision; more targeted support is delivered in line with need.</p> <p>Family engagement remains a key focus for the Tymbl / Llechyfedach federation who highly value parental voice ensuring that views influence strategic policy. Laugharne schools continues to promote equity through the expressive arts, engaging with parents through projects such as the 'Lightbringers'; 'Creative habits of mind', Expressive arts skills and digital skills continue to develop positively as a result.</p>	E&C
We will continue to research and develop a set of meaningful measures for pupil wellbeing. (Ref 15031)	✓	The wellbeing curriculum has been published and any assessment measures will now be published by Welsh Government following their accountability and assessment consultation. We will base a new suite of measures on these new WG measures when published.	E&C
Considering the impact of COVID 19, we will support our schools to ensure the wellbeing and progress of all learners, including those who are vulnerable, eligible for free school meals or looked after. (Ref 15033) MF5-28	✓	<p>Officers from the Education and Children's services department continue to provide support to schools in line with local and national priorities, ensuring the wellbeing and progress of all learners, including those who are vulnerable, eligible for free school meals or looked after. Support and training provided continues to be extensive and variable depending on the needs of the learners and their schools, for example, the ELSA training, ensuring that staff are well equipped to address the emotional needs of pupils; Relationships and Sexual Education, delivered through our 'Healthy Schools Scheme' supporting school-based practitioners to effectively support and LGBTQ+ or transgender challenges that arise. A stakeholder groups has been arranged to ensure effective progress towards the recommendations outlined in the Estyn report 'I don't tell My Teacher', which addresses sexual harassment / bullying.</p>	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>The Partneriaeth learning offer provides an additional range of support and training, complementing the CCC offer. A challenge remains, ensuring that schools have the capacity to attend our professional development sessions. This is being addressed through ensuring repeat sessions at different times of the day and through recording the sessions.</p> <p>The ECS departmental Strategic Focus groups continue to address the needs of all pupils, including those who are most vulnerable, with officers from across the department collectively planning relevant support for schools. All support is informed by the intelligence gathered from our schools. Increasingly, dialogue with the 'Partneriaeth' is ensuring that we are more effectively aligned in relation to providing support for our schools, avoiding duplication and addressing 'gaps'. A link officer has been assigned to Carmarthen shire and this is ensuring more efficient transfer of key messages etc.</p> <p>The Headteacher survey, issued in December 2021, notes that our schools feel that we know them and their priority areas for improvement well.</p>	
<p>We will access available funding from Welsh Government to implement the Recruit, recover, raise standards: the accelerating learning programme to ensure all learners affected by the pandemic and particularly the most vulnerable, who have been affected the most, catch up in their learning. (Ref 15036)</p>	✓	<p>All schools have accessed their delegated Recruit, Recover and Raise standards grant funding, including additional funding. School leaders have discussed the focus and impact of this funding with their Educational Support Adviser, focussing on the additional support and provision they are able to provide for our learners and their families, including those who are most vulnerable, utilising this grant.</p> <p>The focus of the grant remains firmly on addressing the key challenges ascertained through self-evaluation processes, responding to the voice of the learner and the input of staff. The additional funding provides greater flexibility supporting schools to address the needs of the most vulnerable learners, those who require additional support with English, Maths and digital skills and those who are in examination years. Schools remain frustrated that the grant monies are received separately, often with very little time to plan expenditure as effectively as possible due to the time available up to the end of the financial year. Receiving 1 substantial grant with clear terms and conditions would allow for more efficient and effective ways of working by all, schools and finance officers within the LA.</p> <p>Schools wishing to recruit additional staffing to support learners have found this challenging due to the COVID pandemic and the subsequent availability suitable personnel. However, school leaders continue to work innovatively, targeting this funding towards those learners requiring additional support due to the impact of the COVID pandemic.</p>	E&C
<p>We will work with other Local Authorities on developing a new school improvement partnership to meet our needs. (Ref 15039)</p>	✓	<p>Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Swansea Councils have formed a formal partnership, 'Partneriaeth', to deliver services to schools in the new region. There is a new Legal Agreement which outlines the role of the new Consortium, how the budget and</p>	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		business plan are to be developed and governance arrangements. The new Staffing Structure as agreed by the Joint Committee has been completed and a Lead Officer appointed. Initially the consortium will focus on delivery of high quality professional development to support curriculum reform and leadership. The work of the consortium is informed and monitored by regular meetings between key Local Authority and Partneriaeth officers. There are clearly defined roles and responsibilities between Local Authorities and Partneriaeth and who is best placed to lead on an initiative is identified. There is anew website and regular communication with schools. Early indications are that the new provision is far more focused and responsive to local needs.	
We will improve the Average Capped 9 score (best 9 exam results) for pupils in Year 11 (PAM/032) 2020/21-Result not available-19/20 AcademicYr 2021/22 No Target set - 19/20 Academic Yr	!	No results published for 2021/22 (2020/21 Academic Year) Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students were unable to sit final exams in summer 2021 and instead their grades reflect predicted results based on coursework and mock examination results. Results by County were not published and would not be comparable to previous years if known. Summer exams 2022 are due to go ahead as scheduled. Results will be published later in the year. Comparison to previous years may not be applicable as some courses were truncated due to the pandemic.	E&C
We will increase the % of pupils achieving the Level 3 threshold (2 A Levels grade A-E) (5.0.2.3) 2020/21-Result not available-19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 No Target set - 19/20 Academic Yr	!		E&C
B - Improving School Attendance - Making every day count			
The % of pupil attendance in primary schools (PAM/007) 2020/21 No result available-19/20Academic Yr 2021/22 - No Target set - 20/21 Academic Yr	!	No results published for 2021/22 (2020/21 Academic Year) These 2021/22 measures covers the Academic Year 2020/21. This includes a period that schools were closed due to the COVID pandemic (Oct - Dec 2020). Schools would also have had incidences when individuals or 'bubble groups' would have been sent home to self-isolate, which would have included distance learning. Welsh government have stated that they will not be undertaking the Pupil level attendance data collection or publishing a Statistical Release on school attendance data for this Academic Year. Any data produced from local systems would not be comparable to previous years.	E&C
The % of authorised absence in primary schools (4.1.2.3) 2020/21 No result available- 19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 - No Target set - 20/21 Academic Yr	!		E&C
The % of pupil attendance in secondary schools (PAM/008) 2020/21 No result available- 19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 - No Target set - 20/21 Academic Yr	!		E&C
The % of authorised absence in secondary schools (4.1.2.2) 2020/21 No result available- 19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 - No Target set - 20/21 Academic Yr	!		E&C
C - An excellent school in the right place			
We will continue to improve the condition, suitability and ICT resources within schools and ensure that all newly built schools have the latest digital technologies and infrastructures in place to deliver 21st century education. (Ref 14900) MF5-89	✓	All teachers now have a modern device suitable for remote teaching. Implementation of Audio Visual equipment continues and is on-going. The annual exercise to refresh equipment and to review the pupil: device ratios has commenced. This will achieve the continuing aim of all learners having the same level of access to devices.	P&R
We will continue to design and manage projects to deliver the Authority's Modernising Education Programme. (Ref 14973)	✓	Whilst we are in constant dialogue with scheme sponsors, programmes of scheme to be developed and delivered constantly change and some at very short notice. Additional schemes, not previously programmed enter the system, some with very short timelines. Resource within the section is at a low ebb	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		at the moment band there are difficulties in recruiting suitable staff into vacant posts. to deal with the changing requirements for delivery of projects. In the meantime, we will continue to deliver on an annual basis in line with the scheme sponsors requirements although we are awaiting the outcome of the MEP's latest programme in approx. July 2022. We continue to work on numerous projects for the Education and Housing departments with a number of schemes recently committed, a number under construction, contracts let and others at various stages of design. However a delay in the completion of the MEP Review will potentially affect the delivery of the WG band B programme due to potential changes in prioritisation and lead in times to design , tender and deliver.	
We will invest on average £14 million per annum over the next 3 years in major school construction and modernisation projects. (Ref 14993) MF5-26	✓	We have recently completed projects at Ysgol Rhys Prichard, Ysgol Pum Heol and Ysgol Llangadog with on site progress at Ysgol y Castell and Ysgol Gorslas. Most recently, work on Ysgol Pembrey has commenced in January 2022.	E&C
We will consider the delivery of primary education provision in the Ammanford and Llandeilo areas. (Ref 14994) MF5-27	✓	We are currently considering options for the Ammanford and Llandeilo areas under Band B of the Modernising Education Programme.	E&C
We shall ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code to support the attainment of better educational outcomes with specific reference to requirements for rural schools. (Ref 14996) MF5-32	✓	We have recently completed a number of school re-organisation proposals and ensured that the progress complied with the School Organisation Code. We will also consider this if any requirements of the MEP review rely on school-reorganisation.	E&C
We shall consider options to utilise the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to further develop the education infrastructure through capital investment. (Ref 14997) MF5-33	✓	As part of the MEP review we are considering all options available to progress under MIM. Following conclusion of the MEP review it is hoped that a suitable project will have been identified.	E&C
We will review the MEP, bearing in mind COVID-19 implications, and initiate a new programme. (Ref 14998)	✓	We are currently in the process of reviewing the MEP and taking into account all of the implications as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and other departmental considerations.	E&C
We will reflect the impact of COVID on new school design e.g. access, materials used, creating flexible spaces, ventilation systems etc. (Ref 15000)	✓	We are currently revising the future schools brief, taking into account all the lessons learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will include elements that worked well in both new and older, larger and smaller schools.	E&C
We will complete the Catchment Area Review and implement any policy changes required. (Ref 14999)	✗	To be undertaken as an integral part of the review of the Modernising Education Programme.	E&C
The % of schools graded as "Good" (Category A) or "Satisfactory" (Category B) for school building condition (4.3.1.8) 2020/21 - No result available 2020/21 - No target set	!	No results published for 2021/22 Due to the pandemic the school building survey was not carried out in 2021-22. However the Education and Childrens Services Department co-ordinated a significant Corporate response to ensure that all school buildings were COVID safe environments and suitable for pupils to continue their learning. a corporate risk bid for a dedicated team to undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of buildings and schools has been submitted and approve. The school	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		building surveys have just restarted, and we will have a much better picture and a full set of results next year.	
D - Workforce development and succession planning			
We will implement the agreed development plan for Teacher Centre (School Management System) to introduce further Local Authority functions including Free School Meals, Additional Learning Needs, Transport, Elective Home Education, Missing from Education and the Music Service. (Ref 14843) MF5-37	✓	As planned we have implemented and rolled out the New ALN module to track and record the new stages of the ALN Reform Bill. We have also agreed a development to the admissions system whereby schools will be able to see applications when made by parents. This will rollout in September 2022. As we are undertaking a major review of systems and the role of the Schools MIS and data team, further developments will follow.	E&C
We shall review current specialist behaviour support services in the County with a view to decentralise, bringing support services into mainstream provision by 2022. (Ref 15028) MF5-42	✓	The Four Phase Model for Behaviour Support Services has progressed this year with significant investment to increase capacity of the team to be able to provide a wider remit of support in mainstream schools. Phase 1 audit provided data which will allow the Behaviour Support Community Team to develop training packages and overall support plans to provide BESD support by mainstream staff. Phase 2 with the Behaviour Support Community Team is now ready to provide a new service delivery plan for the next academic year which will provide greater access to timely support for training needs and for individual learners. The conclusion of the consultation for the closure of Rhydygors School has now been completed and the school will close at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. A new PRU will be established and the process of providing an equitable service across all Phase 3 provisions (PRUs) is now in progress. Phase 4 integrating services and providing needs led services for long term needs and complex families is projected for next stages of development.	E&C
We shall review and encourage participation in governorship of schools. (Ref 15034) MF5-35	✓	During the past year, COVID has brought numerous challenges to existing school governors. We as a LA have supported with all aspects of remote governorship and the resultant pressures from COVID. Through this support we have strived to reassure and encourage existing governors to continue in their roles. We have also highlighted this support and guidance when promoting and encouraging participation in the governorship of schools to potential new governors.	E&C
We will continue to improve leadership at all levels across our schools and specialist settings. We will ensure that effective leadership leads to engaging learning experiences, ensuring the progress and development of all children, young people and staff. (Ref 15037)	✓	Educational support advisers work routinely alongside our headteachers, their senior leadership teams, teaching and support staff, ensuring that they have a robust understanding of the strengths of their schools and the areas in need of further focus or development. Support provided is tailored to the needs of the school and we ensure additional capacity for all schools requiring more regular input. The team monitors progress alongside senior leaders, ensuring suitable support; this has become increasingly possible as COVID 19 restrictions have eased. Focus areas have been updated in line with the NR:EI (National Resource: Evaluation and Improvement) and include; Leadership; Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion; Learning and teaching and Curriculum.	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>Reflective discussion include reference also to:</p> <p>Learner outcomes achieved throughout the year, as well as during summative assessments and examinations</p> <p>Resource management</p> <p>Progress achieved by schools in relation to their developmental priorities.</p> <p>Any other matters arising</p> <p>The department's collegiate approach to school improvement, as well as the strategic focus group approach has ensured a more efficient use of time and an improved focus on the challenges that schools are addressing, informing the services' professional learning programme. The work of the department has been updated this term, aligning to the ECS 10-year plan and to the outcomes of the headteacher's survey and the headteacher Wellbeing Charter consultations.</p> <p>A team of headteachers and officers are working collaboratively to revise our evaluation support strategy for schools taking into account the NR:EI, the new Estyn framework and the WG guidance on School Improvement. A forward work programme is being devised to ensure that all officers are kept routinely up to date with Estyn expectations.</p>	
We will develop and use a more robust competency-based process to recruit school leaders. (Ref 15038)	✓	<p>On Target</p> <p>A new Assessment Centre approach has been successfully implemented to appoint Headteachers. This has led to a confidence in the recruitment process to appoint high quality school leaders.</p>	E&C
We will review all school pupil admission dates and age-ranges across the County. (Ref 13981) MF5-36	x	The working group to review Primary Schools Admissions (Rising 4s) cross service Departmentally meet monthly to progress discussions specifically with regard to understanding the demand for nursery places across the County currently and projected.	E&C
E - The development of Welsh for all Learners			
We will increase the number of teachers and support staff who can confidently teach through the medium of Welsh. (Ref 15032) MF5-37	✓	This is an ongoing task to ensure availability of language training sessions at all levels. Training courses across all linguistic levels as well as for Gloywi Iaith are offered to all schools. Language audit gives detailed information for school staff language levels and so can be targeted for specific language courses. Up take has been slow. On line courses and Language learning coupled with Pedagogy in the Foundation Phase, are proving to be a positive way of implementing Welsh language learning. This is being rolled out within Llanelli schools and is a format that we will adhere to across all schools.	E&C
F - Focus on skills demands and employability			
The Music Service will continue to develop the reach of the service and to build on new curriculum initiatives e.g. Music Therapy. (Ref 14842) MF5-37	x	<p>Progress in this area has been delayed by COVID-19 and the effects of lockdown restrictions during the last 2 years. Work on the 'new curriculum' and 'curriculum initiatives' recommenced in September 2021. INSET was delivered at the start of January on Music Therapy and Therapeutic Music by practitioner Hannah McCarthy. New initiatives are being developed and further staff training was identified for March till end of Summer term. Excellent progress has been made with work started with external organisations such as the ABC of Opera and a local Music Therapist. This work should be able to continue and thrive next year.</p>	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<p>We will continue with the design of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum in partnership with schools and other providers, framed within the national context. We will pursue opportunities to link corporate and economic strategy with the design of the new curriculum. (Ref 15016) MF5-34</p>	✓	<p>The Decolonising the curriculum project is currently being undertaken and school will give final feedback of their experiences with learners in the summer. The schools involved have been matched with academics from Swansea University who can support co-creation of curriculum experiences.</p> <p>With the publication of the Skills Barometer we have begun our own scoping exercise of the pathways and experiences offered in our schools and supported by us through an online survey https://forms.office.com/r/eYeD3zAs0T and face to face discussions. We will formulate a plan emanating from this.</p>	E&C
<p>We will dovetail local opportunities for curriculum enrichment and extension with the national architecture with a view towards developing a Carmarthenshire Learner Offer. (Ref 15017) MF5-37</p>	✓	<p>We have collaborated with the Carmarthen Museum in Abergwili, Oriel Myrddin and The Tywi Gateway Trust to co-create a curriculum experience involving learners from Bro Dinefwr and Bro Myrddin through a successful bid for 'Winter of Wellbeing' funding intended to use creative engagement for mental well being. Year 10 and Year 12 Learners from the respective schools with teachers created prompt cards for dialogic discussion on themes emerging from engagement with museum artefacts including Cynefin, Identity, Culture and Belonging and an artist Sarah Hopkins supported ideas from creative responses. Year 7 learners then came the following week to undertake the activities their peers had created. The whole process including a follow up evaluation dialogue in schools was filmed by a professional film maker. The process effectively reflecting the holistic ethos of the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales. This reflects the need to remove the barrier between schools and the community in creating meaningful experiences that foster and challenge creative and critical thinking.</p> <p>We are scoping our current offer with a view to ensuring our Carmarthenshire Learner Offer/ Entitlement fosters the holistic development of the whole learner and the pedagogies and experiences to achieve this. We are working with 2 of the RLSP sectors at Yr Egin and Pentre Awel to achieve collaboration on experiences and pathways related to local business and industry.</p>	E&C
<p>We will continue to extend and develop the Seren More able and Talented Programme to pre-16 learners. (Ref 15022) MF5-37</p>	✓	<p>Schools have identified learners for the Seren Foundation programme. Extended opportunities have included the region piloting the foundation Seren award, where learners are able to access cross curricular learning opportunities in a University style environment. Both STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and AHSS (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) subjects are offered, with critical analysis of topics including anxiety disorders in youth, and free speech in the Media. Other opportunities have considered wider curriculum learning on Philosophical content, with an evening class engaging the Disney Pixar film 'Inside Out', A face to face Chinese life, language and Culture event in conjunction with UWTSD, and the Seren 'Star' Challenge accessing a wide choice of courses with recognition from the Open university. A choices theatre performance has also been written to develop</p>	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		high aspirations in our learners, and encourage the correct academic choices to support their goals. There are around 1900 students across the 3 counties that are identified as Seren foundation learners, in year groups 8-11. This is an increase of 31% from last year.	
We will work with partners to develop further opportunities for vocational and employment learning pathways where applicable within the County. (Ref 15027) MF5-37	✓	<p>We are awaiting a Steer from the cabinet as to when the existing and new councillors will be in a position to discuss the Post 16 Review as planned and support its progress during the Summer and Autumn Terms. Everything is in place to proceed but the timeline has to be agreed with the council.</p> <p>We are scoping our curriculum and career pathways to ensure we can support schools in providing the experiences and courses to meet the needs of learners as local and global citizens, and so we can ensure the skills and competences required by the 5 business and industry projects involved in the RLSP are being developed in schools. Also in an effort to support this work we have met with business and industry involved in the two RLSP projects based specifically in Llanelli; Yr Egin and Pentre Awel, to consider what experiences and pathways we can facilitate schools to develop relationships with the businesses/ industries to foster meaningful collaboration and mutual benefit. We are in the process of drafting a bid for RLSP funding for developing the capacity to support this project and lay the foundations for more meaningful Work Related Education. 4 secondary schools and the council's internal work experience lead are currently on inset led by School 21 in London, 'Real World Learning, who have pioneered more interactive and enquiry based work education. With the intention of creating a forum in the summer term for how schools might want to see what a more meaningful and purposeful work related education might look like and require for our context.</p>	E&C
G - Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to support vulnerable learners.			
We will continue to reconfigure services in support of vulnerable learners and consider the impact of COVID-19 on them, within the remit of the designated 3rd Tier Manager as part of a more coherent structure. (Ref 14837) MF5-37	✓	<p>The Supporting Vulnerable Learners Strategic Focus Group is continuing to work to support learners and the meetings provide the opportunity for all officers and colleagues responsible for an identified vulnerable group to raise issues or concerns to work together.</p> <p>The Four Phase Model staffing structure has now been finalised and consulting with colleagues in HR and Finance to plan recruitment and discuss final budget implications to move the full model forward for the next academic and financial year. Finalising work with ALN to ensure all documentation and processes align within the structure.</p>	E&C
We will continue to develop and deliver the six elements of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework - together with the Vulnerability Assessment Profile as a means of effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET/at risk of NEET. (Ref 15018) MF5-37	✓	The Youth Engagement and Progressions Framework continues to be implemented in line with Welsh Government Guidance. The review of the framework is yet to be published- it is anticipated at any time, and of course the Youth Support Service will implement the new framework which is anticipated to include new considerations around youth homelessness prevention and mental/emotional health.	E&C
We will implement the Actions identified in the self-assessment of the Youth	✓	The self assessment against the Participation Standards has been completed. A strategy for the Youth Support	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
Support Services against the National Participation Standards to Increase participation which will contribute to improved service outcomes in terms of more effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET. (Ref 15019) MF5-37		Service in relation to participation and engagement is being finalised. The strategy will set out service wide priorities as well as team priorities.	
We will work to divert children and young people away from the criminal justice system. (Ref 15024) MF5-37	✓	Diversion of children via Bureau continues and has been re-established on a face to face basis in line with risk assessments and safer working practices. The Youth Justice Management Board received data from Bureau and oversees the delivery. Delivery requires a close working partnership between the Youth Justice Team, the Police and other youth justice agencies.	E&C
We will work to prevent offending and re-offending of children and young people. (Ref 15025) MF5-37	✓	Prevention work which is offered to children at risk of offending, is well-imbedded in the service delivery Youth Justice Team. The work is reported to Welsh Government and the Police and Crime Commissioner on a half yearly basis.	E&C
The % of Year 11 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (PAM/009) 2020/21 Result - 1.8% (32/1,818) - 19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 Target - 1.5% - 20/21 Academic Yr	✓	2021/22 Result 2.7% (18 / 678) (2020/21 Academic Year) The result of 1.1 (21 out of 1885 pupils) is an improvement on last years result of 1.8% (32 out of 1818). The result ranked 5th in Wales, an improvement from 15th last year, and below the Welsh average of 1.6%. Work will continue to address leavers not in education, employment or training with a particular focus on continuing the work undertaken on the projects previously funded by the EU.	E&C
The % of Year 13 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (5.1.0.2) 2020/21 Result - 3.5% (23/652) - 19/20 Academic Yr 2021/22 Target - 3.0 - 19/20 Academic Yr	✓	2021/22 Result 2.7% (18 / 678) (2020/21 Academic Year) The result of 2.7% (18 out of 678) is an improvement on the previous years' result of 3.5%. The result ranked 15 th in Wales, down from 9 th the previous year, and above the Welsh average of 2.3%. Partnership work by schools, Youth Support Service staff and external agencies including Careers Wales was undertaken to deliver the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework in Carmarthenshire. The Youth Support Service have staff identified to support young people in all secondary schools and in Post 16 community outreach settings. The Cynnydd project also brings an additional £2.2M of ESF funding to support young people at risk of becoming NEET in the period 2016-2020, with funding now extended to 2022. Work continues to identify replacement funding for ESF projects, and we are liaising closely with WG on this matter.	E&C
H - Plan and deliver Externally Funded projects			
We will ensure continuation of planning and delivery of the local elements of the European Social Fund (ESF) projects. (Ref 15020) MF5-37	✓	Meetings are underway to explore alternative funding sources to replace Cam Nesa and Cynnydd-style interventions as EU funding ends. The DMT report did not result in alternative funding so Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Youth Endowment Fund are options to consider. The Corporate External Funding group is updating us on SPF developments. Timescales are unclear at the moment. Managers in the YSS are working together to develop funding bids. The Chair of the	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Education and Children Scrutiny Committee wrote to Welsh Government to raise concerns about the delivery of NEET work into the future. WG responded that they are still awaiting the UK Government's plans to replace EU funding.	
We will continue to develop flexible learning opportunities, including on-line and blended learning, to meet the needs of learners not currently engaging Essential Skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision. (Ref 15023) MF5-37	✓	<p>Many existing learners who are continuing their courses are re-enrolled, however some learners have not returned due to COVID fears and are unable to access digitally at low skill levels. Face to face ESOL classes are almost full, but small numbers allowed in classrooms mean overall learner enrolments are down. Some on-line only classes continue, but most are a blend. GCSE recruitment is down on last year. Some GCSE resits in November have seen learners improve their grades and achieve what they needed to progress. New engagement activities are running and the team are exploring new ideas to engage with learners who have not previously attended essential skills classes. A new Centre Officer has been appointed in Llanelli, where there is a need to increase learner numbers. Space continues to be an issue there and alternative venues for new classes are being explored.</p> <p>CPD in Mental Health and Wellbeing in collaboration with 5 other authorities supports the staff to recognise and support learners.</p> <p>Additional Grant funding from WG is being used to invest in additional digital equipment to enable flexible learning and broaden the digital literacy curriculum. Funds are also being invested in outdoor spaces for learning and engagement activities to bring in new learners. Further funding is available for marketing and engagement activities this academic year and the post of development worker had been approved. This post will be critical in recruiting and engaging new learners.</p>	E&C



Well-being Objective 4

Start Well/Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Review of our approach to Tackling Poverty			
We will develop a county Tackling Poverty Plan to respond to the current challenges faced by residents and communities. (Ref 14905)	✗	A draft action plan was considered by Tackling Poverty Advisory Panel at February 2022 meeting. This was agreed in principle for final development and presentation for formal approval following local elections in May 2022. The Plan will be finalised and presented for formal approval during Q1 and 2 of 2022-23.	P&R
B - Preventing Poverty			
We will continue to implement our homelessness strategy, with increased focus on "front of house" universal preventative activities as well as more targeted approaches for those groups at higher risk of homelessness. (Ref 14699) MF5-50	✓	The Front of House 'Housing Hwb' which is the first point of contact for Homelessness Prevention has been implemented and new priorities have been identified around Homeless Prevention as part of the Housing Support Programme Strategy which replaces the Homelessness Strategy.	C&R
The percentage of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (PAM/012) 2020/21 Result - 46.4% (175/377) / 2021/22 Target - 50.0%	✓	<p>2021/22 result - 50.5% (219/434).</p> <p>As a result of reviewing operational practices (listed below), we have adopted a new approach to withdrawn cases, better reflecting the positive outcomes for applicants. We have ensured that staff are reminded of the appropriate sections to end our duties, so we can better capture this successful preventative work we are achieving. Development of a Power Business Intelligence (BI) Dashboard will allow us to better manage and analyse cases within each duty. The impact of applying our new way of working during the year shows an improvement from stand-alone Quarter 1 performance of 43.16% to 52.73% in the last quarter of the year, this giving a cumulative annual result of 50.5%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing our first point of contact service and developing a Housing Hwb to provide early homelessness prevention advice and assistance. • Analysing who presents to us, from where and why, in order to identify what support we need to provide and what training staff may need to be competent and comfortable with responding to challenging people and cases. • Implementing a re-structure and reviewing our practices to ensure resources are in the right place to respond to the increased casework. • Reviewing how we utilise the existing legislation and allocations policy to help prevent homelessness as quickly as we can, looking to other Councils for best practice. • Further develop and automate the Power Business Intelligence Dashboard to enable team leaders to regularly monitor performance. • Continue to monitor and ensure staff utilise the appropriate duty for prevention 	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will continue to develop and deliver the early intervention support services (0-25) for disadvantaged children, young people and families in line with the Family Support Strategy, utilising opportunities for integrating services across the Children and Communities Grant and flexible funding opportunities with the Housing Support Grant. (Ref 15007)	✓	Families First Projects have continued to provide a broad range of virtual and face-to-face support in a variety of locations. Projects continue to face challenges including Covid related staff sickness, families contracting Covid. As restrictions ease projects are reporting an increase in referrals. Projects have also benefitted from additional WG grants which has helped meet demand for support. CCG Early Help funding £230K; Child Development Fund (CDF) £200K; Parenting Funding £51K). In most cases support has been provided on a one-to-one basis due to covid restrictions. As projects have increased their face-to-face support, there has been an increase in the number of families stepping down from Children's Services into preventative services which will now help alleviate some pressures in statutory services.	E&C
We will improve Average Capped 9 score for pupils in year 11 of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (4.1.2.4) 2020/21 No Result available-19/20 Academic Yr/ 2021/22 No Target set - 20/21 Academic Yr	!	No results published for 2021/22 (2020/21 Academic Year) Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students were unable to sit final exams in summer 2021 and instead their grades reflect predicted results based on coursework and mock examination results. Results by County were not published and would not be comparable to previous years if known. Summer exams 2022 are due to go ahead as scheduled. Results will be published later in the year. Comparison to previous years may not be applicable as some courses were truncated due to the pandemic.	E&C
C - Helping people into work			
We will continue with recruitment programmes, together with graduate and apprentice appointments, to fill ongoing vacancies. Support construction apprentice programmes and develop further in-sourcing arrangements, subject to appropriate business cases. (Ref 14975)	✓	During 2021/22 we continued to support the training of several trades apprentices in conjunction with local construction / electrical firms to ensure they are provided a wide range of experience to ensure they can fulfil the practical requirements or their course. We are seeking to recruit a further 13 new maintenance technicians to expand our in-house team and reduce reliance on external contractors. We will be further looking at additional insourcing following a review of our New Homes Team to help in reducing turnaround times of empty homes.	P&R
We shall ensure that adults feel more positive with improved confidence about seeking work after receiving employability support through Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes. (EconD/020) 2020/21 Result - 100% (381/381) 2021/22 - Target - 100%	✓	2021/22 Result - 100% (561/561). The number adults receiving employability support during 2021/22 is back to pre-COVID figures. All 561 (100%) adults felt more positive with improved confidence about seeking work.	C&R
We shall ensure that a high number of residents feel more confident in using a computer and gaining IT skills after receiving digital inclusion support through Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes. (EconD/021) 2020/21 Result - 100% (304/304) 2021/22 - Target - 100%	✓	2021/22 Result - 100% (478/478). All 478 of the adults that received digital inclusion support through Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes felt more confident in using a computer and gained IT skills.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
The number of accredited qualifications achieved by residents attending Employment related courses within the Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes. (EconD/022) 2020/21 Result - 96 2021/22 Target - 200	✓	2021/22 Result - 271 The target has been exceeded with 271 accredited qualifications achieved by residents attending Employment related courses within the Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes during 2021/22.	C&R
D - Improving the lives of those living in poverty			
We will work with the third sector and other stakeholders to develop the range of support services provided in the County across a number of service areas as well as further developing volunteering opportunities within the County. (Ref 14006) MF5-80	✓	Richard Newton Consulting was commissioned to undertake a review of Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) on behalf of the Authority to inform the future role of CAVS in supporting the sector in post COVID 19 recovery. The final report has been finalised and findings presented to the CAVS Board of Trustees at the end of April 2022. We will work closely with CAVS to jointly deliver on the findings of the review.	P&R
We will continue to maximise the draw-down of funding from external sources via the new funding programmes. (Ref 14919)	✓	The 4 ARFOR 1 local authorities, including Carmarthenshire, were successful in securing £11m for a successor ARFOR 2 Programme from Welsh Government, focusing upon the economy and the Welsh language. Following securing £37m from the Levelling Up Fund and £2.97m from the Community Renewal Fund, we are now awaiting the launch of UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPT). The pre-guidance for the SPF has already been issued.	C&R
We will continue to promote the County's tourism potential via the Celtic Routes project. (Ref 14920)	✓	During 2021/22, we have undertaken a number of promotional activities to help promote the areas' tourism offer. Our campaign has focused on capturing the attention of journalists and travel influencers via bespoke invitations and unique itineraries based on our Celtic history. We continue to promote the beauty of the region via our social media pages including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We have produced a TV advert which was aired on ITV, S4C as well as Sky Regional and ITV hub. We have further developed our website to help promote the offer that Celtic Routes has for visitors. A brand film is currently being produced which will create a compelling reason to visit the area. Our focus is also on developing the legacy of Celtic Routes by further enhancing the visitor experience working closely with the tourism sector. This will be achieved through the development of thematic networks involving tourism businesses to co-design and develop new products and experiences aligned to the Celtic Routes themes; namely: Celtic Adventure; Celtic Culture & Heritage; Celtic Land and Sea; Celtic People and Places. Events have been held with tourism businesses in early 2022 to take this aspect forward.	C&R
We will contribute to tackling poverty within Carmarthenshire by supporting families to claim all the financial support they are entitled to. (Ref 15056)	✓	We have continued to contribute to tackling poverty within Carmarthenshire by supporting families to claim all the financial support they are entitled to. The non domestic rate team have administered four grants on behalf of Welsh Government, insuring that £78 million has been distributed to the Carmarthenshire business community to support businesses during these challenging times. Since November 2021 we have administered the winter fuel support scheme and processed 9,480 cases and paid out £3,409,200. We have	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		paid out £397,584 of discretionary housing payments and up to mid-March received 10,754 self-isolation support payments applications and paid out over £4 million. We are processing the cost of living payments to approximately 63,000 Carmarthenshire households with the value of around £9.5 million to support residents of Carmarthenshire during these challenging times. Whilst processing claims and dealing with customer enquires housing benefit staff are often able to identify if people need to be referred for more detailed benefit maximisation advice, personal budgeting or debt advice. They will refer individuals for support or signpost for grants and benefits.	
<p>The average number of days taken to process new Housing/Council Tax Benefit claims. (6.6.1.2)</p> <p><i>2020/21 Result - 11.57 days</i> <i>/2021/22 Target - 17.0 days</i></p>	✓	<p>2021/22 result 16.05 days.</p> <p>On Target but has declined on the previous year</p> <p>Whilst the result at 16.05 days is below performance for 2020/21 it is above the target set at 17 days which is significantly below the DWP expected speed of processing for new housing benefit claims at 30 days. We experienced a 7% increase in caseload due to an increase in the number of Universal credit claimants because of COVID-19. We also processed over 11,000 self-isolation support payments worth £4.9million, and almost 9,500 winter fuel payments totalling £1.7m. These were in the main delivered from within existing resources and impacted on processing times with staff being deployed to process these grant payments.</p>	P&R
<p>The average number of days taken to process notifications of changes of circumstances in Housing/Council Tax Benefit claims (6.6.1.3)</p> <p><i>2020/21 Result - 2.87 days</i> <i>/2021/22 Target - 5.5 days</i></p>	✓	<p>2021/22 result 3.42 days.</p> <p>On Target but has declined on the previous year.</p> <p>Whilst the result at 3.42 days is below performance for 2020/21 it is on target of below 4 days which is significantly better than the DWP expected speed of processing changes to housing benefit claims at 17 days.</p>	P&R
<p>We will retain the high % of recently calculated Housing/Council Tax Benefit claims that have been calculated accurately based on a sample check (6.6.1.9)</p> <p><i>2020/21 Result - 96.92% (567/585)</i> <i>/2021/22 Target - 95%</i></p>	✓	<p>2021/22 result 97.55% (517/530).</p> <p>The target of 95% accuracy has been exceed and an improvement on the previous year.</p>	P&R



Well-being Objective 5

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Regionally, by coordinating and delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal – Pentre Awel			
As part of the City Deal we will deliver a whole-site project plan for Pentre Awel, to include design and build, service/business planning, public engagement and securing private sector financing to ensure benefits maximisation and ongoing sustainability. (Ref 12985) MF5-72a	✓	<p>2021/22 was a year of significant progress for Pentre Awel across each of its developable Zones. Three tender exercises, totalling over £75m, were placed via regional and national frameworks to secure key contractor and consultant appointments for Zones 1 and 3. Following a 10 week tender through the SWWRFC, Bouygues UK were appointed as the preferred contractor in October 2021 to deliver Zone 1 of the scheme. The Zone 1 tender reflected the Council's ambitions to deliver transformational social and economic change: it evaluated using a 60% quality / 40% price scoring methodology (a departure from standard practice which favours the most economically advantageous tender) and assigned community benefits criteria 35% of the quality score - which is the highest weighting the Authority has assigned to community benefits in a tender exercise. This will form a blueprint for council tendered projects moving forward.</p> <p>A number of key milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 22, Cabinet and Full Council approval was secured to progress the project to the construction stage upon CCC's acceptance of final build costs. • Bouygues and CCC agreed a Guaranteed Maximum Price of £87m for the Zone 1 works. • The inaugural Community Benefits Stakeholder Group meeting was held in March 22, comprising representation from BYUK, further and higher education, RLSP employability programmes, Hywel Dda, corporate procurement and community groups. • A Meet the Buyer event was held at Parc Y Scarlets March 22 and attracted c. 140 suppliers. Following an extensive promotional campaign, nearly two-thirds of suppliers were from the South-West (Swansea Bay City Deal) region. Around 50 suppliers were Carmarthenshire-based businesses, with almost 30 based in Llanelli. It provided an opportunity for local businesses to learn more about the work packages available (e.g. from Carpentry to painting and decorating and steelwork) and to engage directly with Bouygues in order that they can be supported to bid for applicable packages of work • We entered into a strategic partnership with Cardiff University, with Cardiff University now the lead academic partner on research, innovation & business • The design development of Zone 3 progressed in accordance with programme and cost requirements. 	C&R
We will continue to provide significant procurement support and advice to the Swansea Bay City Region Carmarthenshire led projects. (Ref 14943)	✓	<p>The Tender to appoint a Principal Contractor for Pentre Awel Zone 1 was awarded at the end of September 21, via Lot 6 of the Southwest Wales Regional Contractors Framework to Bouygues. The project is valued in the region of £66 million and is the largest construction procurement delivered in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>A Meet the Buyer event was organised by Bouygues at the end of March 2022 in Parc Y Scarlets where they met with prospective second and third tier contractors and explained the work packages</p>	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>they would be advertising to deliver Zone 1.</p> <p>Since the evaluation for the Pentre Awel Zone 3 Lead Consultant Commission in October 2021 and the successful consultant being appointed in November 2021, the Procurement Team continues to provide support to officers in relation to any procurement or contractual enquiries.</p> <p>Discussions are on-going with the Digital Programme Manager for Swansea Bay City Deal for support on 3 procurement exercises to deliver for the City Deal Digital programme. These are: Gigabit Rural Connectivity; Gigabit Urban Connectivity and Gigabit Network</p>	
B - Locally, by delivering the Transformational Strategy Area Plans targeting urban, coastal & rural Carmarthenshire			
<p>We will deliver the Carmarthen, Ammanford & Rural transformational plan and deliver initiatives and projects via Carms Rural Enterprise Fund: property Development Funds projects including Pendine attractor; Margaret Street road widening; Carmarthen wetlands and Jacksons Lane development; Business Account Management, Start Ups and Incubation. (Ref 13162) MF5-73c</p>	✓	<p>Pendine Attractor Project - Following the main contractor going into administration a new contractor was appointed to undertake initial remedial works to the site and complete the build programme. Work progressed well on site with the securing of the Hostel roof and on the museum roof. Internal works progressed at pace with the external landscaping nearing completion. It is anticipated that project completion will be in August 2022.</p> <p>Carmarthen Wetlands / Y Morfa works commenced in January 2020 and works have been completed.</p> <p>Provided ongoing business support to area businesses with regards to post Covid 19 restart & recovery and new funding streams.</p> <p>Jackson's Lane Kiosk project – work commenced in March 2020 and are scheduled for on site commencement later in the summer 22.</p> <p>Contractor works progressed well on Llandeilo market hall project with the external shell of the building nearing completion.</p> <p>Carregamman Car Park Greening scheme with some planting and canopy replacement to be completed by end of April 2022.</p>	C&R
<p>We will deliver the Cross Hands Growth Zone and bring forward developments at Cross Hands East Phase 2; Strategic Employment Site. (Ref 13164) MF5-73d</p>	✓	<p>Infrastructure works at the Cross Hands Strategic Employment Site continued throughout the year with the creation of phase two site access and plot formation. Sectional completion of works was achieved in September 2021 with seasonal landscaping throughout the winter months. Preferred contractor Andrew Scott Ltd progressed with the design development of office, industrial and hybrid premises at Plot 3 Cross Hands. RIBA Stage 3 works were completed and a reserved matters planning application approval was secured in December 2021. Agreements were reached with the Active Building Centre ABC (providing capital funding to the project) with a view to uplifting the buildings energy performance and its carbon credentials. Design development and costing continued with a view to agreeing cost and a construction programme with an onsite commencement proposed for Spring 2022. Works to construct an office building on plot 7 with an estimated completion early 2023.</p>	C&R
<p>We will develop Local Employment Sites across the County as part Transformations: strategic regeneration plan for Carmarthenshire. (Ref 13165) MF5-73e</p>	✓	<p>We have continued to engage with colleagues in the Forward Planning department and monitored the progress of the regeneration land submissions as part of the ongoing LDP review to understand the future development opportunities available. Phase 2 infrastructure works to the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site were completed September 2021. Final snagging works and seasonal landscaping works during some of the winter months were undertaken. The development has created new market ready development sites with supporting infrastructure with a marketing plan now developed with Welsh Government JV partners. Further initiatives within the County have aligned with the authority's recovery plan. Capital funds were released requesting expressions of interest from applicants for the Property Development Grant. This funding has the potential to support new developments upon sites across the County</p>	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will Deliver Transformational town centre developments in Llanelli. (Ref 13167) MF5-73a	✓	<p>Strategic Targeted Regeneration Projects (TRI) in Llanelli town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Market Street North Project was subject to a public enquiry in October 2021. Officers from various departments within the authority together with external specialist consultants were present to represent the development. Awaited outcome from the Planning Inspectorate expected in April 2021. * Construction works at the former YMCA made good progress, exterior demolitions of the old extension and major interior adjustments including removal of the existing roof completed. Programme completion is expected early 2023. * The Llanelli Goods Shed project completed end of February 22 with occupation of the building as a community hub expected June 22. * The Y Linc project has secured initial Welsh Government (WG) grant, due to acquisition by another third party there is a requirement to adjust the project. This will be progressed with WG through a revised application. * The Crown buildings project has secured in principle approval of grant and has secured a revised approval by the Local Planning Authority. Ongoing discussions are taking place in relation to security for the project, a request has been made for loan funding to support the project. * A public consultation exercise was held December 21 for the Llanelli Town Centre Recovery Plan. The report has been through the Cabinet approval process and is being built into the delivery of the team. 	C&R
We will further develop the Carmarthenshire Coastal Belt at Llanelli, Burry Port and Pembrey. (Ref 13168) MF5-73C	✓	<p>Following involvement from WG Joint Venture partners there was a requirement to postpone release of the sites at Burry Port while resolving the position on the request from WG Ministers for an additional level of affordable homes on site exceeding the current LDP allocation of 20%. Design parameters and scoring criteria have been produced to channel interests to a high level of design quality. Much of the preparation works for the tender release have been put on hold temporarily. Conscious of the implications of the delay seeking to go through the S73 application process to protect the outline planning applications on the residential and commercial leisure sites, we have until November 2022 to submit reserved matters applications. Following agreement with WG the sites will be released to the market through a tender exercise with a view of selecting a preferred developer subject to the conclusion of the tender exercise. An outline planning application for residential development at North Dock has been approved and will progress through a similar tender exercise following the resolution of position at Burry Port.</p>	C&R
We will deliver phase 2 of the development of Glanamman Workshops to provide improved workshop availability. (Ref 13170) MF5-10	✓	<p>Work progressed really well after delays during 21/22 and the project was completed with the building handed over during March 2022, ready for letting, and entering the 12 months maintenance period. Delays that occurred related to: During the demolition phase, additional Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) was identified which was not initially picked up on Refurbishment & Demolition Survey (R&D) due to its location; Further delays were incurred during Western Power Distribution(WPD) relocating substation.</p>	P&R
We will continue to deliver a Property Development Fund (new and existing) worth £11 million (£3.4 million from the Council and circa £7.5 million private sector investment). (Ref 14011) MF5-73f	✓	<p>Work remains ongoing on final two projects supported under the original funding allocations. It is anticipated that the eight projects supported under the original capital funding allocations will result: in a total investment into the Carmarthenshire economy of £11.76m; the provision of 94,400sq ft of additional employment space; with the potential to accommodate 212 jobs. The fund has reopened to applications in February 22 for the new funding allocation and applications will be considered in June 22</p>	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will provide support to start up and established businesses wherever possible, with a particular focus on helping our SME's to upscale. (Ref 14894) MF5-78	✓	In September 21 the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership held Jobs Fairs at our primary town centres in Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli to support businesses in the Transport and Logistics; Hospitality and Health and Social Care sectors. Detailed application documents including Terms and Conditions for both the Business Start up Grant and the Business Growth were launched early January 2022. The detail was released to the enquiry list and the launch of the funding was promoted along with the suite of funding support offered by the County Council. By EOY 230 business had engaged with the process - EOI's received for the Start-up Fund - 70. EOI's received for Growth & Recovery Fund - 160. With EOI's then being invited to full application. 10 businesses were supported through the pop-up shop in Llanelli during December 2021 and a further 30 businesses in the former Debenhams in Carmarthen. A further pop-up shop through the 100% Sir Gar initiative supported 15 businesses during February half term.	C&R
We will deliver employment support through the Workways + programme. (Ref 14918)	✓	The Workways project continued to support both long term and short term unemployed within Carmarthenshire. The following outputs were achieved: 65 people supported into work, 32 people achieved qualifications and 31 people supported into volunteering work. Jobs Fairs were held in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli during the year to support people into work, with some jobs offered to individuals attending the fairs, with a number of other jobs being followed up after the events.	C&R
We will continue to implement the Local Development Order for Llanelli Town Centre as part of a co-ordinated strategic approach to regeneration within the town centre, together with other Town Centres and appropriate regeneration opportunities. Preparing and adopting these in accordance with regulatory provisions. (Ref 15202)	✓	The Carmarthen and Ammanford Town Centre LDOs were adopted following Council and Welsh Government Approval. An LDO for the Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site has commenced the preparation of an evidence pack and the development of pre-conditions. These will support the content of the LDO and its implementation. The Llanelli Town Centre LDO ended following the expiration of its operational period. We will continue to monitor the potential and need for any future interventions within the Llanelli town centre.	C&R
We will aim to create 648 more jobs with Regeneration Assistance. (EconD/001) 2020/21 - Result - 266 / 2021/22 - Target 648	✗	2021/22 result - 601 jobs created Off target but an improvement with 600.5 jobs created as a result of the following initiatives: Kickstart, Bureau, Business Engagement, Transformational Commercial Property Development Fund, Pendine Attractor, Business Start Up and Growth Fund, Llandeilo Market Hall, Y Morfa Wetlands, Leader and Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund. There was a delay in the launch of Grant funding due to legalities and clarification to state aid requirements following Brexit, therefore any shortfall will be realised during 2022/23.	C&R
We will aim to accommodate 86 jobs with Regeneration Assistance. (EconD/002) 2020/21 Result - 63 / 2021/22 Target - 86	✗	2021/22 result - 12 jobs accommodated This measure is off target and less than the previous year with only 12 Jobs being accommodated during 2021/22 from the development of Glanamman workshops phase 2. Third Party completion of projects supported by Property Development Fund and Ammanford Regeneration development Fund have been delayed and will now complete on site during 2022/23.	C&R
We will aim to place 418 people into jobs. (EconD/003) 2020/21 Result - 119 / 2021/22 Target - 418	✓	2021/22 result - 430 individuals placed into jobs during 2021/22 with Regeneration assistance which is an increase on the previous years and pre-COVID figures.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will aim to place 1,117 people into volunteering. (EconD/005) 2020/21 Result - 1,441 / 2021/22 Target - 1117	✗	2021/22 result – 931 people were helped into volunteering Not quite met our target and lower than last year when the number of volunteers increased dramatically during the COVID-19 lockdown via the Community Development team. This year's figure is closer to pre-COVID figures.	C&R
Level of Private Sector Investment / external funding secured £6,325,568 (EconD/008) 2020/21 Result - £6,819,854 / 2021/22 Target - £9,792,346	✓	2021/22 result - £10,428,528 of Private Sector Investment was secured This has well exceeded the target of £9.8m.	C&R
C - Developing the rural economy with a focus on the 10 Towns Initiative			
We will continue to deliver the Rural Enterprise Fund (new and existing) worth £6.3 million (£2.2 million from the Council and circa £4.1 million private sector investment). (Ref 14012) MF5-73g	✓	From original funding allocations 21 projects have fully completed and are open for business resulting in a total investment to date into the rural economy of £4.854m with a view to creating 157.5 jobs over the next three years. Work has commenced on a further 3 schemes. 5 projects have been approved at stage 1 of the application process and are working up their detailed stage 2 applications. New funding allocation opened in February 2022 with applications to be considered in June 22	C&R
We shall consider opportunities to work with other local authorities and partners to establish a Rural Deal to focus on rural regeneration and continue to deliver support through the Leader programme. (Ref 14893) MF5-77	✓	We have worked closely with the WLGA, Ynys Mon, Ceredigion and Gwynedd local authorities to secure £11m for an ARFOR 2 Programme from April 2022 to March 2025. This will allow us to undertake projects in rural areas, whilst strengthening the use of the Welsh language We worked with the WLGA to formulate and publish a Rural Action Plan, emanating from the Rural Vision. Continued to lobby Welsh Government for the continuation of the LEADER / RDP Programme and for funding for the rural areas; worked alongside WLGA on this.	C&R
We will monitor progress with the recommendations of the Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward report through the Rural Affairs Advisory Panel & consider any new issues as they arise. (Ref 14717) MF5-76	✓	Rural Affairs Advisory Panel did not re-convene until December 2021, with monitoring of progress against recommendations to be taken forward through the Panel. A full update on all 55 recommendations was prepared and actions arising will now be embedded as part of business planning arrangements for 2022-23	P&R
We will establish regeneration initiatives to focus on the development of the rural market towns in the County via the 10 Towns initiative. (Ref 13175) MF5-73b	✓	Construction has progressed well with the Llandeilo Market Hall project with a view to achieving project completion in October 2022. 'Ten Towns' Growth plans have now been completed for all the ten towns. Growth plan teams including recently appointed Officers are now focusing on the delivery phase of the plans, working on the submission of detailed project applications for the £1m capital Recovery grants pot having submitted EOI's previously.	C&R
We will consider options for ensuring the most effective use of the Council farm estate to support affordable farming initiatives and maximising development /diversification opportunities, particularly in relation to regeneration of renewal energy. (Ref 13174) MF5-14.		Sites have been put forward for consideration for renewable energy initiatives with opportunities identified. Feasibility work being undertaken on all Farms in relation to The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. 7 reports had been received by EOY with a further 9 in the process of being drafted. Instructions have been sent to carry out the final reports.	C&R
D - Strengthen the foundational economy and community resilience.			
We will continue to support the early engagement of Local Businesses and have due regard	✓	Supplier engagement continued throughout 2021/22 with online meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic and suppliers being very receptive to this change. We have continued to work closely with Business Wales to adapt our processes for Tender support and	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
to the effect of our procurement on the local economy. (Ref 14947)		engagement and this has ensured a coordinated approach. In 2021/2022, 63 first point of contact (1-2-1) meetings were held with our supplier engagement officer and suppliers who made contact as they were interested in engaging and working with us. 7 Live Tender Webinars were held virtually via Teams during the year with a total of 164 suppliers in attendance. The aim of these sessions was to inform prospective tenderers of the forthcoming tendering opportunities and the requirements of these services / goods. These sessions included Domiciliary Care, Cleaning Materials and Workwear and Verge Mowing and Strimming tenders. A Meet the Buyer Event was organised by the main contractor, Bouygues for Pentre Awel Zone 1 Development & was held at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli on March 30th 2022. A total 107 suppliers/ contractors attended the event throughout the day with Procurement & Community Benefits Officers representing CPU at the event. We developed and launched a 'Supplier Guide' for current & potential contractors, suppliers & providers. This is now available electronically & appears on the Procurement page of the Councils website. Internally, the Supplier Engagement Protocol was updated & incorporates guidance regarding various pro-active supplier engagement initiatives.	
We will ensure that a high percentage of undisputed invoices are paid within 30 days to help local businesses cash-flow (CFH/006) 2020/21 Result - 97.3% (296,465÷304,817) / 2021/22 Target - 93.5%	✓	2021/22 Result – 97.3%. (332,912/342,048) This is on target; we have retained our best ever performance of last year. Prompt payment is essential for businesses especially at a continued time of uncertainty due to the pandemic and increased costs.	C&R
The % of trading standards inspections for high risk businesses conducted. (PPN/001i) 2020/21 Result - 1% (2/180) / 2021/22 Target - 100%	✗	2021/22 Result - 99%. (172/174) Only just missed the target as the trading standards team did not start focusing on high-risk businesses until September 2021 due to the ongoing support for the Covid Enforcement Team. Despite incredible effort by officers, we were unable to complete all due inspections by 31st March 2022, however the two outstanding inspections were carried out in the first two weeks of April 2022.	E&PP
The % of animal health inspections for high risk businesses conducted (PPN/001iii) 2020/21 Result - 12% (64/546) / 2021/22 Target - 6%	✗	2021/22 Result - 94%. (151/161) During 2021/22 the team have been working to complete all high risk inspections identified at the beginning of the year. However, unfortunately, and despite officers' best efforts, due to site closures and COVID-19 the team have been unable to meet the 100% target for 21/22. The remaining 10 inspections were completed during April 2022.	E&PP
E - Developing learning, skills, employability and encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship.			
We will deliver the £30million Skills and Talent Initiative to ensure the County fully benefits from the opportunities that will be created through the £1.3 billion investment through the Swansea Bay City Deal. (Ref 13176) MF5-72b	✓	The Skills and Talent Business Case was approved by Carmarthenshire, Neath & Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea County Councils, prior to submission to the Welsh and UK Government during 2021. During early 2022, the Skills & Talent project was approved by both UK & Welsh Governments, with a new Project Manager who commenced prior to Christmas.	C&R
F - Ensuring clear business support plans to support any implications from Brexit			
We will investigate and monitor the impact of Brexit on the economy of Carmarthenshire via the Brexit Risk and Opportunities Register. (Ref 14015) MF5-84	✓	The Brexit Task Group reviewed and assessed the level of Risk and Opportunity Registers on a regular basis, based on local intelligence (we continued to monitor the impacts of Brexit upon SMEs, communities and people), and also updates from the WFA throughout the year. In January all risks were re-assessed and either	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		terminated or tolerated. Each department will now take on responsibility for tolerated risks which are appropriate to them.	
G - Supporting local and digital economic growth			
<p>Work with partners to address issues in terms of superfast broadband access and mobile phone signal across the County and in particular in rural areas. (Ref 14892) MF5-74</p>	✓	<p>A "Carmarthenshire Connectivity" event was held for elected members and senior officers in the last quarter, updating them on progress and ongoing work to enhance broadband and mobile connectivity across Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>90.1% of Carmarthenshire's business and residential premises now have access to Superfast Broadband (30mbps) or above.</p> <p>42.6% of premises have access to Gigabit capable Broadband.</p> <p>Significant Commercial Investment in Gigabit fibre build is ongoing at Cross Hands, Llangennech, Burry Port, Llanelli, and Carmarthen.</p> <p>Superfast Cymru 2 Investment is secured to connect 3300 of Carmarthenshire's worst served rural premises. 4 new Mobile masts currently being planned for some of Carmarthenshire's most rural areas as part of the mobile industries new Shared Rural Network Investment. These new masts will be shared by multiple operators.</p> <p>Up to 10 Gigabit Voucher Scheme Community Projects currently ongoing and at various stages across the County.</p> <p>24 Public Sector Sites being upgraded to full fibre to improve provision of and access to public services with a further 100 + planned for next year. These fibre spines being built to public sector assets will significantly enhance connectivity options for premises in and around those public sector assets.</p> <p>Web presence on Carmarthenshire's website is being continuously updated to provide clear and accessible advice, guidance and support for citizens and businesses in obtaining better connectivity. Officers playing a leading role as part of Welsh Governments Digital Infrastructure Barrier Busting Group to facilitate and encourage investment in Digital Connectivity across Wales.</p>	P&R
<p>We will develop and deliver a County wide tourism plan to focus more on the strategic objective of generating more year-round business by developing and promoting campaigns that provide a clear reason to visit Carmarthenshire. (Ref 14924)</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 has been a strange and complicated year for activities the County Council has sought to support the tourism sector as part of the economic recovery plan. A bit stop start – seeking to find a workable set of actions that would not annoy residents as lockdown restrictions were partially still in place and sensitiveness high. An important role has been the communication to the 1,300 different accommodation providers of the varying different regulations and financial support us and others were making available, providing the sector with a trusted and available local source of guidance.</p> <p>Updating our corporate website and then using the established communication systems has been highly successful.</p> <p>With Welsh Government financial support, the marketing campaign we delivered has been one of the most successful. Our sales "pitch" was to present the County as an attractive and quality rural destination over the Autumn Winter. Actions included social media (organic posts and advertising), radio advertising, public relations targeting the mass UK publications, and digital messaging on bus shelters and roadside billboard signage. The Cwtch Trail had an excellent pick up with UK media including a 2-page article in Bella Magazine and feature in the Guardian whilst we maximised our hosting of the Sky Film production Save our Cinema with social media clips and where to go trail leading to another 2-page feature in Best Magazine worth £36,000. In total, over 10million people got to know about us!</p> <p>Continued additions have been made to the official visitor website Discover Carmarthenshire including further new content on a number of the rural town locations. New content on the latter included promotional videos that were then supported by social</p>	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		media boosted posts. During March 2022 alone, there were 86,339 unique page views and 29,753 visits with the home page being the most popular as this is the landing page for most of the promotional activity. The Facebook account has risen again to over 17,227 followers as the planned weekly set of campaign actions have started to make an impact. The posts on walking {walking Wednesday} and rural towns {places to explore} are being boosted in designated target audiences as we utilise the data this platform can provide, lowering waste and improving responses (the recent post on Newcastle Emlyn gained 600 likes) and we can react quickly to national campaigns such as the Sunday Times newspaper making Llandeilo best place to live in Wales with posts of our own including images and videos.	
We shall contribute towards the Council's Economic Recovery plan: capital investment schemes (Pendine, Oriel Myrddin and Pentrawel). (Ref 15070)	✓	Pendine Attractor project has had challenges with storm damage to Museum roof, however, scheme is now progressing well with new contractor on site, and due to be completed by late Summer 2022; Oriel Myrddin project progressing with £1m external funding secured from ACW, and design and construction programme in place to hopefully start on site mid 2022. Legal work progressed well with Trust moving to CIO; Main contractor appointed for Pentre Awel works including new Leisure facility. See more detailed PIMS actions updates for each project too.	C&R
We will continue to lead the £55 million investment in Digital Infrastructure across Carmarthenshire and the wider Swansea Bay City Region. (Ref 14921)	✓	The Programme Business Case, timelines and financial spend forecast was realigned during Q4 21/22 to reflect the current situation due to post covid delays. This was conducted in collaboration with all relevant local and regional senior stakeholders via Carmarthenshire and City Deal change control processes. This has put the Programme in a strong position to continue delivering its objectives, benefits, and outcomes for the Region. Individual Project procurements are now moving to delivery as planned. Individual Project resources to be hosted within the 4 Local Authorities of the Region are currently being recruited.	C&R
H – Continuing our recruitment of graduates and apprentices			
Number of apprentices on formal recognised apprenticeship schemes per 1,000 employees. (PAM/044) 2020/21 Result - 27.0% (170/6,302) 2021/22 Target - 20%	✓	2021/22 result 20% (126/6,292) The result is on target although the number of apprentices is lower than the previous year. The number of Apprentices has been affected by a number of factors including Covid and issues around working from home. The move to delivering management qualification through Further Education funding rather than via the apprenticeship route has improved the learning experience for managers but has impacted on this measure. There are a number of initiatives in place which prioritise apprenticeships that will address this measure. A Care Academi launched in the spring 2022 with an to ongoing recruitment of apprentices through the scheme . A proposal has been developed to secure funding for Our Future Workforce (previously Work Ready), to include corporate funding to support the recruitment of apprentices as well as a support structure for departments to fund additional roles.	P&R



Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Affordable Homes Delivery Plan			
We shall increase the number of affordable homes in the County by delivering the affordable homes plan (7.3.2.24) 2020/21 Result - 158 / 2021/22 Target - 273	✓	2021/22 result - 308 308 additional affordable homes were delivered during 2021/22. So far, we have delivered 1,437 additional affordable homes since 2016.	C&R
The number of additional affordable housing units delivered per 10,000 households. (PAM/036) 2020/21 Result - 11 (94/82,190) / 2020/21 Target - 20	✓	2021/22 result - 37 (308 x 82,897 x 10,000) This Result reflects our Affordable homes delivery performance and includes Simple Lettings sign-ups, Empty Properties restored, New Builds both by the authority and RSL, Buying private sector homes and Contribution by developers (S.106).	C&R
The number of new additional properties managed by our internal social lettings agency. (7.3.2.25) 2020/21 Result - 30 / 2021/22 Target - 45	✗	2021/22 result - 9 The supply of affordable properties has become increasingly difficult because landlords and agents are marketing and letting their properties at rates that are considerably above the Local Housing Allowance levels. A thriving housing market is making it increasingly difficult to influence and we are therefore faced with a very difficult challenge in attracting new landlords to expand our portfolio of properties. Landlords are also selling properties in a buoyant housing market and their inability to refinance against current mortgage criteria for 'buy to let' and we are therefore reliant on accidental landlords to bring properties forward rather than investment landlords. Lastly, further regulation by way of the Renting Homes Act (due to be implemented in July 2022) has encouraged more landlords to exit the private rented market which not only lowers the supply of affordable housing but increases the pressures on homelessness services.	C&R
We will deliver our Housing & Regeneration Delivery Plan providing at least 900 additional Council and affordable homes over the next 5-10 years, assisting in regenerating our town centres and ten towns initiative in rural areas. 1st phase to March 2022. (Ref 14700) MF5-45	✓	The new housing regeneration and development delivery plan has been developed utilising the information obtained following the public consultation undertaken in the summer 2021 which received over 2500 responses. The new plan sets our vision to support the delivery of over 2000 homes for rent and sale over the next 5 years. The plan is based on meeting housing need and stimulating economic growth across the County creating jobs, building strong sustainable communities and growing the green economy. The plan was approved by Council in March 2022. The first three council new build sites were completed and let in 2021/22 creating 31 new homes for local people including individuals with complex needs. A further 96	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		homes will be completed and let in the first quarter of 2022/23.	
We will deliver the Swansea Bay City Deal programme to develop 'Homes as Power Stations' to help generate sustainable and affordable homes and address fuel poverty for our residents. (Ref 13185) MF5-46	✓	The City Deal Business case has been submitted to Welsh Government for approval by the region. In Carmarthenshire we continue to deliver programmes that meet the City Deal principles of 'Homes as Power Stations' to help generate sustainable and affordable homes and address fuel poverty for our residents. Our programmes include developing low carbon new build homes and retrofitting our existing stock. We are working closely with the Welsh School of Architecture, Active Building Centre to deliver our own retrofit pilot projects across our housing stock and monitoring the energy performance of our new build homes. The Active Building Centre is also monitoring our tenants use of the new technologies in their homes to understand how our tenants are maximising from the energy benefits promoting health and well being and mitigating fuel poverty.	C&R
We will implement a transformational master plan for the Tyisha ward which will address the concerns of residents and provide a sustainable future from a housing, environment, community safety and economic regeneration perspective. (Ref 14702) MF5 51 & 47	✓	The Transforming Tyisha Master Plan and supporting documentation has been finalised. New objectives and tasks have been set for delivery over the next 5 years+. Early Market Engagement with potential development partners concluded in December 2021 and submissions are being reviewed to inform the future selection process. Demolition of the 4 Tys has completed to provide one of the future redevelopment sites.	C&R
We will develop a decarbonisation and affordable warmth strategy which will create greener, more energy efficient homes, help grow the local green economy promote affordable warmth for our tenants and ensure we support the local and national decarbonisation agenda. (Ref 14951) MF5 48	✓	A draft decarbonisation and affordable warmth strategy has been developed supporting the Council's net zero carbon principles. The strategy is based on the evidence obtained from a series of pilot projects that we have developed in partnership with Swansea and Cardiff Universities. The strategy will require political sign off by the new administration before being fully implemented.	C&R
We will further develop relationships with internal and potential external customers to encourage collaboration and commercial opportunities to make best use of Carmarthenshire's property-related Frameworks and operational teams. (Ref 14972)	✓	We have continued to explore opportunities with both internal and external clients. One example was the establishment of the Schools Handyvan Service which was rolled out at the end of 2021 and is operating successfully. Since the disaggregation of the Housing Responsive Maintenance function to Communities we are looking to expand our in-house team in the new financial year with the recruitment of an additional 13 new maintenance technicians. We will continue to collaborate in the new financial year on a similar basis as and when opportunities arise.	P&R
We will complete the review of Maintenance Operational teams to ensure effective and prioritised in-house delivery of Housing repairs. (Ref 14976)	✓	We are continuing to review operational teams to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. The introduction of the Total Connect IT system will facilitate a more detailed resource deployment arrangement to further improve efficiency of the in-house team. Opportunities to insource further have been explored and we are actively recruiting trade operatives following approval to recruit 13 new Maintenance Technicians within the	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Communities Department in late March 2022, following disaggregation of the functions in January 2022. There is, however, a significant skills shortage for a range of trades which is being experienced by our Framework contractors and is evident in the low number of applications we have received for vacancies throughout the year. Wages being offered within the industry have been increasing steadily in the private sector over the last year which has also impacted on our ability to recruit.	
We shall continue the roll out the Housing Repairs Review new working model to deliver a more timely, flexible, and efficient multi-skilled repairs service and finalise an implementation plan for extending the service countywide, including appropriate multi-skilling training for all our responsive/preventative maintenance operatives. (Ref 14977)	✓	This year has seen the Property maintenance function being disaggregated between Environment and Communities which was finalised in January 2022. This has allowed the new Housing Property and Strategic Projects Division in communities to refocus on the delivery of housing repairs to our customers. Recruitment of 13 additional operatives is imminent to rebalance our trades teams throughout the county and reduce our reliance on contractors. Further major improvements in keeping with the recommendations of the original Housing Repairs Review will be achieved later in the year with the introduction of our new IT system Total Connect. This will provide a much improved service to our customers with online repairs reporting, appointment booking and email/SMS updates for jobs reported as well as improving the operational efficiency of our in house team.	C&R
We will contribute to delivering the Authority's Affordable Homes Delivery Plan and Swansea Bay City Deal 'Homes as Power Stations' programme to help generate sustainable and affordable homes and address fuel poverty for our residents by developing new homes with innovative technologies to limit energy usage. (Ref 14980)	✓	Whilst we continue to develop and deliver a number of schemes active on site and others in the course of obtaining planning and/or grant approvals, others have or are due to be handed over shortly for occupation e.g. Glanmor Terrace, Burry Port, Gwynfryn, Ammanford, Garreglwyd Pembre, whilst Maespiode in Llandybie was handed over earlier this year. In addition, the first phase of the Dylan site has been handed over and the remainder are scheduled to be handed over in August 2022. Other schemes are on site such as Wauniago, Carmarthen and others are either in the course of being tendered or will be shortly. These will be subsequently tendered to a programme to be agreed with the scheme sponsoring department. We continue to implement a number of new and refurbishment/upgrade schemes in line with the Authority's ambitions to meet its Net Zero Carbon (NZC) requirements. We are constantly looking for energy performance improvements and technologies that will not only generate affordable energy from natural sources but will also reduce the cost of energy in use for the tenants.	C&R
Through the re-structure we will ensure that we set ourselves up for the post COVID world in terms of housing services, ensuring that we maximise income in terms of rents, and that we continue to	✓	A new structure has now been implemented that will provide continued focus on maximising rental income. We have undertaken a comprehensive Tenant Survey with nearly 2,000 being received. These responses will be analysed, and an action plan being developed to build on the strengths identified as well as areas for	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
deliver high levels of tenant satisfaction. (Ref 15094)		further improvement. Headline overall satisfaction levels are 75% for quality of home and 82% for quality of the neighbourhood. This survey will now form the basis of the work for our new Community Engagement team.	
We will deliver a sustainable plan for Council House Voids that will reduce their number and quicken turnaround times when properties are vacant. (Ref 15095)	✓	Management of Voids has transferred to the Housing Property & Strategic Projects Division. A review of the Voids process is underway in the final quarter of 2021/22 and identified improvements will be developed as part of the new Division's Business Plan for 2022/23 onwards.	C&R
The % of empty private properties brought back into use (PAM/013) 2020/21 Result - 6.88% (162/2,354) /2021/22 Target - 7.80% This measure includes all previously empty properties and not only affordable homes.	✗	2021/22 result - 6.00% (132/2,200) The pandemic continued to affect and present challenges in returning empty properties to use resulting in a reduction of outturn during the financial year. Intermittent inspections and action relating to empty properties meant that there were less in the pipeline particularly for the first part of the year as well as other factors like the availability of contractors, supply of materials and inclement weather conditions influenced the work programme. We have invested a significant amount of resources into the Valleys Taskforce Empty Property Grant scheme, preparing grant schemes which is externally funded by WG, by preparing 104 applications which amount to £2.7million of improvement works (net cost), which may attract an approximate grant allowance of £2million (assuming £20,000 allocated per surveyed property) to the County. The benefit of this scheme, however, will not be realised until the next financial year with the funding being committed and rolled forward.	C&R
The number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use (PAM/045) 2020/21 Result - 0 additional dwellings / 2020/21 Target - 7	✓	2021/22 result - 12 This measure accounts for the number of additional dwellings created when an empty property is sub-divided into additional dwellings in an effort to bring a property back into use. 132 empty properties were brought back into use during 2020/21, with 12 new homes created.	C&R
We will reduce the average number of days taken to complete council house repairs. (PAM/037) 2020/21 Result - 10.5 days / 2021/22 Target - 14 days)	✗	2021/22 result - 15.1 days (377,374/24,938) Off Target and declined. During Covid there were significant periods where there was a corporate decision to only undertake urgent and Health & Safety works. Once normal service resumed, end to end times were significantly increased. Post-Covid and Post-Brexit there has also been a significant reduction in contractor capacity, which has led to difficulty procuring works via existing framework arrangements. We are working with contractors to identify ways to increase capacity and will be preparing a new minor works framework prior to expiry of the current framework in August 2023.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		We are continuing to target the backlog, which is gradually reducing, by packaging work together by work type and geographically to make delivery more efficient.	
We will continue to ensure that all council houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) (PAM/038) 2020/21 Result - 100% (9,162/9,162) / 2021/22 Target - 100%	✓	2021/22 result - 100% (9,148/9,148) All of our council houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)	COMM
The % of rent lost due to properties being empty. (PAM/039) 2020/21 Result - 4.3% £2,006,723 ÷ £46,798,181 / 2021/22 Target - 4.0%	✓	2021/22 result - 3.9% (£1,880,887 / £47,469,606) This result is on target and has improved on previous year, but we continue to suffer from a lack of contractor capacity. Recommendations and improvement areas arising from the voids review will be taken forward as part of the 2022-23 business plan with a focus on reducing turnaround times.	COMM



Well-being Objective 7

Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Eat and breathe healthily			
We will work with community organisations to improve access to the network of footpaths and bridleways across the County. (Ref 14966) MF5-68	✓	<p>"A Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been put in place and regular liaison with the Local Access Forum is continuing to take place. Work is also ongoing with the assistance of the Ramblers Association to grow a volunteer network to assist with the inspection of PROW and potentially undertake minor works, discussions have also taken place with BHS to extend this to volunteers from the equine community. A Public facing extension of the Countryside Access Management System has now been developed and adopted within the Countryside Unit, and now is being trialled with volunteers and seems to be working well, eventually it will enable public reporting and volunteer surveys to be input. Additional liaison with the Town and Community Council forum to discuss the PROW hierarchy which has been developed is ongoing, the CAMS extensions and a landowner responsibility brochure is almost complete. This year the Countryside Maintenance Team have resolved 626 issues on the PROW network, these issues were spread throughout 64 parishes within the county, and totalling just over 316km's of the network was improved."</p>	C&R
We will continue to ensure we meet regulatory requirements to high standards in terms of environmental health functions e.g. food standards and hygiene. (Ref 15098)	✓	<p>The Food, Safety and Health team has continued to undertake duties in relation to Food and Feed Safety and whilst ensuring new food businesses are registered, the team has been proactive in surveillance of food businesses across the authority, with the objective of gaining an accurate picture of the everchanging local food business landscape. With Food activities being carried out in accordance with the Food Standards Agency's 'COVID-19 Local Authority Recovery Plan' –2021-2022 saw the following work being completed by the team : 443 joint Food Hygiene and Standards Inspections, 201 feed inspections, over 270 new food business registrations processed, 1326 service requests dealt with and over 30 personal and premises skin piercing registrations being processed. 10 Food Hygiene notices and 4 Health and Safety notices have been issued as a result of non-conformances found during inspections and investigations. We continue to provide advice and support to food businesses in export of food, with 30 Export Health Certificates having been issued. 491 Infectious disease cases (non-Covid) have been investigated during this period, with an outbreak of Legionnella and an Incident of VTEC Ecoli also having been investigated. Officers have taken part in 2 Multi Agency raid where Smokies (illegally produced meat) were found and removed from the food chain with investigations ongoing. Official Control monitoring of shellfish harvesting areas continues on a monthly basis and the food hygiene, food standards and feed sampling programme has been delivered throughout the year with 127 samples having been undertaken during the year. This includes routine and project</p>	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		sampling having being undertaken at Carmarthenshire food businesses	
We will develop a pro-action Air Quality Delivery Plan, in conjunction with other Council Divisions and key partners. (Ref 15099)	✓	An Air Quality Delivery Plan has been developed and agreed by the AQ Action Steering Group.	E&PP
We will prepare an integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy to build on the national and local policies incl. Revised LDP and content of the Green Infrastructure Assessment. (Ref 15201)	✓	The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared with the final draft approved pending translation. Its preparation has been informed by engagement and will be published in due course.	C&R
We shall ensure that a very high percentage of food establishments meet food hygiene standards (PAM/023) 2020/21 Result - 98.02% (1,827/1,864) /2021/22 Target - 90%	✓	2021/22 Result - 99.31% (1,012/2,026) This result is on target and improved on the previous year.	E&PP
The percentage of Food Business establishments inspected that were liable to a programmed inspection as per the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan. (PPN/002) 2020/21 New Measure / 2020/21 Target - 100%	✓	2021/22 Result - 100% (407/407) All the food business establishments inspections as per the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan were completed during the year.	E&PP
B - Physical Activity			
We shall invest in the County's leisure centre provision with the development of a new facility in Llanelli as part of the Wellness Village - Pentre Awel. (Ref 12602) MF5-61	✓	A main contractor Buoygues has been appointed with detailed design conversations progressing well for Leisure aspects. Working positively with Health colleagues to finalise design of Hydrotherapy pool. Operational links with CSG and UWTSD continue to be strengthened with representation on Wellness hub sub-groups. Board and Sub groups meetings ongoing. Groups now looking at integrated use of spaces and draft operating timetables. Revenue business modelling being refined. Wider site management options being explored with corporate property. Green spaces sub group also established to fully explore options for non built areas of site.	C&R
We will implement the Cycling Strategy for Carmarthenshire that will focus on 5 key strategic themes. 1- Education, Development & Training; 2-Infrastructure and Facilities; 3-Marketing & Branding; 4-Tourism and 5 – Events. (Ref 13195). (Part of MF5-1)	✓	Highways are delivering the following schemes using TfW Active Travel Funding: Llanelli Masterplan Construction of the bridge over the A484 and adjacent shared use paths to begin in January 2022 with works estimated to last 6 months. Funding bids going in for FY 22/23 to include another active travel compliant bridge over the Railway line to replace Black Bridge. Improved access and connectivity into Trostre Retail park, upgrade of PROW link to NCN network and safe crossing point from Yspitty Road in Bynea. Other schemes progressed include A484 to Box Roundabout, Exchange Row crossing improvements and active travel enhancements in the Felinfoel area. St Clears Masterplan Currently focusing on the rerouting of the Riverside Path (under construction) to bring the NCN off road and connect upper and lower St Clears.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>Other schemes being progressed through the WelTAG process for construction in future years including connections to the proposed railway station.</p> <p>Ammanford/Cross Hands Masterplan Currently focusing on the Active Travel measures adjacent to the ELR (under construction) with other schemes being progressed through the WelTAG process for construction in future years.</p> <p>Carmarthen Masterplan A range schemes being progressed through the WelTAG process for construction in future years including proposed measures on St Clears Rd bidding for construction funding for 22/23.</p> <p>Also progressing WelTAG studies for Llandovery and Tumble Masterplans as well as routes within the Gwendraeth and Teifi Valleys and the Cardi Bach route.</p> <p>In addition, the following supporting measures have been funded by various WG funding streams:</p> <p>Brompton Bike Hire Docks at Carmarthen Bus Station, Llanelli Train Station and Burry Port Multi Model Interchange (mix of standard and electric Bromptons as part of a membership hire scheme).</p> <p>EBike Charging capacity to charge 10 bikes at: Beacon, Eastgate, St Catherine's Walk, Amman Valley LC, Carmarthen LC, Llandovery LC, Pembrey CP, Pendine. (approximately 60% sites complete). Cycle Parking – being installed at various sites across the county.</p> <p>Women's Tour of Britain professional cycle race to be hosted in County on Friday, 10th June 2022.</p>	
We will develop Ammanford Leisure Centre facilities with upgrades to internal wet-side changing facilities (phase 1 - completed); and improvements to parking infrastructure and external sports facilities linked to wider school site masterplan (phase 2). (Ref 14705) MF5-62 part	✓	<p>The next phase of the masterplan has been agreed with the school for the development of a new floodlit, 3G all weather pitch and enhanced Athletics provision.</p> <p>Funding bids submitted to FAW levelling up pot and SportWales collaboration fund with positive indications of support from latter. School also having ongoing positive dialogue with Education on access, play, parking and traffic flow improvements for site. New 3G pitch and enhanced Athletics facilities to be developed during Autumn/Winter 2022</p>	C&R
Will ensure best use is made of school facilities to support wider community activity. (Ref 14995) MF5-30	✓	<p>A number of school projects have recently been completed and will promote use of facilities to the wider community. We are also revising the future schools design brief to include a more community focussed element.</p>	E&C
We will recover of memberships and user numbers at Leisure facilities to pre-covid levels and beyond by 31/3/22. (Ref 15068)	✓	<p>Industry seeing gradual recovery on gym / leisure centre income increases. Aiming to get back to pre-pandemic levels as close as possible to 1/4/22. Some ongoing variables in above assumptions as seasonality and any further WG restrictions continue to play a big part in leisure income profiles. Gym membership current at about 75% pre-pandemic levels, with aquatics income over 80%. A number of mitigation measures are in place / planned, including Active Anywhere online platform to stream classes and activities at all sorts of locations e.g. people's homes; community halls;</p>	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		care homes; surgeries; hospital physio support (linking with excellent National exercise referral scheme); schools (pilot of 18 schools recently completed and huge potential to roll this out across Wales as a paid for extra-curricular service to generate new income and help address obesity challenges – USP being we deliver all this bi-lingually); and this will continue as part of our better value, hybrid offer moving forward.	
We shall continue with the development of site masterplans including Amman Valley Leisure Centre, and Llandovery Leisure Centre. (Ref 15075)	✓	Llandovery site masterplan works completed, with creation of new fitness and multi purpose rooms to compliment the existing 20m pool, turning the facility into a new Leisure Centre for the area. Outdoor multi-use courts also being incorporated into community offer, working closely with Ysgol Gynradd Rhys Pritchard; At Amman Valley, the internal wet-side re-furbishment works have been completed with new village change and DDA compliant toilet and shower facilities. The masterplan for outdoor sports facilities on the AV comprehensive school site, including replacement all weather pitch and upgraded running has been agreed with the school. Internal and external funding secured to deliver new 3G pitch and enhanced Athletics offer during Autumn / Winter 2022. Discussions are also ongoing with colleagues in Regeneration around potential additional leisure facilities as part of the town regeneration plans. Further detail within action WBO7/B Part MMF5-62	C&R
The number of visits to leisure centres per 1,000 population (PAM 017) 2020/21 Result - 734 /2021/22 Target - 4,489	✓	2021/22 Result - 4,598 (873,882/190,073) This result is on target and greatly improved on last year. The last quarter of the year showed continued improvement in attendances, supported in part through the increased capacity as restrictions are relaxed, and through Welsh Government funding initiatives such as 'winter of wellbeing', which provided multiple free spaces for predominantly young people in facilities. Learn to swim programmes have recovered to over 80% of pre covid levels with Memberships at 75%. Overall results are ahead of forecast, and we expected this steady recovery to continue into the next year.	C&R
The % of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that attend the initial consultation of the programme (3.4.2.6) 2020/21 Result - 0% /2021/21 Target - 50%	x	2021/22 Result - 40.4% (203/503) The end of year result is off target. This is largely due to the prominence of COVID during the year. As a result, we struggled to get individuals into our leisure centres to undertake initial assessments. Towards the end of the financial year things improved and we expect this to continue going forward. Recruiting additional NERS Instructors had been an issue during the year, with only appointing three new officers at the end of the financial year after three rounds of recruiting. This will now allow us to increase the number of initial assessments we offer each week.	SC&H
The percentage of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that complete the 16 week programme (PAM/041) 2020/21 Result - 0% /2021/21 Target - 55%	x	2021/22 Result - 30.2% The result is off target largely due to NERS not being operational for the first half of the year due to COVID. This improved towards the end of the financial year, and we expect this to continue going forward. A full service review has taken place, with three new officers recruited at the end of the	SC&H

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		financial year with a new computerised referral process to be adopted during 2022/23 which will ease the admin re provision.	
The percentage of National Exercise Referral clients whose health had improved on completion of the exercise programme (PAM/042) 2020/21 Result 68.4% (104/152) /2021/22 Target - 70%	x	2021/22 Result – No result available This measure is reported for the previous financial year due to the timeliness of data, therefore this would be based on clients attending the exercise programme during 2020/21 and whether their health had improved. This was a period when NERS was not operational due to COVID, as a result no data has been collected against this measure.	SC&H
C - Mental Health			
We will continue to work with partners to transform mental health and learning disability services. We will promote independence, early intervention and prevention and ensure that support and services are accessible. (Ref 14698) MF5-57	✓	The Health Board have decided to pause meetings on the single point of referral due to a recent announcement from Welsh Government about additional funding to extend 111 for mental health. Potentially this could mean our single point of contact intentions are unnecessary and could be stood down as an action at that point. A transportation scheme delivered by St John's to alleviate pressure on mainstream ambulance services and improve conveyance arrangements for people in mental distress is now fully operational and we are making use of the facility.	SC&H
We will continue to deliver the Country park site masterplans at Pembrey Country Park, Millenium Coastal Path, Llyn Llech Owain and Mynydd Mawr. (Ref 14958) MF5-67	✓	A new improved area outside yr Orsaf at Pembrey County Park has been completed by April 22. A Masterplan is being drawn up for Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park to include newly define paths network (with grant).	C&R
We will deliver a £2million programme to re-develop Burry Port Harbour. (Ref 13201) MF5-69	✓	Harbour wall repairs have been completed. Liaising with BPTC to manage issue with coastal erosion and exposure of remnants of old BP Power station East of Harbour. Mitigation measures in place with ongoing monitoring and work to develop a long term management plan for issue. Meetings held with RNLI and The Marine Group to work collaboratively.	C&R
We shall develop the digital and creative skills of local communities by appointing 2x Maker Space apprentices to further develop and promote creative and innovative workspaces at our Libraries. (Ref 15071)	✓	The Maker Space Apprentices based in Ammanford and Carmarthen are just coming up to eighteen months in post. Both have successfully completed and passed all modules of their college course to date. They continue to produce innovative Makerspace content for social media and face to face events. The Apprentices have been instrumental in delivering face to face workshops and sessions at weekends which utilise the full range of Maker equipment available in Carmarthenshire Libraries. During the last quarter they have also had more experience of customer facing activity which includes delivering public engagement events on the new self service technologies available across our libraries.	C&R
We shall develop 24/7 access concept for Libraries, including remote locker solutions at rural hubs. (Ref 15072)	✓	Remote Locker solutions are now installed and available at Whitland, Brynamman and Newcastle Emlyn Libraries. The public have been supported to use this technology via a number of drop in support sessions delivered by our Digital Officer and Apprentices. Smallest Branch book vending machines are currently being piloted at Newcastle Emlyn Library which has now launched as Carmarthenshire Libraries first fully self service Library . The Open+ system which will allow access to Carmarthen Library beyond staffed hours is installed and ready for testing.	C&R
The number of library visits per 1,000 population (LCL/001) 2020/21 Result - 1,716 (323,926/188,771/ 2021/22	x	2021/22 - 1,614 (306,826/190,073) Unfortunately, we didn't meet our target and visiting figures (physical and virtual) are lower than in 2020/21. Physical visitor figures are gradually increasing as COVID-19	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
Target - 1,716		restrictions ease. During Q4 over 1,200 school children visited our libraries as part of our Winter of Wellbeing activities. Children took part in craft sessions, poetry and drama workshops, keep fit classes, magic shows & music/ rhyme sessions. Customers also continue to utilise our free digital resources, with customers benefitting from our range of digital e-books, e-audiobooks, newspapers, magazines & training apps.	
<i>The % of Quality Indicators achieved by the library service. (PAM/040)</i> 2020/21 Result - 86.1% /2021/22 Target - 93.8%	✓	2021/22 Result - 100% All relevant quality indicator targets were achieved giving a result of 100%. This is based on actual results for 2020/21 as final confirmed results for 2021/22 will not be available until Nov/ Dec 2022.	C&R
D – Substance Misuse			
We shall draft the Mental Health/ Substance misuse pathway and seek agreement by regional partners to develop and provide training programme to reflect the new approach (Ref 15184)	x	The Area Planning Board continue to hold quarterly co-occurring meetings. The pathway work is complex as it involves many agencies. However, the work regarding Alcohol Related Brain Damage has progressed well with the successful Fulfilled Lives service supporting people with complex needs to remain living independently within the community, and avoiding residential placements. There is still some work to do regarding the ARBD pathway especially relating to identifying responsibility for cognitive assessments and this work will continue to be monitored within the ARBD working group, also chaired by the Area Planning Board. There are additional working groups relating to Harm Reduction, and Treatment and Recovery, so there is scope to develop pathways further.	E&PP



Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Develop and implement how we provide information, advice, and assistance			
We will develop the Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) service by enhancing the Multi-Disciplinary Team, to ensure that as many individuals as possible are supported to achieve preventative outcomes. (Ref 14694) MF5-52a	✓	Joint working of the Information Advice and Assistance team and the professional Multi Disciplinary Team together with increasing knowledge of the community is proving to make the service to the community as robust as possible. As referral numbers to community services is rising the success of the IAA service resolving the less complex referrals with preventative interventions is maintaining the numbers of referrals directed to the assessment teams consequently preventing the demand having a negative impact on assessment waiting times. We are still working on integrating community Physiotherapy into the IAA Multi Disciplinary Team as part of the ongoing developments.	SC&H
We will continue to develop and improve how Children's Services provide information, advice and assistance (IAA) to support families and develop a smarter approach to digital communication. We will continue to develop the Family Information Service and support links to the Welsh Government Dewis website. (Ref 15011)	✓	Family Information Service (FIS) has kept families and professionals up-to-date by providing information and advice via a variety of methods. There have been 1866 enquiries to FIS website. FIS social media channels are continuing to grow and are an excellent means of communication. As well as 37,363 website hits engagement via Facebook reached 31,247 and Twitter 33.4K. This year has continued to have its challenges with covid affecting a large number of families as well as Childcare Settings and Staff. FIS have provided continuous covid guidance and information to families and childcare settings as well as providing advice and support in respect of various WG grants such as the 'child development fund' which provides additional developmental support to children and families in greatest need and disadvantage especially due to covid to ensure needs are identified early before they escalate. During the year 178 families benefited from CDF with 187 children being supported.	E&C
We shall develop online service platforms e.g. membership Apps'; Online fitness classes; broadcasting of Theatre productions to Care Homes. (Ref 15069)	✓	Active Anywhere online platform is now in place to stream classes and activities to all sorts of locations e.g. people's homes; community halls; care homes; surgeries; hospital physio support (linking with excellent National exercise referral scheme); schools (pilot of 18 schools recently completed and huge potential to roll this out across Wales as a paid for extra-curricular service to generate new income and help address obesity challenges – USP being we deliver all this bi-lingually); and this will continue as part of our better value, hybrid offer moving forward. Evaluating usage and take-up for next phase of roll-out plan. Theatre shows and productions also broadcast into Care Homes over Christmas period, with further scope to expand this streamed service to many other locations in future.	C&R
We shall establish Delta Connect as a primary prevented telecare service within the county. Develop with the health boards intervention with telecare/telehealth. (Ref 15091)	✓	The number of Carmarthenshire Connect customers has now exceeded our target with 2,781 residents having received the service. Delta Connect continues to expand its offer to Carmarthenshire residents, and the rapid response service is now well established with many of the customers now well benefitting. Delta is continuing to work with the Health Board	SC&H

Page 209

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		to develop its overall approach to telehealth with a number of pilots ongoing to support those with chronic health conditions to better manage those conditions at home.	
We will develop a formal agreement between the Local Authority and Health Board, outlining collective responsibilities whilst agreeing a new staffing structure in Integrated Services to support our approach to develop strong communities, help people help themselves and provide support when is needed. (Ref 15101)	✓	Work is continuing to review the existing Section 33 agreement between the Health Board and the Council. The first priority is to secure the new structure, and then finalisation of the agreements will follow.	SC&H
B – Greater community cohesion			
We will continue to support people living with dementia and the development of more dementia friendly and supportive communities and provisions across the County. (Ref 14695) MF5-60	✓	The regional dementia strategy is now in its final draft and waiting official sign off from the regional partners. The regional Dementia Steering Group is meeting regularly and progressing all aspects of the dementia funding workstreams. A regional Dementia Strategy Coordinator is currently being recruited to and will be in post shortly. We are working towards the re opening of day services to include dementia clients, and it is anticipated that the Services will reopen in late April 2022.	SC&H
We will support and advise community groups and organisations to re-introduce when appropriate the organising of community events being held in Carmarthenshire from agricultural shows, festivals and carnivals to exhibitions, concerts and performances. (Ref 14895) MF5-85	✓	<p>The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions has led to a surge in enquiries from a wide range of event organisers – community ones seeking to re-establish annual events cancelled due to the Pandemic as well as more commercial ones seeking to create new brands or those seeking to start the building up again of previous ones such as the Half Marathon.</p> <p>We aim to provide specific advise and contacts to all enquiries and have continued to use our newsletters, press releases, social media posts and updates to the corporate website to inform event organisers of the current scenario as well as providing a new Event Management Plan template to organisers that will allow them to create and deliver safer and more effective events. The “what’s on” listing on the official visitor website Discover Carmarthenshire.com was made live again and immediately became a vibrant mix of internal and external events, activities and festivals with our staff ensuring the listings are of quality and then promoted to the wider audiences on a weekly basis through a planned campaign of boosted social media posts</p> <p>Our experience and knowledge were utilised through the events safety advisory group (E-SAG) that has met every 3 weeks, joining other council sections and external partners to offer guidance to those seeking to deliver quality events in the County. There are already over 40 events listed at this group for note and discussion with many already been invited to attend to outline their plans. As well as events, we have also brought some major TV/Film on-location schedule to the group, with this improved communication allowing smoother visit of the production companies – this ranges from mainstream TV production “The Light” (economic impact of £750k) to smaller regional adverts</p> <p>A debrief of the Llanelli Christmas Carnival and light switch-on outlined a very positive response to the County Council from partners and participants. Investment is being made on replacing of electrical fittings as well as the anchor bolts that hold many of the festive lighting across the streets in Cowell and Stepney Street.</p>	<p>SC&H</p> <p>C&R</p>

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
To support the Learning Disability Strategy we will continue to implement the Accommodation Plan (2019-24), to ensure people have a range of housing options to meet their needs. (Ref 15081)	✓	An accommodation plan has been developed to provide an evidence-based approach to commissioning accommodation with support for adults with a range of care and support needs. The plan sets out the accommodation needs of those individuals who have a learning disability over the next 2 years and, informs our future programme of work in relation to new developments.	SC&H
We shall continue to develop a more strategic approach to strengthen and develop the preventative network of services & build community resilience, especially in relation to the third sector, housing related support and the wider community, including carers. (Ref 15083)	✓	A Re-commissioning programme of work is ongoing. A provider event was held on 4th April 2022 to consult on the new community model, the event was well attended and well received. We will also be finalising the housing support programme strategy which will inform our strategic priorities moving forward.	SC&H
C - Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population & community resilience			
We shall continued with Town & Community Councils and other community organisations to support Community Sport clubs and County-wide plans for focus sports of Athletics; Cycling; Aquatics and Triathlon. (Ref 13105) MFS-71 part	✓	Summer of fun and Winter of Well-being initiatives successfully delivered via funding from WG to key wards across the County. Numerous workshops and session held with community clubs across the County to support club recovery and development plans, linked to SportWales funding streams. Dialogue ongoing with T&C councils and local sports clubs. Sports Personality event held March 2022 to recognise achievement and in particular volunteering across the sector.	C&R
We will work as part of the multi- agency Tyisha Steering Group to develop community facilities to improve outcomes for children and families, focusing on preventative and early intervention services with a strong community focus according to the Children First principles in the Tyisha and Glanymor wards. (Ref 15012)	✓	A feasibility study is being undertaken within Tyisha for the establishment of a Community Hub this will followed with a development of a business plan. Asset Based Community Development Training has been planned for residents, officers, and local groups. A great deal of community-based activities have taken place throughout the year to develop positive community relationships such as litter picking, play events and sessions, creative play sessions for parents and gardening projects.	E&C
Development of new town centre Health and fitness facilities, linked to town centre regeneration plans. (Ref 15077)	✓	Plans for a town centre fitness facility and multi- purpose exercise space have been supported via the Regeneration division led 'Levelling up' bid, submitted on the 18th June 2021. Detailed plans are being further developed now to deliver this aspiration for Spring 2024.	C&R
We will continue to provide support for the care & support sectors to mitigate Covid risks and ensure robust contingency planning arrangements are in place. (Ref 15078)	✓	The Carers Resilience Project continues to support carers to maintain their wellbeing and to protect caring relationships. The project has offered support around contingency planning and has helped Carers to access important equipment to help manage the risks associated with COVID.	SC&H
D - Support Safer Communities			
We will ensure the Council fulfils its duties relating to the current Contest Strategy (counter terrorism) and respond to any duties as they arise. (Ref 15064)	✓	A partnership delivery plan is being developed in response to the new Contest Cymru Delivery Framework to identify local priorities and objectives to deliver on the four areas of Contest (Prevent, Protect, Prepare & Pursue). This will enable the Council to continue to fulfil its duties to counter the threat from terrorism. We have participated in a Prevent performance process to benchmark our activity against a scoring matrix to assess our delivery as a local authority against requirements of the Prevent Duty. This assessment will assist in the development of the delivery plan, as good practice and successes have been identified, and areas for improvement.	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		The Council formally responded to the Home Office consultation on the proposed Protect duty which will aim to help protect public venues and spaces from terrorist attacks. The Duty will be introduced in 2022 and will impact on the management of council-owned publicly accessible locations which meet the criteria. The Government published its response in January to the consultation which summarised the feedback received and will continue to engage key stakeholders and other government departments to further develop the legislation. A multi-agency Protective Security Preparedness Group for the county has been established to begin the initial work on the proposed Duty.	
We will work with departments to ensure compliance with the new corporate CCTV policy. (Ref 15065)	✓	A corporate CCTV Policy was approved in June 2021 to ensure effective governance arrangements were in place for the Council's use and management of its public space CCTV camera systems, in accordance with the Protection of Freedoms Act (POFA) 2012. It was also important to embed a consistent approach across the Council in relation to all aspects of its CCTV systems. Discussions have taken place with departmental CCTV leads to raise awareness of the new Council policy. A new CCTV lead officer post was recruited to, fixed term for a year, and the postholder began work on 22 November. This role aims to provide specialist advice and support to Council departments to ensure compliance with our statutory responsibilities and the implementation of the CCTV Policy.	E&PP
We will work with departments to deliver the White Ribbon campaign action plan. (Ref 15066)	✓	The Council were notified of its success in achieving White Ribbon status on 30 June 2021. The White Ribbon Campaign approved the action plan submitted which had been devised in partnership with departments. A Steering Group was established to drive forward progress on activity identified in the action plan in collaboration with all relevant departments. The Group held its inaugural meeting in October with departmental representatives and the meeting's focus was to plan arrangements to mark 'White Ribbon Day' on 25 November. This included encouraging all staff to make the White Ribbon promise - "I promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women" and raising awareness of domestic abuse including with a message in all payslips with the link to the White Ribbon website. Local services available to help victims and survivors were also promoted and the White Ribbon flag flown at County Hall and Town Halls in Llanelli and Ammanford, with County Hall lit up on the evening of 25 November. The Group will continue to meet regularly to further advance the work identified in the action plan and will provide an annual update to the White Ribbon Campaign in the summer.	E&PP
We will ensure progress against the Safer Communities Partnership Action Plan. (Ref 15067)	✓	Work is ongoing in collaboration with community safety partners to target the Safer Communities Partnership's priorities of Class A drugs and County Lines, Violent Crime including Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Crime, Child Sexual Exploitation and Community Cohesion. Key work in the period has included the continuation of close partnership working to tackle the drug, alcohol and anti-social behaviour issues in Tyisha with proactive action being taken. An action plan has been developed which focuses on increasing visibility and presence locally by partners, encouraging the reporting of	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>incidents and crime, improving waste and fly tipping, targeting anti-social behaviour and giving young people more opportunities. Weekly community cohesion tension monitoring meetings continue to discuss any issues of interest from across the county. There has been targeted partnership action involving the Police, Council and other partners for County Lines Intensification Weeks during the year resulting in effective proactive work. Outcomes have included extensive awareness raising of cuckooing including targeted safeguarding support to vulnerable individuals, execution of a number of drug warrants and positive enforcement action being taken, such as a Closure Protection Notice. Funding was awarded from the Home Office Safer Streets funding for a project in Llanelli by the Llanelli Multi-Cultural Network, in partnership with St Pauls Family Centre and Llanelli Community Partnership. This successful project worked with people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to help make them feel safer including by giving a better understanding of crime prevention measures and knowing how to report crime. Work has continued with national colleagues to introduce a new process in Wales to deliver safeguarding reviews, including those which involve a domestic homicide. Guidance is being developed and a national repository and hub are to be introduced to ensure that learning is shared from these reviews.</p>	
<p>We shall implement measures to respond to operational and strategic imperatives associated with safeguarding including deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) Liberty Protection Standards (LPS) and violence against women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (VAWDASV). (Ref 15092)</p>	✓	<p>The safeguarding team routinely review practice and procedures to ensure compliance with statutory duties and guidance. A recent team review has identified no compliance concerns. The LPS consultation has now been launched and Carmarthenshire Council will consider its content and respond within timescale. All of the DoLS assessments have been allocated resulting in a significant reduction in the accrued backlog. We are currently awaiting further funding from WG to enable us to sustain this position. The regional VAWDASV strategy is currently being refreshed to reflect current priorities and changes in legislation.</p>	SC&H
<p>We will continue to be pro-active in the trading standards field (e.g. financial exploitation, licensing, POCA, COVID enforcement) ensuring we do as much as is possible to protect the public. (Ref 15100)</p>	✓	<p>During 2021/22 we have conducted 3783 (642 Q4) Covid enforcement visits which has resulted in 9 notices being issued. Of the 9 notices, 5 were terminated prior to the expiry date as the business showed immediate remediation and compliance meant we could terminate the notice before expiry. 14 Proceeds of crime (POCA) cases are currently at various stages of the court system, a further two cases have reached financial hearings, allocation of monies awaited from home office for two cases concluded from Q3 PIMS update. We have received 2811 (650 in Q4) Trading standards consumer protection, advocacy and support enquires and referrals, 1809 (413 in Q4) of which required further investigation and 77 Financial exploitation (FESS) referrals requiring further action by the team. Due to an increase in complaints received alleging the underage sales of 'E-cigarettes' and connected products, the department embarked on a survey to visit all retailers of such premises as an initial exercise to inform and advise prior to a potential test purchasing survey. This was also a means of updating the database regarding the codes allocated to relevant premises that sell these products. There have been 153 visits carried out. In addition to this the Trading Standards Team have been</p>	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		carrying out campaign visits to all firework establishments. There have been 38 visits carried out. Licensing have processed 875 taxi and private hire applications, 72 knowledge and safeguarding tests for drivers, 258 licensed premises applications, 108 personal licence applications and 287 temporary event notices.	
We shall ensure that the average number of calendar days taken to repair all street lamp failures remains below 4 days (THS/009) 2020/21 Result - 11.37 days (7,962/700) / 2021/22 Target - 4 days	x	2021/22 Result - 9.22 days (12,108 / 1,313) Despite being off target the result has improved on the previous year, but not back to pre-Covid levels yet. High winds and repairs to one of the Mobile Elevating Work Platforms in the later part of the year impacted on repairs therefore increased the average number of days.	E&PP



Well-being Objective 9

Age Well - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Improved population health and wellbeing			
We will take account of and ensure a Carmarthenshire specific response to the pending Welsh Government Strategy for an ageing society: age friendly Wales. (Ref 14910)	✓	Welsh Government have published the Age friendly Wales: our strategy for an ageing society and have provided funding for Local Authorities in Wales to progress with the World Health Organisation, Age-friendly Communities framework. During 2022-23, this work will be progressed by undertaking detailed mapping work, engagement with our communities and by supporting older people back into their communities.	SC&H
We will continue to play an active role in the Regional Partnership Board and work with partners across the wider West Wales Care Partnership to support further integration and transformation of care and support in the County. (Ref 14952) MF5 52b&c	✓	Carmarthenshire County Council have continued to play an active role in the Regional partnership Board, working with partners across the wider West Wales Care partnership participating fully in the oversight and delivery of the regional programme. We have lead on several workstreams to transform health and care services in West Wales.	SC&H
B – Better quality and more accessible health and social care services.			
We will maintain a strong and sustainable in-house domiciliary provision for Council and support the commissioning team in developing a new framework including the redevelopment of the reablement services. (Ref 13225) MF5-55	✓	We supported the commissioning team in developing a new Commissioning framework which launched at the end of March 2022 and goes live from April 2022. Maintaining a strong and sustainable in-house domiciliary provision and recruitment and retention remains a challenge across the entire sector, but the in house service has sustained its position and market share aided by a robust recruitment and marketing drive. Redevelopment of the reablement services Reablement Team continue to work with HDUHB in the development of a new integrated Intermediate Care Multi-Disciplinary Triage Team (ICMDT). The proof of concept pilot phase is concluded, and the model has evidenced good practice, which will be rolled out in 2022/23.	SC&H
We will deliver an investment programme for Care Homes and Sheltered Housing Schemes that meets the future needs of older people in the County. (Ref 14703) MF5-54	✓	The investment programme to remodel our sheltered schemes has begun and all works are now completed on the Llys yr Ysgol Sheltered Scheme in Saron. Modelling work is ongoing, with defining our future offer for older persons accommodation in our Sheltered Schemes and Council owned Care Homes. New models of older person mixed tenure accommodation solutions are also being developed in the Council's Pentre Awel development in Llanelli. Work is currently underway to design 144 assisted living retirement units within the development. Our new investment plan includes all council care homes and sheltered schemes and aligns the programme with the new Rebalancing Care Fund and the Housing with Care Fund.	SC&H

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will develop an overall recovery model to redesign support and services during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. This will include how we safely restart day services/develop day opportunities as well as bed-based reablement. (Ref 14953) MF5-53	✓	The reopening plan for the Day Services for Older People has been agreed and the services are on target to reopen the last week of April. This is subject to all risk assessment controls being in place and also contingent on any changing situation with Covid. Ty Pili-Pala is now operational as a 14 bedded step down unit offering bed based reablement. Funding is being secured under the Regional Integrated Fund to continue the scheme.	SC&H
We shall continue to provide support for carers, and young carers in particular, to enable them to continue providing the invaluable care they offer to family and friends in need. (Ref 14955) MF5-55	✓	Examples of the work achieved are the launch of the young carers ID card, Community Inclusion Project – supporting carers to access a range of activities. Carers Home Improvement and Wellbeing project – providing support with home improvements. Community Carers group project - which provides opportunities for carers to maintain their wellbeing and access a break from their caring role. Progress against agreed priorities will be captured in the Regional Carers annual report to Welsh Government. New Priorities have been agreed for 2022 – 2023 which will form part of the business / action plan moving forward.	SC&H
We will work with partners to ensure that people remain socially connected, particularly through the use of virtual support such as the Connect project, in order to reduce loneliness, tackle inequalities and poverty. (Ref 14956) MF5-59	✓	CONNECT participants have exceeded our target of 2585, actual number of connections to date are 3037(cumulative) exceeded by 17%.	SC&H
We shall review and update our Public Convenience Strategy as necessary. (Ref 14987)	✓	A continuous review is undertaken of current public convenience premises to include any changes to opening times and types of facilities available. Suitable additional premises are also added to the list of available toilets, for example, new buildings / toilet facilities, and appropriate office facilities as and when they become available. An interim report on the Local Toilets Strategy was published and approved in the 4th quarter of 21/22. A formal review of the strategy will be undertaken within a year of each ordinary election. The next election date in Wales is Thursday 5th May 2022. Therefore, the latest date for review of Carmarthenshire's Local Toilets Strategy will be the 4th May 2023.	E&PP
The development of Market Stability Reports is a regulatory requirement under the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. This involves an assessment of both sufficiency of supply and stability of all regulated services. (Ref 15079)	✓	This work has been undertaken within the West Wales Care Partnership and involved a extensive programme of engagement with care providers, commissioners, and local people across West Wales. The information collated has contributed to the development of a Market Stability Report. The report is finalised and will be published in June 2022.	SC&H
We shall implement the review of Social Care Direct Payments, including the decommissioning of contracted service and development of in house service. (Ref 15080)	✓	The Tupe transfer of staff took place 1/4/21. The new service will be considered in line with the commissioning re-structure.	SC&H
Recommissioning of Community Support (Domiciliary Care) –we will re tender domiciliary care to put a new framework contract in place. (Ref 15082)	✓	A re-commissioning and tender exercise was completed in November 2021. The new Framework contract was awarded in January 2022. During January and March 2022, we have been working with providers to transition from the old contract over to	SC&H

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		the new contract. New services have commenced April 2022.	
We will ensure an effective and efficient contract management to ensure care & support providers comply with their duty to provide quality, reliable and safe services while securing value for money. (Ref 15084)	✓	Our work continues to ensure quality services. Contract monitoring officers are undertaking proactive monitoring and reactive monitoring and where necessary, performance issues are being address through our provider performance arrangements / protocol.	SC&H
We will reshape our approach to supporting patients home from hospital in a safe and timely way by making sure that a) the processes are in place to support this and b) we have the mechanisms in place to monitor delays and issues that prevent this from happening. (Ref 15090)	✓	Our intermediate care multi-disciplinary team is now in place to support safe discharge from hospital, admission avoidance as well as respond to crisis in the community. We have an interim Senior Manager in post responsible for this team, and will soon be appointing substantively to the post. We are tracking all patients in hospital who are ready to leave, and work as a multi-disciplinary team to plan for discharge. Any issues preventing discharge are escalated to a twice weekly hospital panel where they are worked through. The multi-disciplinary team continues to meet twice daily to support admission avoidance and expedite discharge. Whilst the mechanisms are progressing well to support this action, we are still compromised currently by the lack of available care across the system. However, having the team in place allows us to take all opportunities possible to maximise the resources available and help people remain safe and independent outside of hospital.	SC&H
Adult Social Care will collaborate with colleagues in Commissioning, Housing and the Health Board to develop a range of supported accommodation. (Ref 15093)	✓	Since the last report a number of new schemes within the Council housing are stock are opening/ about to open. Additionally, we have recommenced meetings with an Independent sector Provider to de-register a further 8 residential beds in the Ammanford locality. This type of work will continue to be a priority in subsequent financial years.	SC&H
We will ensure we let Care Homes voids as efficiently as possible in a post COVID world. (Ref 15096)	✓	Care Homes provided (and continue to provide) Short Term stays for individuals assessed for Packages of Care that were/are not available due to a staffing crisis.	SC&H
We shall review the Transport & Facilities services in-line with the alternative offer for Day Care in Carmarthenshire. (Ref 15088)	✗	The transport team have been working with service managers to look at the best way to reintroduce the transport service in the most economical way. The centre's will reopen at the end of April. work should be completed by the end of Quarter 1 22/23.	SC&H
We will continue to reduce the number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) (PAM/015) 2020/21 Result - 347 days (29,188/347) /2021/22 Target - 326 days	✓	2021/22 Result - 259 days (31,621/122) Delivering Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations during the last couple of years has been challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions with delays and the ability to complete ongoing site work. Our average number of days to complete these adaptations pre-COVID was 176 days, and well below the Welsh average of 204 days. This greatly increased during 2020/21 to 347 days and above the Welsh average of 261 days. This disruption created a backlog with a continued high number of days during 2021/22, but as the backlog is being addressed during the year, the average number of days has improved significantly to 259 days.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
Number of people waiting in hospital for domiciliary care (ASC/001) <i>New measure for 2021/22 – No target set</i>	!	2021/22 Result - 59 people There were 59 people waiting in hospital for domiciliary care at the end of 2021/22. Increase in numbers waiting from previous quarter linked to slower rate in new packages of care being picked up over the last few weeks.	SC&H
C - Higher value health and social care.			
No actions or measures monitored for this step during 2020/21			
D - A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce			
We will implement phase 1 and phase 2 of the new structure for Integrated Services. (Ref 15089)	✓	The role profiles have now all being drafted and are currently being evaluated for grading by both the Local Authority and Health Board. Once they are graded, we will be in a position to commence consultation with the Senior Management Team.	SC&H



Well-being Objective 10

Healthy & Safe Environment -

Look after the environment now and for the future

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Address requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016			
We will implement the tree strategy to improve the environment and mitigate the effects of air and noise pollution in our more populated areas (This applies primarily to trees on land owned or managed by CCC, but could equally well apply to other land e.g. land managed by other members of the Public Service Board, and Town and Community Councils). (Ref 14822) MF5-23	x	A Draft Strategy has been prepared and is currently undergoing consultation with other authority departments. Consideration is being given to the development of an action plan to support the strategy as a second phase of work. Progress has been somewhat delayed due to other work priorities, but a revised programme plan for delivery has been developed with CMT consideration in early summer. Comments on the draft strategy have been invited from other relevant divisions. Alongside the strategy an Action Plan will be developed.	E&PP
We will work towards ensuring that CCC meets its Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act: planning what actions it will deliver and reporting on outcomes achieved to WG. Evidencing links between this work and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. (Ref 15193)	✓	CCC's 2020-2023 Environment Act Forward Plan went to CMT in March 2022, and to Scrutiny in July 2022. The plan sets out the actions that CCC are taking deliver this duty and includes target dates for delivery of all actions. All officers responsible for the delivery of the actions set out in the plan have been made aware of this responsibility and the need to report on the actions.	E&PP
We will work towards ensuring that CCC regularly updates its Environment Act Forward Plan as required by the legislation. (Ref 15194)	✓		E&PP
Ensure staff across CCC at all levels are aware of the need to deliver CCC's Environment Act Forward Plan and their role in doing this. (Ref 15195)	✓		E&PP
We will ensure that CCC's own development projects deliver biodiversity enhancements, ecological mitigation and compensation, as per the legislation and policy. (Ref 15196)	✓	CCC's Project ecologist works on CCC development e.g. Gwenllian School, Kidwelly, and the re-routing of the cycle way in Lower St Clears, to address and progress the ecological issues such applications raise. At Gwenllian school, biodiversity mitigation, compensation and enhancement has focused on providing alternative dormouse habitat consistent with NRW's EU Protected Species Licencing requirements, which in time will also provide mitigation for the loss of bat habitat on site. Reptile populations will be translocated to local suitable site as a means of safeguarding these populations, and the loss of marshy grassland habitat onsite, due to the development will be mitigated by the creation of a new swale, that will be established with native wetland species. The need to re-route the cycle way in Lower St Clears has provided the opportunity for us to purchase a 4ha field and move the cycle way away from the river. The long-term plan is to manage the 4ha field as Local Nature Reserve, secure this designation, re-route through the cycle way along the edge of this field away from the river, so that it is not subject to erosion. The field includes 1 ha of wet land fen which is species rich and there is the potential for the remaining 3ha to become richer in biodiversity if	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		managed appropriately. The site is currently used by a variety of summer migrant birds, a wide range of invertebrates, and otters. This approach is consistent with CCC's delivery of its Well Being objectives, Green Infrastructure, and Nature Recovery. The management of this site will be set out in a costed biodiversity management plan. £10,801 is the spend on the salary of this post this FY to end of June 21.	
We will continue to deliver the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC Marsh Fritillary project, which aims to ensure the management of at least 100ha of Marsh Fritillary habitat in perpetuity. We will expand this successful approach and use S 106 agreements and developer contribution to deliver other necessary biodiversity benefits where this is appropriate. (Ref 15198)	✓	Management of 27 habitat management and maintenance projects with local contractors Grazing management and facilitation at 17 sites Conducting controlled burns on 2 grassland sites, advice to BC and 2 landowners on burning in March 22 Work parties and marsh fritillary surveys with volunteers from BC and WTSWW and work experience students Summer engagement event for CMM stakeholders , BC, WTSWW, PONT Engagement and grassland habitat management advice at 4 sites Engaged with NRW, PONT, BC, WTSWW, Plantlife, Llannon CC, Llanedi CC, Tumble RFC, Swansea Community Farm, CCC colleagues on joint projects/ interests. Setting up new procurement framework for Specialist Countryside Contractors	E&PP
B - Deliver planning according to Planning (Wales) Act 2015			
We will continue with the preparation of a Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with statutory provisions. (Ref 14820) MF5-20	✓	The preparation of the Revised LDP is currently ongoing in accordance with statutory provisions. Following the consultation on the Deposit version of the Plan County Council at its meeting on the 9th March 2022 agreed on the next steps in the Plan's preparation. This report reflected the impacts arising from the pandemic and phosphate guidance. A further consolidated Deposit Revised LDP will be prepared for public consultation this calendar year along with a Revised Delivery Agreement and timetable for Welsh Government endorsement.	C&R
We will continue to monitor and where appropriate manage the use of monies raised through developer contribution including s106 agreements. As a consequence, we will ensure monies are appropriately used and that there is an efficient turn around in the use of funds. (Ref 14821) MF5-21	✓	The unit continues to monitor monies received through developer contributions (incl section 106 agreements) along with matters of compliance in respect of their use. The application for the use of monies received or for the drawdown of funds has now transferred to regeneration. Continued support will be given to ensuring monies are used in a positive and timely way following the transition to regeneration. Reference is made to the cross-service Section 106 working group which seeks to facilitate, promote and support the timely use of monies. As part of the ongoing need to drive delivery and the timely and positive use of monies, the role and remit of the working group and its terms of reference is being further developed to ensure it challenges the accountability of other internal service areas on the timely and effective use of monies. Further, consideration is being given to opportunities to increase revenue through a charge on developments for monitoring services and on compliance checks when received. This approach is increasingly being adopted across Wales and would assist in income generation and add to the resilience of the s106 monitoring and compliance function.	C&R
We will develop a joint working strategy between the Countryside Access Unit and the Countryside Operations/Ranger Unit to ensure an effective working partnership. (Ref 14970) MF5-23	✓	A close working arrangement is in place between Countyside Access and Operations with co-location at Mynydd Mawr. Both teams are working closely on a number of joint projects and their shared IT systems CAMS is being migrated to cloud, expanded and updated with the introduction of joint	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		working across both teams and public reporting. The extended CAMS system is also being developed to improve asset management and to harness the contribution of the voluntary sector.	
Fully implement the Strategic Planning Review Report received Jan 2020. (Ref 15186)	✓	The recommendations made by the Strategic Planning Review in January 2020 have now been superseded by the action plan agreed to address the Recommendations of the Audit Wales report. Any actions not completed from the Strategic Review are now being addressed by the Audit Wales action plan. This action can therefore be closed.	C&R
We shall set up a Corporate Planning Group (Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 11, 12, 15 and 21). (Ref 15187)	✓	A Major Projects team was established to focus on the timely determination of applications to support the delivery of major planning proposals. The group/team involves and engages with council officers representing the range of services involved in development proposals, e.g. Planning, Regeneration, Highways & Legal (but not limited to) and reports through RDT. Focus to be afforded to projects that deliver jobs and growth in support of the Council's economic recovery plan. This will build on existing and developed links between planning and the delivery of the Council's corporate objectives (including clearly defined roles in internal and other groups. This reflects the recommendations contained in the Strategic Planning Review as well as responding to the WAO report.	C&R
Planning Service Managers to commit to Planning Performance improvement (Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 32). (Ref 15188)	✓	A Planning Performance framework has been prepared and adopted with a commitment to transparent monitoring. Transparent reporting - quarterly reports are presented to the Planning Committee based on a series of core indicators including end-of-year progress reports. This reporting process utilises internal and external indicators and targets – performance monitoring includes identified responsible officers with lines of reporting as part of a process of accountability. Progress on the indicators will be monitored quarterly including through reports to the planning committee. A report on the Planning Performance Core Indicators was presented to CMT on the 29th of September 2021 with quarterly reports presented to Planning Committee. Further quarterly reports will be presented along with an end-of-year statement of performance.	C&R
Performance Management Schedule to be written and implemented for whole Division. Includes specific measures for the development management function (Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 32). (Ref 15189)	✓	Performance Management Schedule forms part of the Planning Performance Framework set out under PIMS 15188 (response below). A Planning Performance framework has been prepared with a commitment to transparent monitoring. Transparent reporting - quarterly reports will be presented to the Planning Committee based on a series of core indicators including end-of-year progress reports. The Performance Framework utilises internal and external indicators and targets include identified responsible officers with lines of reporting as part of a process of accountability. The outcomes within the framework reflect that reporting timelines will vary with a full Performance Framework to be completed annually - progress on the indicators will be monitored quarterly including through reports to the planning committee. A report on the Planning Performance Core Indicators was presented to CMT with subsequent reports on Quarters 1 and 2 presented to Planning Committee. This forms part of a	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		commitment to transparency through ongoing quarterly and end-of-year reports.	
We shall use consultants on a temporary basis to address the backlog of planning applications. <i>(Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 24) (Ref 15190)</i>	✓	Use of consultants has been successful in supporting performance improvements. Contract ended on 31st March 2022	C&R
We shall address capacity issues within the structure to ensure sustainable Planning Application caseloads moving forward <i>(Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 24). (Ref 15191)</i>	✗	Caseloads have been reduced but there are capacity issues that still need to be addressed. The whole Division structure is being reviewed by the Head of Place & Sustainability	C&R
We will continue to review the implementation and effectiveness of the Dangerous Structures Policy. <i>(Ref 15197)</i>	✓	The review of the Dangerous structure policy and procedure was completed during the financial year. This involved looking at our back-office system and how much improved it is over the old system we operated. We worked with sundry debtors over old files and confirmation of details to allow recovery of monies owed to the authority, along with working our finance officer	C&R
We will produce and publish the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) in relation to the adopted LDP by the 31st October 2021. This reflects the impact on monitoring arising from Covid-19. <i>(Ref 15200)</i>	✓	The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR for the period 2019 - 2021 has been finalised and reported to the meeting of the County Council in November 2021. The AMR combines two reporting periods reflecting the constraints arising from Covid. Note: the AMR has been published and provided to the Welsh Government by the 31st October 2021 in accordance with statutory requirements.	C&R
We will review the current Service Level Agreements within the Planning Service to ensure that they are reflective of the demands on the service and the work being undertaken. SLA's will be revised as necessary. <i>(Ref 15204)</i>	✓	Review of Bridgend SLA is progressing. New SLA's are agreed with Newport and Blaenau Gwent and are subject to formal signatures on the document	C&R
We will develop a customer charter for Planning services. <i>(Ref 15205)</i>	✓	The preparation and establishment of a Planning Customer Charter will allow the service to set out clearly the standards and timescales service users can expect. Specific customer commitments in relation to enforcement and major applications are being prepared. Collectively this will represent a transparent approach and provide confidence to the user and for staff in providing the service. The charter will have regard to user expectations in its preparation. Whilst the preparation of the charter has commenced it will be developed to ensure it links with the corporate charter which is under preparation. A key part of the planning customer charter relates to our commitments and clarity of the service to be provided - in this respect reference is made to the preparation of the enforcement protocol, major projects protocol, and the consultation protocol.	C&R
We will develop and implement a Planning training programme for Members. <i>(Ref 15206)</i>	✓	A member training schedule has been prepared with sessions having commenced in 2021, the formal schedule was placed on pause to ensure the service-focused attention on addressing the issues arising from the WAO report. Whilst it should be noted that recent training/briefing has been undertaken on the issues of phosphates in protected rivers. The formal schedule will be revisited with further sessions across a range of areas programmed following the election induction programme. The schedule for training will be supplemented by focused sessions with the planning committee to aid in awareness and decision making.	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will work with stakeholders to improve sewerage capacity within the County through the development of appropriate schemes. Also to ensure planned programed improvements are designed and implemented to address capacity issues and water supply. (Ref 15207)	✓	We continue to work proactively and positively with infrastructure providers to seek to ensure there is an appropriate and shared awareness of sewerage and water capacity issues within the County. We seek to ensure their future plans and programmes reflect needs associated with any given area. Note: the Council cannot ensure planned programmes are designed and implemented to address capacity issues but rather work in partnership to inform decisions that address those issues	C&R
We will formalise our process for dealing with all pre-application planning enquiries, both statutory and discretionary, including the receipt of fee income where appropriate. This will include Built Heritage enquiries. (Ref 15192)	x	Some progress due to the lack of capacity to deliver the service. This will be reviewed so that we can commence this service from October 1st 2022	C&R
We shall undertake a review of the Built Heritage function to consider whether there is any scope regarding fee generating opportunities (e.g. training, advisory service etc.). (Ref 15199)	x	The Canolfan Tywi (Tywi Centre) currently offers programs of training in on Built Heritage construction techniques, this includes an element of fee generation and grant funding – additional opportunities continue to be explored whilst ensuring this does not undermine the delivery of statutory responsibilities. This training (albeit reduced and transitioned to virtual) has continued during Covid and is ongoing – including opportunities to internal partners. There remains potential to expand on the offer albeit within the context of the need to challenge and improve performance. There is currently no charging structure for Discretionary pre-applications whilst this will be subject to further consideration it requires a commitment on the level of service provided. Consequently, any implementation would be resource-dependent. Note: In order to assist in addressing current resource issues recruitment has progressed and agency support is being utilised.	C&R
We will continue to maintain and where possible develop the internal Planning delivery/advice service. (Ref 15203)	x	Reference should be had to PIMs 12652. The delivery of the delivery/advice service (also referred to as planning consultancy) is resource-dependent. Consequently, delivery is vulnerable at times of priority workloads. Remedial action would at this point require additional resourcing. Consequently, future development and operation is being held in abeyance pending the availability of resources. Previous growth bids have not progressed and as such funding has not been secured to further develop the consultancy. Further consideration will be given to its operation post-LDP preparation. In the interim opportunities to undertake focused commissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	C&R
The % of all planning applications determined in time (PAM/018) 2020/21 - Result - 60.3% (735/1,219) /2020/21 Target - 75%	✓	2021/22 Result - 80.8% (1,538 / 1,900) There has been a significant improvement in the last quarter of the year which reflects the improved end of year result of 80.8% And far higher than the 2020/21 result of 60.3%. The progressive improvement reflects the ongoing changes in relation to processes and procedures with a continued commitment to performance meeting and exceeding the set targets. Monitoring progress to ensure the improvements in response to the recommendations of the Audit Wales Report are carried forward and further developed. Embed robust and	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		transparent performance monitoring arrangements, including the continued quarterly reporting to the planning committee. Continual review of processes and procedures to ensure improvements are maintained.	
<p>The % of planning appeals dismissed (PAM/019)</p> <p>2020/21 - Result - 53.8% (7/13) /2021/22 Target - 70%</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result – 76.5% (13/17)</p> <p>This is on target and well improved on the previous year, although the low figures involved can easily distort the result from year to year. We will continue to monitor decision-making processes and identify improvements. We will ensure decision-making reflects material planning considerations and the content of the Adopted Development Plan and continued guidance and training to members of the planning committee to supporting their decision making.</p>	C&R
C - Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030			
<p>We will continue to extend the use of 'smart' and sub-metering technology to ensure accurate and timely capture of energy consumption data and develop appropriate carbon reduction target for the Council's non-domestic buildings as part of action plan. (Ref 14812) MF5-13 (NZC-05 & 06)</p>	✓	<p>Our NZC Plan recognises that accurate data is critical for planning, monitoring and reporting progress towards becoming net zero carbon; accordingly, 'smart' and sub-metering technology is being extended to ensure timely capture of energy consumption data. The roll-out of 'smart' metering technology is progressing, with 100% of our gas supplies now having smart meters. We are currently focussing on upgrading our water meters to be followed shortly by our electricity meters.</p>	E&PP
<p>We shall deliver Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project to achieve energy / carbon savings. (Ref 14813) MF5-13 (NZC-01)</p>	✓	<p>Our Re:Fit Cymru Phase 1 project has now been completed. This comprised various energy conservation measures, including solar PV installations, at 29 of our non-domestic buildings including schools. An interest-free loan of £2,438,787.92 has been secured under the Wales Funding Programme, with repayments spread over the next ten years commencing in October 2022. Phase 1 is projected to save £315,726 675 tCO2e each year, with further phases to be developed to help us become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.</p>	E&PP
<p>We shall continue to work with Welsh Government Energy Service to explore and deliver opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects. (Ref 14814) MF5-13 (NZC-13)</p>	✓	<p>We continue to work with Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) to explore and deliver large-scale renewable energy projects. WGES have undertaken various assessments of our land holdings, and these are currently being prioritised to take account of constraints and/or other competing demands for that land such as Regeneration, and Biodiversity / Sequestration. Whilst we continue to look for potential priority sites, our previous applications to develop large scale. High Grid connection costs remain a constraint to development.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting. (Ref 14815) MF5-13 (NZC-15)</p>	✓	<p>Planting schemes have been undertaken in various locations. 4 council owned sites in Carmarthenshire that are suitable for tree planting are subject to grant applications under the Welsh Government's Glas Tir woodland creation scheme. This will provide approx. 8.8ha of woodland on these council land holdings and would equate to a carbon sequestration of 5.5 tCO2e. A further in-depth study of the carbon sequestration potential of our Council land holdings is underway in an effort to identify further areas that could be enhanced with habitats to increase our carbon offsetting.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will develop appropriate target for renewable energy generation as part of</p>	✓	<p>In accord with Policy 76 of Welsh Government's Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2: 2021 to 2025 (October 2021), we</p>	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
annual review of action plan. (Ref 14816) MF5-13 (NZC-16)		propose to review our NZC Plan to incorporate 'Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide' (May 2021) and 'Net zero carbon status by 2030: A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector' (July 2021) to develop and publish a revised plan by March 2023. This will incorporate appropriate targets that are informed by discussions with Welsh Government and Western Power Distribution regarding the capacity of the local electricity distribution network. We will also be developing a Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan to complement the SW Wales Regional Energy Strategy	
We will continue to work with Carmarthenshire Public Service Board (PSB) partners to identify and develop opportunities for collaboration regarding carbon reduction and Work with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to establish a Regional Energy Plan for South West Wales. (Ref 14817) MF5-13 (NZC-19 & 20)	✓	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. NRW also shared their experience in determining baseline emissions and developing carbon reduction strategies through their Carbon Positive Project. The recently adopted SW Wales Regional Energy Strategy 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. Delivering the four Local Area Energy Plans that will underpin the Regional Energy Strategy 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.	E&PP
We will continue to work with Ynni Sir Gâr, and others, to deliver and support local renewable energy projects. (Ref 14818) MF5-13 (NZC-23)	✓	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 is working collaboratively with our Ten Towns initiative. We are also supporting Ynni Sir Gâr to deliver carbon reduction projects at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr including the potential installation of EV charging points.	E&PP
We will review the action plan following publication of Welsh Government guidance regarding new national carbon reporting framework. (Ref 14819) MF5-13 (NZC-27)	✓	The 'Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide' was due to be issued in April 2020, but its publication was delayed until 24th May 2021. We duly reported to Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of this Guide by the 31st October 2021 deadline. Some of the prescribed reporting methodologies are comparatively blunt instruments based on £ spend and / or assumptions rather than accurate data. This is notably the case for the Supply Chain – applying the Guide would make it impossible to actively reduce a Procurement footprint other than by reducing the corresponding £ spend. This spend doesn't reflect Progressive Procurement / Circular Economy principles as it doesn't distinguish whether the spend is in Brazil or Bynea. We will, therefore, continue with the existing scope of our net zero carbon commitment but adopt the corresponding reporting methodologies prescribed in the Guide. We propose to revise our NZC Plan by March 2023 to reflect Policy 76 of Welsh Government's Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2: 2021 to 2025 (October 2021).	E&PP
We will develop projects and programmes to contribute to the Authority's net-zero carbon ambitions. (Ref 14981)	✓	Whilst as a section over a number of years we have been developing and delivering projects in various categories to consider energy efficiencies, low energy usage and costs with good success, we constantly review with scheme sponsors as	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		to how they wish to implement NZC agenda in going forward with their projects whilst taking into account best practice, new requirements and technologies that will meet the criteria. We are implementing a range of projects to contribute to the Authority's NZC commitment, through the utilisation of either the Passivhouse or Fabric First approach wherever possible, including within refurbishment and upgrade of existing buildings etc. Whilst on educational scheme we have been delivering to these standard for a number of years, we have recently completed the re:FIT programme and the first site of new homes, with others due to be handed over shortly, as well as passivhaus and other fabric first designed buildings to reduce future carbon requirements. A number of scheme on site. let or being tendered are all now based on these developing standards with the aim of aspiring to the authorities' goals through continual improvement, innovation and cost effectiveness.	
We will review future plans for Nantycaws in relation to Net Zero Carbon. (Ref 14992)	✓	This project is currently as an early conceptual stage and is dependent upon two key external factors; Welsh Government (WG) funding in support of our desire to develop an eco-park at the site; and improved access from the A48 trunk road. WG are currently in the early stages of feasibility with respect to road/access improvements and we are currently in discussion with WG in relation to the eco-park development from a regeneration, waste and a decarbonisation perspective. Conceptual designs being prepared. However, on a pan-Wales basis, WG are undertaking a wider review of their highway works programme and will need to conclude this before they can make any further commitment to works on the A48. we are in development of feasibility study for regional WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) treatment facility and are engaged with potential site partners to support our circular economy aspirations for the Eco-park.	E&PP
D - Flood & Waste Management Plan & Shoreline Management Plan.			
We will work in accordance with our Flood Risk Management Plan and commence implementation as part of the strategy for identifying, managing and mitigating flood risk within our communities. (Ref 14988)	✓	Procedure in place and operating.	E&PP
We will undertake the role of Lead Local Flood Authority in investigating widescale incidents of flooding in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act. Including the coordination of flood investigations where there's multiple sources of flood causations involving partner organisations as asset owners/Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). (Ref 14989)	✓	The team have completed all outstanding reports in this respect. The most recent report is due to be shared with the affected community in July 21.	E&PP
We will develop and produce a flood guidance document. (Ref 14990)	✓	Flooding web pages on the Council's website have been updated to include information on how to prepare your home for flooding; what to do before, during and after flooding, flooding insurance and info on an emergency kit.	E&PP
We shall protect and manage our coastal facilities, including the Millennium Coastal Park, working within regional shoreline	✓	There has been progress with securing funding to replace / divert part of National Cycle Network and Coastal path at Morfa Baccas, Bynea. Work also commissioned to consider options for coastal protection along Burry Port East Beach to	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
management plan, overseen by Environment Department. (Ref 15074)		protect against erosion and exposure of remnants of former Carmarthen Bay Power Station, with a draft report on this and an additional report on Cefn Sidan produced and considered in June 2022.	
E - Towards Zero Waste strategy.			
We will continue to review our waste treatment strategy options and recycling infrastructure needs to ensure that we can continue to meet our statutory recycling targets and landfill diversion targets from April 2018. (Ref 13256) MF5-16	✓	We have now finalised and received approval for our Future Waste Strategy in Oct 21 - This work will now move into delivery phase.	E&PP
We will continue to work with CWM Environmental to review our waste treatment/disposal arrangements in the immediate term and long term by securing appropriate arrangements for treating and disposing of our waste. (Ref 14983)	✓	This year the Council has approved the Future Waste Strategy for Carmarthenshire, CWM environmental are a key stakeholder in the development of the future workplan and infrastructure requirements. The development of interim and long-term infrastructure plans to accommodate our future waste collection strategy is progressing. We have also worked in conjunction with CWM to develop Circular Economy Projects in two localities in the county.	E&PP
We will continue to review existing household recycling participation rates to maximise landfill diversion and increase recycling. Undertake a programme of door-stepping to advise and encourage householders to participate in our recycling schemes. (Ref 14984)	✓	Due to our response to COVID-19 household participation monitoring and engagement were suspended. These activities recommenced in October 2021. An all-Wales compositional analysis is underway, to assess the level of recycling contained within our residual waste this will support our directed targeted education programmes. A bespoke engagement and contamination plan has been developed and commenced to improve recycling performance in future years.	E&PP
We will undertake a full review of our waste collection methodology at the kerbside, with a view to assessing alternative models of delivery on a cost vs performance gain basis. This will include a consultation exercise with a range of stakeholders. (Ref 14985)	✓	We have now finalised and received approval for our Future Waste Strategy in Oct 21 - with public consultation taking place in July 2021. This work will now move into delivery phase with ongoing public engagement being a key facet of change.	E&PP
We shall continue to target local environment quality issues, including dog fouling, fly-tipping and general litter blight. Review effectiveness of Public Space Protection Order. (Ref 14986)	✓	The Enforcement team have continued to enforce legislative powers in an attempt to improve Local Environment Quality Issues namely Fly Tipping, litter, Dog Fouling etc. As a result of the ongoing challenges of Covid, and slight changes to the normal method of Enforcement, officers remain positive and strive to tackle environmental crimes to improve our Local Environmental Quality. Officers carry routine patrols and targeted enforcement of known problem areas and issue Fixed Penalty Notices and or prosecute offenders. An engagement survey of the PSPO's has been carried out with relevant stakeholders and organisations. The process of extending the current PSPO has been completed.	E&PP
We will work with local stakeholders to manage the local environment quality in terms of managing blight and associated problems on public land by undertaking litter and fly-tipping management arrangements across the County, including enforcement work. This will include a particular focus on some areas of Llanelli that have specific problems. (Ref 14991)	✓	The Environmental Enforcement Team with support from local stakeholders and council departments, have been able to target specific areas where issues such as fly tipping have been identified as an ongoing problem. The Enforcement Team have been able to deploy covert and overt CCTV in an attempt to catch those committing such offences, therefore improving the local environmental quality. The Enforcement Team will continue to collaborate with stakeholders, enforcing and educating the public in attempt to reduce fly tipping and litter on public land.	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<p>We will reduce the amount (Kg) of municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person (PAM/043)</p> <p>2020/21 - Result - 153.5Kg (29,183,440/190,073) / 2021/22 - Target - 167.9Kg)</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result – 153.9Kg per person (29,258,400/190,073)</p> <p>This is on within the increased target which was set to reflect the response to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and resources available to service during 2021/22, but this means that it's showing a decline on last year</p>	E&PP
<p>We will continue with to re-used, recycled or composted a high percentage of waste (PAM/030).</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 66.08% (51,494/77,928 / 2021/22 Target - 65%</p>	x	<p>2021/22 Result - 61.68% (49,420 / 80,118)</p> <p>As a consequence of the fire at CWM's Nantycaws materials recovery facility, there has been significant disruption to our normal waste sorting, treatment and disposal arrangements. This has meant that CWM have had to find alternative outlets for sorting and disposal of waste. This has resulted in materials going to landfill facilities and alternative plants, some of which have less efficient sorting processes than would normally be the case. Consequently, our overall recycling performance has dropped. In addition to this given the suspension during COVID of the kerbside restrictions of black bags being eased and the increased contamination of our kerbside recycling the capture of high-quality recycling has decreased. With contamination of Blue Bags more than 30% an increase compared with 15% previously. The short-term arrangements for recycling treatment remained in place for the duration of the financial year, with CWM negotiating alternative arrangements as part of a medium term strategy to recover the position. In addition, the black bag restriction policy and recycling contamination engagement programme recommenced in October 2021.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will keep the average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents to a minimum (PAM/035)</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 5.2 days (10,560/2,014) / 2021/22 Target - 4.0 days)</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result - 2.4 days (5,026/2,073)</p> <p>This is on target and improved on last year figures are now back to pre-COVID levels.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will maintain a high level of streets that are clean (PAM/010)</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 98.1% (177/181) / 2021/22 Target - 92%)</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result - 94.1% (369/392)</p> <p>This measure is on target but has declined on the previous year and well below pre-covid figures. The number of inspections undertaken this year are back to pre-COVID numbers.</p>	E&PP
<p>We shall maintain a high level of cleanliness of our highways based on the Keep Wales Tidy and Cleanliness Index inspections (STS/005a)</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 80.7% (740.5/918) / 2021/22 Target - 74%)</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result - 76.8% (903.5/1,176)</p> <p>This measure is on target but has declined on the previous year and well below pre-covid figures. The number of inspections undertaken this year are back to pre-COVID numbers.</p>	E&PP



Well-being Objective 11

Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Highway infrastructure			
<p>We will support the Council's vision for Carmarthenshire to become the Cycling Hub of Wales by continuing to develop Active Travel infrastructure. We will also support the delivery of major on road cycle events.</p> <p><i>(Ref 14959) MF5-1</i></p>	✓	<p>Significant progress has been made on the development and delivery of a number of projects across the County that support and promote Cycling and wider Active Travel. Furthermore we have been successful in applying for 16.7m of UK Government funding which coupled with CCC Capital will allow us to deliver the Tywi Valley Path, as such work has accelerated on all aspects of this scheme, which aims to have a complete and open route within 3 years. This year, the following projects are live : Llanelli Infrastructure - specific schemes under construction: 1. New Dock, 2.A484 Bridge 3. Penyfai. 4. Coed Cae St Clears - Riverside path. Cross Hands Active Travel Link. Preparatory work underway for future year programme.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will continue to support and contribute to the Weltag process with Welsh Government to support the delivery of a bypass for Llandeilo to improve air quality and safety in the town of Llandeilo. <i>(Ref 14960) MF5-4</i></p>	✓	<p>We are awaiting the outcome of the WG Welsh Transport Appraisal Process (WelTAG). We have been actively engaged in the WelTAG advisory panel. We have clearly set out the position of CCC in terms of the Bypass being the only feasible option available to address long standing concerns in and around Llandeilo, as well as in terms of the impact that congestion has on the strategic Swansea to Manchester trunk road. The panel review associated with WelTAG 2/3 has concluded and we are awaiting the subsequent report and recommendations.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will deliver the 3 year capital investment program for highway maintenance in accordance with then resources available.</p> <p><i>(Ref 14965) MF5-6</i></p>	✓	<p>A prioritised risk based programme of highway surface remedial schemes has commenced. The surfacing dressing programme (13 Capital funded) is completed and a programme of 47 road re-surfacing schemes is complete. The programme invested Capital funding alongside WG grant funding. Budget £2,098,000. Small underspend carried forward.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will develop the Highway Maintenance Policy to in accordance with the Highways Asset Management Plan. <i>(Ref 14967)</i></p>	✓	<p>The HAMP adopted in 2018 included an undertaking to develop a Maintenance Manual which will be a portfolio of individual service manuals developed over a period of time to cover individual service areas such as Highway Inspections, Safety Defect Repairs, Winter Service, Bridge Inspections etc.</p> <p>The first four sections of the Maintenance Manual were adopted by Cabinet on the 6th December and covered the topic areas of Highway Maintenance Management, Highway Network Hierarchy, Highway Inspection and Repair Regime and Road Condition Assessment and Investment Prioritisation. Further service topic areas are set out in the maintenance policy and a programme for completion of the further manuals will be finalised in Qtr 1 2022/23.</p>	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will develop, maintain and deliver a 3 year capital maintenance programme of highway bridge strengthening and replacement schemes. Prioritising delivery of schemes with the resources available. (Ref 14968)	✓	This years Capital programme has strengthened/replaced 2 sub-standard structures and is developing further schemes for the forward programme. Railway Inn Llanpumsaint and Danrheol Bridge strengthening schemes were reprogrammed to 22/23 due to land and procurement.	E&PP
We will conclude the study into the feasibility of developing an overnight lorry park/s within the County. (Ref 13272) MF5-9	✓	Phase 2 of the report has now been completed. A number of quantitative and qualitative surveys have been undertaken, including detailed discussion with freight market representatives at strategic and operational level, additional site surveys and a policy review a final report has been completed which concludes that whilst there is no current case to for CCC to pursue this, we will keep a long range review of the industry.	E&PP
We will minimise the % of A roads in poor condition (PAM/020) 2020/21 Result - 4.1% (19.822/478.541) / 2021/22 Target - 5.0%)	✓	2021/22 Result - 3.6% (17.097/478.345) The condition of A roads have improved with a lower % in the 'Red Zone' i.e., in poor condition and in need of maintenance. The improvement evidences targeted investment using a risk based evidence led prioritisation model.	E&PP
We will minimise the % of B roads in poor condition (PAM/021) 2020/21 Result - 3.4% (21.83/635.062) / 2021/22 Target - 5.0%)	✓	2021/22 Result - 2.8% (18.072/640.689) The condition of B roads have improved with a lower % in the 'Red Zone' i.e., in poor condition and in need of maintenance. The improvement evidences targeted investment using a risk based evidence led prioritisation model.	E&PP
We will minimise the % of C roads in poor condition (PAM/022) 2020/21 Result - 12.0% (298.665/2490.659) / 2021/22 Target - 12.0%)	✓	2021/22 Result - 11.7% (298.914/2479.941) The condition of C roads have improved with a lower % in the 'Red Zone' i.e., in poor condition and in need of maintenance. The improvement evidences targeted investment using a risk based evidence led prioritisation model.	E&PP
We will minimise the % of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non-principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition (THS/012) 2020/21 Result – 9.4% (340.31/3604.26) / 2021/22 Target - 9.5%)	✓	2021/22 Result - 9.4% (325.08/3599.01) The condition of A, B and C roads have improved with a lower % in the 'Red Zone' i.e., in poor condition and in need of maintenance in all three road categories. The improvement evidences targeted investment using a risk based evidence led prioritisation model.	E&PP
B - Integrated Public Transport Network			
We will continue to work with national and regional bodies to develop the public transport network to support carbon reduction and economic development. (Ref 14962) MF5-6	✓	On a strategic basis we are actively working with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales regional partners, user groups and operators to influence and contribute to the national bus reform work. We continue to be a key partner in the development of a south west Wales METRO which looks to enhance and integrate public and active modes of transport to provide a coherent network for moving people in and around the region. We have been successful in drawing down Welsh Government funding this year and have utilised it to introduce high quality bus shelters, a number of Real Time Information displays, wayfinding signage, significant infrastructure enhancements at Carmarthen and Llanelli Bus stations. These improvements are designed to encourage modal shift away from the private car thereby contributing to carbon reduction, social inclusion and economic activity, as well as improving	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		the attractiveness, accessibility and vitality of our economic centres. Works to make physical improvements to both Carmarthen and Llanelli bus stations are well underway and due for completion in the Summer	
C - School Transport network			
We will continue to support the delivery of the Modernising Education Programme – redesigning networks to facilitate the movement of pupils as set out in our home to school transport policy. (Ref 14969)	✓	We have continued to work with MEP team to deliver transport where required to support the MEP programme where possible.	E&PP
D - Support Community and rural Transport.			
We will ensure that the Council works with partners to develop community transport opportunities across the county, which should consider all feasible means of transport to address local needs. (Ref 15106)	✓	We have successfully maintained existing schemes such as Demand Responsive Transport, Country Cars and Shopmobility, and hope that these services will rebuild their patronage post Covid.	E&PP
We will ensure that the Council improves promotion of its Country Cars scheme. (Ref 15107)	✓	Our delivery partner, the Royal Voluntary Service, has continued to promote the scheme throughout the year and we are discussing with them ways in which the scheme can be further promoted in the future.	E&PP
E - Road Safety Strategy.			
We will work with communities to submit bids to the Welsh Government to secure funding for the development of Safer Routes in Communities and Active Travel to improve walking routes to encourage more sustainable travel to assist with achieving the objective of decarbonisation. (Ref 14964) MF5-7	✓	A total of £714,050 funding was secured across the three schemes and is broken down below: Swiss Valley & Felinfoel - £497,700 Peniel - £166,350 School Streets Initiative - £50,000 These schemes will now move to delivery in the 22/23.	E&PP
Number of people killed and seriously injured on roads in Carmarthenshire (5.5.2.21) 2020/21 Result - 55 / 2021/22 - No Target set	!	81 people were killed or seriously injured on Carmarthenshire roads during 2021. We have the second largest road network in Wales and the third highest traffic levels which has an influence on road collision statistics. In 2020 the covid pandemic suppressed travel levels in Wales generally which then rose in 2021 towards pre-pandemic levels. This has unfortunately led to an associated increase in the number of casualties killed or seriously injured on our roads. The overall trends remains downwards, and our Traffic & Road Safety Team continue to worked in partnership with emergency services to promote improved road safety through education, enforcement and engineering initiatives.	E&PP
Number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on roads in Carmarthenshire (5.5.2.22) 2020/21 Result - 10 / 2021/22 - No Target set	!	16 motorcyclists were killed or seriously injured on Carmarthenshire roads during 2021. We have the second largest road network in Wales and the third highest traffic levels which has an influence on road collision statistics. In 2020 the covid pandemic suppressed travel levels in Wales generally which then rose in 2021 towards pre-pandemic levels. This has unfortunately influenced an associated increase in the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on our roads. Our Traffic & Road Safety Team continue to work hard to improve safety of motorcyclists on Carmarthenshire's roads	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		with engagement events held in partnership with the Police, Go Safe, Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and ROSPA. The Team also undertakes specific initiatives focused on motorcyclists such as Dragon Rider to provide training sessions to enhance riding skills which is delivered in partnership with advanced motorcycle trainers and the Bike Down initiative which provides training sessions for motorcyclists to provide first aid skills in emergency situations to enable those first on scene to preserve life.	
<p>Number of young people (aged 16-24) killed and seriously injured on roads in Carmarthenshire (5.5.2.23)</p> <p>2020/21 Result - 15 / 2021/22 - No Target set</p>	!	<p>13 young people aged 16-24 were killed or seriously injured on Carmarthenshire roads during 2021. We have the second largest road network in Wales and the third highest traffic levels which has an influence on road collision statistics. We are pleased that the 2021 statistics show a downward trend from previous years and our Traffic & Road Safety Team are continuing to work with partner agencies to influence further reductions through a range of measures and engagement events. Through our Pass Plus Cymru initiative we work with driving instructors to give our young drivers enhanced skills as they take to our roads and our Mega Drive initiative focuses on 16 - 18 year olds to enhance road safety awareness and is delivered in partnership with Go Safe and our emergency services.</p>	E&PP
F - Modernising our vehicle Fleet			
<p>We will update the Council's Fleet Strategy to reduce the level of Carbon and Nitrogen Dioxide emissions from our transport operations over the next five years - including Reducing fossil fuel: train staff in new technologies; explore use of alternative vehicles and promoting active travel. (Ref 14961) MF5-5</p>	✓	<p>Electric charging infrastructure tenders have been completed and determined with construction due to commence at the identified strategic sites mid to end 2022. The path in transition to ULEV vehicles is further aided by manufacturers producing an increase in variety of electric models, and competition between them is gathering pace. Successful grant funding will result in the electric vans being added to fleet in 22-23 replacing the diesel-powered ones. The 3 electric refuse trucks are due delivery towards end of 2022. The fleet replacement programme will be re-aligned over the next 5 years to reflect changes in frontline services with ULEV vehicles being the first choice at tender.</p>	E&PP
<p>We will continue to develop the infrastructure for the use of electric vehicles across the county including in rural areas. (Ref 14963) MF5-6</p>	✓	<p>We are nearing the completion of 15 fast charging points across the County, bringing the number installed up to 41. This latest tranche includes a number of leisure centres including Carmarthen, St Clears and Newcastle Emlyn. We have completed and opened the Cross Hands Rapid Charging Hub which is a custom built location adjacent to the A48 that houses 4 x 50kW Rapid Charging Units and 1 x 150kW Rapid Charging Unit, the first of its kind in Wales.</p>	E&PP

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>We have also been successful in drawing down external funding to support installations at main council sites and to expand the sustainable fleet. Alongside this Wales leading programme, we have also been working with the WG to shape their EV charging programme, as a consequence they have recently announced significant investment to create charging facilities at Llanybydder, Newcastle Emlyn and Llandovery, with discussions ongoing in relation to a possible hub at Ammanford. Strategically we have recently adopted the CCC EV infrastructure Strategy.</p>	



Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Implement and monitor the Welsh Language Standards			
We will ensure the Council complies with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (Ref 13280) MF5-86	✓	The Policy & Involvement team work across all departments to ensure compliance. However, new issues and opportunities arise regularly therefore constant communication is required. We have recently been working with departments to remind them of the requirement for all initial correspondence to be bilingual and how to ensure that we record and deliver in accordance with linguistic choice. We have recently met with the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office to discuss the quality assurance exercise they undertook in Carmarthenshire. The feedback is positive; however, it must be noted that the sample is very small in terms of the number of interactions.	P&R
B - The development of Welsh in all our Education services			
Work with the County's primary and secondary schools to move them along the Welsh language continuum and also ensure that individual pupils within relevant schools are provided with opportunities to continue with their Welsh medium education throughout all key stages. (Ref 15015) MF5-31	✓		E&C
The % of pupils assessed in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase. (EDU/033) 2020/21 No Result available-18/19 Academic Yr/ 2021/22 Target - 57% - 20/21 Academic Year	!	2021/22 - Results not available Due to the Pandemic, there was no Welsh Government data collection on Teacher Assessments undertaken at the end of summer term 2021. WG instruction was not to aggregate local schools data up to LA data. This data would not be comparable to previous years data due to the circumstances encountered during this period whilst not all schools undertook Teacher Assessments at this time. Teacher Assessments are due to be undertaken during summer term 2022. We will await instruction from WG on data collection / published data for this cohort in preparation for reporting in 2022-23 (Academic Year 2021-22).	E&C
The % of year 11 pupils studying Welsh (first language) (EDU/034) 2020/21 No Result available-18/19 Academic Yr/ 2021/22 Target - 57% - 20/21 Academic Year	!	2021/22 - Results not available Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students were unable to sit final exams in summer 2021 and instead their grades reflect predicted results based on coursework and mock examination results. Results by County were not published and would not be comparable to previous years if known. WG instruction was not to aggregate schools data up to LA level data. Summer exams 2022 are due to go ahead as	E&C

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		scheduled. Results will be published later in the year. Comparison to previous years may not be applicable as some course were truncated due to the pandemic.	
C - Welsh Language Promotion Strategy			
We will review and refresh the County's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in light of the progress to date and expected Census 2021 results during the year. (Ref 14896) MF5-86	x	The requirement of the Welsh Language Standards was to complete the second Strategy during 2021; however, with the Census results being so close to being released, the team and the Welsh Language Forum agreed to delay to consider the local results. This has been discussed with the Commissioner's Office, therefore based on the original target of 31st March 2022, this is currently classed as off target and a new target date agreed to reflect the importance of the Census results. The Policy & Involvement Team are currently preparing a detailed assessment on the county's first Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. This assessment will be discussed by the Welsh language Strategic Forum and will provide the baseline for our second strategy. A detailed assessment framework of local indicators and data has also been prepared. The team will also commission a detailed analysis of the Census 2021 results (upon release) on a county basis and for the three Mentrau Iaith areas.	P&R
We will review the current Internal Use of the Welsh language policy in line with latest developments. (Ref 14897) MF5-86	✓	The Policy & Involvement Team met with Bangor University and the Welsh Language Unit at Welsh Government, to discuss the ARFer project and its potential use within the council. ARFer aims to introduce different elements of bilingual working and is tailored to individuals' linguistic skills. The team have prepared a draft framework of support which is available across the council, and we will look to develop this support further with other key partners. Discussions are also underway with teams who lead on key areas such as Recruitment and Learning & Development.	P&R
We will further strengthen the provision and use of the Welsh language within social care services, supporting our staff to learn virtually currently, to be able to provide services in the language of service users' choice and ensure compliance with the 'Active Offer'. (Ref 14954) MF5-56	✓	During 2021/22, Integrated Services continued to prioritise a commitment to Welsh Language training with a number of team members being supported to learn or improve their proficiency in the language by attending the on-line courses that have been available during the COVID pandemic. Welsh Language assessments are undertaken as an essential part of any Recruitment process and new starters in the Division, are, if necessary, supported to learn the language as part of a Learning Agreement. This has resulted in an increase use of the language in the workplace and also with our service users in accordance with the "Active Offer".	SC&H

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We shall prepare a Welsh Language Action Plan within Planning Service (Strategic Planning Review Recommendation 2). (Ref 15208)	✓	The Council has a strategy to promote the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire. Whilst not titled an action Plan it is similar in purpose and scope. A component of this strategy relates to the Welsh Language within the Planning Service. The strategy will link in relation to the service connect with the Council's corporate objectives and the content of the business plan.	C&R
D - Promoting our Welsh Culture & Heritage			
We will deliver a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum and Museum of Speed Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors. (Ref 13289) MF5-64	✓	<p>Carmarthenshire Museum and Bishop's Park is site-wide project and is managed through the Joint Working Group, overseeing preparations for the transition from capital development to operational phase.</p> <p>Museum: The museum partially reopened 29 January 2022. The final phase of reopening is subject to making good emergency building repairs in the refurbished galleries; no end completion confirmed. Adaptations to meet Government Indemnity Scheme security standards to borrow material from UK national collections is 50% completed due to supply issues. 95% of collections have been relocated to the refurbished attic store. 97% of windows have been refurbished (by end April).</p> <p>The museum WiFi extension scheme is 85% complete (by end April). Some storm damage was reported to the museum's Big Shed roof.</p> <p>Park: The Tywi Gateway Centre is being fitted out, anticipated to be ready for occupation by the Tywi Gateway</p> <p>Trust from May 2022. £58K capital grant awarded by CCC to progress the gardener's compound and the room for volunteers. The first phase of the transformation plan for this museum is 90% complete.</p> <p>Parc Howard</p> <p>The first phase of essential works capital programme is 95% complete. The project has stabilised all structural elements of the museum to achieve watertightness. Currently underway are additional works associated with updating mechanical and electrical systems (10% complete). Costs are awaited on the proposal to relocate the museum entrance to bring the accessible ramp into use; museum interior redecoration costs have been received and are pending approval, subject to funding.</p> <p>A whole museum interpretation plan is in development to be tested through community engagement. The museum redisplay is provisionally anticipated to be completed by</p>	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>end of December 2022 with the museum reopening February 2023.</p> <p>Llanelli Town Council has confirmed its financial contribution to Parc Howard for 2022-2023. A consultation exercise to support the Friends of Llanelli Museum to relaunch in alignment with the museum transformation was completed January-March 2022. The first phase of the transformation plan for this museum is 45% complete.</p> <p>Museum of Land Speed</p> <p>The museum capital programme is nearing completion, paving the way for fit-out. The wider project is managed by Economic Regeneration the Pendine Attractor Project Board, with the museum element being developed through the museum service and wider leisure services. A mid-August date has been set as the target completion/opening date, acknowledging internal and external factors may impact on this. The Project Curator is working closely with design and fit-out contractors to finalise content, design and production. The £150K Transformation Grant funding from Welsh Government was spent and the project completed by 31 March 2022. Outputs in terms of community benefits arising from the transformation funding are to be measured and reported on when the museum is operational. Additional capacity was temporarily provided to the museum service through redeployment from the library service. Bryn Jones Associates has submitted a financial plan for the new service provision at the Museum of Land Speed, subject to review and sign off (95% complete). The Museum of Land Speed transformation is 75% complete pending fit-out.</p> <p>Kidwelly Industrial Museum</p> <p>The Kidwelly Industrial Museum Trust has received external expert advice from museum consultant, Sam Hunt, funded through the Association of Independent Museums. A set of recommendations made in March 2022 has led to the museum management returning to Carmarthenshire County Council through the museum service, to enable assessment and survey works to progress. The Trust will not be progressing with any proposed changes to its governance until further notice. The survey works and assessments will provide baseline information about liabilities and assets of listed structures, scheduled ancient monuments, museum collections, and</p>	

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		biodiversity. The survey period will commence April 2022 and is anticipated to continue for 6 months, subject to engagement from other County Council support services. The Kidwelly Industrial Museum transformation is at 1%, pending surveys to determine future plans.	
We will review governance and deliver re-development options for Oriel Myrddin to improve the provision for residents and visitors. (Ref 13530) MF5-64	✓	A draft management agreement and business has been shared with Trustees. CIO approved with Charities commission. Good progress made on governance front with legal input to final draft HoT. Physical works scheduled to start on site Summer 2022.	C&R
We will begin the museums transformation plan with the delivery of a £1.2 million redevelopment of the County museum at Abergwili. (Ref 13290) MF5-65	✓	Carmarthenshire Museum partially reopened to the public on 29 January 2022, almost two years since its closure. The publicly open areas include all first-floor galleries and 60% of ground floor galleries. Two large, ground floor galleries (the Discovery Gallery and Bishops Dining Room) refurbished through £200k received through the Welsh Government Transformation Fund will remain closed until further notice pending making good works following mould treatment; this is a delay of five months as of 31/03/2022. The fund also supported upgrades to the museum reception area and shop, which are receiving favourable public feedback. Visitor spend is being monitored through a new EPOS system; early trading figures indicate 54% increase in shop sales arising from these changes. The special exhibitions gallery on the first floor assessed by the National Security Adviser in December 2021 has benefited from 50% of the recommended adaptations to meet Government Indemnity Scheme security standards to borrow material from UK national museums. The gallery is not yet fully compliant but is intended to be in time for the next exhibition of this nature. 95% of collections have been returned to the refurbished attic stores, following temporary relocation during roofing works. 97% of windows have been refurbished internally and externally (completion due April 2022), creating a significant visual enhancement to the property. The museum WiFi extension scheme is 85% complete (by end April), enabling other areas in the museum to be used for public engagement activity. Storm Eunice caused some damage to the museum's Big Shed roof. The Big Shed will be repaired in due course and essential maintenance works carried out to improve its visual appeal and structural integrity from April 2022. Small grants received from the Federation of Museums and Galleries in Wales during 2021-2022 have supported the purchase of a digital interactive table for the museum (£4,000),	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		conservation grade mannequins for display of textiles (£3,000), and Winter of Wellbeing project in collaboration with the education department, Oriel Myrddin, and Tywi Gateway Trust (£10,00) to produce educational resources to support the new curriculum. Park: The Tywi Gateway Visitor Centre and café is being fitted out, anticipated to be ready for occupation by the Tywi Gateway Trust from May 2022. £58K capital grant awarded by CCC to progress the gardener's compound and the room for volunteers. An Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) development grant has been awarded to the Trust to develop detailed plans and costs for the Walled Garden development. A business consultant, also funded through the AHF, is preparing a case for longer term revenue support with early discussions with the NLHF underway. Funding has been awarded under the NLHF/Cadw 15-Minute Heritage scheme. The first phase of the transformation plan for Carmarthenshire Museum is 90% complete.	
We will deliver a new archive repository and information hub for Carmarthenshire. (Ref 13292) MF5-63	✓	Collections return - tender process completed, with contractor appointed. Collections starting to return. Looking to fully open later in Spring.	C&R
We shall continue to review and re-develop the Council's Theatre Services provision for future resilience i.e. online, outdoor, community and traditional programming and development plan. (Ref 14957) MF5-66	✓	Theatres continued with a recovery programme in this quarter and presented 86 events with 11,318 attendances. This included 2.5 weeks of SAVE THE CINEMA film shown at the Lyric with sold out screenings and lots of public interest. 3 events were hybrid with digital streaming offered to audiences as well as the live events. Nearly 750 free tickets were distributed to families for theatre performances under the Winter of Wellbeing scheme.	C&R
E - Support our Annual Cultural awards and promoting Annual Village and town of Culture			
We will promote our Welsh Culture & Heritage supporting annual culture awards and town and village of Culture. (Ref 14037) MF5-70	✓	The Culture awards were held at Y Ffwrnes Theatre on Tuesday the 8th March. Town and village of Culture working ongoing for 2022/23	C&R



Well-being Objective 13

Better Governance and use of Resources

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2021/22.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) the way we work and deliver services			
We will ensure the Council makes the most efficient & effective use of its remaining community-based assets by reviewing and enabling any relevant Community Asset Transfer requests from interested parties. (Ref 14891) MF5-15	✓	Community Asset Transfer Policy has been reviewed. With Cabinet approval (acting as trustees) for assets held under trust, commencing formal a reporting process in December 2021. With formal reporting process for assets held under trust concluded and Cabinet approval obtained.	P&R
We will in line with our Digital Transformation Strategy, continue to engage and understand the Departments needs to allow them to deliver effective services. (Ref 14899) MF5-88	✓	<p>Our 'Cloud First' strategy has moved ahead during the last year- it allows us to improve upon business resilience and business continuity and allow services to maximise the use of their systems with the inclusion of citizen portals to harness 24/7 self-service for their customers and full automation and integration into back-office and drive operational efficiencies. Key highlights this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Implemented the new back-office system for Waste Services for AHP (Nappy Collection Service), which will be further extended for all of Waste Services (Garden Waste, Bulky etc.). Migrated the HR/Payroll ResourceLink system to a cloud hosted environment - tender exercise being undertaken to replace the Web Recruitment element of the system. * The new cloud Asset Management System (needed as part of the Housing Stock Verification Project is progressing well), as is the implementation of Total Connect (Housing Repairs) and integration between these systems is in development. Progress expected during 22/23 with the replacement Housing / Housing Rents system, with integration between all 3 systems key towards the wider Net Zero Carbon agenda. * A new Social Care system is now in Phase 2 development - with Adult Services launched successfully in October 2021 with Children Services expected to be migrated to the new cloud system by the Summer/Autumn 2022. 	P&R
We will act as an enabler and vehicle for transforming the way services across the Council are delivered to customers by increasing opportunities for accessing council services via digital technologies. (Ref 14132)	✓	<p>We have continued to develop online services and improvements to various services which has allowed us to improve customer experience and/or range of services available to our customers on-line via the corporate website, My Account and via our Contact Centre / HWBs.</p> <p>These include various on-line forms and processes; particularly around businesses to help with the various Welsh Government grants, on-line process for the Winter Fuel Support Scheme. Most recently various on-line forms and processes in response to the war in Ukraine and the Ukraine refugee crisis.</p>	P&R
We will implement robust and sustainable infrastructure solutions to support the changing landscape of Local Government. (Ref 14904)	✓	We have replaced aging core infrastructure hardware at both data centres and core sites over the year using capital monies that has been provided. We have virtualised our telephony environment and rolled out software which supports hybrid working. We have resilient data centres in	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Carmarthen and Ammanford both with independent power and internet access.	
We will ensure the Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) programme continues to implement a balanced work programme so that TIC can support and promote longer term, sustainable change and improvement, whilst also recognising the need to focus on meeting the financial challenges in the short term and medium term. (Ref 14915)	✓	The Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) programme is now focussed on the delivery of 6 thematic workstreams which reflect key organisational priorities. The areas of work within each workstream have also been re-prioritised to reflect key issues and learning emerging from the Council's experience of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The programme also continues to place great emphasis on the delivery of financial savings and the identification of PBB savings in respect of staff travel and print has served to strengthen the links between the TIC work and the PBB efficiency programme. This approach will also be reviewed as part of the consideration of the next phase of the Council's transformation programme which will include the development of a Transformation Strategy for the organisation.	P&R
We will ensure that the Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) Income Thematic Workstream is focussed on the development of a more commercial approach across the organisation and will aim to implement the outcomes and recommendations of the Audit Wales Review of Commercialisation in Local Government. (Ref 14916)	✓	The findings of the Wales Audit Review - 'Commercialisation in Local Govt' has been considered by the TIC Income Workstream. The toolkit included within the report has been used to support a self-assessment exercise by the workstream. A facilitated session was held with the Heads of Service forum in December. Further service specific workshops will now be held with priority services and the findings from these exercises will now be used to inform a discussion at CMT and with elected members. It is hoped that this will help clarify the Council's ambitions in this area and what capacity/skills the Council possesses or requires to further progress this agenda.	P&R
We will support the effective monitoring and reporting of the response to the Strategic review of the Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the Council, with a view to ensuring that the learning and opportunities for improvement are integrated into new ways of working (Ref 14917)	✓	Updates will be reported to Corporate Management Team (CMT) highlighting progress against all the actions included in the action plan that was developed in response to the Strategic Review of the impact of Covid-19. Learning from the report/action plan has also been used to inform projects being undertaken via the 6 thematic workstreams. This information will also be used to inform priorities for phase 2 of the Council's transformation programme and the development of a Transformation Strategy for the organisation.	P&R
We will develop and implement more effective consultation and engagement mechanisms with the public and service users about the design of the Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) programme and the shape of future services. (Ref 14105)	✗	One of the key aim within the Transforming, Innovating and Changing (TIC) Communications Plan was to seek ways of engaging residents and service users in the identification of future TIC priorities and projects. This is key objective of the TIC Service Improvement workstream and is already considered as part of specific service reviews and projects. However further work is required to consider how public /residents can be engaged in shaping the future of the wider TIC programme. This will now be considered as part the next phase of the Council's transformation programme which will formally be launched in September 2022.	P&R
We will review the strategic operational property portfolio with the various services as a result of new ways of working. (Ref 14922)	✓	Responses from Heads of Services on accommodation requirements received at end of January 2022 to New Ways of Working Project Manager. These replies have been analysed with a high level report provided to Corporate Management Team (CMT) on potential space requirements.	C&R
We will review land and property availability, including strategic	✓	The Authority continues to consider all opportunities with a view to achieving the best use of land and property within	C&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
acquisitions, to ensure that best use of commercial land and property is being made to support the local economy and / or to generate capital receipts. (Ref 14923)		the county and furthermore release our strategic landholdings to generate capital receipts. For example a new 5 year capital receipts strategy has been prepared and the use of land for Net Zero Carbon purposes continues to be reviewed - 3 sites totalling 5.71ha have been identified for tree planting purposes. Strategic acquisitions in relation to the former Debenhams in Carmarthen town centre and 3 Stepney Street Llanelli have taken place. Feasibility option work for future use of strategic development sites in Llanelli has also been undertaken. this will support future bids for funding opportunities to deliver development proposals arising from the review feasibility work. This continual review of our land and property supports delivery of the strategies and aspirations of the agreed Recovery Plan.	
We will support departments with their messaging by proactively promoting changes to services and continue to assess customer engagement across all of our digital platforms. (Ref 14925)	✓	Throughout 2021/22 we have seen an increase in residents and businesses accessing information, support and council services online, the number of visits to our website has increased yet again this year by a further 7%. Our digital platforms have been essential in providing accurate, timely information across as broad an audience as possible. Customer services have been able to guide many calls to the website and providing detail through our frequently asked questions feature has improved the consistency and simplicity in how we respond to enquiries. Accessibility of information is key, and we are proud to have this year passed the accessibility standard. It is so important to remember that residents, visitors and businesses are now accessing the website in various ways and interestingly 58.9% access using their mobile device. This is key when considering how to present information to ensure we engage to as a wider audience as possible.	P&R
We shall aim to increase the public use of the Council website (ICT/005) 2020/21 Result - 2,969,796 hits / 2021/22 Target - 2,750,000 hits	✓	2021/22 Result - 3,017,983 hits There have been over 3 million user sessions by the public on our website during 2021/22 which is excellent news and figures have increased from last year.	P&R
We will increase service user involvement: The Council should develop a systematic approach to involving service users in the future design and development of its online/channel shifted services. (Ref 14926)	x	Due to the pandemic and not being able to fill the Digital Content Manager post we have had to re-evaluate for the time being how we involve service users in design and development. We continue to evaluate feedback from the website and digital processes and use this information to improve our digital services. We actively ask for feedback at every opportunity and reflect and action when practical. We will continue to consider digital solutions such as Useberry and Hotjar to enable us to assess user journeys, identify weak spots etc. however we do not have the resources in place to make the most of these tools until the new manager is appointed.	P&R
We will advance our progressive procurement action plan following on from the work with the Centre for Local Enterprises (CLES). (Ref 14949)	✓	Progressive procurement Cluster meetings have been held regularly throughout 2021/22 between Procurement, Policy and Economic Development to deliver the actions in the Centre for Local Enterprises (CLES) Progressive Procurement Report. The draft Social Value Policy is awaiting feedback from Officers on the Business, Economy and Communities Workstream before being taken through the Council's approval process. We have developed a strategy for working with colleagues in Economic Development and Marketing and Media to	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>promote tenders in advance to the marketplace, and in particular local SME's. We regularly highlight any tenders where there is likely to be suppliers based locally who might be interested to bid and who may not be registered on Sell 2 Wales which is our traditional method of advertising tenders. The intention of this early engagement is to target SME's in the County to inform them in advance of these tendering opportunities which they might be interested in bidding for and to understand and promote the support available to bid via Business Wales.</p> <p>This engagement will also inform the Council of any potential barriers there maybe for suppliers to tender which we could factor into our lotting strategy and overall procurement approach.</p> <p>A supplier survey went live in January to understand any potential barriers for suppliers in tendering for Council work or expanding their business. Findings have been shared with procurement and Economic Development which will help further shape our approach to support suppliers in the County moving forward.</p>	
<p>We will address the key findings, highlighting good practice and recommendations from the 'Procuring well-being in Wales' report (published 25/02/2021) from the Office of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. (Ref 14950)</p>	✓	<p>We continue to carry out Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) exercises on our tenders over £25k. Following the SRA, a set of recommendations are drawn up which ensure that the sustainability issues such as environmental, social, economic & cultural issues can be factored into the specification for individual tenders.</p> <p>In addition to this, we now incorporate elements of the Well-being Future Generations Act by providing relevant information linking to the Well-being Objectives, we also include service provision information relating to the 5 ways of working i.e., Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration & Involvement.</p>	P&R
<p>We will work with others to develop and implement the new system-Finance Module for charging. (Social Care). (Ref 15085)</p>	✓	<p>Only early engagement undertaken to date. implementation will depend on OLM the system developer's availability, and product being ready.</p>	SC&H
<p>We will review our systems and processes to respond to a more digitalised approach to future working practices. (Social Care - Commissioning). (Ref 15087)</p>	✓	<p>Review of current process has been completed, with new process being implemented. The work of continuous improvement will be sustained on an ongoing basis.</p>	SC&H
<p>We will develop a new pro-active Public Health and Infection Control Service that will build on what we have learned from the COVID experiences. (Ref 15097)</p>	✓	<p>Following the successful appointment to the post of Social Care and Health Protection Manager, the team is currently under design.</p> <p>An Officers Decision Report will shortly be issued to give approval for the skeleton management structure and staffing requirements.</p>	E&PP
<p>We shall increase the number of Transactional Council Services available to the public online. (ICT/003) 2020/21 Result - 41 / 2021/22 Target - 45</p>	✓	<p>2021/22 Result – 46</p> <p>Since 2014/15 we have launched 46 new online transactional council services which are now available to the public. Five of these have become available during 2021/22, such as:- Same day recycling centre bookings, Pupil Deprivation Grant, Winter Fuel Scheme, and most recently, Ukraine Support and Street closure applications for the Jubilee celebrations.</p>	P&R
B - We shall follow the 7 Principles of Good Governance			
B1 - Integrity and Values			

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<i>(Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, & respecting the rule of law)</i>			
We will begin advanced planning and preparation for the 2022 Local Government Elections. <i>(Ref 14912)</i>	✓	<p>With new electoral ward changes, means there is one additional elected member seat for the Local Government Elections May 2022 taking the total number of councillors from 74 to 75.</p> <p>Acceptance of office documentation and political group forms have been complete and a Handbook finalised.</p> <p>An Induction Programme has been agreed and delivery arrangements being finalised together with a Retiring member event.</p> <p>A Diversity in Democracy action plan has been approved by Council and published.</p>	P&R
We will promote the updated Financial Procedure Rules, the Antifraud and Anti-corruption strategy and any other specific strategies/policies or regulatory recommendations. <i>(Ref 14944)</i>	✓	Both Financial Procedure Rules and the Fraud Strategy have now been approved by the Audit Committee. Both documents are available to staff via the Intranet and promoted via the staff e-mail newsletter. Further promotion has also taken place at various strategic meetings, which the Principal Auditor has been invited to attend. Promotion of both documents will continue indefinitely.	P&R
B2 - Openness and engagement <i>(Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement)</i>			
We will work with other Council services to further develop the Council's involvement and use of data approaches as part of a Council wide involvement, participation and consultation framework. <i>(Ref 12435) MF5-91</i>	x	This work will now be embedded as part of the development of the new Council Corporate Strategy in terms of how we ensure continuous engagement and involvement in all that the Council does. The testing of the Engagement HQ platform will also develop this approach over the next 6 months.	P&R
We will work with other Council services to further develop the Council's involvement, participation and consultation framework. <i>(Ref 14902) MF5-91</i>	✓	<p>We have successfully cooperated with all Council departments on essential consultations over the last 12 months. We have made sure that key stakeholders and residents have been made aware of consultations being conducted and provided various mechanisms to participate. To ensure that we have been transparent, we ensured that our website pages and consultations contained adequate information to assist participants when having their say. We now progress by continuing to develop a corporate plan for the consultation process with colleagues to ensure that a more holistic approach is adopted.</p>	P&R
We will lead the review and refresh of the Public Service Boards (PSBs) County Well-being Assessment. <i>(Ref 14906)</i>	✓	<p>The PSB's Well-being Assessment for Carmarthenshire was completed during the year. The work was led by the PSB team and collaboration took place with regional colleagues in in Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire and the Regional Partnership Board throughout the year, particularly in the engagement and data analysis stages. A regional survey was developed which was live from early August to early October. The survey was available online with printed forms also available and an easy read version. It was available in other languages such as Polish, Romanian and Arabic. For visually impaired residents, responses could also be taken over the phone by request. Several engagement events took place during that period. A Regional Data Group was established to take a collaborative approach to the collection and analysis of local, regional and national data to share expertise and avoid duplication. Following the engagement and data analysis stages, the draft Well-being Assessment was developed and this was approved at the</p>	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		PSB meeting on 24 November. The draft Assessment went out to public consultation from early December to mid-January. All feedback was considered and the PSB approved a final amended version and supporting documentation including community profiles, a Consultation and Involvement report, Data Source document and Environment and Climate Change analysis on 8 March. Publication of the Well-being Assessment and supporting documentation is imminent.	
We will when appropriate update the COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment within Carmarthenshire. (Ref 14909)	✓	Departmental Business Plans for 2022/23 contained a self evaluation for 2021/22 which took into account Covid-19 impact. Our Annual Report on 2021/22 Corporate Strategy has a section on the impact of COVID during 2021/22.	P&R
We will work with departments to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated corporate approach for communicating with the public making sure all our campaigns follow the principle of One Council, One Vision, Once Voice. (Ref 14927)	✓	Carmarthenshire County Council's new branding is now complete. A new corporate communications group has been set up and is meeting regularly. During the year we held a communications review with the leisure department, which was very successful.	P&R
To carry out an effective campaign to ensure that all 16- and 17-year-olds and foreign nationals newly enfranchised living within Carmarthenshire are registered and encouraged to participate in the Senedd Elections taking place on 6 May 2021. (Ref 14930)	✓	May 2021 Senedd Elections successfully delivered	P&R
To implement the finding of the Carmarthenshire Electoral Review in time for the 2022 Local Elections. (Ref 14931)	✓	The final Order on the Electoral Review was published by Welsh Government in September 2021. The new electoral ward changes in Carmarthenshire means there is one additional elected member seat for the Local Government Elections May 2022 taking the total number of councillors from 74 to 75.	P&R
We shall work with Public Services Board partners to develop our approach to engagement and participation with children and young people ensuring their voice is listened to as part of public service development. (Ref 15029) MF5-43	✓	Our Departmental and Corporate Management Teams have received an update in relation to participation and children's rights work delivery during 2021/22. It has been determined that there will be an emphasis on Education and Children's Services departmental priorities in relation to participation of children and young people going forward.	P&R
We will continue to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests within the Statutory deadline - however the emphasis will continue to be on good and adequate replies. (2.1.1.17) 2020/21 Result - 96.87% (649/670) /2021/22 Target - 90%	✓	2021/22 Result - 90.84% (684 /753) Almost 91% of all Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received in the year were responded to within the Statutory deadline.	P&R
B3 - Making a difference (Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits)			
We will ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the new requirements relating to performance and governance of the Local Government and Elections Act and align them to our current duties relating to	✓	For our Annual Report on the Councils 2020-21 performance published in October 2021, Audit Wales issued the Council with a certificate of compliance for discharging our duties of assessment 2021/22 is the first year that will have to be evaluated and reported under the Local Government and Elections Act 2021.	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
the Well-being of Future Generations Act. (Ref 14898) MF5-87		<p>We updated the Corporate Strategy for the 2021/22 year and outlined the steps we will be taking to achieve our Well-being Objectives. Department and service business plans are aligned to these Objectives and have set detailed actions and targets to achieve them. These actions and targets were monitored quarterly throughout the year.</p> <p>1. We have adapted business plan templates to address the requirements of the new legislation and templates have more emphasis on self evaluating 2021/22 and increased requirement for SMART actions and Measures. We set up a new Engagement and Assurance Panel to work with Departmental Management Teams to ensure their business plans met the necessary requirements. Each Departmental Business Plans was also discussed by the Chief Executive and each Director. Each Divisional Business Plan went through the relevant Scrutiny.</p> <p>2. Quarterly Monitoring has been enhanced and there are now dedicated CMT meetings for quarterly performance monitoring. Furthermore, Monitoring has been enhanced by introducing a more integrated approach covering more than just the actions and targets set out for each objective. For each Well-being Objective wider intelligence available is included in the report e.g., Risk, Regulatory reports, Finance and HR etc.</p> <p>3. We also produced a Performance Management Framework that formalised our established approach and new developments, including the new expectations of the Local Government and Elections Act.</p>	
After publishing a Strategic Equality Plan and monitoring progress, we will respond to any recommendations from the Equalities & Diversity (BAME) Task & Finish Group & ensure they are embedded into the Council's Strategic Equality Plan as appropriate. (Ref 14720)	✓	Recommendations from the Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Task & Finish Group were presented to the Democratic process in the autumn 2021. Alongside our local work, the Welsh Government are due to publish an updated Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan. The Policy & Involvement team will consider how Carmarthenshire County Council will contribute to the work as part of the Strategic Equality Plan, alongside the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group.	P&R
To carefully review current arrangements for delivering the May 2021 combined elections with the view of ensuring that voters are safe and are fully aware of their voting options. (Ref 14929)	✓	The May 2021 elections successfully delivered.	P&R
We will pursue the relocation of our Registration Office for the Ammanford area. (Ref 14934)	x	All necessary works have been completed to move the Registrar from Ammanford Library to Ammanford Town Hall. However, re-location has been delayed as Ammanford Town Hall still has working restrictions (@ the end of the financial year) due to Covid with no staff working there on a permanent basis. Currently awaiting the outcome of what is happening to Ammanford Town Hall and as to whether staff will be moving back to the Hall on a full time basis.	P&R
We will administer and work with our stakeholders in delivering the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019 that will come into force on 4 May 2021. (Ref 14935)	✓	We have worked with our stakeholders to deliver the requirements as per the 2019 Act	P&R
We shall increase the % of households accessing the Internet in	✓	2021/22 Result - 93%	Page 246 P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
Carmarthenshire based on the National Survey for Wales results (ICT/006) 2020/21 Result - 89% / 2021/22 Target - 89% The result is based on the previous year's National Survey for Wales results due to the timeliness of the data.		According to the 2020/21 National Survey for Wales, 93% of households in Carmarthenshire have internet access. This is an improvement on the 2019/20 survey result of 89%. This is the 7th highest in Wales, we were previously 9th.	
B4 - Making sure we achieve what we set out to do <i>Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes</i>			
We will prepare and make arrangements for the proposals contained within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act and implement any actions arising therefrom. (Ref 14725)	✓	The Democratic Public Participation Strategy and Petition Scheme were approved by Council in February 2022. These documents form part of the Council Constitution. The Governance & Audit Committee has interviewed applicants for the positions of lay persons and the recommendation for appointment will go to the Annual Meeting in May. The constitution has been updated to include all parts of the act that are in force or coming into force on the 5 th May 2022.	P&R
We will work up arrangements for hybrid democratic meetings as and when the circumstances allow. (Ref 14913)	✓	Multi-location meetings will be operational from the Annual Meeting on the 25 th May 2022.	P&R
We will ensure Elected Member participation to set priorities and allocate budget (CHR190004) (Ref 14914)	✓	A series of all member seminars took place during January 2022 to discuss the budget proposals, thereafter the budget was discussed formally at each Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet and finally the full Council determined the 2022/23 to 2024/25 budget strategy in March 2022.	P&R
We will introduce quality monitoring of service delivery across different customer access channels to ensure that correct processes and procedures are adhered to consistently and professionally, in line with agreed Service Level Agreements. (Ref 14928)	✓	Call volumes and call quality are discussed during weekly meetings with staff. Monthly 1-1 meetings are held where specific calls are discussed and good practice and areas for improvement are identified. Quality monitoring continues to be used as a benchmark for new starters during their induction and for existing staff. Processes across all access channels are continually reviewed with departments to ensure that everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities in delivering effective and efficient services. A number of customer compliments are received, praising the quality of the service and these are fed back to staff, Cabinet member and Chief Executive. Introduced new telephony technology to enable calls to be routed through to other parts of the organisation automatically based on customers choice enabling better call handling quality at the contact centre.	P&R
We will ensure that any potential merger of the Coroner's jurisdiction, results in a more resilient and consistent service for the bereaved people by working with key stakeholders including Pembrokeshire Council, Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice. (Ref 14932)	✓	We are currently (April 2022) awaiting an update from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on where the potential merger of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot together with Pembrokeshire /Carmarthenshire is on their timetable The Chief Coroner's intentions is to create larger jurisdictions. With the departure of Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire's Senior Coroner, the MoJ have proposed that our jurisdiction is merged with Swansea/Neath Port Talbot jurisdiction. All respective authorities have concerns with this proposals due to geographical needs, Welsh Language needs and convenience to the bereaved families. Our concerns were made known to the MoJ just before the Covid pandemic. All merge talks were put aside so that Coroner Services could prioritise their time on contributing to the death registration journey being managed as smoothly as possible.	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will continue to deliver a Registrars service that meets and exceeds the national standards in all areas by working closely with our stakeholders. (Ref 14933)	✓	After a really busy 2020/21 with postponement of birth registrations so that the Registration Service could process the death registrations as quickly as possible. Weddings were also postponed except those that needed to be held for exceptional circumstances. The Registration Service national standards are to register deaths within 5 days, and births within 42 days. Birth registrations were postponed for 18 months which resulted in a backlog of 800 birth registrations in Carmarthenshire which we managed to clear the majority within 4 months. There has been a high demand for weddings due to their postponements, working with our external wedding venues in delivering a safe wedding. We are now working to Covid 'level 0' guidance and have re-introduced face to face death registration appointments and updating our risk assessments to reflect this.	P&R
We shall increase the % use of the ICT Self Service helpdesk. (ICT/002) 2020/21 - 60.5% / 2021/22 Target - 61%	✓	2021/22 Result - 68.8% (6,522 / 9,484) This continues to improve and has well exceeded the target. An improved self-service software makes it even easier for customers to complete. This allows time for IT staff to solve the problems rather than spending time answering phones.	P&R
B5 - Valuing our people; engaging, leading and supporting (Developing capacity and the capability of leadership and individuals)			
We shall ensure the Council fully supports staff to maintain a healthy work-life balance and, where necessary, ensure the careful management of staff sickness absences in the interest of the staff and the provision of services. (Ref 14903) MF5-93	✓	The health and wellbeing team work with departments to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles which includes positive work life balance, there is a suite of support and information available to all staff and the health and wellbeing champions offer peer support locally. Sickness absence management is a management responsibility, there is training, policy and guidance to assist, and the Occupational Health and Human Resources professionals are available to give advice on specific cases. Hybrid working will also help improve Work-life Balance.	P&R
We will continue to ensure that our recruitment, retention, people management and development policies comply with changing legislation and reflect the needs of the organisation. (Ref 14731)	✓	A Policy Forward Work programme is in place with the focus for the coming 12 months to review and introduce policies which will support the Council's transition to Better Ways of Working as well as ensuring that any new or changes to legislation are reflected in employment policies such as exit pay cap. Ongoing programme of review in place which will aim to ensure best practice is reflected in policies and processes and comply with legislation	P&R
We will ensure the Council Employment Policy reflects changes to legislation such as the forthcoming exit payment cap legislation, reclaiming exit payments, casual worker agreements and any other employment related legislation introduced post Brexit. (Ref 14729)	✓	Employment Policy forward work programme in place which will ensure that policies are reviewed and updated to comply with legislation.	P&R
We will continue with the further automation of HR and Recruitment processes: e.g. Declaration of interest e-form; Exit surveys; Sickness absence return to work interviews; Induction/onboarding; Honoraria payments; Starter and leaver notifications. (Ref 14730)	✓	Procurement of recruitment software almost completed. Automation of declaration of interest, exit surveys, return to work interviews, and induction are all completed. Ongoing programme of automation to continue.	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will ensure our Pay Policy and annual Equal Pay / Gender Pay Audit/ will comply with legislation and provide transparency around pay decisions. Separate Pay Policy for Teachers. (Ref 14732)	✓	Pay Policy for 21/22 published. Equal pay audits completed and published.	P&R
We will further promote robust sickness absence management within departments to reduce the number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence. (PAM/001) 2020/21 Result - 7.7 days (47268.5/6134.6) /2021/22 Target - 9.6 days	✗	2021/22 Result -11.4 days Sickness figures at the end of 2021/22 of 11.4 days is 3.7 days higher than last year and worse than the 2019/20 Welsh average of 11.2 days. The service areas with the highest figures are Waste & Environment, Adult Social Care, Access to Education and Housing Property & Special Projects and Special Schools. The causes of absence are monitored and the impact and legacy of Covid continues. People Management division provides advice and support for managers, who have the responsibility to manage attendance, they are provided with sickness data and analysis to plan appropriate action to ensure cases are managed and employees supported, in line with our sickness policies and guidelines.	P&R
We will reduce the % of employee laptops with 4GB of memory (RAM) or under used in the council to ensure we continue towards a flexible workforce. (ICT/009) 2020/21 Baseline - 37% (47268.5/6134.6) /2021/22 Target - 32%	✓	2021/22 Result - 28% (787/2,794) The number of laptops with low memory has reduced in the year from 37% to 28%.	P&R
B6 - Managing risks, performance and finance (Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management)			
We will ensure a robust approach to Cyber security and sustainable solutions are implemented for Information Governance. (Ref 14901)	✓	We have continued to enhance our defence towards potential cyber attacks by increasing warning banners on external emails, investing in intelligent AI products such as Dark trace and by rolling out 2FA to all Council owned devices.	P&R
We will use of the Council's reserves to invest in the County and support future development. (Ref 14936) MF5-96	✓	Earmarked reserves detailed review carried out by Corporate Services Director and Head of Financial Services as part of 2020/21 statement of accounts. Specific requests for reserves considered by Corporate Services Director and Chief Executive alongside Corporate funding priorities. Reported to/approved by Governance & Audit Committee at July 2021 meeting as part of draft statement of accounts	P&R
We will ensure the Council manages its budgets effectively and prudently. (Ref 14937) MF5-98	✓	February budget monitoring shows an increased underspend - this is broadly due to a combination of additional unforeseen grants from Welsh Government combined with continuing challenges recruiting staffing to vacant posts in some areas. Existing finance policy incentives prudent dept spending by allowing 50% carryover into dept reserves as well as specific bids for particular pressures over and above. This will be carried out as part of the statement of accounts process which is underway currently	P&R
We will provide significant financial support and advice to the Swansea Bay City Region. (Ref 14938)	✓	Ongoing support continues to be provided, including budget monitoring and financial input to NNDR contribution to temp financing costs, with statement of accounts currently being prepared in line with early closure deadlines (30th May, 2022).	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will undertake the closure and Audit of the Accounts within the appropriate timescales. (Ref 14939)	✓	Carmarthenshire County Council and Dyfed Pension Fund accounts have now both received an unqualified audit opinion, with commendable audit reports. Whilst the County Council accounts fell behind normal statutory deadlines, they were within the approved flexibility granted by Welsh Government and ahead of a number of other councils.	P&R
We will identify a set of key performance indicators taking a balanced scorecard approach. (Ref 14941)	✗	This has not been progressed as budgets and additional complexities on this years Statement of Accounts have taken priority over recent months.	P&R
We will address the recommendation or proposals for improvement arising from the Wales Audit Office review of Risk Management arrangements. (Ref 14946)	✓	Progress is closely monitored on all recommendations, and they are reported and closely monitored by the Risk Management Steering Group. These are included as a continuous Standard Agenda Item. The Risk Appetite training programme has been successfully undertaken and 2 additional workshops have been scheduled for 14th June & 6th July for CMT & HOS to finalise the Councils Risk Appetite Statement. The new process for updating the Corporate Risk Register has been introduced and is working well. Awareness on project risks with the implementation of project risk registers have commenced.	P&R
We will monitor effective Contract management throughout the Authority. (Ref 14948)	✓	The final draft of a Contract Management Guidance document is complete with accompanying templates to support the guide, work is currently being undertaken on an eLearning Module and Video. The intention is to launch the Contract Management Guidance together with an eLearning Module and Video during 2022/23.	P&R
We will review Transport and Highways systems and processes and modernise our IT systems to improve efficiency. (Ref 14971)	✓	Work has continued during the year on reviewing and improving systems and processes within Transport and Highways with many new processes being adopted. This work continues with a comprehensive timetable of additional service area reviews which will be brought forward over the next 3 years in a rolling programme. The existing system continues to be developed with the implementation of mobile working for public reporting. A more comprehensive system is however required to modernise systems which should include the integration of financial transactions, this will be incorporated into the review of systems within the Environment Department.	EPP
We shall develop, implement and monitor compliant procurement exercises for the Property Division, working in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Unit. (Ref 14974)	✓	This work continues due to the ever evolving changes to regulations, these require to be constantly reviewed and implemented. Many recommendations were reported and approved by the Departmental Managers Team (DMT) in September 2021. We continually monitor current and future procurement and contract management activity.	P&R
We shall continue to develop mobile working technology and our works management systems for our Property services workforce to enable them to work in an agile and cost-effective way including implementation of effective IT developments to support efficient delivery of services. (Ref 14978)	✓	All operational staff now have mobile devices and a new Total Connect works management system is to be implemented during 2022 to provide greater functionality and resource management tools.	P&R
We will ensure that risks relating to all premises owned or occupied by the council are suitably & sufficiently identified & managed. We will roll out the condition survey programme to	✗	The delay in recruiting Condition Officers whom are only in post since April 2022 together with resourcing issues and other work commitments in the Minor Works team means that the Condition Surveying Programme will need to be	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
develop the "one property" approach to compliance and condition. (Ref 14979)	✗	rescheduled to reflect the above with focus on Count Farm Surveys by Autumn 2022.	
We will continue to maintain and manage the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and cleaning stores. (Ref 14982)	✓	The non social care stores was managed throughout the pandemic and from the end of June it will be a source for contingency stock only.	E&PP
We shall provide technical advice and support on grounds maintenance of playing fields to Town Councils, Community Council's and Sporting Organisations in relation to transferred assets. (Ref 15055)	✓	We have provided technical advice to the stakeholders in relation to transferred assets and all Service Level Agreement (SLA) work complete during 2021/22 and we will continue to do so going forward.	E&PP
We will review and reduce Debt within Social Care charging, and to work with legal to recover outstanding debt. (Ref 15086)	✓	A review has been completed, with a new staffing structure being implemented. Additional staffing resource secured to support the debt recovery.	SCH
We will aim for maximum income of capital receipts to support the capital program of £2.3m (2.1.2.12) 2020/21 Result - 12.39% (£260,090/£2.1m) / 2021/22 Target - 100% £2.13m)	✓	2021/22 Result - Result - 125.64% (£2,871,508 / £2,126,250) This result exceeds the target by almost £0.75m, which is excellent news. This excess makes up somewhat for the £0.4m shortfall in 2019/20 and £1.8m shortfall 2020/21.	P&R
The % of Council Tax collected (CFH/007) 2020/21 Result -95.96% (£104,356,681÷£108,748,379) / 2021/22 Target - 97.5%	✗	2021/22 Result - 97.24% (£111,073,411 / £114,227,660) The result is slightly under target by 0.26% but has increased on the previous year. Recovery action continued throughout this financial but due to the recent pandemic and current cost of living crisis low income households who are in employment are struggling to pay. We will continue to take a proactive approach to recovery ensuring we provide relevant support and advice to those falling into arrears to ensure the best possible way forward with regard to repayment arrangements. We will provide relevant information and signposting to ensure residents claim the council tax relief and benefits they are entitled to and signpost for relevant debt and benefit advice.	P&R
The % of non-domestic rates collected (CFH/008) 2020/21 Result - 95.55% (£29,271,560÷£30,633,996) /2020/21 Target - 98.1%	✓	2021/22 Result - 97.98% (£32,845,590 / £33,524,189) The result has exceeded the 95.55% target, although lower than the previous year's result.	P&R
B7- Good transparency and accountability (Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability)			
We will introduce a new Integrated Impact Assessment requirement across the Council's decision-making processes to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including the new Socio-Economic Duty and climate change / carbon reduction (NZC-25). (Ref 13281)	✓	We have developed a template, guidance and a digital Integrated Impact Assessment form. The Assessment includes the key areas of Five Ways of Working, Equalities, Welsh language, GDPR, Socio-economic Duty, United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Environment Act, Biodiversity and the Council's Net Zero Carbon Commitment. With the May 2022 Local Elections it is a timely opportunity for us to explore this further with the new administration.	P&R
We will implement the new Council Complaints Policy. (Ref 14908)	✓	The new Complaints Policy was approved by the Executive Board on 22nd March 2021 and a letter provided by the Complaints Standards Authority on 26th May 2021 confirming that the new Policy was compliant. The Policy was published and promoted within the Council with posters	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		in public areas, attendance at Departmental Management Team meetings and an article in Staff News. Increased reporting requirements have also been implemented, including regular quarterly reporting to Corporate Management Team meetings and the introduction of a monthly report to Directors from January 2022 on open and closed complaints.	
We will advise on governance arrangements for new models of working, including but not limited to Local Authority Trading Companies, regional Partnerships, Pooled Budgets etc. and the Local Government & Elections Act. (Ref 14911)	✓	1.The Constitution of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was approved in January 2022. 2.One of the Council's companies has been put into dormant state, and will be resurrected as and when required for specific purposes. 3.Education through Regional Working (ERW) is currently in existence but will be replaced by Y Partneriaeth during 2022/23.	P&R
We will ensure an unqualified audit of the final accounts. (Ref 14940)	✓	Unqualified audits have been received on Carmarthenshire County Council, Dyfed Pension Fund, Swansea Bay City Region JC, Wales Pension Partnership JC, and Burry Port Harbour Authority.	P&R
Implement the changes to our Audit Committee structure in line with the new Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021. (Ref 14945)	✓	Changes to the Governance & Audit Committee structure are underway, with the name change implemented in April 2021 and the Terms of Reference updated to reflect the responsibility the Committee now has in relation to Complaints. The revised Committee structure has been discussed, and agreed by the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, to be 8 County Councillors and 4 Lay Persons, giving the Committee 1/3 Lay Persons as required by the Act. Interviews for the roles are taking place on 8th April 2022.	P&R
We will aim to ensure actual achievement against Annual Audit Plan (6.4.1.3) 2020/21 Result - 83% (913/1,100) / 2021/22 Target - 90%	✗	2021/22 Result - 86% Just off target with 86% of the Audit Plan being complete, against a target of 90%. Capacity issues in the team during the year affect our capability to complete all the audits in the Plan.	P&R

**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24TH NOVEMBER 2022**

**HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN –
ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2022**

Purpose:

To present the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Annual Statement Report 2022 for information and consideration

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:-

To note the contents of the report which provides an update on the condition and performance of the highway network and related financial information.

Reasons

The Highway Asset Management Plan adopted in 2018 included an undertaking that an Annual Statement Report would be presented each year to inform Council on the condition and performance of the highway asset.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Edward Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services.

Environment Directorate
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2022

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

In July, 2018 Council adopted the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) which included an undertaking to present each year an Annual Statement Report on the condition and performance of the highway network.

The Report was to include investment options and their implications on the asset condition. Annual Statement Reports were subsequently presented in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The Annual Statement Report 2022 includes an overview of the highway network and provides detailed commentary on the following three key highway asset areas:

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

The HAMP also sets out how the Council has adopted a risk-based approach in managing the highway asset to mitigate risk and safeguard road users.

Highways

Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory duty to maintain the highway under the Highways Act 1980. A failure in this duty has a consequence for residents and businesses within Carmarthenshire and exposes the authority to the potential risk of claims for damages. The Highway network in Carmarthenshire is the second largest in Wales and carries the third highest levels of traffic.

The highway asset deteriorates naturally over time and this rate of deterioration is accelerated by traffic levels and adverse weather. Carmarthenshire has a £45m backlog of highway maintenance work, which is growing.

The HAMP adopted a risk-based approach in line with the national code of practice *Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure* which prioritises resources to areas of greatest need.

Over the last three years Carmarthenshire's A and B road network has shown a modest improvement in condition and the C class network has remained relatively stable. This reflects the risk-based approach. However, the more minor, unclassified road network will have deteriorated considerable.

Carmarthenshire has one of the lower quartile rates of spend per kilometre on highways and roads for Wales.

It is necessary to invest £6M each year into the highway network to achieve a 'standstill' position. In 2021/22 through Welsh Government and County Council £3.05M was invested and in 2022/23 this increased to £3.9M. This is significantly below the standstill figure but was sufficient to enable the authority to keep the higher class roads in reasonable condition. There is no indication of any Welsh Government funding being available for 2023/24 and current County Council funding is expected to be £1.4M. This scenario will increase the percentage of roads requiring resurfacing from 9% in the current year to 18% in 10 years and 31% in 20 years.

Our highway drainage system is also being revealed as a particular concern. Drainage surveys have been undertaken on strategic routes to improve network resilience. However the surveys are indicating that 20% of drainage pipes are compromised.

The authority's footway and cycle network exceed 1000km in length, investment in maintenance has been very modest and is mainly focused on local priorities.

Bridges and Structures

Our highways are supported by almost 1,900 structures (820 bridges, 560 retaining walls 459 large culverts and 49 footbridges).

Highway Structures condition indicators show that the asset is in a relatively stable condition and is assessed as good to very good.

There are currently 47 sub-standard structures which are subject to a monitoring regime to ensure that are safe for public use. This represents 7% of the bridge stock and is the second highest number of sub-standard structures in Wales.

Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. LED lighting units have been introduced for County and Community lights to replace less efficient street lighting units on an invest to save basis. This has lowered energy costs, improved light quality and reduced carbon emissions by 1,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team:

- Ageing lighting columns, including more than 7,000 steel columns need to be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. A programme is underway for this.
- 304Km of deteriorating underground electrical cabling needs replacing to prevent cable faults, power outages and to ensure public safety. A funding application is being put forward for this.

There are also 3,400 illuminated traffic signs and bollards on the highway network, 54 pedestrian crossings and 20 signalised junctions.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

Highway Asset Management Plan: Annual Statement Report 2022

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: **S Pilliner**

Head of Highways & Transportation

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

Finance

The Annual Statement Report 2022 details the implications of various funding scenarios which will be subject to future budget setting and grant availability

5. Risk Management Issues

The HAMP adopts a risk-based approach to managing the highway network in accordance with the National Code of Practice. Details of this are set out within the HAMP

6. Physical Assets

The HAMP sets out the Council's approach in managing the highway asset and relates this to national, regional and County Council objectives. The Annual Statement Report 2022 provides information on the current condition of the asset and sets out how the asset condition has changed and will change in the future depending on funding scenarios.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) 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

HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNUAL STATEMENT REPORT 2022

Environment Directorate,
Highways and Transport
Division

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Page 257

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Section 1 – Introduction	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 HAMP Management Approach	3
1.3 Challenges	4
1.4 Achievements	5
Section 2 – Highways	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Highways Status and Condition Report	10
2.3 Highways Investment Options	14
2.4 Highway Drainage.....	19
2.5 Footways and Cycleways - Introduction.....	20
Section 3 – Bridges and Structures.....	23
3.1 Bridges and Structures Introduction.....	23
3.2 Bridges and Structures Status	26
3.3 Bridges and Structures Summary	31
Section 4 – Public Lighting	33
4.1 Public Lighting Introduction.....	33
4.2 Lighting Columns	34
4.3 Illuminated Traffic Signs.....	36
4.4 Traffic Signals and Pedestrian Crossings	36

Executive Summary

In July 2018 Council adopted the Highway Asset Management Plan which included an undertaking to present an Annual Statement Report (this report) on the condition and performance of the highway network, one of the most valuable assets managed by the County Council.

The Report discusses how the highway assets have been managed over the past twelve months (financial year 2021-2022) and includes a discussion of the key issues and changes which have impacted performance and condition. The Report also provides an update on in-year activity and look ahead to the next financial year.

The Report provides detailed commentary on the following three key highway asset areas:

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

For each asset category the report details its condition, how its condition has changed since the last report and how it will change into the future depending on funding scenarios which are set out within the report.

Highways

The Highway network in Carmarthenshire is the second largest in Wales and extends to over 3500Km. Although much of the County is predominantly rural in nature it nevertheless has the third highest level of traffic in Wales.

The highway network carries a range of road users from cyclists and pedestrians through to 44 tonne heavy goods vehicles and operates through weather conditions ranging from hot sunny summer temperatures, which were extreme this year, to sub-zero winters with snow and ice. The highway network is also being increasingly impacted by storm events which can lead to highway flooding and undermine the support for our highways. All of these are detrimental to the fabric of the highway asset and accelerate its natural deterioration.

Continuous investment is required to ensure it is fit for purpose and it is calculated that the County Council needs to invest £6M each year to maintain the road network in a 'stand-still' condition.

In common with other highway authorities Carmarthenshire has a backlog of over £45M of highway maintenance, which is growing for a number of years. This has necessitated a risk-based approach to asset management to focus on the higher priorities for resource allocation.

In 2021/22 through Welsh Government and County Council funding £3.05M was invested and in 2022/23 this increased to £3.9M. This is significantly below the stand-still figure but was sufficient to enable the authority to keep the higher-class roads in a reasonably stable condition. In 2022/23, 39km of road is being resurfaced and 48km

of road surface dressed, which equates to approximately 2.5% of the network. Deterioration will be more noticeable in the less trafficked lower-class roads.

There is no indication of any Welsh Government funding being available for 2023/24 and current County Council funding is expected to be £1.4M. This scenario will increase the percentage of roads requiring resurfacing from 9% in the current year to 18% in 10 years and 31% in 20 years. Reductions in preventative maintenance result in more expensive treatments with a higher carbon impact in future years.

Our highway drainage systems are also being revealed as a particular concern. Drainage surveys have been undertaken on strategic routes to improve network resilience. However, the surveys are indicating that 20% of drainage pipes are compromised.

The authority's footway and cycle network exceed 1000km in length, investment in maintenance has been very modest and is mainly focused on local priorities.

Bridges and Structures

Our highways are supported by almost 1,900 structures which includes 794 bridges, 570 retaining walls 529 large culverts and 53 footbridges.

Highway Structures condition indicators show that the asset is in a relatively stable condition and is assessed as good to very good.

There are currently 47 sub-standard structures which are subject to a monitoring regime to ensure that they are safe for public use. With recent capital investment, the number of our sub-standard structures has decreased from 54 to 50 in 2021/22 and a further 3 structures are being strengthened in 2022/23. This represents 7% of the bridge stock and is the second highest number of sub-standard structures in Wales. Based on the current rate of investment all sub-standard structures will be upgraded in 13 years.

Highway Lighting and Traffic Signals

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. LED lighting units have been introduced for County and Community lights to replace less efficient street lighting units on an invest to save basis. This has lowered energy costs, improved light quality and reduced carbon emissions by 1,200 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team:

- Ageing lighting columns, including more than 7,000 steel columns need to be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. A programme is underway for this.
- 304Km of deteriorating underground electrical cabling needs replacing to prevent cable faults, power outages and to ensure public safety. A funding application has been made for this.

The County Council also has 3,400 illuminated traffic signs and bollards, 54 signalised pedestrian crossings and 20 signalised junctions.

Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The highway network plays a vital role in facilitating the safe and efficient movement of goods and people. It underpins not just our economy but also the fabric and wellbeing of our communities. Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales with over 3,500km of highway, 1,000km of footways & cycleways, 1,900 structures and 20,000 lighting units. All of these important assets require continual investment and management to ensure that they continue to support and connect our communities.

Highway authorities around the country have maintenance backlogs and Carmarthenshire has an increased to £45m. This is recognised through the HAMP where a risk-based approach is adopted in line with the recommended Code of Practice.

1.2 HAMP Management Approach

Maintaining the highway network in a serviceable condition remains a continuing challenge against a weight of public expectation. External influences such as traffic loading, winter and adverse weather events and a natural deterioration undermine the fabric of our roads.

The HAMP recognised this difficulty with the adoption of a risk-based approach to focus limited resources where they are most urgently needed. The HAMP also includes the development of a Maintenance Manual which continues the risk-based approach with recent sections covering the adoption of a Network Hierarchy and a new approach to Safety Inspections.



1.3 Challenges

Through 2021/22 the authority has faced and continues to face many challenges and these have had an impact on the highway network and how it is managed. The key challenges are highlighted below.

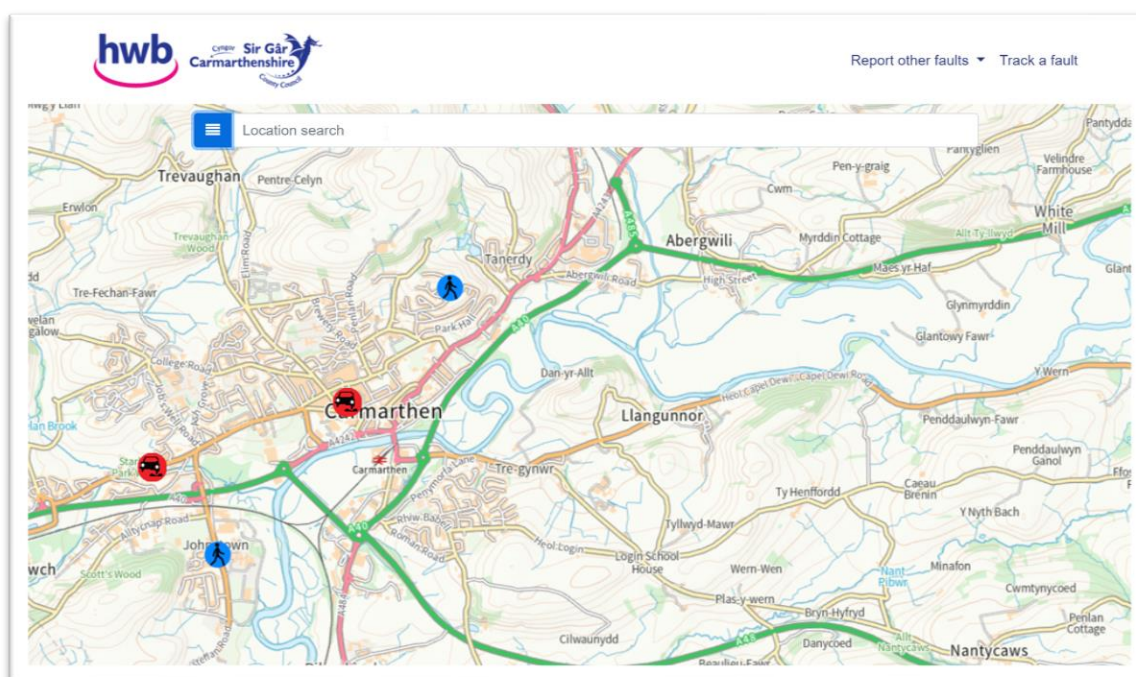
Key Challenge – Carbon Reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The introduction of LED lighting units has made a significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions saving an estimated 1,200 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year.• A review is also underway of our vehicle fleet to introduce ultra-low emission vehicles where feasible.• A new highway repair methodology is being implemented to improve the durability of pothole repairs and improve efficiency with a ‘fix-first-time’ approach.• The potential use of low carbon materials is continually reviewed to assess their feasibility as they become commercially available.• The Vaisala video survey system has reduced the need for many site visits and is utilised throughout the Division.• Increasing use of virtual meetings to improve efficiency and reduce travelling.
Key Challenge – Climate Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Service operates an emergency management plan to respond to the increasing frequency of adverse weather events.• Out of Hours management systems are in place with Duty Officers, Operatives and contingency plant such as gulley cleaners, pumps and a snow blower on standby.• A programme of Highway drainage and geotechnical surveys of key routes and high-risk locations is on-going to improve network resilience.• Additional roadside weather stations are being introduced to improve the accuracy and detail of weather forecasting.
Budget pressures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current expenditure for lighting energy is £600k pa. Energy costs are currently forecast to increase by 250% in 2023.• Increased fuel, materials and contract costs will result in less value for money being achieved.• Expected macro-economic pressure on public sector budgets are likely to result in further service cuts• Recruitment in critical areas is challenging as private sector out-competes the public sector.
Asset Deterioration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road condition deterioration – Investment levels continually fall short of steady state budget levels and roads deteriorate.• The road maintenance backlog is estimated at £45m and is increasing.• Road deterioration is accelerated by climate change and severe weather events• Limited budgets deliver less benefit as costs such as resurfacing increase.

1.4 Achievements

Despite a very challenging backdrop, a number of notable achievements have been made during the last 12 months.

New Technology – Customer enquiries system

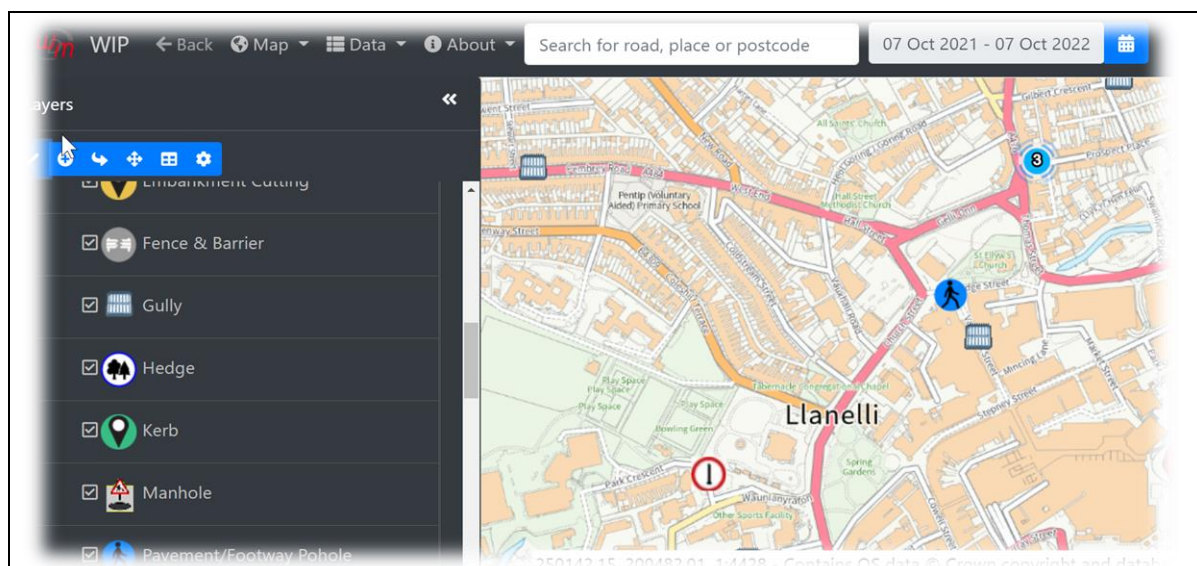
In November 2021 we introduced an improved system for customers wishing to report problems on the highway. Our existing highway maintenance software system was used, and a user-friendly map developed and embedded on the authority's website, allowing customers to report non-urgent problems directly via computer or mobile phone. The reports are linked to the authority's customer contact system and record requests directly in the highway management system. This has reduced paperwork, improved accuracy of information, the overall management of service requests and provides automated customer feedback.



Customer interface via Report a problem page on CCC website

From 16th November to October 2022, less than 12 months, we have received and handled 4737 requests, 2973 of which have been completed, with the remainder being less urgent requests. In addition to improved customer experience, the data allows us to better understand demands. As an example, 24% of requests were related to road surface defects, and 20% concerning trees along the highway which are often the responsibility of the adjacent landowner.

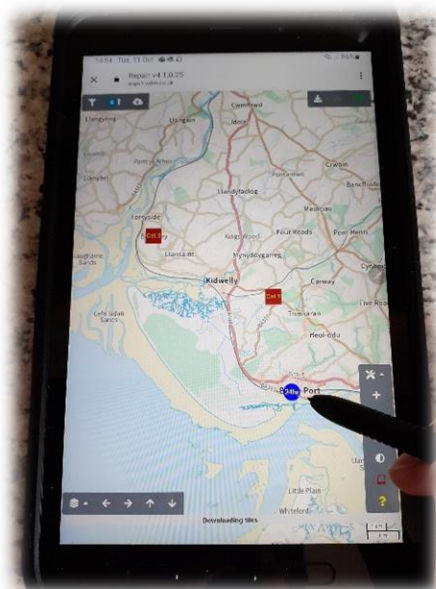
Almost 36% of service requests were received out of normal working hours and managed by the out of hours standby teams.



Back-office Map showing location of requests

Mobile working

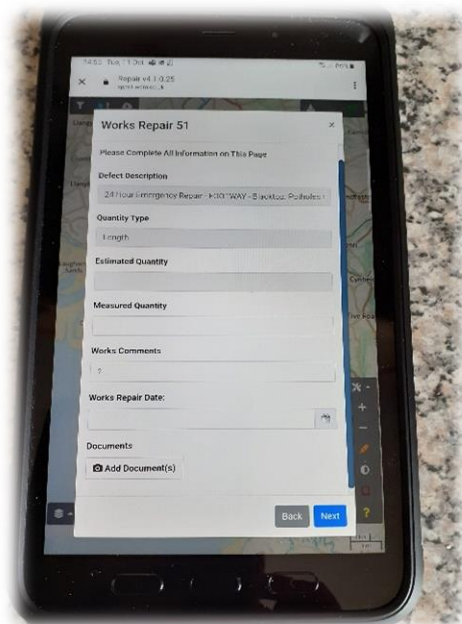
Our 20 general highway maintenance gangs and 2 structures maintenance gangs are now equipped with tablet computers. Using our back-office software systems, work instructions are issued directly to these devices using wireless connectivity.



Operatives receive details of works and also travel directions, improving efficiency and reduce paperwork.

Our teams on the ground are able to collect photographic evidence of repairs and accurately update our systems when works are complete. The process will automatically complete associated customer enquiries and provides customers with updates on repairs carried out.

Work is underway to roll out this technology to our out of hours service, providing more timely information to aid decision making, especially during storm events and periods of high demand.



Replacement Lighting Columns

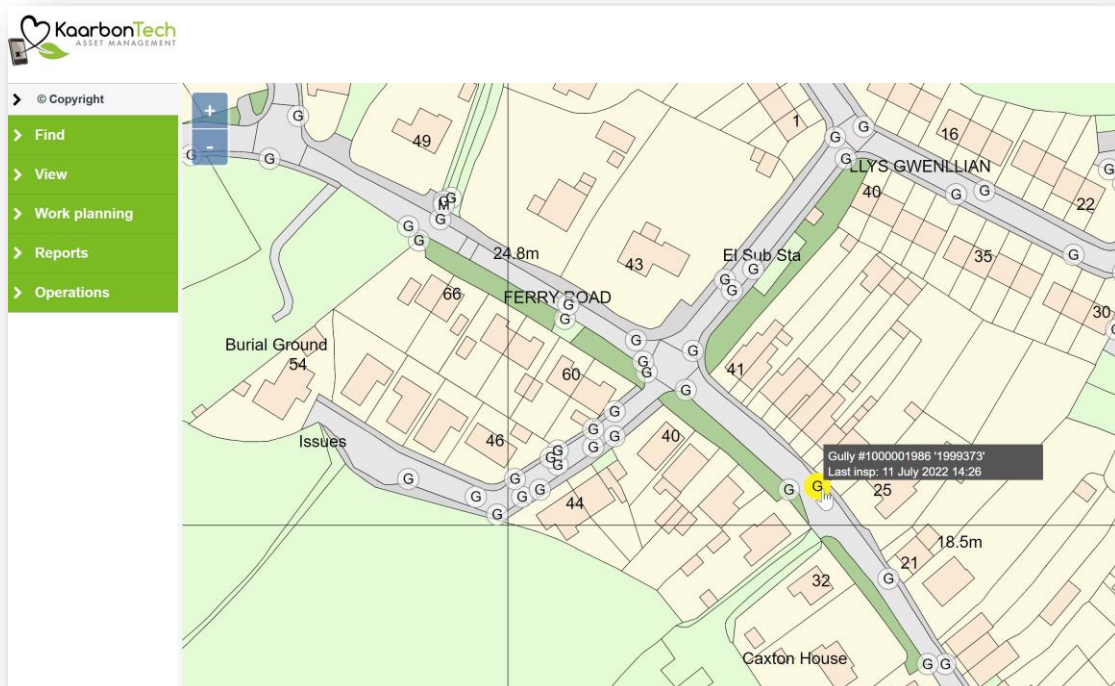
A programme has been introduced to replace aging lighting columns which are in danger of collapse.

The initial focus is on over 7,000 steel columns, and a large proportion of these have exceeded their design life. The programme will need to be sustained over a number of years to address the current backlog.



Drainage Management

A new management system has been introduced to improve the planning and operation of the gully cleaning regime as we develop a risk-based approach for the Maintenance Manual. In June 2022 we introduced new mobile recording devices with our gully cleansing crews. This has gone well and up to the start of October 10,296 gullies have been checked and recorded in the system.



Our inspectors and technical staff are able to quickly see drain locations and details of maintenance carried out.

In addition to an improved gully cleansing regime, condition surveys have been carried out on selected key main roads. The surveys are recording below ground

pipework and identifying issues which can causing surface water flooding not immediately obvious from routine gully cleansing.

To date we have completed surveys on 106km of A road including the A484, A485, A486 and A48, recording and mapping over 66km of pipework. Surveys are on-going on the A476 and A4138.

The details are discussed in section 2.4 of this report, however initial results show that over 20% are blocked and over 8% of pipework is not fit for purpose. These figures only represent a small portion of the 3500km highway network, however they indicate an urgent need to increase investment in our drainage systems.



Hot Material Pothole Repair Initiative

A trial has been carried out using new methods for repairing potholes using hot materials rather than temporary cold repair materials. The aim is to improve the durability of the repairs and to improve repair efficiency by only making one visit with a 'fix first time' approach.

The adapted machine (pictured) has a 'hotbox' to continually heat materials for hot repairs to potholes.



The following three sections provide detail of the three key highway asset areas:

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

Section 2 – Highways

2.1 Introduction



The road, or carriageway asset, is by far the largest and most visible highway asset in terms of operational importance and investment value of over £3 billion. Over recent years traffic volumes have continued to increase along with customer expectation. Increased levels of usage combined with the effects of more frequent adverse weather events accelerate the natural deterioration of road surfaces.

Carmarthenshire's highway network provides the vital infrastructure which supports and facilitates connectivity within our County and with the rest of Wales. Our road system ensures businesses continue to operate, people get to work, food reaches shelves, children get to school, and patients get to hospitals. Ensuring this network remains fit for purpose and provides for the safe and efficient movement of goods and people is an essential component in maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous Carmarthenshire. Maintaining the highway network is also a statutory duty the County Council has under the Highways Act 1980.

The authority continues to promote active travel and cycling, successfully hosting Stage 5 of the Women's Tour of Britain in June 2022 and sections of the Wales Road race at Newcastle Emlyn the same month.

It is estimated that £6m needs to be invested in corrective and preventative maintenance every year to achieve a 'standstill' network condition. The adage a '*stitch in time saves nine*' is very appropriate to highway maintenance where a timely preventative investment saves more expensive reactive treatment later. The current lack of planned maintenance is leading to an increase in reactive maintenance for potholes and surface failures, placing increased pressure on diminishing revenue budgets and increased replacement costs for future generations. Current budget levels (600k Capital) are not keeping pace with deterioration and we face increased future costs and risk of claims against the authority. Current funding does not support the authorities' commitments and promotion of cycling on the highway network.

Currently 9.6 % of the County's classified road network are in a RED condition (plan maintenance soon) and in need of refurbishment to provide a safe and sustainable transport network.

2.2 Highways Status and Condition Report

In 2022/23 we are fortunate to be able to invest £3.9m in carriageway maintenance. Although this is below the standstill figure of £6m it is nevertheless enabling the authority to:

- Surface dress 51km of road
- Resurface 39km of road



In 2023 our Capital budget reduces to £0.6m and there is no indication of any grant funding. Our future road refurbishment programmes will be significantly reduced as a result. This is in addition to further reductions in revenue funding from PBB's. We to have an overall lower than average level of investment in highways and transport in Carmarthenshire, ranking us **18th out of 22** authorities in Wales.

Key Facts

Carmarthenshire has the **second largest** highway network in Wales (3566 Km of highway) and is more than double the Welsh average of 1514km *

We have the **third highest traffic volume** in Wales - in 2020 the Wales average was 1.12 billion vehicle km/per year and Carmarthenshire was third at 1.68 billion (Cardiff 2.65 and RCT at 1.77 were highest). *

In 2020/21 our **spend on highways and transport was ranked 18th out of 22** authorities on money spent per km on highways and roads. £3090/km compared to a Welsh average of £6610/km. *

Based on current road condition figures, there is a backlog of carriageway maintenance works in Carmarthenshire equating to **£45.8M**.

Based on current funding levels, the length of road estimated to be in a poor condition is **predicted to increase from 9% to 31% over the next 20 years.**

(* updated data pending from StatsWales.gov.wales)

The impact of current investment levels and investment options are set out later within this report.

The graph below shows highway investment in comparison with other local authorities in Wales.

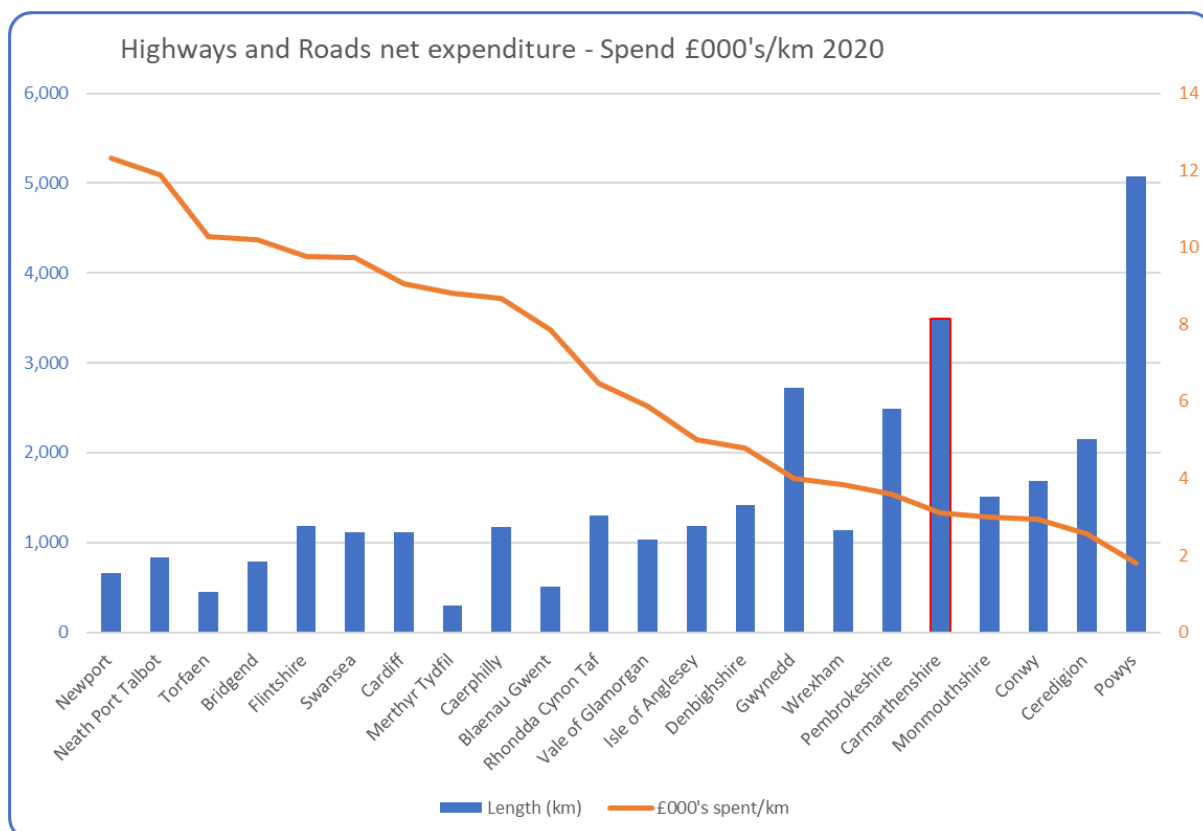


Table 1. Estimated carriageway maintenance need based on measured road condition

Road Class	A	B	C	U	Total	
Network Length (km)	249.6	331.5	1284.4	1691.2	3556.7	
Av. Width (m)	7.3	6	5	3		
Surfacing rate (£)	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5		
Surface dressing Rate (£)	5	4	3.5	3.5		
% Red (>100) Resurfacing	3.6	2.8	11.7	11.7		Condition
% Amber 1 (80-100) Resurfacing	5.2	4.5	9.1	9.1		
% Amber 2 (40-80) Surface treatment	21.3	19.1	28.3	28.3		
Total	30.1	26.4	49.1	49.1		
Area Red	65594.88	55692	751374	593611.2		One off costs
£ (resurfacing cost)	£754,341	£640,458	£8,640,801	£6,826,529	£16,862,129	
Area Amber 1	94748.16	89505	584402	461697.6		
£ (Resurfacing cost)	£1,089,604	£1,029,308	£6,720,623	£5,309,522	£14,149,057	
Area Amber 2	388103.04	379899	1817426	1435828.8		
£ (Surface treatment cost)	£1,940,515	£1,519,596	£6,360,991	£5,025,401	£14,846,503	
Sum Total	£3,784,460	£3,189,362	£21,722,415	£17,161,452	£45,857,689	

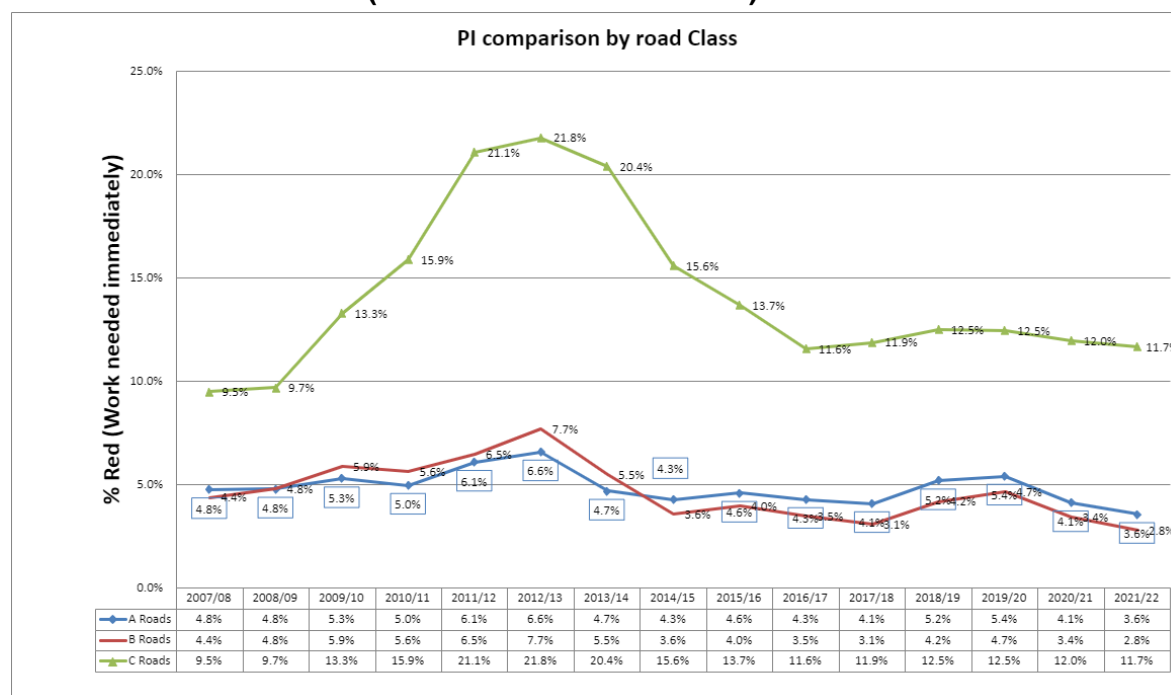
The above table indicates that to rectify all areas of highway requiring remedial surfacing works would cost more than £45 million.

Carriageway Condition

This section sets out the condition trend and provides commentary on the asset performance and investment levels. The primary asset discussed in this section is the carriageway or road surface, which is by far the most critical and most valuable asset in maintaining a safe and efficient highway network. The costs summarised below also include categories for routine highway maintenance.

Asset Group: Carriageways (Roads)

Measured road condition (PI – Performance Indicator)



The sharply changing condition indicators between 2009-2015 illustrate the impact of a period of significant flooding and successive harsh winters followed by increased investment in road maintenance in 2012-15 (Local Government Borrowing Initiative). More recently Welsh Government grant funding through the local highway refurbishment grant of average £1.5m per year has helped to improve condition on our priority roads. The classified network (A,B &C) will recover at this rate of investment as we target resources using the network hierarchy. The unclassified network which makes up 45% of our network will continue to deteriorate.

The condition of A and B Class roads has steadily recovered over the period although C roads remain in worse condition than in 2007 despite recent investment. Our investment is increasingly targeted at the higher priority classified roads at the expense of our unclassified network, where investment is increasingly limited due to the risk-based approach. Compared across Wales our road condition is in the lower quartile.

Road Surfacing Investment		
	Resurfaced	Surface Dressed
2021/2022	30.6Km	51Km
2022/2023	39Km	48Km

The above table shows almost 70Km of new surface delivered over the two-year period. This equates to approximately 2% of the highway network and a resurfacing rate of broadly 1 in 100 years.

Road Conditions: Percentage of A,B and C Roads in poor condition (2021/22)		
A Roads	3.6%	Up from 5.2% in 2018/19 where Carmarthenshire ranked 20 th out of 22 authorities in Wales
B Roads	2.8%	Up from 4.2% in 2018/19 where Carmarthenshire ranked 10 th out of 22 authorities in Wales.
C Roads	11.7%	Up from 12.5% in 2018/19 where Carmarthenshire ranked 17 th out of 22 authorities in Wales.

Note: The all-Wales figures for 2018/19 provides the most recent dataset available.

There is no national survey regime in place to inform on road condition for the larger rural unclassified network which has received less investment.

Expenditure Summary by category 2021-22	Commentary		
	Our carriageways are maintained through a combination of corrective and preventative treatments, and we use the network hierarchy to prioritise investment within budget resources. Early investment in preventative treatments provides a more cost-effective approach and decreases the need for more expensive reactive maintenance. We require additional investment to fund a pro-active approach so that road treatments can be carried out before road surfaces deteriorate beyond an economic threshold.		
	Cost Category	£	Output
	Planned Maintenance - Corrective	£2,487,426	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 resurfacing schemes totalling 30.6km
	Planned Maintenance - Preventative	£1,991.219	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41 surface dressing schemes totalling 51km of new surface treatment.
	Routine Cyclic Maintenance	£2,428,336	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyclic gangs & routine works, drainage, sign cleaning, grass cutting
	Routine – Reactive Repairs (emergency)	£285,443	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2920 Emergency repairs and service requests

	Routine – Reactive Repairs (non-emergency)	£603,180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage and surface repairs, sign repairs – 5038 routine repairs and minor works
	Routine – Inspection & Survey	£345,423	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset management & condition surveys
	Operating Costs	£1,217,884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes Winter Service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above cost categories are based on groupings developed for national reporting requirements and are used to inform budget planning. 		

2.3 Highways Investment Options

Road assets gradually deteriorate over time and consequently a long-term view needs to be taken. This report includes 20-year forecasts to enable decisions to be taken with an understanding of their long-term impact. The investments analysis for 2022-42 includes the recent additional Capital funding invested in 2022, which provided a total of £3.9m investment in highway surfaces.

Three budget scenarios showing the effect of investment on the carriageway condition performance indicator have been carried out.

Condition forecasting methodology

This has been carried out using a forecast model developed by the County Surveyors Society Wales CSSW Road Asset management project. The tool is intended for use by Welsh authorities to assist in Asset Management and budget planning. The results are considered realistic and demonstrate the impact of a continued reduction in real terms investment in the highway network, against a backdrop of increasing traffic volumes and user expectation. Reductions in preventative maintenance are leading to higher levels of reactive repair placing further pressure on the reducing revenue resources. Unplanned works are by nature less economical and increase safety risk for road users and increased risks to the authority and are less environmentally friendly due to wasted resources. The calculations are based on depreciation of the existing highway network and using known treatment costs and current condition values from SCANNER data. The condition indicator used in the examples is a combined indicator across all road classes and provides an indication of the likely effect of current budget levels on actual carriageway condition across the County.

A description of the condition indicators and indicative maintenance treatments are as follows:

- **Green** – Good condition - No planned works are anticipated in the next 3 years
- **Amber 2** – Preventative maintenance, typically surface dressing on the 3–5-year programme
- **Amber 1** – (Imminent Red) Works should be planned by Year 3 – part Preventative/Corrective maintenance i.e. Resurfacing/Surface dressing/patching
- **Red** – Maintenance work needed now – Corrective maintenance i.e. Road Resurfacing

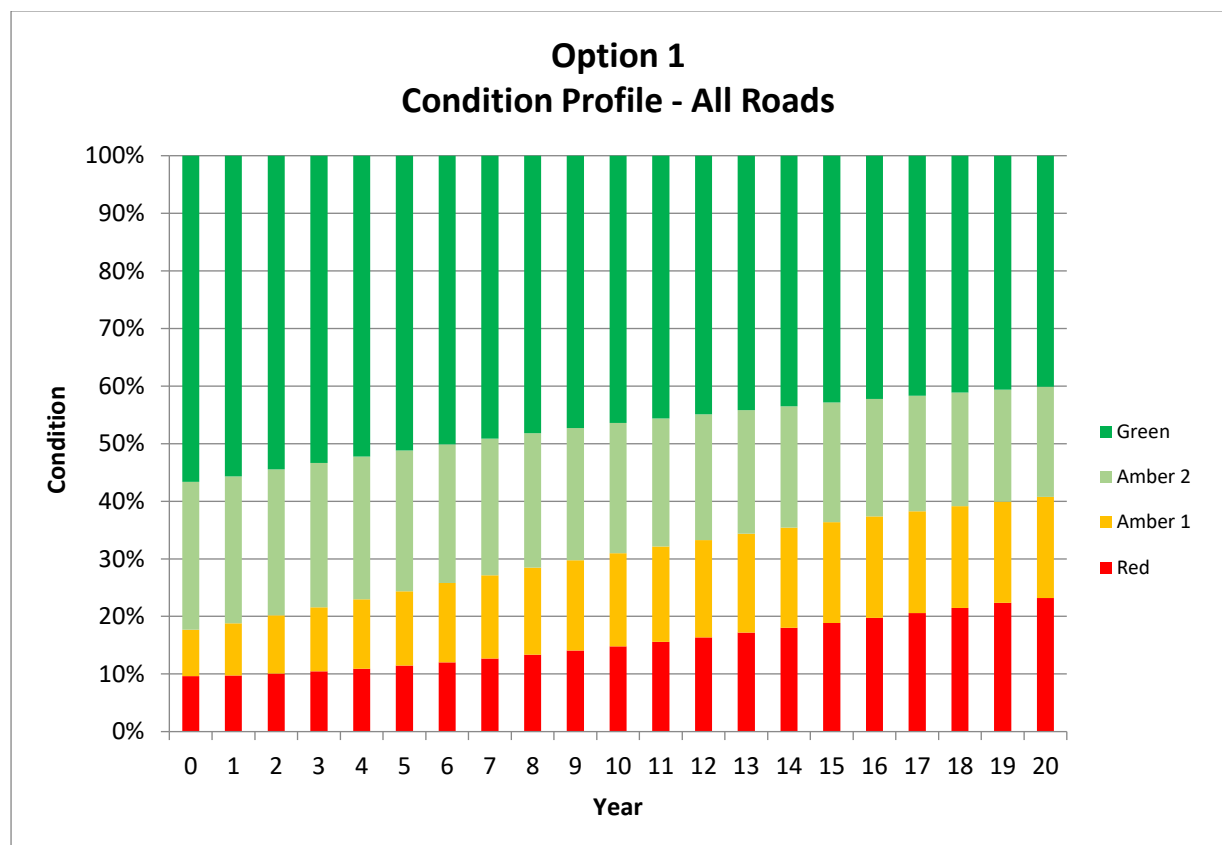
The following options show the predicted levels of road condition related to each funding scenario. There are 3 investment options that have been considered for comparison:

Option 1 Optimistic - Existing budget and assuming WG grant

2022-23 Capital funding of £3.9M

2023-24 onwards County Capital £0.6m + £0.8m + WG Grant £1.5m – Total £2.9m

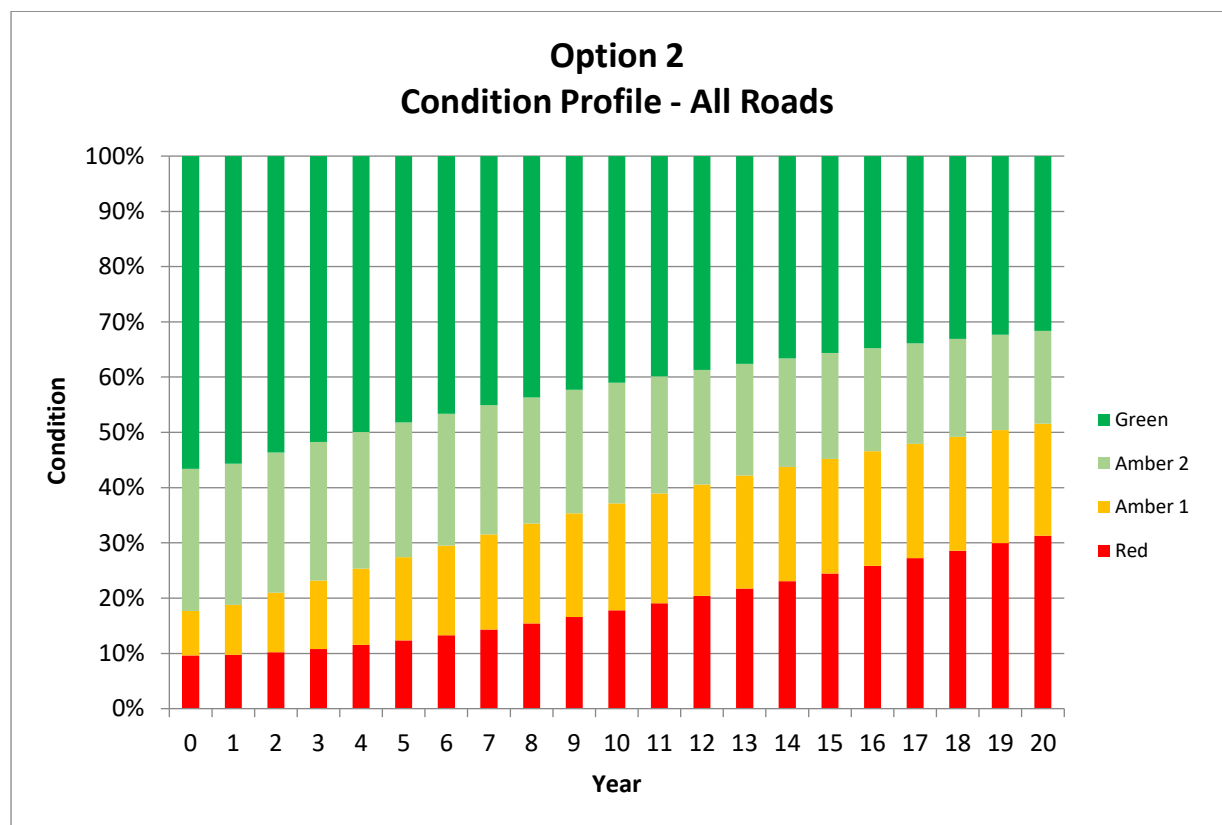
Funding/Year	23/24	23/24 onwards
Welsh Government	1.5	1.5
CCC	1.4	1.4
Total invested £m	2.9	2.9



The percentage of road in poor condition (Red) increases from 9% (313km) to 15% at 10 years and 23.2% (825km) at 20 yrs.

The percentage of road in good condition (Green) falls from 56% to 46% at 10 years and to 40% at 20 years.

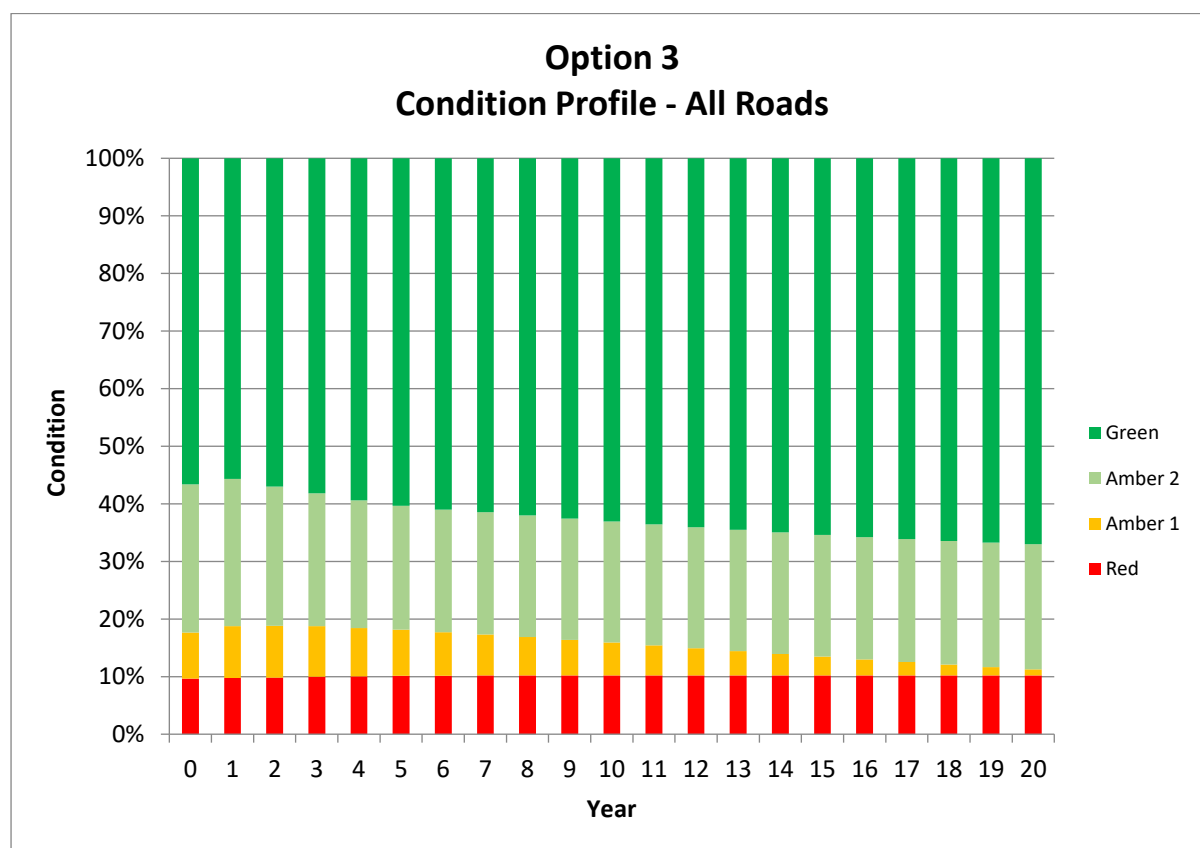
Option 2 – Predicted option (Actual budgets) - Modelled investment of £1.4M/annum 2022-23 Capital funding of £3.9M £1.4M from £600k County Capital & Revenue £800k		
Funding/Year	23/24	23/24 onwards
Welsh Government	0	0
CCC	1.4	1.4
Total invested	1.4	1.4



The percentage of Red increases from 9% (313km) to 18% (640km) at 10 years and to 31% (1102km) at 20 yrs.

The percentage of Green falls from 56% to 41% at 10 years and to 32% at 20 years.

Option 3 – Steady-state Option -. Modelled investment of £6M/annum.		
This option maintains the asset in a steady state condition with a gradual improvement. This requires an increase to the existing budgets in year 2 to £6M . Capital £5.2m and Revenue £0.8m.		
Funding/Year	23/24	23/24 onwards
Welsh Government	0	0
CCC	6.0	6.0
Total invested (£m)	6.0	6.0



The percentage of Red remains at 9.6% at this level of investment increases marginally from 9.6% to 10% at 10 years and in 20 yrs.

The percentage of Green increases from 56% to 63% at 10 years and to 67% at 20 years, with a reduction of roads in the amber category.

This provides for an almost steady state and a modest improvement is predicted in the percentage of highway in good condition with the length of roads in poor condition remaining stable. This scenario allows for investment in preventative treatments which will reduce the extent of more expensive treatments at a later date. In addition to road condition improvement there will be a corresponding reduction in reactive and emergency repairs which are abortive costs and should reduce the potential for damages claims against the authority.

2.4 Highway Drainage

Our existing highway drainage infrastructure is ageing, and limited maintenance carried out due to reducing revenue budgets over recent decades. To better understand the condition of our drains, surveys have been carried out on sections of our A road network by specialist survey teams. Quickcam survey techniques have been used to record detailed location information of our drainage assets above and below ground and also provide a condition rating. The surveys record the service level (ability to carry water) and structural condition.

Table 3.4 Structural and service grade definitions

Grade	Structural condition	Service condition
1	No defects	Clear
2	Superficial defects	Superficial deposits with no loss of performance
3	Minor defects	Performance slightly reduced
4	Major defects	Performance severely reduced
5	Not fit for purpose	Blocked or unsafe condition
9	Assessment attempted but not possible	Assessment attempted but not possible
0	Assessment not attempted	Assessment not attempted

The surveys so far have shown that **20%** of our drainage pipes are either **Severely reduced** or **Blocked and unsafe**. Of that **8%** are graded as having **Major Defects** or **Not fit for Purpose**. The results of the survey show action must be taken and an on-going programme of further investigation and drainage repairs is essential. A Capital bid of £500k pa was submitted in 2021 to fund further survey and remedial schemes along the key strategic routes. We were successful in receiving £250k per annum for a five year period and as a result further surveys are being carried out in 2022. A prioritised programme has been developed using a combination of Capital and revenue funding. Funding will be used to address drainage issues following the risk-based approach. It is well documented that poor management of water and drainage systems can lead to failures of highway construction and edge support leading to more costly repairs in the future. A pro-active approach improves the management of risk from highway flooding but will require additional funding.

To date we have surveyed 106 km of our key routes including:

- A484
- A485
- A486
- A48

The surveys have recorded and mapped:

- 106km of pipework
- 5176 point items including manholes and gullies.

All of these have been graded and photos and video evidence recorded. Survey work is on-going this year on the A476, A4138 and the B4333 totalling 75km. By the end of this year, we will have surveyed 181 km of the 576km prioritised for survey.

The new capital funding is a significant improvement of investment in recent years and is allowing us to address priority drainage issues and gather further information to support future business case for additional funding which is critical to maintain serviceability and efficient functioning of our drainage assets.

Further surveys will provide more accurate estimates of the condition across the entire network, however from this initial sample of data it is clear that funding needs to be identified to carry out programmed cleansing and repair of drainage systems in addition to traditional gully emptying. A detailed estimate of maintenance need will be developed for the report in 2023.

2.5 Footways and Cycleways - Introduction

Our footway and cycleway networks play an important role in facilitating sustainable modes of travel and directly support the Active Travel agenda. The County Council has set out its ambition of being the cycling hub of Wales and the HAMP has an important role in supporting our adopted cycling strategy.



Footways are currently inspected on a regular basis alongside carriageway inspections and a methodology is being developed for cycleway inspections. A footway and cycleways hierarchy and maintenance regime will be developed as part of our maintenance manual.

In 2021/22 we invested £96k Capital into footway maintenance and refurbished footways at:

- Llais Afon, Ffairfach
- Lime Grove, Carmarthen
- Margaret Road, Llandybie
- Danlan Park, Pembrey
- Parc y Minos, Burry Port

In 2022/23 we have been able to allocate a budget of £300k to footway refurbishment using capital funding but there is no dedicated capital budget for footway surfacing in 2023/24.

It is important that we to continue and increase our investment in footways and cycleways if we wish to realise our corporate objectives.

The division has previously been unsuccessful with a Capital bid of £500k pa to develop a modest footway and cycleway refurbishment programme.

Asset Group: Footways and Cycleways					
	Footway Length by Material (km)				
	Bituminous	PCC Slabs	Precast blocks	Concrete	Total
	869	48	6.5	12.8	936
Commentary					
Footways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reactive repairs to footways in 2021-22 cost £71,102 and were funded through revenue budgets. Over 700 individual defects were recorded and managed. Active Travel funding and Safer Routes in Communities projects are providing additional routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Carmarthenshire's footway/cycleway network is extensive at over 1000km. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSS Wales is developing a National Code of Practice for a footway hierarchy. We will develop a programme of headline condition data in line with the CSS Wales HAMP procedure. Footway inspections are currently carried out at regular frequencies alongside road inspections. Our footway resurfacing programmes are based on local priorities with budgets allocated in line with the extent of footway. 	
Cycleways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On road cycle-lanes – 2.6km Dedicated cycle-tracks/shared use paths – 23.3km On road cycle routes (e.g. National Cycle Network) – 126km 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and service level targets will be established in line with National recommendations in conjunction with our revised highway standards. Inspection regimes on off-road routes will be introduced in April 2023. This will further support the 	

Asset Group: Footways and Cycleways			
	These lengths are estimated based on current confirmed responsibilities for the highways service. Increasing cycling numbers and networks will require continued investment.	County Council's cycling ambitions.	
Key Issues	Corporate funding has been provided to support off-road cycleways which will help to maintain these routes. Funding for on-road cycle routes remains a challenge.		
Current Strategies	<p>The council's current strategy is to keep the footway asset in a condition which is safe and does not hinder the customer's journey. We do this by means of regular safety inspections and a prioritised reactive repair system.</p> <p>A risk-based approach will be developed as part of our Maintenance Manual (Part 4 of the HAMP).</p>		

Section 3 – Bridges and Structures

3.1 Bridges and Structures Introduction

Carmarthenshire has an extensive highway network, the second largest in Wales, and providing vital support to that network there are some 1951 structures consisting of:

- 794 highway bridges
- 53 footbridges
- 570 retaining walls (cumulative length 19Km)
- 529 large culverts
- 5 subways

These structures provide a largely unseen but nevertheless key role in supporting the highway network. These structures have been built over a wide timespan and vary considerably in the materials and construction methods, and 55 of the structures are listed meaning that they require additional care and attention when carrying out maintenance.

These structures are relied upon to remain in service year after year and accommodate changes in traffic and vehicle loadings and weather impacts. All structures are inspected and assessed on a scheduled basis in accordance with national standards to ensure that the inspection regime provides timely, accurate and appropriately detailed information on asset condition and performance. Safety defects are identified and addressed in a prioritised manner, and the data gathered informs effective maintenance management and planning of our highway structures.

There are currently 50 bridges which have been assessed as sub-standard with 3 structures being strengthened in 2022/23 bringing the total to 47. Of these, 8 bridges are weight restricted. Where required, regular monitoring inspections are being carried out and all bridges are managed in accordance with strict technical standards to keep these structures in service and maintain their safe operation. The recommended period for monitoring is 2 years and a review of assessments and interim measures will commence later this year to ensure the appropriateness of the current monitoring regime. In accordance with Technical Standards, monitoring of sub-standard structures should be for a defined period. Should sufficient funding not be forthcoming, then the number of structural weight restrictions on the highway network will increase as the condition of structures deteriorate.

It is estimated that the cost of strengthening these sub-standard structures is of the order of £5 million. It is also estimated that the maintenance backlog on highway

structures is £9.8 million giving a combined total maintenance/strengthening backlog of circa £14 million.

In addition to on-going maintenance of existing structures stock, the number of failed highway supports is on the increase due to severe weather events, historic underfunding of drainage maintenance and the additional impact from increased traffic volumes and larger agricultural vehicles on the highway network.

Scour Assessments

A large proportion of the bridge stock, especially those located on fast flowing rivers, are susceptible to scour. The risk of scour is significant with an increasing number of flood incidents and the impacts of climate change. National guidance recommends a formal review is carried out following appropriate technical standards and Carmarthenshire has commenced its review. Following the initial review of all 799 bridges, 207 were identified as requiring a Level 1 Scour Assessments which have been completed this year. Structures identified as requiring Level 2 Scour Assessments are currently being reviewed and assessments will be carried out this year and into 2023/24, subject to available funding.

Inspection Training

As part of our review of practices to comply with recommendations of the 2018 Code of Practice, CSS Wales are developing accreditation for Structures inspections. Our inspection team are in the process of under-going a competency assessment to ensure our inspections are carried out to the required standards. Final accreditation was delayed in 2021 due to COVID restrictions however this is expected to conclude in 2022/23.

Bridge Improvement Works

Revenue funding in 2022 has remained steady and allows reactive and routine maintenance works to be undertaken. There is however an estimated £9.8m backlog of repair and preventative works which should be considered for funding. The structures unit is prioritising funding for planned maintenance to improve access to structures and ensure basic maintenance visits to all structures on a 2 yearly cycle. This may reduce contingency funds available for unplanned failures.

Funding of £741k in 2021/22 enabled 5 structures to be upgraded.

The Capital budget for 2022-23 is £1.025m and this funding is being utilised on sub-standard structures where we will be completing 4 structural schemes within 2022/23. A programme of design and construction is also underway, aiming to reduce the number of sub-standard structures year on year. Capital funding for 2023-24 is projected at £400,000 and will allow us to deliver an additional 4 structural schemes.

Bridge Upgrade Programme - 2021-24		
2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Doethie Bridge Replacement Scheme, Rhandirmwyn	Railway Inn Llanpumsaint - Bridge Replacement	Bridgend Inn Culvert, Pontamman – Bridge Replacement
Ffaldre Bridge, Rhandirmwyn, Deck Replacement – Strengthening Scheme	Garregllys Bridge, Whitemill – Bridge Replacement	Mynyddygarreg Bridge – Bridge replacement
Clynmelyn Culvert replacement	Glanrhyd Bailey Bridge, Cilycwm – Bridge Replacement	Pont Y Pentre, Llannon – Bridge Replacement
Loughor bridge rehabilitation (part funded with Swansea City Council)	Danrheol B ridge, Meidrim – Bridge Strengthening	Tan Y Berllan, Ffairfach – Bridge Replacement
Upper Lliedi Bridge, Felinfoel, bridge strengthening		



Doethie bridge replacement 2021

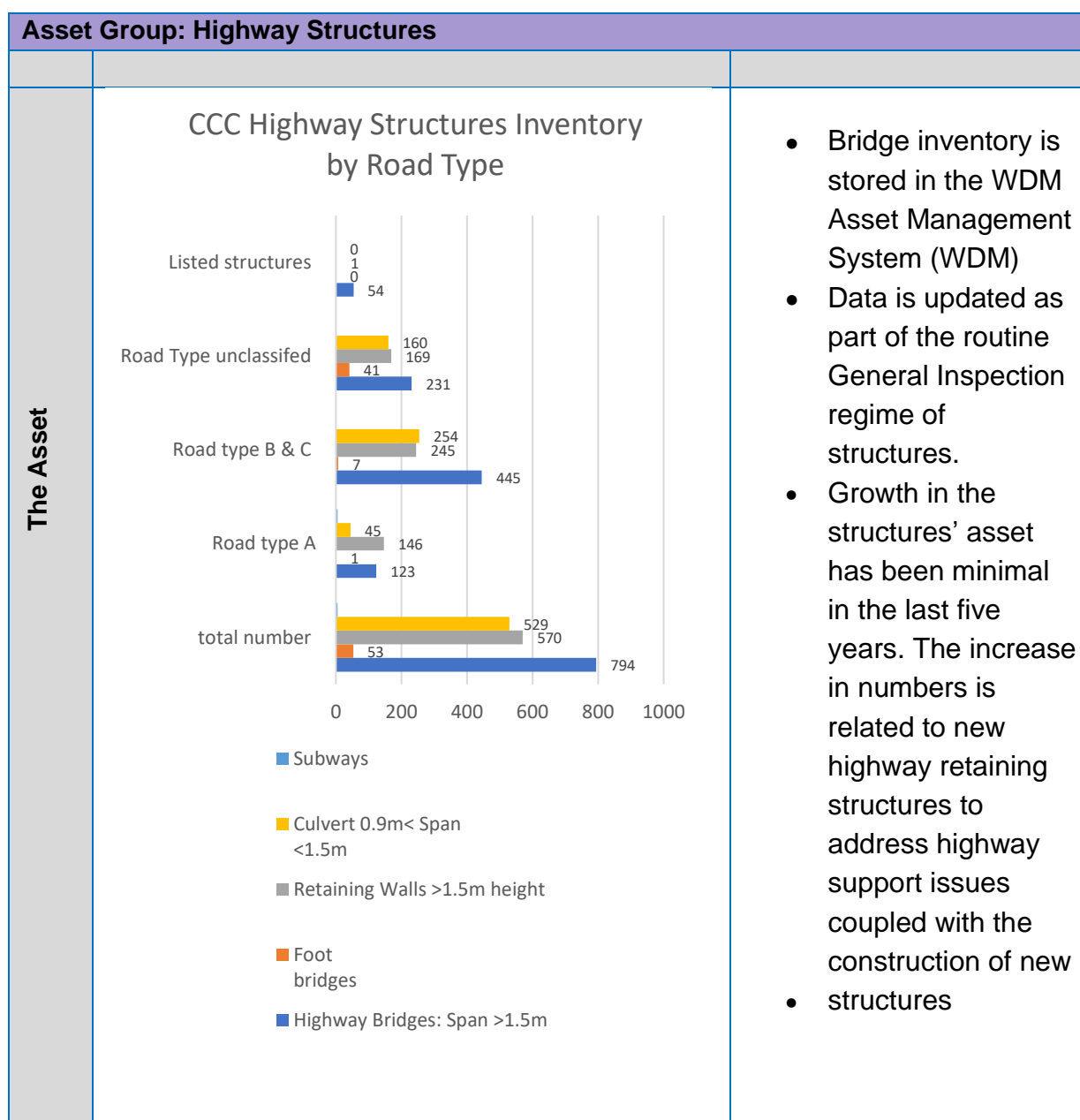
Prioritisation of Overall Funding Needs

Using the structures priority matrix for funding we consider the following:

- Road Hierarchy
- Structural condition
- Access/community impact
- Network issues
- Traffic management impact

The following section provides detail on the status of our structure's assets, their condition and investment options for their continued maintenance.

3.2 Bridges and Structures Status

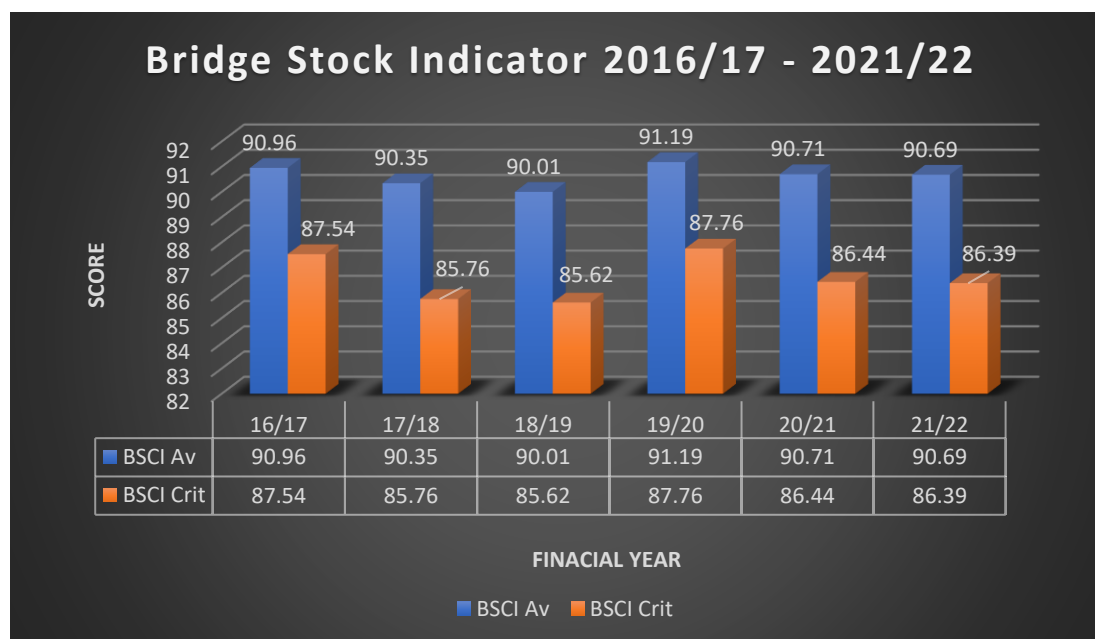


Asset Group: Highway Structures		
Inspections		
	Inspection Statistics	No.
	Number of bridges requiring principal inspections – 6 years	42
	Number of principal inspections scheduled	3
	Number of principal inspections on time	3
	Number of structures requiring general inspections 21/22	936
	Number of planned general inspections	936
	Number of general inspections on time	537
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 structures are subject to Principal Inspection (PI). The remainder are subject to General Inspections (GI). PI's were resumed in 21/22 following suspension in 20/21 due to COVID restrictions. A reduced number of general inspections were carried out in 2021-22 due to a vacant inspector post and COVID restrictions 	
Structural Condition	Assessment Statistics	No.
	Number of council owned / maintained bridges that failed assessment	126
	Number of privately owned bridges within council's road network that failed assessment	5
	Number of council owned / maintained bridges subject to monitoring / special inspection regimes	47
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 privately owned bridges are owned by Network Rail (3no.) and Sustrans (2no.). Two of these have since been strengthened to 40 tonne live loading standard 	
Weight and height Restrictions	Weight Restrictions	No.
	Number of council owned / maintained weight restricted bridges (excluding acceptance weight restriction)	8
	Number of council owned / maintained height / width restricted bridges	1

Asset Group: Highway Structures

Of the 8 weight restricted bridges, 2 are programmed for upgrading in 2022/23 and 1 in 2023/24.

There are 17 height restrictions in the county, mainly Network rail structures, with 1 being the responsibility of Carmarthenshire at Llanpumsaint.



Definition:

BCIAv is the average BCI for a bridge evaluated considering the condition of all structural elements in a bridge.

BCICrit is the critical BCI for a bridge evaluated considering the condition of those elements deemed to be of very high importance to the bridge.

BSCIAv and BSCCrit are the average and critical condition index for a bridge stock evaluated using the BCIAv and BCICrit values for all bridges in the stock.

The 2020-21 BSCIAv of 90.69 and BSCCrit of 86.39 indicate that the highway structures are in a good to very good condition (score of 80-100 in accordance with CSS Wales performance indicators).

As a consequence of sustaining the current level of revenue funding, the overall condition performance indicator values have remained fairly constant.

Asset Group: Highway Structures

Historical Investment	<div>Historical Structures Investment 2014-21</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Revenue (£)</th><th>Capital (£)</th><th>WG (£)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2014-15</td><td>900,000</td><td>800,000</td><td>800,000</td></tr><tr><td>2015-16</td><td>780,000</td><td>250,000</td><td>50,000</td></tr><tr><td>2016-17</td><td>780,000</td><td>900,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2017-18</td><td>800,000</td><td>750,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2018-19</td><td>820,000</td><td>400,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2019-20</td><td>830,000</td><td>830,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2020-21</td><td>870,000</td><td>1,150,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2021-22</td><td>880,000</td><td>350,000</td><td>0</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	WG (£)	2014-15	900,000	800,000	800,000	2015-16	780,000	250,000	50,000	2016-17	780,000	900,000	0	2017-18	800,000	750,000	0	2018-19	820,000	400,000	0	2019-20	830,000	830,000	0	2020-21	870,000	1,150,000	0	2021-22	880,000	350,000	0	
	Year	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	WG (£)																																		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Planned works comprise of maintenance programmes which target renewing the asset.Reactive works are smaller scale defects which require repair to reduce safety issues. Budgets are based on historical costs. Such works are funded from the revenue budget.																																					

Strengthening / Replacement

By the end of 2022/23 there will be 47 structures located on the highway network that whilst in safe operation, are considered sub-standard in terms of their load carrying capacity. There are also a number of structures, due to their overall poor condition, which have been included for replacement. Detailed design is currently being carried out on 16 structures, with a high priority being assigned to structures with a high scoring derived from the priority matrix.

Carmarthenshire has the second highest number of sub-standard structures across all 22 Welsh authorities.

Local Authority	Number of Bridges	Number of substandard bridges	Proportion of substandard bridges
Conwy	293	58	20%
Carmarthenshire	799	54	7%
Powys	1399	47	3%
Denbighshire	282	23	8%
Monmouthshire	400	22	6%
Gwynedd	631	18	3%
Swansea	157	12	8%
Cardiff	113	11	10%
Rhondda	307	10	3%
Bridgend	175	9	5%
Torfaen	189	9	5%
Caerphilly	117	8	7%
Ceredigion	825	7	1%
Merthyr Tydfil	37	5	14%
Wrexham	214	4	2%
Newport	65	3	5%
The Vale of Glamorgan	81	3	4%
Flintshire	148	3	2%
Neath Port Talbot	398	3	1%
Blaenau Gwent	170	1	1%
Isle of Anglesey	150	0	0%
Pembrokeshire	650	0	0%

Note: Figures based on 2020 data. Carmarthenshire now has 47 sub-standard structures.

The repair or replacement of sub-standard structures is funded through council capital investment of £400k per year. The overall estimated cost of addressing the 47 sub-standard structures is £5 million. With current levels of funding this will take approximately 13 years to complete the programme as a minimum, and assuming no other major structural work is funded by this budget during this period.

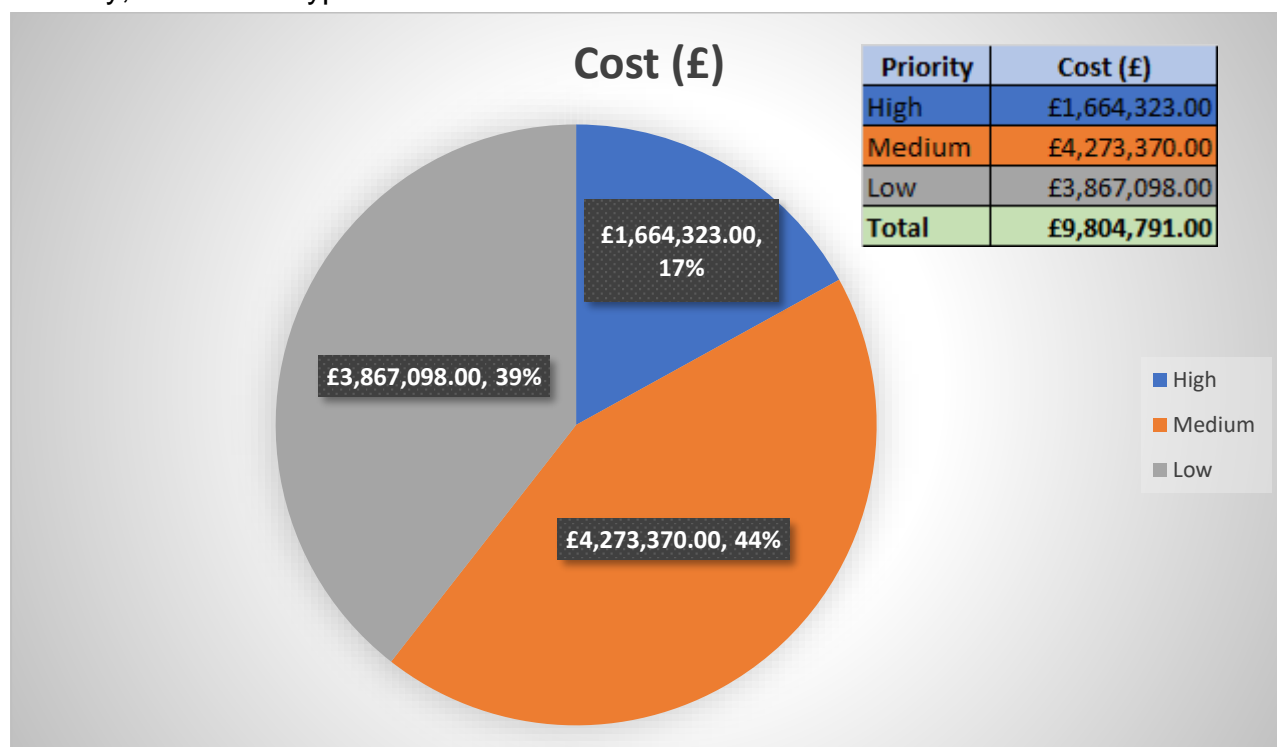
Monitoring sub-standard structures for a further 13 years places the authority at risk, as the condition of structures may deteriorate. Addressing the backlog over a shorter period is recommended. An increase of Capital budget to £850k per annum for bridge strengthening would accelerate the programme for substantial completion over 6 years. Higher risk structures would be addressed in the early part of the programme.

A budget of £1m per annum would complete the programme in 5 years and this option is recommended due to the on-going risk of deterioration and the monitoring programme being significantly beyond that recommended in technical standards.

Maintenance Needs

The following figures are derived from the Department's Bridge Management System and relates to the estimated cost of addressing defects identified by the Bridge Inspectors as part of biennial General Inspections. The work is categorised as high,

medium, and low priority in a scoring matrix which uses factors including extent, severity, and defect type. The overall cost is termed the work bank total.



3.3 Bridges and Structures Summary

The bridge stock has remained fairly stable in terms of the Condition Performance Indicators since 2015/16 as shown in the table below.

Bridge Stock Indicator	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
BSClav	90.32	90.96	90.35	90.01	91.19	90.71	90.91
BSClcrit	86.25	87.54	85.76	85.62	86.76	86.44	86.72

Overall condition performance indicators are unlikely to improve in the short term however by sustaining the current level of revenue funding, overall condition performance indicators should remain between 80 and 90. These scores are considered to represent 'Good' to 'Very Good' condition in accordance with the County Surveyors Society (Wales) classification of structures condition Performance Indicators.

Continued investment in our bridges and structures is essential to maintain continuity of our highway network. To tackle the current maintenance backlog and to upgrade our sub-standard structures requires investment of £14m.

Historically, revenue funding has been focussed on reactive repairs which often require urgent repair. A more pro-active approach to carrying out repairs at an early

stage of identification is anticipated to reduce more costly repairs in the future. This planned approach may place pressure on revenue budgets for larger repairs or structural failures in the shorter term and additional Capital funding will be required going forward to address emergency repairs previously funded from planned maintenance budgets.

Section 4 – Public Lighting

4.1 Public Lighting Introduction

Our street lighting system includes over 20,000 lighting units. We also manage 5000 units for our Town and Community Councils. The Public Lighting Team have worked in partnership with Town and Community Councils to introduce LED lighting units in Community Lights. This project has reduced carbon emissions, lowered energy costs and improve light quality. The project is estimated to save 2.4 million Kwh which equates to 1,200 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year.



The Public Lighting Team have also introduced new technology to enable mobile working so that lighting surveys, checks and works can be recorded electronically in place of the previous paper-based system.

There are two significant challenges for the Public Lighting Team:

- Ageing lighting columns need to be replaced to avoid the risk of collapse. Regular inspections help to reduce the risk of failure and high-risk columns are removed immediately.

A column replacement programme is currently underway.



- There are around 304Km of underground electric cables supplying lighting units. Often the cable is not ducted and is more prone to perishing in the ground. This is leading to an increasing number of cable faults and power outages and presents a safety concern.

- A funding bid for cable renewal was unsuccessful in 2022/23 and a new submission is being made for 2023/24.

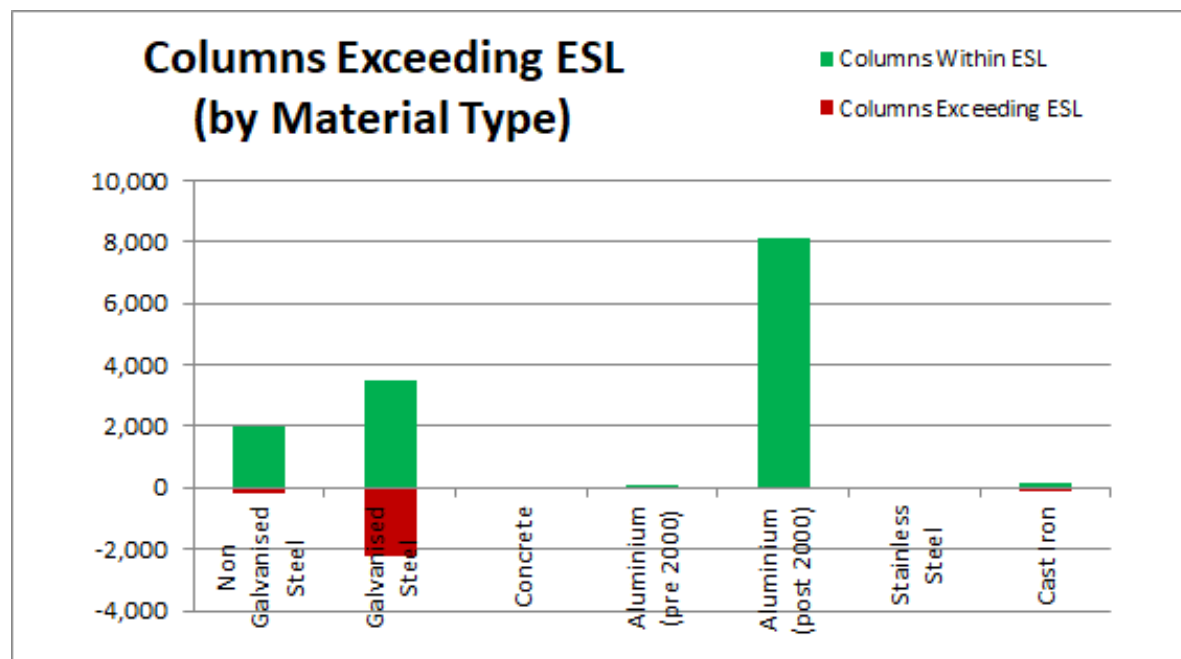


In addition, the Public Lighting Team also manage our stock of illuminated traffic signs and our permanent traffic signals.

4.2 Lighting Columns

There are currently 20,600 street lighting units which includes bracketed units on third party wooden poles. This figure generally grows by around 150 units every year as new lighting either through highway improvements or new development is adopted.

The age of a street lighting column and its construction material can be used to provide a broad assessment of structural condition and Expected Service Life (ESL) of the column. This is represented for the range of lighting columns in use throughout the County in the graph below.

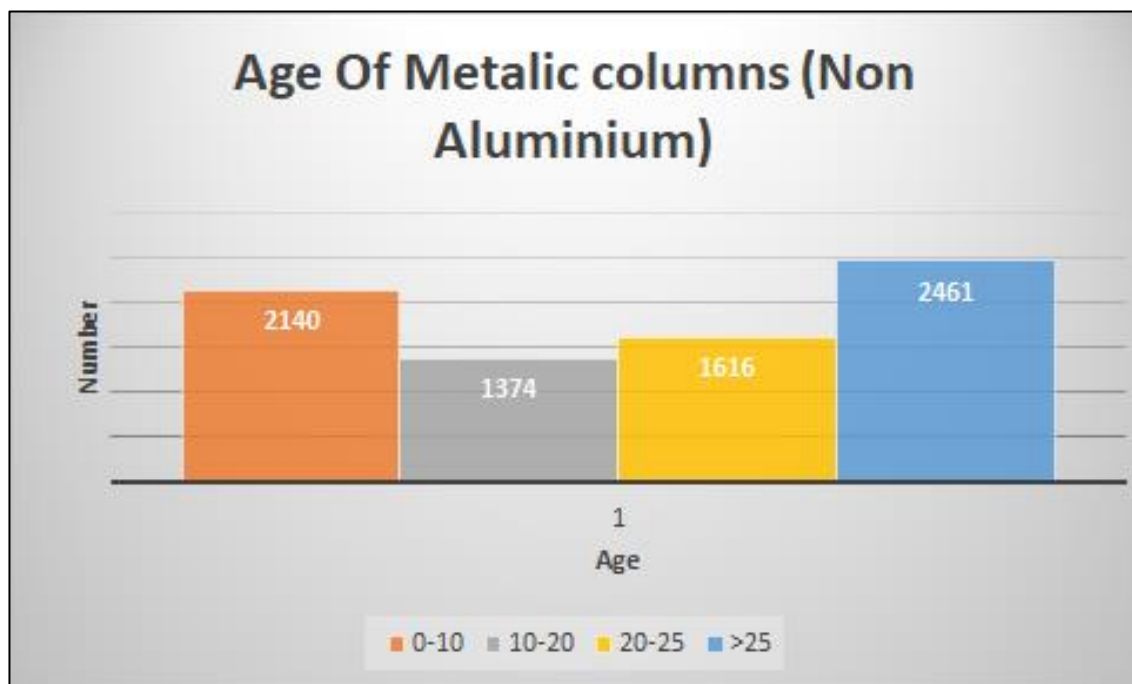


A key concern are the existing steel columns which are considered to have an ESL of up to 25 years before replacement. Columns exceeding their ESL are subject to a management regime with periodic inspections.

Based on current data 32% (2461 out of 7591) of our metallic lighting columns/brackets exceed their expected service life.

A column replacement programme is underway which is replacing approximately 400 columns each year and these are being prioritised to target the older life-expired steel columns which present the greatest risk of collapse.

The graph below shows the age profile of these metal columns and identifies the number currently beyond their Expected Service Life.



Underground Electrical Supply Cable

The majority of our existing 304km electrical supply network is of a significant age and in many cases accurate records are not available with regards to the exact age and cable type. Often the cable is not ducted and is more prone to perishing in the ground.

A prioritised survey and testing programme are required to establish the future life expectancy of the cable network and develop a programme of renewal.



4.3 Illuminated Traffic Signs



Carmarthenshire has over 3,400 illuminated signs and bollards on the highway network. All new installations are specified to be LED sign lights and solar bollards.

A project proposal is being evaluated to target the removal of any unnecessary traffic sign illumination or conversion to LED units. This will link in with the 20mph role out. It should be noted that there will be a capital cost to pursuing this proposal.

4.4 Traffic Signals and Pedestrian Crossings

There are 74 Traffic signal installations on the Highway network. These are made up of 54 pedestrian crossings and 20 Traffic Signal junctions.

These assets are regularly inspected and are maintained by externally procured contractors who also provide an Out of Hours service to deal with emergencies.



PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24TH NOVEMBER 2022

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Purpose:

That the Members of the Scrutiny Committee are updated on the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire, and progress on our Air Quality Delivery plan.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member.

Reasons:

To ensure that progress is made in monitoring and improving air quality within the County, particularly within our 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's)

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Aled Vaughan (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

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Report Author:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Background

- 1.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area. This is achieved through the Local Air Quality Management regime. There are various pollutants that can be assessed, but local authorities are only required to monitor those that have a potential to breach the Air Quality Objectives. For Carmarthenshire, the main pollutant of concern is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from road traffic.
- 1.2 NO₂ is a pollutant that can affect the respiratory system. It can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. Prolonged exposure to NO₂ can be harmful, in particular to those with existing respiratory conditions, the elderly or the young.
- 1.3 The town of Llandeilo and areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli have experienced increasing levels of NO₂, to the extent that the air quality objective for NO₂ has been breached and Air Quality management Areas have been designated. Our Air Quality Delivery Plan focuses on these areas, but also highlights the need to protect good Air Quality in the rest of the County.
- 1.4 The Environment Act 1995 and associated statutory guidance specifies how Local Authorities deal with areas that fail to comply with the national air quality objectives.
- 1.5 An Air Quality Delivery plan was adopted in October 2021 and is set out in two parts. The first sets out the way in which we deal with Air Quality, and provides context as to how it sits within the legal framework and specifically, in Carmarthenshire. It outlines how the Air Quality Delivery Plan aligns with other Policies and Strategies of the Council, and it describes how poor Air Quality can adversely impact health, especially that of our most vulnerable in society. This can be seen in full in Appendix 2.

- 1.6 The second part introduces specific actions that have been identified to contribute towards improving Air Quality, both generally across the County and more specifically in individual AQMA's. Measures for assessing progress are also included in this part. This is attached as Appendix 3.
- 1.7 An update of the current Air Quality in the County and within our AQMA's with comparison to previous years is presented and attached in Appendix 1. An update of the work progressed to deliver this action plan improvements is also included in this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

- Appendix 1 – Air Quality Update 2022
- Appendix 2 – Air Quality Delivery Plan (Main Plan) 2021
- Appendix 3 – Air Quality Delivery Action Plan (2021)

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Housing

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

2. Legal

The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area.

3. Finance

Individual actions are subject to cost/benefit analysis at the time.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES
Cllr. Vaughan is fully aware of the content of the report.

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

THERE ARE NONE

Air Quality Update November 2022

The main air quality pollutant relevant to Carmarthenshire is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and the main source of NO₂ emissions in the County is road traffic. We have developed a monitoring network that follows some of our busiest roads and most congested streets to enable us observe trends in NO₂ concentrations and assess the effectiveness of any changes made in attempt to improve air quality in those areas.

Carmarthenshire currently has three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli. This is an update report about Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) monitoring across Carmarthenshire with results compared to previous years. An update on our progress with the Air Quality Delivery Plan is also included.

The Nitrogen Dioxide trends observed during 2021 have increased in comparison to 2020 however the annual averages have remained lower than results observed during 2018 and 2019. For the second year running no sites within the Carmarthen Air Quality Management Area exceeded the Air Quality Objective (AQO) for 2021. The Air Quality Objective is an annual average of 40µg/m³.

Two sites, however provided a borderline reading, being marginally compliant of exceeding the Air Quality Objective. This includes one site which is based in Felinfoel Road, Llanelli and a second site which is based in Priory Street, Carmarthen. This is a great improvement from 2019 where it was reported that one site had exceeded the AQO in the County and three further sites remained marginally compliant. No exceedances have been reported in the Llandeilo AQMA for the last three years.

This trend is promising, however there are many factors that may be influencing these results year on year, including the weather and vehicles generally getting cleaner as older ones are replaced. More significantly for 2020, the COVID19 Pandemic resulted in many travel restrictions during the lockdowns, which limited non-essential travel for a period of time and restricted the distance and reasons to travel. There were also long periods where schools were closed and working from home arrangements continued to be encouraged where it was possible, even after other restrictions had eased.

2021 also experienced a 'COVID lockdown' during the first couple of months of the year, with a phased return of shops and schools opening between March and April 2021, and it was not until August that all restrictions fully ended, so we certainly observed a reduction in traffic levels during last year. 2022 however, has seen traffic levels largely return, yet many businesses along with this Council, continued to allow home working and hybrid working arrangements. This helps to discourage unnecessary travel through the County, and is a positive contribution within our own Authority, given that many of our offices are located within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). The Welsh Government is also promoting hybrid working.

Although we are observing a marginal downward trend, year on year, with a significant improvement observed in the last two years. When excluding the impact of the COVID pandemic, it is difficult to suggest that there has been such a significant reduction identified over the last three years that it should warrant changes at this time, to the AQMA's. Similarly, it is too early to propose any changes to the action plan at this

stage, the delivery plan however will need to be revisited next year as there is more certainty around economic impacts, the continued changes to vehicle technology and climatic conditions.

As mentioned, the influence of the weather can also play a significant part. Wind and rain can help to disperse pollutants more readily, and increased sunshine can also reduce the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in the air through chemical reactions.

Although the start of 2021 was colder than average, overall, 2021 was warmer than average giving the 5th warmest July and 3rd warmest Autumn since 1884, it was also sunnier than average, particularly during April, June and July. Despite experiencing heavy rainfall during May, rainfall was average for the year. This type of climate will have some influence over the results that we are observing, and therefore it is important to continue to compare future years in case weather patterns change significantly.

It was expected that we would see a much greater reduction during 2020 -2021 given the reduced travel at periods during those years. However, this will not reflect the typical travel behaviours pre-COVID-19 and so it is important we continue to monitor the AQMA's beyond the pandemic period. It is not predicted that we will observe much decrease in levels of Nitrogen Dioxide during 2022 in comparison to the last two years, following a return of the more typical travel behaviours. Nonetheless, the trend for 2022 so far, is mostly lower than pre-pandemic levels across the County.

It is too early to determine if there will be any exceedances for 2022, because 2022 did experience a warm and sunny summer period providing some lower monthly readings of NO₂ than in 2021. Depending on the results we observe in the upcoming winter, it could indicate that we will again observe an increase in levels of NO₂ during 2022 compared to 2021. However, hopefully the overall downward trend will continue compared to pre-pandemic years. The site with the greatest risk of reporting an exceedance for 2022 is near 85 Priory Street, Carmarthen. This area continues to provide the highest readings in the County.

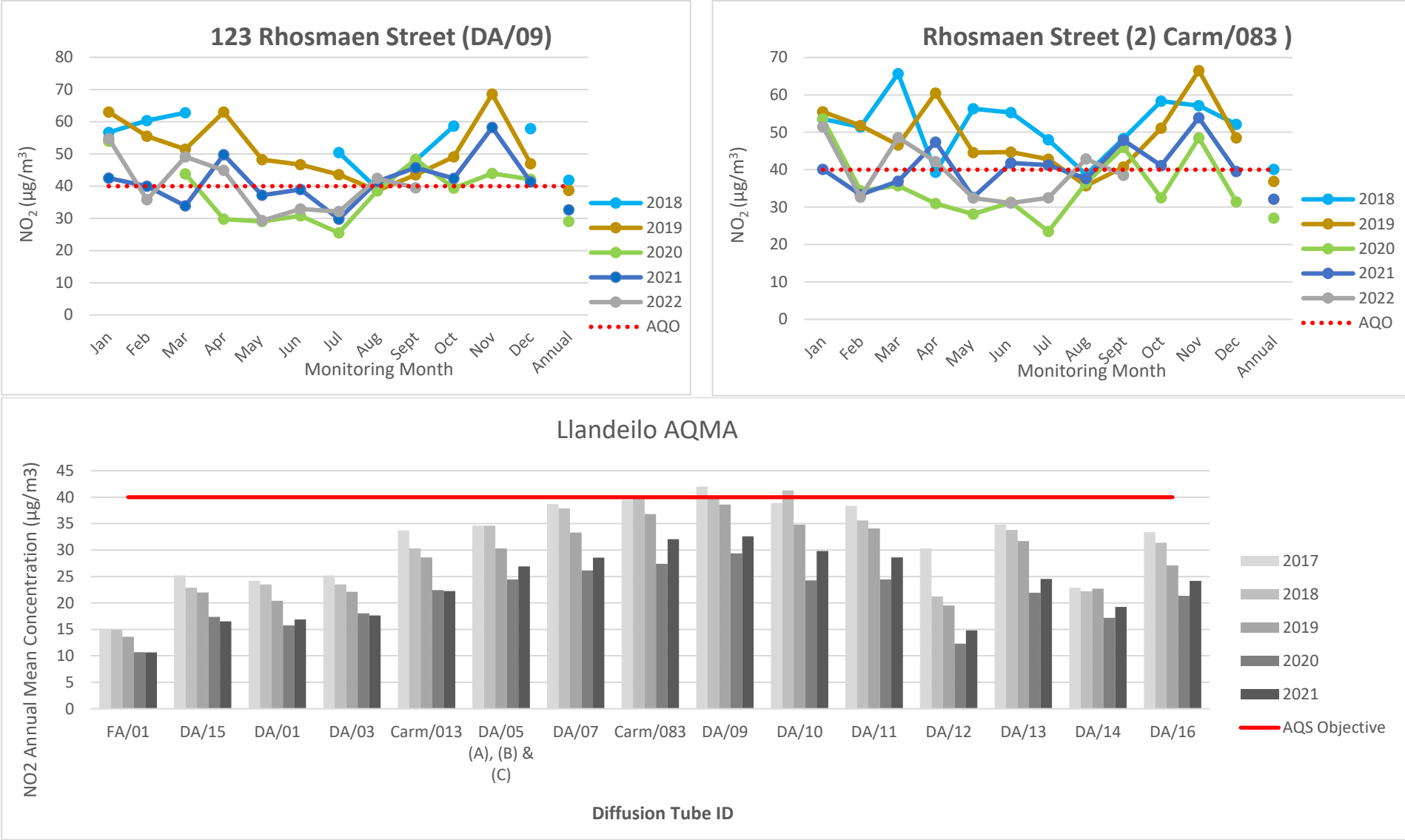
Work will continue in partnership to improve air quality under our Air Quality Delivery Plan. We continue to work closely with our partners to manage local air quality in Carmarthenshire, including Natural Resources Wales, the Planning Authority, the Highways Authority, SWTRA and local schools. The economy is in the stage of recovery, but uncertainty prevails in terms of the length of the recovery period given recent geopolitical and other influences. The Bank of England is also forecasting a two-year recession, so this may pose additional challenges.

We can see that much more work is needed promote a sustainable modal shift, as NO₂ levels can quickly return with increased traffic. The Welsh Government aspirations for Southwest Wales Metro and the need for investment to deliver modal shift to both Active Travel and Public Transport along with the development of the Regional Transport plans next year will also have a major influence on modal shift.

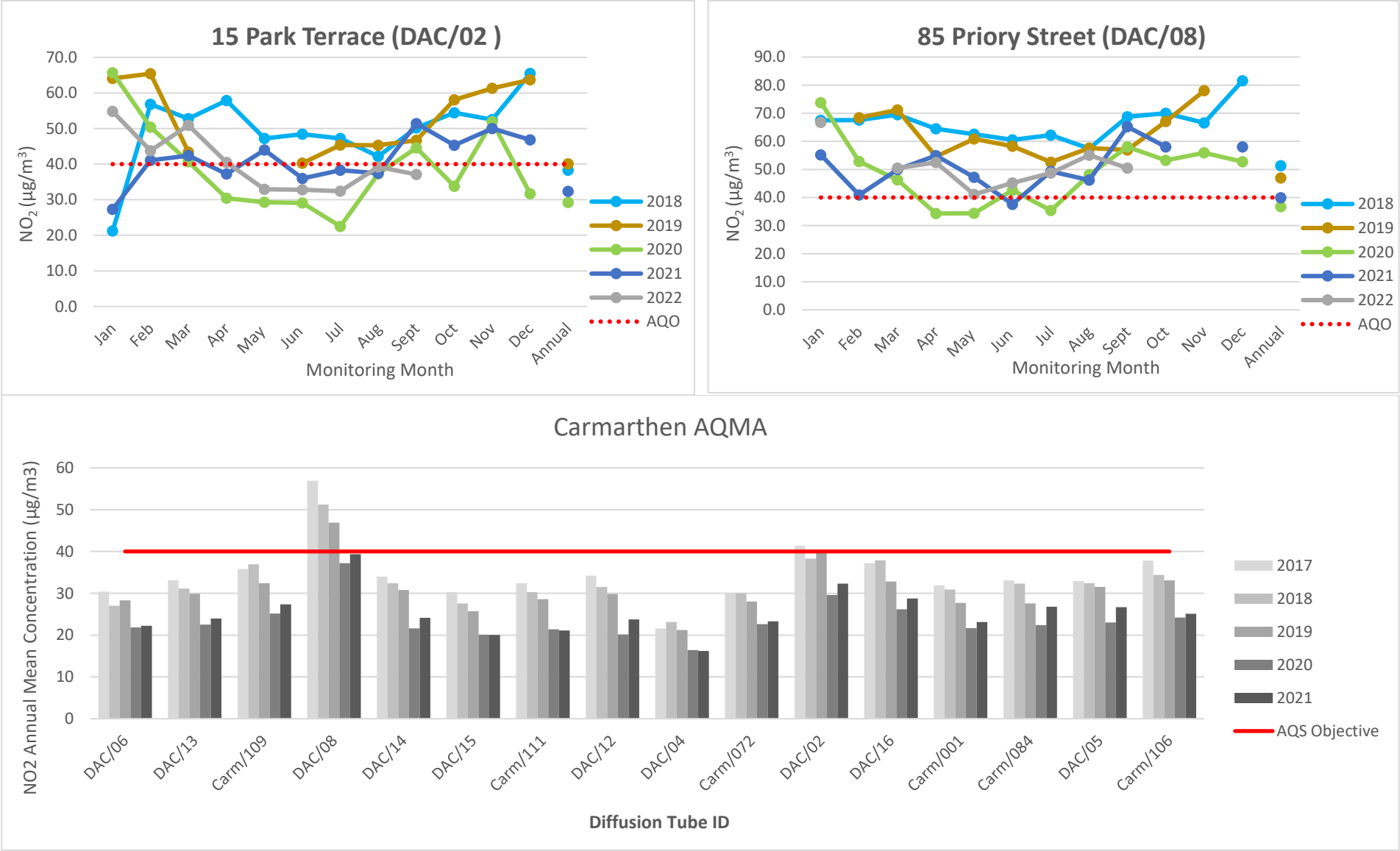
Whilst Local Authorities are not in control of the levers to effect modal shift, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken in developing Active Travel infrastructure and behavioural change interventions in the County and every major town has an active Travel Master Plan. Further details of our work and progress can be found from page 8 onwards of this report.

The following graphs illustrate results of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) monitoring across our Air Quality Management Areas and 'other areas' in Carmarthenshire during 2021 in comparison to the previous four years. There are also two graphs for each of the AQMA's, presenting a comparison of the monthly results by year, for the purposes of comparing 2022 data received to date.

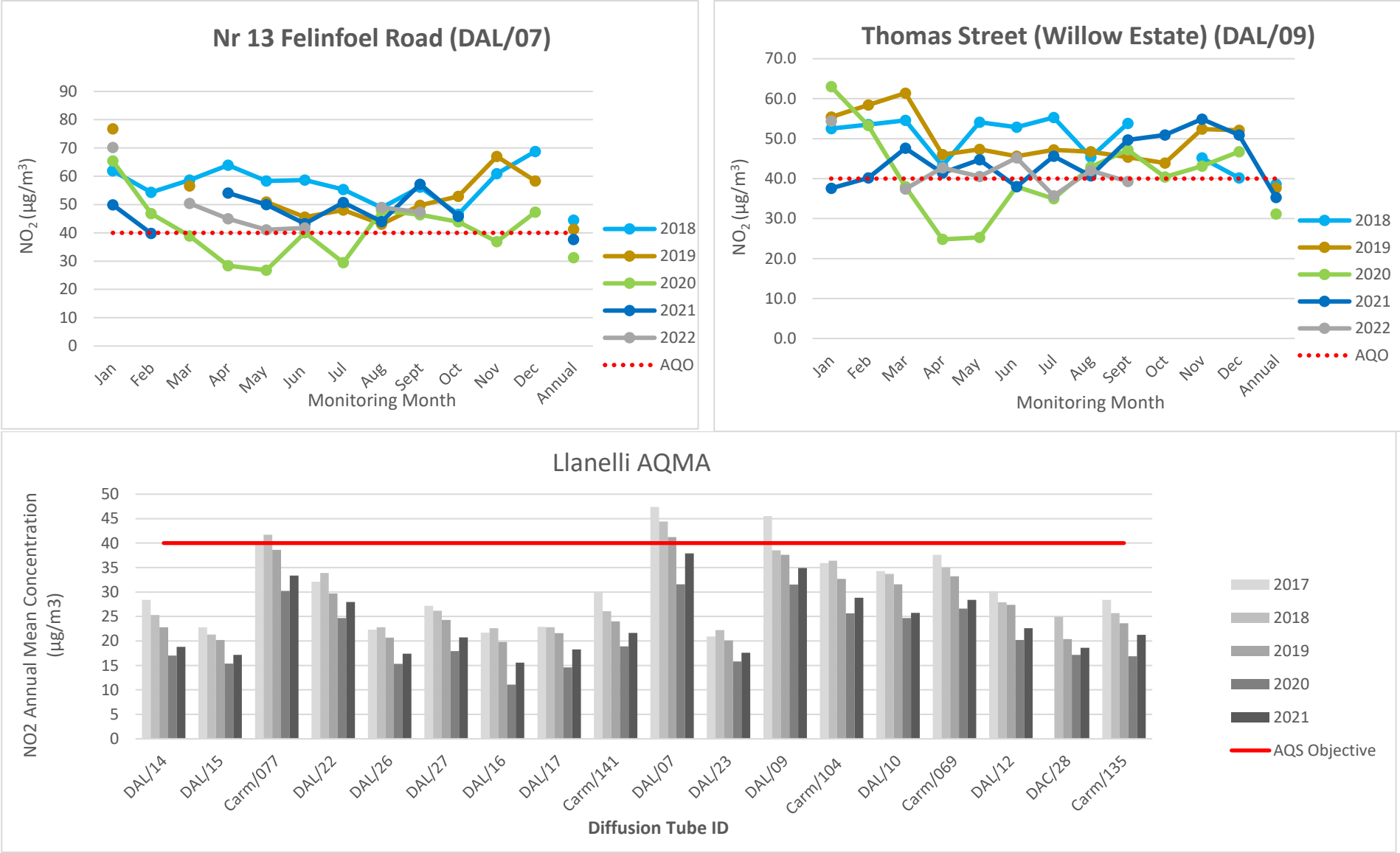
Llandeilo



Carmarthen

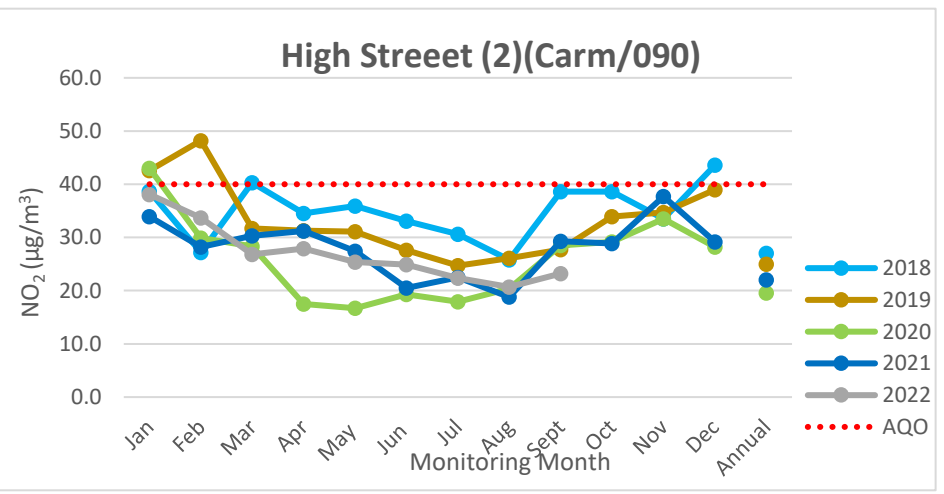
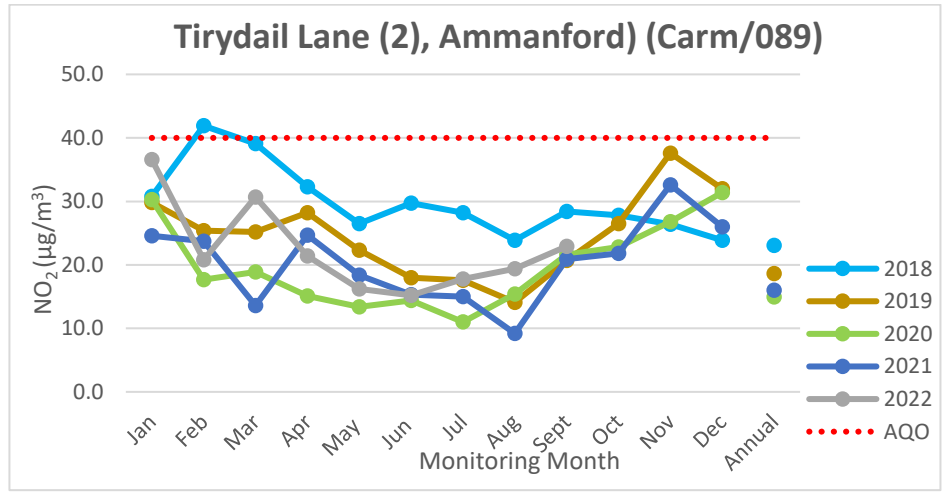


Llanelli

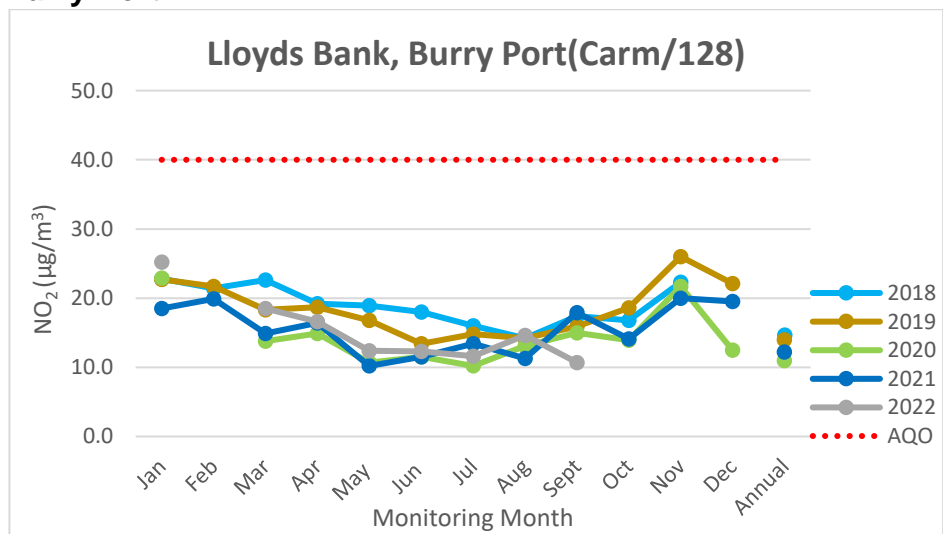


Non-AQMA Areas

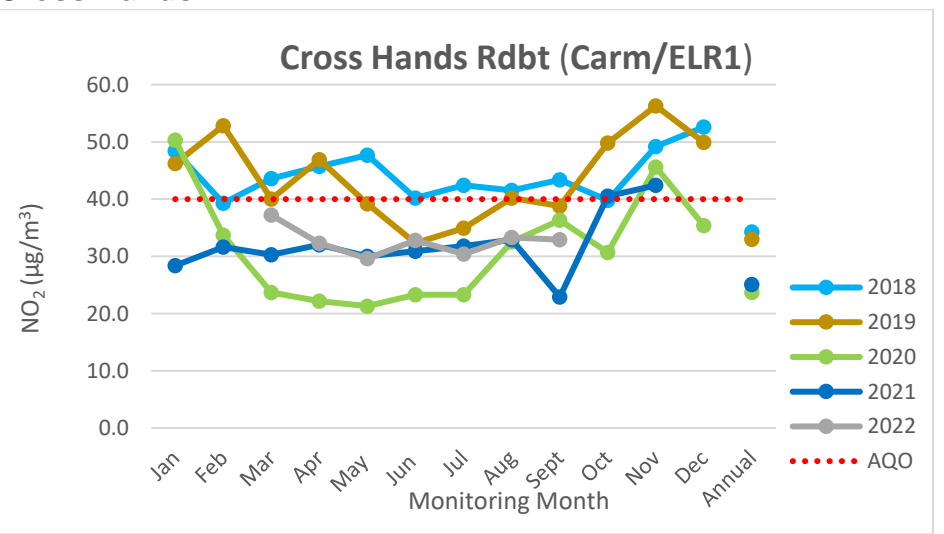
Ammanford



Burry Port



Cross Hands



Progress on the Air Quality Delivery Plan.

The green table below provides a summary of the work that been completed in support of the Air Quality Delivery Plan.

Action Ref	Action Category	Action Description	Progress	Completed
G1	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Produce an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy	The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy was developed in 2021 and adopted and published 2022. Can be found here	2022
G17	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Increase provision of EV charging infrastructure County	<p>EV charging infrastructure has and continues to be developed across the County at strategic locations prioritised around strategic routes, trip attractor/destinations and regeneration,</p> <p>43 charging points have been located in towns, visitor locations, leisure centres and on the strategic highway network.</p> <p>Charging infrastructure is currently being installed at key depots to support the transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.</p> <p>Cross Hands Rapid Charging EV Hub opened to the public at the end of March 2022. To date (10/10/22) there have been 2,517 charging events with over 55,812 kWh of energy being used.</p>	March 2022
G24	Promoting travel Alternatives	Continue to encourage home / agile working with digital meetings/training where possible, to	<p>The interventions necessary during the Covid pandemic helped stimulate a change to the way we work through the use of technology. Post Covid the transition to agile working has continued to reduce the need for travel.</p> <p>The Council continues to develop its strategy for new ways of working to support agile working.</p>	Complete

		discourage non-essential travel	<p>The Authority has an approved Agile working Policy.</p> <p>Wales Government is also promoting remote working.</p>	
G27 & C2	Promoting travel Alternatives	Introduction of bike hire schemes within other parts of the County	Brompton Bike Hire scheme in Carmarthen Bus Station dock open, Burry Port and Llanelli. Actif Leisure continue to encourage and promote cycling and develop bike hire schemes as part of the Authority's Cycle Strategy.	Brompton Bike Hire complete. Further work continues to support the development of bike hire schemes.
G28	Promoting travel Alternatives	Provision of E-cargo Bikes	<p>12 bikes purchased for load to support local businesses undertake deliveries.</p> <p>Bikes have been acquired and a Comms plan has been arranged to promote.</p> <p>A unit has been deployed through Llanelli BID.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2022</p> <p>This will be an ongoing area of work to stimulate uptake and support businesses through recovery.</p>
G29	Promoting travel Alternatives	Provide E-Bike Charging Stations	<p>Five E-Bike charging stands installed at the Beacon to support Active Travel journeys for people working out of the building. A further 8 E-bike Charging Stations will be installed across county.</p> <p>4x sites are complete with 3x sites soon to follow with one to be installed at Pendine development when the project is complete.</p>	<p>Physical works completed 2022</p> <p>March 2023</p>

G31	Promoting travel Alternatives	Enhance walking routes.	<p>Our Active Travel Strategy includes an Active Travel Master Plan for infrastructure development for each principal towns. Infrastructure development will continue year on year subject to Welsh Government funding and where possible through planning development.</p> <p>Wayfinding signage is scheduled for installation across 13 towns providing direction to/from public transport stops and stations.</p>	Completion by March 2023
C13	Promoting travel Alternatives	Initiatives including School Travel Plans	<p>Transitioning from car dominated journeys to alternative more sustainable forms of travel will require behavioural change. Interventions to support behavioural change have included the development of Travel Plans for new school development. Officers are working with schools and colleges in the Llanelli area to encourage young people to make use of improved infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling.</p>	This work will continue and schools will continue to be supported
G35	Public Information	Advertise Cycle Paths	<p>Cycle routes are promoted on the internet and discovercarmarthenshire.com</p> <p>New wayfinding signage being installed across towns with walking/cycling journey times to key trip attractors from public transport stops/stations.</p>	Complete
C12	Public Information Alternatives to private vehicle use	Promote more car sharing	Car share through Liftshare is promoted.	The Agile Working policy supports reduced and more efficient travel.
C5	Traffic Management	Review pedestrianisation across town.	<p>Temporary Restrictions were introduced in Llanelli and Carmarthen Town Centre for the pandemic to support social distancing. This has since been reviewed and the measures were removed in 2021 following public consultation.</p> <p>Town Centre Regeneration plans are being developed to support recovery. The plans will explore opportunities and options for the</p>	<p>September 2021</p> <p>Regeneration plans are under development.</p>

			development of infrastructure in town centres to support Active Travel journeys.	
C4 & LLN2	Traffic Management	Introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town	<p>20mph zones introduced around schools and other areas within town centres</p> <p>Carmarthen and Llanelli completed, Blue St and Mansel St Carmarthen. Llanelli North</p> <p>Welsh Government legislation is being introduced in September 2023 which will reduce the speed limit on residential streets from 30mph to 20 mph. Preparations are currently underway for this change in legislation and implementation of a 20 mph default speed limit by September 2023.</p>	<p>2019 -2020</p> <p>2021- 2022</p> <p>September 2023</p>
LLN4	Traffic Management	Improvements to Thomas Street Junction at turning to Old Road	Improvements to bus stop, junction (moving traffic away from receptors) and reduce idling engines in this area. Pedestrian crossing also installed in lower Felinfoel Road to improve pedestrian safety and encourage more local journeys by foot.	Completed in August 2021
G10	Traffic Management	Introduce a School Street	Two school streets are being implemented and promoted at Elkington Park, Bury Port and Morfa School, Llanelli.	Bury Port is completed.
G9	Traffic Management	Reduce Idling outside of schools etc.	<p>Two School Zones are being introduced in Bury Port and Llanelli.</p> <p>School gate parking prohibitions have been improved in areas including Llanelli and Ammanford with further improvements continuing and enforcement being undertaken by camera car.</p> <p>A number of Traffic Orders prohibiting stopping outside the school gates at certain times imposed at several schools across the county.</p>	Orders were complete in 2021 Enforcement activity will be ongoing.

C1	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Improve cycle routes in and around the town.	Works to a new path along Llansteffan Road, Picton Hill and Picton Terrace have been completed, this builds on the Active Travel routes developed for key linkages to Carmarthen Town Centre. A Carmarthen masterplan has been created to look at increasing the amount of active travel links throughout the town. Feasibility studies are underway.	2021 March 2024
G6	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Improve access to M4 through Llangennech area.	Widening of A4138 to reduce congestion and provide shared foot/cycleway to encourage travel modal shift. Improves access on and off the M4 to reduce traffic congestion at peak times.	Completed December 2021

The blue table below provides a summary of the work that is in progress or ongoing, in support of the Air Quality Delivery Plan.

	Action Category	Action Description	Progress	Comments
C8	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based park and ride (Carmarthen)	The Service is currently under review. Patronage is low, with many of the users having access to alternative bus services. Ongoing driver shortages resulting in some lost journeys, with operator considering future ability to provide the service.	Service is reliant on revenue funding to sustain.
G11	Freight and Delivery Management	Review & improve timings of bin collections & road sweeping	The new routes have been routed in order to make them more efficient, move to zonal working, reducing the need for vehicles to be traveling across the whole county on any given day.	This action will be completed as the Waste Strategy moves forward in 2023.
G2	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Produce a green Infrastructure Strategy	The work is currently in progress with a Consultation hub on greening 8 towns in Carmarthenshire with 3 stakeholder events undertaken in November 2021.	

G18	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Consider option for low cost or priority parking for Low Emission Vehicles	Forty three electric charging points have been introduced in CCC owned car parks and their use is being monitored. A super-hub has also been introduced in Cross Hands.	Charger installations are completed. Work continues with the Wales Government on the development of charging infrastructure on the strategic highway network.
G19	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Review Taxi and private Hire conditions to move towards Ultra Low Emissions	Target of all taxis/PHVs being zero-emission at tailpipe by 2028 Baseline in 2021 – 1 Tesla Model 3 licensed 2022 – Total of 4 Electric Vehicles licensed	Ongoing
G25	Promoting travel Alternatives	Advertise offices that have facilities for cyclists. (Review provision to Increase number of offices/buildings providing cycle safe storage)	Work is in progress to research staff sustainable travel, parking provision and active Travel linkages at 11 key employment sites throughout the county. The aim is to see how travel behaviours can be improved and principles that embody good travel planning.	For completion by February 2023
G26	Promoting travel Alternatives	Increase cycle parking provision across county Provide public cycle repair stations	New cycle parking proposed at 27 locations in Llanelli, Carmarthen Ammanford and Leisure centres. 20 cycle repair Units to be installed across main towns of the County. Sheltered Cycle Parking to be installed at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen Market and Ammanford Quay Street in November.	April 2023
C9	Public Information	Promote uptake of Carmarthen P&R through carpark information boards	Direction signs already in place. The service continues to be promoted through Hywel Dda Board where there is the greatest opportunity for demand. The service is under review.	Ongoing, service review will be completed by March 2023.

		and improved signage before entering AQMA		
C10	Public Information	Promote use of Carmarthen by-pass.	Carmarthen Town Feasibility Study being prepared for the Town Centre Recovery Plan This work includes consideration of traffic signs.	The bypass is a trunk road, any signage review will be taken forward in partnership with the South Wales Trunk Road Agency and the Welsh Government.
LLN3	Traffic Management	Consider sustainable options to reduce congestion via A484, Llanelli West (Sandy Road Corridor) encouraging sustainable modal shifts	Comprehensive modelling work and feasibility studies have been undertaken to evaluate options to improve the A484 congestion. The options have been subject to consultation with stakeholders. Overall, there was support for infrastructure improvements. The work formed part of a wider study for infrastructure in Llanelli which was subject to the Roads Review. The outcome of the roads review is awaited, in the interim work has commenced to promote Active Travel with schools in the area. The interventions will support improved reliability of public transport.	Active Travel is recognised as only a part of much wider package. Extensive modelling and feasibility studies have clearly demonstrated that highway infrastructure improvements are required to realise improvements to traffic flow and air quality.
C6	Traffic Management	Traffic modelling options for reducing traffic through Priory Street	Real -time Air Quality monitor to be installed in Priory Street Nov 22, to link with traffic counts to help determine source apportionment and next steps.	Surveys needed to understand reasons for using the route to determine the correct interventions.
LLD4	Traffic Management	Build a bypass around Llandeilo	Carmarthenshire County Council has consistently maintained that a Bypass is the only viable solution to address the issues associated with A483 traffic travelling through Llandeilo Town Centre.	Welsh Government have indicated that the outcome of the WelTag stage 2 consultation will recommend a preferred

				option by the end of 2022.
LLD1	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Improve Footpath/ cycle route connectivity for the Sandy Road area	<p>A new active travel bridge and connecting routes will be constructed in Llanelli over the A484 to enhance links between Halfway and Trostre as well as tying in with works completed in previous years leading to Coedcae and Stebonheath schools. The bridge will also form an important section of the Llanelli active travel spinal route that will eventually link Hendy with the Millennium Coastal Path via a number of key destinations such as Pentre Awel, Trostre Retail Park and Prince Phillip Hospital.</p> <p>An upgrade of a key Public Right of Way link to shared use status will also be delivered. This link connects the residents of Morfa (South Llanelli) with the Millennium Coastal path without having to travel around Machynys Golf Course.</p>	Adjoining works are also complimenting this by enhancing North/South links around the main pedestrian access into Trostre Retail Park. The works will also enable active travel users to better access the retail park safely and directly.
C1	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Improve cycle routes in and around the town.	A Carmarthen masterplan has been created to look at increasing the amount of active travel links throughout the town. Consultation has begun to identify a preferred way forward.	
C7	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Introduce low emission buses and consider smaller buses at off-peak times.	<p>The T1 Carmarthen / Aberystwyth bus service in process of transitioning to an electric fleet.</p> <p>In progress to deliver T1 electric bus by February 2023 in partnership with the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales.</p>	Local buses are predominantly owned by private transport operators, the exception being the forthcoming T1 service where electric buses will be leased to an operator. Providing a second fleet of smaller buses during
G15		Promote shift to Low emission busses / Consider Vehicle		

		Retrofitting programmes		off peak periods is not commercially viable for operators. Current purchase costs for electric buses and associated infrastructure are significant and are only feasible if external grant funding is available. The development of the Southwest Wales Metro will review the bus networks across the region.
G13	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Introduce ULE vehicles within public sector fleet	<p>Baseline - all Fleet vehicles meet Euro 6.</p> <p>Three electric waste collection vehicles are being introduced within the Fleet in January 2023</p> <p>EV charging facilities are also being introduced at Glanamman, Trostre and Cillefwr Depots. Grant funding opportunities for transitioning fleet vehicles to ULE continue to be monitored.</p> <p>A Fleet strategy is also under development for completion by April 2023. The vehicle sector is in a state of transition with uncertainty around the future energy source for different segments of vehicle type.</p>	

The orange table below provides a summary of the measures that have not been completed and are to be removed from the Air Quality Delivery Plan for reasons provided below.

Action Ref	Action Category	Action Description	Progress	Reasons /Difficulties
LLN6	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based park and ride (Llanelli)	Llanelli has a good bus transport network to support movement into the town. Improved real time information at bus stations/ stops and links to active travel network and metro project.	The option for a park and ride service in Llanelli is not considered operationally or financially feasible.
LLN5	Freight and Delivery Management	Identify and review HGV delivery timings to businesses in and around the town centre.	Reviewed upon new planning developments to avoid peak times, where applicable.	Measure is difficult to influence and may not reduce overall emissions, but short-term higher emissions from congestion at peak times. This one is difficult to deliver and difficult to monitor its impact. It will be considered as part of the Regional Transport Plan work next year.
G12	Freight and Delivery Management	Discuss with WG barriers / opportunities to transfer road freight from ferries to rail freight.	Wales Transport Strategy Llwybr Newydd has been published and includes support for interventions that shift freight from road to rail. 5 year national transport delivery plan is being developed. Regional Transport Plans are also to be developed.	This action is not under our control. The Regional Transport Plan process will make reference to freight.
LLN7	Promoting Travel alternatives	Implement traffic survey for Llangennech / Dafen / Thomas Street to establish why	Survey not conducted, Improvements from Hendy M4 aims to support active travel modal modes.	Sat Navs often determine the quickest route to Llanelli West and this is difficult to influence.

		that route is used.		
G32	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Increase use of trains in County	Significant reduction in train use 20-21. Uptake within AQMA's will continue to be monitored. The development of a Southwest Wales Metro system is in progress and will form part of the Regional Transport Plan.	The provision of rail services is a Welsh Government function, and this will be considered as part of the Southwest Wales Metro project aligned to the Regional Transport Plan.
G34	Public Information	Engagement with SAT NAV providers to highlight AQMA's	Currently Sat Nav's recognise Clean Air Zones but not AQMA's	Not feasible unless congestion zone or Low Emission Vehicle zone declared. Further research Will be undertaken as part of the development of the Regional Transport Plan.

Air Quality Delivery Plan

Environmental Protection

2021 - 2025

carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Contents

Purpose	1
The Health Impact	1
Carmarthenshire's Air Quality, what's the current position?	2
Nitrogen Dioxide	3
The Law	3
Welsh Government's Clean Air Plan	3
Alignment with other Policies and Plans	4
Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives	6
Delivering Improvements	8
Action Plan measures	Appendix 1

Clean Air in Carmarthenshire

Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to set out, at a corporate level, the Council's position on air quality and how we plan to deliver improvements.

Carmarthenshire's Corporate strategy 2018-2023 'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire' outlines the council's vision for the future in 15 well-being objectives under four key themes – To support residents to start well, live well and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment. It also sets out a five-year plan of projects incorporating 15 Well-being objectives, that seeks to continuously improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in the County. This air quality delivery plan outlines a number of measures to improve air quality in the County and supports six of these Corporate wellbeing objectives further.

This document has been developed with several departments and divisions within the Council. Its development has included Environmental Protection, Environment, Transport Planning, Highways and Infrastructure, Sustainable Development and Regeneration. The Council will also engage with external partners across the County and beyond in the process of progressing this plan, because the improvements required cannot be delivered by the Council alone.

The Health Impact

In 2019 The World Health Organisation (WHO) described air pollution as the largest environmental risk to our global health, and increasing evidence indicates that poor air quality significantly contributes towards several preventable illnesses and early deaths.

Air pollution threatens all ages and particularly the vulnerable such as older people, children, pregnant women and people with existing medical conditions. Long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy.

In Wales, the estimated burden of poor air quality on early deaths is in an equivalent range of between 1,000 and 1,400 deaths each year and DEFRA has estimated that Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) contributes to shortening lives by an average of around 5 months.

Targeting effective air quality management also requires an understanding of the relationship between air pollution and the wider health determinants, as evidence suggests that poor air quality is often linked to wider socio-economic factors.

Carmarthenshire's Air Quality- What is the current position?

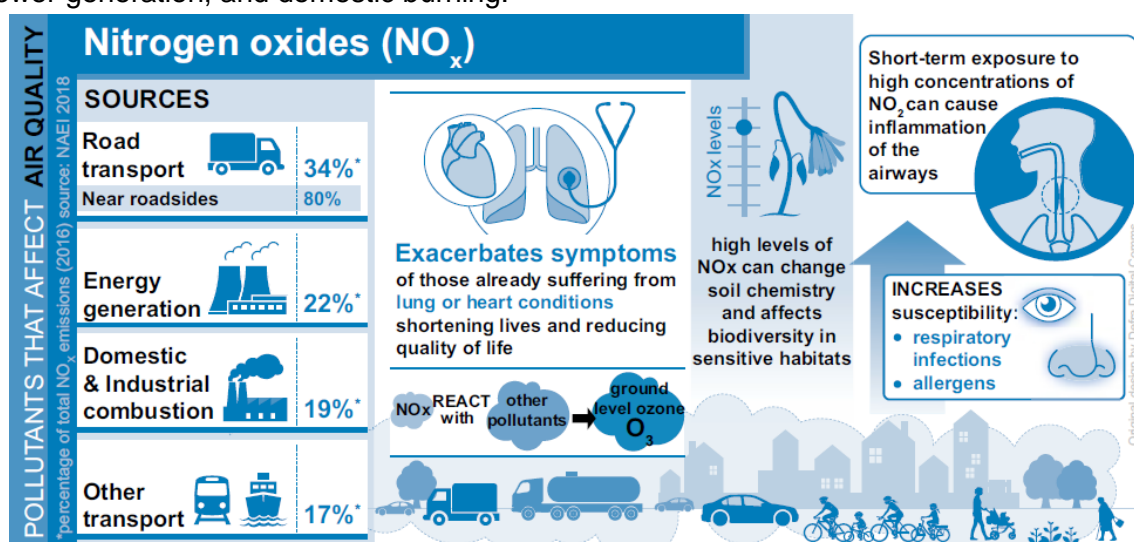
- We have identified that the key pollutant most relevant to Carmarthenshire is NO₂. The main source of NO₂ emissions in Carmarthenshire is road traffic emissions. We have developed a monitoring network that follows some of our busiest roads and most congested streets and we continue to monitor levels of NO₂ to observe the impact from any improvement measures delivered and any potential impact from future development;
- We also continue to assess potential impacts from Particulates (PM₁₀) arising from new industry and development proposals to ensure that dust is minimised, so it does not adversely impact on human health, the local ecology or cause a nuisance. We also regulate 70 industrial premises under the Environmental Permitting regime;
- Three areas in the County have been declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's), located in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli Towns as a result of Nitrogen Dioxide levels exceeding the National Air Quality Objective. Action plans have been developed to deliver specific measures with the aim of improving air quality in these Towns, however we also recognise the importance of enhancing air quality across the County wherever possible;
- During 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic several restrictions were imposed on our normal behaviours which significantly affected how we travelled and where we travelled to. Non-essential trips were restricted, several businesses and schools had to close, workers were encouraged to work from home where possible, socialising with other households was limited and there were times we were told to 'stay local' in Wales;
- This change in behaviour resulted in much fewer vehicles on the road, especially during the height of the lockdown periods. The public embraced low pollution behaviours such as walking and cycling in their local areas whilst adapting to work from home. The benefits of fewer vehicles on the road were recognised nationwide. This provided an opportunity to observe the impact of reduced traffic on our local air quality and identify where greater effort is needed; and
- In Carmarthenshire, levels of NO₂ significantly decreased during the 'lockdown' periods of 2020, and particularly within the declared AQMA's. The areas that usually report with the highest levels of NO₂ seemed to benefit the greatest, and for the first year since 2005 no monitoring sites within the County reported an exceedance of the Annual Air Quality Objective (AQO).

Air pollution causes underlying health conditions that can make people more susceptible to severe health outcomes of COVID-19, and as we continue to battle the virus, we recognise that cleaner air is more important than ever.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Nitrogen dioxide is a gas that is produced with nitric oxide (NO) by combustion processes and together they are often referred to as oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). The largest source is emissions from diesel light duty vehicles (cars and vans) and there has been significant growth in these vehicle numbers over the last 10 years.

In general, road transport and non- road transport (rail, aviation, and domestic shipping) is responsible for 50% of NO_x emissions and at the roadside road transport is responsible for around 80% of NO_x concentrations. Other sources include industrial combustion processes, power generation, and domestic burning.



The Law

As part of our statutory functions under Local Air Quality Management, The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on us to periodically review and assess air quality within our area. There are key pollutants that should be considered, and they are set out in legislation. Each of the key pollutants has a standard that should not be breached. The standards (or objectives) have been set at levels based on current scientific information which are designed to protect health and the environment. The Air Quality Objectives are set out in the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010.

The Welsh Government Clean Air Plan

Welsh Government's Clean Air Plan 'Healthy Air, Healthy Wales (2020)' sets out a 10-year pathway to achieving cleaner air. They have structured the plan around four core themes, with actions to enable collaborative approaches to reducing air pollution.

- **People:** Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations;
- **Environment:** Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity;

- **Prosperity:** Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales; and
- **Place:** Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport.

We recognise the importance of aligning our aims with national policy to improve air quality in our Carmarthenshire, and to help meet government targets. At the time of writing this plan, a white paper for the Clean Air (Wales) Bill has also been published, which we will closely follow and incorporate into our plans to frame a positive outlook.

Some actions included in the Clean Air Plan, however, will be led by Welsh Government and may not be directly delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council e.g. the delivery of a new South Wales Metro system which will support regional and local transport plan priorities. Other topics which may require further consideration as they progress by Welsh Government include:

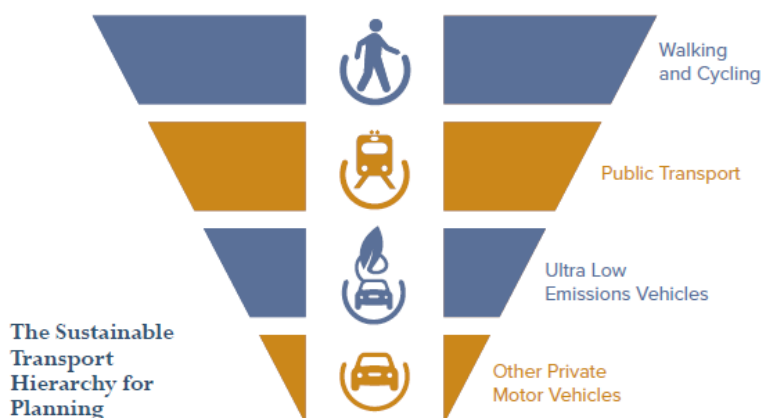
- Anti-Idling enforcement, which is currently subject to national debate;
- The Clean Air/ Low Emission Zones framework, which is under review;
- Revisions to Smoke Control Regulations; and
- Changes for controlling pollution from domestic solid fuel burning.

Alignment with other Policies and Plans

In carrying out our functions under Part IV of the 1995 Act, due regard is given to the policy guidance issued by Welsh Government 'Local Air Quality Management in Wales' and the five ways of working as set out by the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are adopted when conducting out our functions to manage local air quality.

Air Quality Planning Policy

Clear guidance in respect of a range of Environmental Protection matters are contained within Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 (2018), to maximise health and well-being through sustainable development, whilst tackling climate change and making places more resilient. In relation to the impact of development on Air Quality Management Areas; minimising exposure to air pollution by incorporating good design and mitigation. The Sustainable Transport hierarchy has been adopted in this Air Quality delivery plan to reduce the need to travel and prioritise active and sustainable transport through the planning process. PPW and the National Development Framework can be used directly in the decision-making process where an LDP is silent or out of date on an issue.



Carmarthenshire Council's LDP

Carmarthenshire County Council is in the process of preparing the revised Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area. The current LDP was adopted by the County Council on 10th December 2014 and can be found [here](#).

Whilst development proposals should be considered against the policies and provisions of the Plan as a whole (along with other relevant considerations and policies), the most notable LDP policies in relation to Air Quality is EP2: Pollution, TR2: Location of Development – Transport Considerations, TR3 – Highways in Development Design Considerations, TR4 – Cycling and Walking. Other policies regarding Sustainable and High-quality Design, Ecological Corridors and Networks, Major Tourism, Town Centres, Renewable Energy and Minerals are also aligned to consider air quality benefits and implications.

Local Transport Plans and Strategies

The authority historically produced a Local Transport Plan; however, this was incorporated into a Regional Transport Plan which had been established under the direction of the Welsh Government. The region covers the unitary authorities of Neath-Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. The Regional Transport Plan is now no longer being utilised in the same way but the partnership arrangement with the other authorities remains in place and they have developed a combined Local Transport Plan for the Swansea Bay City Region covering the period 2015 – 2020. Further information on the Local Transport Plan can be found [here](#). The Local Air Quality Management work that fed into the Regional Transport Plan work is given due regard within the Local Transport Plan, with the policy and infrastructure interventions tailored to help improve air quality and minimise air pollution from transport sources.

Active Travel Plans and Strategies

It is acknowledged that NO₂ from road traffic is the primary cause for concern for Carmarthenshire. Any measures that can encourage and facilitate active travel are therefore to be welcomed. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to identify and improve routes for walking and cycling, which includes the publication of maps to identify suitable routes, and to provide links within key locations, such as places of work, education etc. Carmarthenshire County Council has published its integrated network maps, which can be found [here](#).



This also ties in with the Council's long term aim of becoming the Cycling Hub of Wales. Further information on Carmarthenshire's cycling strategy can be found [here](#).



Supporting Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives



Carmarthenshire's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 Vision is summed up as:

*"Life is for living, let's start, live and age well
in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment"*

The Corporate Strategy includes 13 Well-being objectives to meet this vision. By working in partnership to deliver improvements to air quality, we will also address a range of cross cutting benefits, which can further support the following six Council Well-being Objectives:

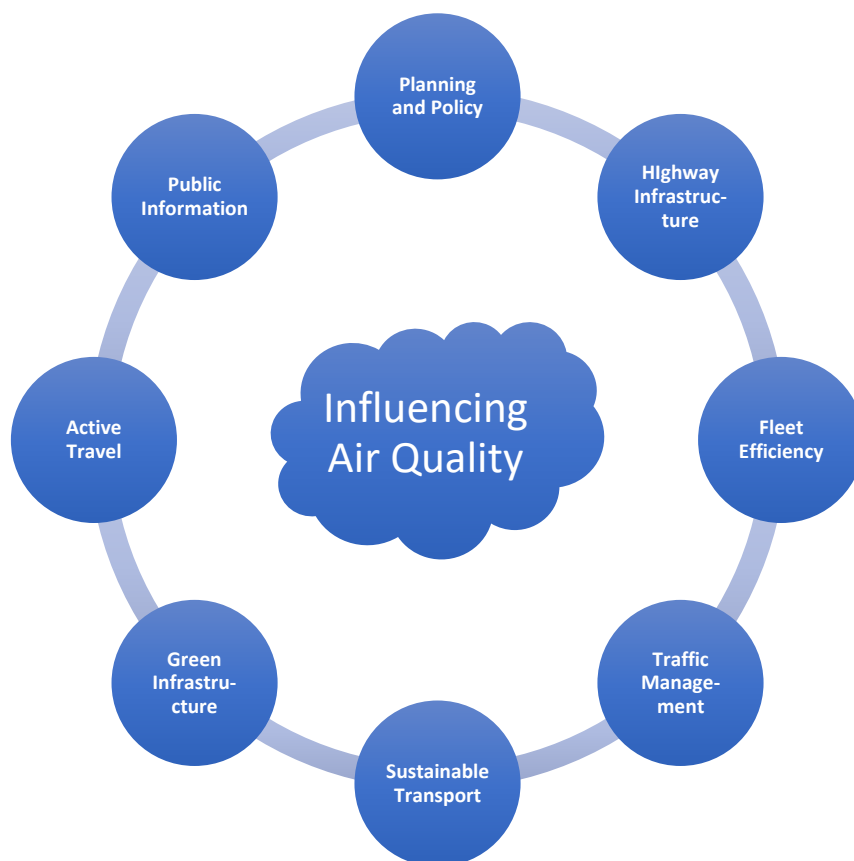
 Well-being Objective 2 Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles	
Air Quality Impact	<i>We recognise the impact that poor air quality can have on children's development, cognitive abilities, and health. Children are specifically vulnerable, even from foetal development as their lungs, organs and brains are developing.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with schools and the Healthy School's Initiative to promote active travel campaigns such as walk/cycle to school days and the National Clean Air Day; • continue to study air quality around the school yard in our Air Quality Management Areas, raising awareness, encouraging active travel to school and promoting anti-idling at the school gates. We don't want traffic around the school gate, enforcement activity is in place to discourage parents/carers from contravening TRO's at school gate; and • Encourage people to walk to school by developing behavioural change programme and work with communities to develop bids for infrastructure funding to develop safe routes to school. • Promote the use of school travel plans.
 Well-being Objective 7 Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)	
Air Quality Impact	<i>Sustainable communities support people to live healthy lives and improved pedestrian connectivity can support active travel options to reduce traffic pollution.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor air quality (nitrogen dioxide) for the residents and visitors in the County. This will be carried out by regular assessments and where necessary, sampling programmes; • Promote sustainable placemaking through the development process and our Local Development Plan;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve Walking and Cycling Linkages; • Provide Safer Routes in communities to encourage and support active travel as above; and • Create low emission options by providing electric bike hire schemes and increasing access the electric vehicle charging points across the County. We will also continue to develop infrastructure to support the growth of electric cars.
 Well-being Objective 9 Age Well - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	
Air Quality Impact	<i>Good health is a key factor to aging well. Older people are vulnerable to more severe ill-health conditions associated with air pollution as it can cause lung and heart disease and emerging evidence suggests that areas with very poor air quality can increase the risk of dementia.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a preventative approach to support health and well-being in the County; and • Through regular reviews and assessment of our transport routes, industry and developing communities, monitor air quality risks to minimise long term exposure to pollutants that may adversely impact health.
 Well-being Objective 10 Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future	
Air Quality Impact	<i>Air pollution has direct impacts on the natural environment, contributing to climate change, reducing crop yields, and polluting oceans. Cleaner air will directly benefit animals and habitats as well as creating a better environment for everyone to live, work and thrive in. Good quality energy efficient homes can also have a significant effect on reducing fuel use polluting the atmosphere.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the planning process, promote sustainable places with good pedestrian linkages, green infrastructure, travel plans and sustainable transport options; • Protect our environment and ecological habitats from industry under the environmental permitting regime; • Assess the impacts of development on local air quality and natural habitats from both the construction and operational phases; • Monitor Nitrogen Dioxide in our Air Quality Management Areas some of our busiest roads and assess other potential impacts; • Utilise policy guidance and developmental control to minimise pollution impacts and improve air quality where possible; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the increased use of renewable energy and support measures to become carbon neutral by 2030.
 <div> Well-being Objective 11 Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity </div>	
Air Quality Impact	<i>Highway Infrastructure can influence air pollution by lowering speed limits, reducing congestion, promoting active travel with safe cycle and footways. Access to electric vehicle charging points across the County can also support the uptake of lower emission vehicles.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the cycle network adopt public cycle hire schemes; Expand our active travel routes and continue to provide safer routes for communities; Continue to work with Welsh Government to help deliver at Llandeilo Bypass to improve air quality and road safety in Llandeilo town; Continue to work with Regional local Authority Partners to develop the plans for a South Wales Metro; Reduce speed limits improve pedestrian safety around schools and residential areas with 20mph zones; Work with South Wales Trunk Road Agency to deliver Strategic Highways Improvements; Seek to improve emissions from our own fleet; and Increase the provision of electric vehicle charging points across the County.
 <div> Well-being Objective 13 Better Governance and use of Resources </div>	
Air Quality Impact	<i>Sustainable delivery models through investment and efficiency savings will support different ways of working and reduce the Council's contribution to air pollution.</i>
Air Quality Delivery Plan Contribution	We will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support remote and agile working where it can reduce the need for staff travel, minimising waste travel time, mileage and increasing productivity; and Support Digital Transformation to support staff flexible working arrangements, and digital access to services to reduce customer travel.

Delivering Improvements to Air Quality

The responsibility of delivering such improvements requires a collaborative approach with several internal and external partners, because there are many factors that can influence the delivery of clean air in Carmarthenshire. The main themes are summarised below:



Each theme in the plan acts as a framework for the creation of policies, projects and schemes, to invite flexible, co-beneficial solutions to address a spectrum of issues. Each theme can deliver contributions towards improving air quality but collectively those impacts can be significant. It may not always be possible to quantify emission reductions directly attributed to certain actions, as many influencing factors can play their part. Nevertheless, our aim is to reduce pollution emanating from transport, enable and support our residents to choose more sustainable modes of transport and increase their active travel.

Ultimately, our goal is to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide levels within our AQMA Towns, not only to meet the national air quality objectives but to enhance our air quality for residents and visitors in the County. Our efforts must be sustainable to continue the trend for future generations. In turn, we will thereby help reduce the risk of ill-health cause by air pollution and support our Well-being objectives.

We will aim to deliver the following four key objectives:

Objective 1. Reducing Congestion:

actions robust enforcement of TRO's, Improvements to infrastructure, promoting more sustainable travel such as car sharing, active travel, walk the last mile.

Objective 2. Modal Shift:

Promoting and developing public transport tie into the development of the regional Metro, demand management prioritising short stay parking in town centres to ensure spaces are available. Active Travel etc. Safer Routes in Communities walking routes to schools. Regional METRO transportation.

Objective 3. Improving Air Quality:

ULEVs. Smoke controls wood burning stoves, green space initiatives.

Objective 4. Know what is happening:

Provide robust data capture and model air quality and transport movements.

An Air Quality Action planning steering group has been set up with key stakeholders across a range of key services to deliver actions predominantly within our AQMA's but also with a view to improve air quality across the whole County. These measures incorporate many actions currently underway to deliver the AQMA action plans with further actions planned over the next few years.

The detailed actions can be found in the attached appendix. Progress on its delivery will be reported annually to Welsh Government and indicative timescales have been framed for measuring our progress in these areas and to keep actions in focus.

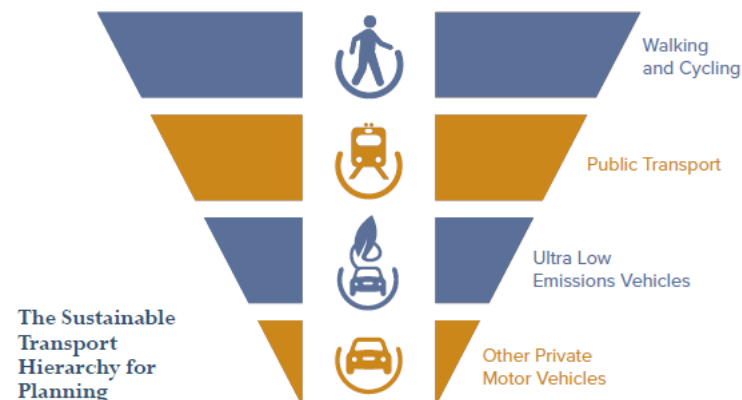
Air Quality Delivery Plan 2021

Environmental Protection

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Air Quality Delivery Plan Measures

G	GENERAL	C	CARMARTHEN
LLN	LLANELLI	LLD	LLANDEILO



Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G	GENERAL ACTIONS										
G1	Produce a Electric Vehicle Strategy (Improve Air Quality)	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Low Emissions Strategy	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2020	2021-22	Number of EV charging points	Low	Funding sought to commission studies on predicting future demand and additional locations along with a commission to complete and adopt a Carmarthenshire specific EV strategy in line with latest Welsh Government draft strategy.		WG plan recently consulted on an EV charging strategy late 2020.
G2	Produce Planning Guidance for Air Quality (Improve Air Quality, Knowing what is happening)	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other Policy	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2020	2021-22	Clear guidance for developers and planners	Low			WG plan to update TAN 11 to include air quality
G3	Produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy (Improve Air Quality)	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other Policy	County Council (Head of ICT)	2020	2021	Strategy in place	Low (£35k)			Increase access to green spaces

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G4	Introduce green infrastructure or urban planting schemes. <i>(possibly through Planning)</i> (Improve Air Quality)	Policy guidance and Development Control	Other policy	County Council (Head of ICT)	ongoing	ongoing	Number of GI schemes /	PSB Funding	Included in planning developments/ Bid for Jackson's Lane Carmarthen and Newcastle Emlyn	ongoing	
G5	Feasibility study for shared use footpaths. (with markings?) (Reduce congestion, Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport ation)	2018	2020	Path Counters	Sustainable Transport Fund (£1.7m) High	Funding secured for design. Bid submitted for funding the construction.	2022	We now have Active Travel Fund core funding available to cover this in identified areas.
G6	Improve access to M4 through Llangennech area. (Reduce congestion, Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport ation) / SWTRA / WG	2018	2021	Path Counters	WG (V. High) (£2.5M)	Improvement works scheduled to improve junction 48	2022	Widening of A4138 to reduce congestion and provide shared foot/cycleway Improves access on and off the M4 to reduce traffic congestion at peak times.
G7	Consider a Feasibility study for Congestion Zones. (Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift, Improving Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Road User Charging (RUC) / Congestion Charging	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2022		Monitoring results	Low	None For consideration if other measures do not reduce emissions enough	?	WG are reviewing framework for CAZ, This is not realistic or sensible

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G8	Consider Anti-Idling Ban in AQMA's. (Improve Air Quality)	Traffic management	Anti-Idling Enforcement	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2022		Enforcement	Low			WG looking to strengthen powers under Clean Air Act Enforcement options pending Act.
G9	Reduce Idling outside of schools etc. (Improve Air Quality)	Traffic management	Anti-Idling Enforcement Parking Enforcement on Highway Access Management	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2019	2021	Monitoring results	Low	Proposals for Traffic Orders prohibiting stopping outside the school gates at certain times at several schools across the county.		Access Only order being implemented in Burry port to prevent traffic accessing school entrance (via residential area) only residents have access, enforced by cameras.
G10	Introduce a School Street (Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Access Management	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2021	2022		WG Road Safety Grant Medium Cost (£70k)	Proposal to restrict vehicular access during start and finish times at Morfa School		This will be the first 'School Street' trialled in the County
G11	Review & improve timings of bin collections & road sweeping (Reduce congestion)	Freight and Delivery Management	Route Management Plans	County Council (Head of Waste and Environment)	2022	2022	More efficient routes	Low	None	2022	

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G12	Discuss with WG barriers / opportunities to transfer road freight from ferries to rail freight. (Modal Shift)	Freight Delivery and Management Promoting Travel Alternatives	Freight Delivery Promote Use of Rail	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation) / WG	2021			Low	WG have published a study on the use of rail (Increasing rail freight options considered within study to reduce traffic to M4 and rail network improvements)		Wales Transport Strategy 5 year national transport delivery plan being developed. Regional Transport Plans to be developed.
G13	Introduce ULE vehicles within public sector fleet (Improve Air Quality)	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Promoting Low Emission Public Transport	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2022		Number of ULE vehicles in fleet	Medium	Fleet review every 5 years		WG Clean Air Plan has proposal for all HGV's in public sector to be ULE by 2030
G14	Explore option of an Eco-Stars scheme for the County and promote uptake to fleet operators. (Improve Air Quality) (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Fleet efficiency and recognition schemes	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2021		Number of Members in County	Low	Enquiries made		The 'free' scheme awards a star rating and advice on how fleet operators can improve fleet efficiency

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G15	Promote shift to Low emission buses or retrofitting buses / coaches to gas fuel. (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Vehicle Retrofitting programmes	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation) / Partners/Bus Operators	2021	?	Uptake	Medium costs to bus operators	None		Clean Air plan target for all buses to have zero exhaust emissions by 2028 although Wales Transport Strategy 2021 doesn't include ULEV vehicles in next 5 years – only mentions technology & infrastructure to deliver ULEV in 5 years, zero tailpipe emissions are to be by 2040
G16	Encourage use of non-diesel/ low emission mobile generators within AQMA's (Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Plant	Low Emission fuels for mobile plant	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2021			Low			Scope to address through planning process.
G17	Increase provision of EV charging infrastructure County (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Procuring alternative refuelling infrastructure	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2018	2020-2021	Number of EV charging points	WG OLEV (£100K) WG Local Transport Fund (£220K) WG - Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund (£370K)	Secured funding for EV 26 posts in 24 carparks across the County Cross Hands EV charging hub	2020 2021	EV update for 21/22 bid submitted to Welsh Government for an additional 15 chargers at 13 locations across the county.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G18	Consider option for low cost or priority parking for Low Emission Vehicles (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Priority Parking for LEV's	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2023		Monitoring				Government proposes to introduce Green number plates for low emission vehicles to be easily identified.
G19	Review Taxi and private Hire conditions to move towards Ultra Low Emissions (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Taxi Licensing Conditions	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2021		Percentage of licensed low emission taxis and Private Hire vehicles		Potential for national policy standards to be set dependant on outcome of Welsh Transport Strategy.		Clean Air Plan includes aim of zero exhaust emission taxi fleet by 2028. Draft Welsh Transport Strategy published 2021 also includes this target.
G20	Consider a Feasibility study for Low Emission Zones. (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Low Emission Zone	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ SWTRA	2022		Monitoring results		None		Potential option for areas that continue to exceed Air Quality Objectives although unlikely to be feasible
G21	Consider a Feasibility study of making towns and villages vehicle free. (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Clean Air Zone/ Low Emission Zone	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2022		Monitoring		None Many key towns in County already include pedestrianised zones		Clean Air Zone Framework to be published by WG Spring 2021 Unlikely to be feasible or desirable.
G22	Consider Diesel engine vehicle ban in AQMA's (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Low Emission Zone or Clean Air Zone	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / Partners	2022		Monitoring		Source apportionment work		Government proposals to phase out sales of Diesel and Petrol cars and vans by 2040. Unlikely to be feasible

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G23	Liaise with 'Car Club' facilitators for opportunities to introduce across the County. (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Car clubs	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / Partners	2020		Uptake of car clubs	Partnership scheme with providers	No car clubs currently operate in Carmarthenshire. Options being explored. Dolen Teifi offers MPV and minibus hire in rural communities (outside AQMA's).		Potential opportunity for developers or Housing Associations to provide access to a car club where limited or no parking
G24	Continue to encourage home / agile working with digital meetings/training where possible, to discourage non-essential travel (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting travel Alternatives	Encourage/Facilitate home working	County Council (Assistant Chief Executive)	2020	2020	Reduction in staff travel and mileage claims	None	Although policies already in place, COVID 19 lockdown has increased uptake and helped identify roles that can work from home		WG policy to work from home where it is possible to do so Uptake of New Ways of Working
G25	Advertise offices that have facilities for cyclists. (Review provision to Increase number of offices/buildings providing cycle safe storage) (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council (Head of Property)	2020	2020-2021	Number of facilities with cycle storage	Low	Pool bicycles available to Council staff in Park Myrddin, Carmarthen	2021	The Beacon to have 5x EBike charging stands installed by end of April 21. Intended exclusively for use of people working there.
G26	Increase cycle parking provision across county Provide public cycle repair stations (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2020	2021	Uptake of Cycling in the County	Active Travel Fund / Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery Fund	New cycle parking proposed at 27 locations in Llanelli, Carmarthen Ammanford and Leisure centres 20 cycle repair Units to be installed across County	2021	

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G27	Introduction of bike hire schemes within other parts of the County (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promoting Cycling	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation) / Partners	2019	2021-22	Uptake of bike hire	Local Transport Network Fund (£50K per docking station)	Brompton Bike Hire scheme installed in Carmarthen and Llanelli Towns. progress. Other Bike hire schemes available in Carmarthen Park and Pembrey Country Park	Burry Port and Llanelli train stations by 2021	Ammanford considered subject to future grant funding
G28	Provision of E-cargo Bikes (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2020	2021	Uptake of bike for local deliveries	Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery Fund	12 bike purchased for load to support local businesses undertake deliveries	2021	
G29	Provide E-Bike Charging Stations (Modal shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Cycling	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2020	2021	Use of Charging stations	Low	8 x Ebike Charging Stations to be installed across county	2021	7 Public use and 1 for staff of the Beacon
G30	Reward scheme for staff who walk/cycle to work (Modal shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Walking and Cycling Other	County Council (Assistant Chief Executive)	2019	Annually / Quarterly	Numbers of staff participating	Very Low	2019 cycle to workday competition		Opportunities to reward staff for participating in active travel days/ Air Campaigns

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G31	Enhance walking routes. (Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of Walking	County Council (Highways and Transportation)	2017	On-going	Path counters	Active Travel Fund Local Transport Network Fund Local Sustainable Transport Covid Recovery fund	Improvements to footpaths in Llanelli. Pedestrianised routes improved, introduced through planning development. Wayfinding signage being installed across 13 towns in Carmarthenshire (incl Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo) providing directions from public transport stops/stations	ongoing	Additional Enhancements through COVID recovery
G32	Increase use of trains in County (Modal shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promote use of Rail	WG	2020	2023	Uptake of Train journeys to AQMA Towns		WG are nationalising the Rail network and delivering South Wales Metro System to improve journeys.		The inclusion of Bike hire schemes at key stations will also improve connectivity
G34	Engagement with SAT NAV providers to highlight AQMA's (Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ WG	2016	WG included in Consultation document	?		Working with WG/WAQF Introduced in WG AQ policy	?	Currently sat Nav's recognise Clean Air Zones but not AQMA's

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
G35	Advertise cycle paths. (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via the internet and other	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	Ongoing	Ongoing	Cycle path counters	Low	Cycle routes advertised on internet and discovercarmarthenshire.com New wayfinding signage to be installed across towns with walking/cycling journey times to key trip attractors from public transport stops/stations	Ongoing	Improvements to be made as additional new paths created
G36	Produce Air Quality messages (e.g. – turn engine off when parked/idling, slow down, consider air quality, stay back from car in front). (Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Other	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2019	2019-	Monitoring	Low	Social media messages as parts of National Clean Air Days	ongoing	Raise awareness and profile of air quality
G37	Check tourist route maps / websites for advised routes (avoid AQMA's where relevant) (Know what's happening & Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via the Internet	County Council (Head of Safer Homes & Communities and Regeneration)/ SWTRA	2022			Very Low	None		
C	CARMARTHEN										

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C1	Improve cycle routes in and around the town. (Reduce Congestion & Modal Shift)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2018	2018 -	Usage of cycle routes by counter	Tywi Valley Cycle path (£12-14.5M) Active Travel Fund	Safer routes in Communities Tywi Valley Cycle Path in progress New path along Llansteffan Rd, Picton Hill and Picton Terrace	2021 TBC 2020/21	Masterplan being scoped for the town as well as active travel consultation currently live. Tywi Valley Cycle Path – subject to funding.
C2	Promote bike hire scheme for the town. (Modal Shift)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure Promoting travel alternatives	Public cycle hire scheme Promotion of cycling	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation) / Partners	2019-2020	2020	Uptake of bike hire	Local Transport Network Fund (£50k)	Brompton Bike Hire Docks Installed In Blue Street, Carmarthen, next to the bus station	Operational from Jan 2021	
C3	Monitor and Improve car parking issues at Glangwili Hospital. (Reduce Congestion)	Traffic Management	Parking Enforcement	Local Health Board / County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2017	2018 - ongoing	Reduced congestion / traffic counts		Cycle space compound, Additional parking spaces and promotes use of park and ride scheme	Car park Management contract started September 2018. APNR enforcement in 2019	Carpark capacity reduced 2019, considering increasing capacity

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C4	Introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town (Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Reduction of speed limits, 20mph zones	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2018	2018-2019	Monitoring data		20mph zones introduced around schools and shopping areas Area wide in Carmarthen	2023	WG are working on a programme to change default speed from 30mph to 20mph in built up areas A number of 20mph limits were installed in 2020 on a temporary basis as part of the Authority's covid response. Consideration being given to making these limits permanent.
C5	Review pedestrianisation across town (Reduce congestion)	Traffic Management	Access management/ traffic reduction	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2016	2020-2022	Area coverage/ Monitoring data	Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response Fund	Temporary Restrictions in Town Centre to support social distancing	Started August 2020	Temporary restrictions were covid driven and are to be reviewed, they may eventually be removed.
C6	Traffic modelling options for reducing traffic through Priory Street (Know what's happening / Modal Shift)	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements / Traffic Reduction	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2021		Traffic Counts and source apportionment	Low	Manual Vehicle Source apportionment conducted.		Surveys needed to understand reason for using routes Not feasible to remove HGVs and a one-way system is also unlikely to be feasible or supported.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C7	Introduce low emission buses and consider smaller buses at off-peak times. (Improve Air Quality)	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Promoting Low Emission Public Transport	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action) / Bus Operators	2021- 2022		Change in bus fleet	Medium	Unsuccessful application for electric bus bid for the park and Ride scheme. We are currently looking at introducing electric buses on the T1 service Aberystwyth To Carmarthen in partnership with WG but this will probably take 2 years.	On going	Clean Air plan target for all buses to have zero exhaust emissions by 2028. Bus industry is a competitive commercially driven market where margins for operators are small. Reducing the vehicle size is very unlikely to be taken up by operators and is beyond our direct control.
C8	Review the Park & Ride provision for the town. (Reduce Congestion & Modal Shift)	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based Park& Ride	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action)	2019-2020 –	2020-	Usage data / monitoring data	Medium cost PR1 is 50% PHW and 50% CCC funded PR2 is PHW 100% funded	Timings reviewed to support hospital staff and evening use from 10pm		Uptake increased 2019, COVID reduced uptake 2020
C9	Promote uptake of P&R through carpark information boards and improved signage before entering AQMA (Reduce Congestion & Modal Shift)	Public information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action) / BID / Hywel Dda	2021	(After COVID)	Usage data	Low	Directional signs already in place		Potential opportunities with Carmarthen BID improvements to carparking options.
C10	Promote use of Carmarthen by-pass. (Reduce Congestion/ Know what's happening)	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action)/ WG /SWTRA	2021	2022	Traffic Counts	Low	None	TBC	Designation surveys and assess need to amend signage for HGV preferred routes – bypass is a trunk road, any signage review would need to be in partnership with SWTRA

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
C11	Install AQMA signage (suggest alternative routes?). (Reduce Congestion)	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2021	TBC	Traffic Counts/ improvements in monitoring results	Low	Explored options for AQMA signage	TBC	Possibly link to promoting use of the bypass / Western link Rd
C12	Promote more car sharing / dedicated car parks (involve supermarkets?). (Reduce Congestion & Modal Shift)	Public Information Alternatives to private vehicle use	Via internet Car and Lift sharing schemes	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action)/ Partners	2018	2019 – (After COVID)	Use of car sharing	Low	Promotion of car share website. Dedicated parking through planning	Ongoing	A lift sharing app for parents is being developed. Await outcome of covid travel impacts
C13	Initiatives including School Travel Plans (Modal Shift)	Promoting Travel Alternatives	School Travel Plans	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action)/ Schools	ongoing	ongoing	Reduction in car journeys to school	Very Low	Travel Plans have been introduced in schools.	ongoing	Travel plans are managed by the schools
LLN	LLANELLI										
LLN1	Improve footpath / cycle route connectivity for the Sandy Road area. (Reduce Congestion, Modal Shift)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle Network	County Council (Head of Highways and Transport action)	2018	2019-2021	Usage of cycle routes by counters	Local Transport Fund/Active Travel Fund Local Sustainable Transport Covid RecoveryFund	Safer routes in Communities grant awarded 3 year project Footway widening across Sandy Bridge (Pembrey Rd) Carriageway narrowed to achieve this.	2021	Wider active travel network also being developed

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLN2	Introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town (Modal Shift, improving air quality)	Traffic Management	Reduction of speed limits, 20mph zones	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2018 2020	2019-2020 2021	Speed data Monitoring data	Safe Routes in communities Fund WG Funding	20mph zones introduced around schools and some other areas	2021 2022-2026	Further projects for Llanelli north and south areas will introduce 20mph with 5-year AQ monitoring. Encouraging active travel will be a key part of the Llanelli South project which will include working with schools on School Travel Plan
LLN3	Consider sustainable options to reduce congestion via A484, Llanelli West (Sandy Road Corridor) encouraging sustainable modal shifts (Reducing congestion, Modal shift, Improving Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements UTC, congestion management, traffic reduction	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2019		Traffic counts Changes in traffic flow, congestion monitoring data		Application to WG to fund improvements, Public consultation held		Options subject to WG funding
LLN4	Improvements to Thomas Street Junction at turning to Old Road (Improving Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Strategic Highway Improvements Traffic reduction	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2020	2021	Monitoring data Queue lengths	Road Safety Grant Covid Recovery Funding (£130k- £140) Medium	Proposals to improve bus stop and reduce idling engines incorporating Green Infrastructure in this area	2021	Pedestrian Safety need identified
LLN5	Identify and review HGV delivery timings to businesses in and around the town centre. (Reducing congestion, Improving Air Quality)	Freight and Delivery Management	Delivery and service plans Quiet and out of hours delivery	County Council (Head of Safer Homes & Communities) / Partners	2020	2021	Monitoring results	Resource intensive	Reviewed upon new planning developments to avoid peak times	ongoing	Difficult to influence May not reduce overall emissions, but short-term higher emissions from congestion at peak times This one is difficult to deliver.

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLN6	Review the Park & Ride provision for the town. (Modal Shift)	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus based park and ride	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation) / Llanelli Town Centre Task force	2019	(AFTER COVID)	Usage data/ monitoring data	Medium to High	No current demand, low cost parking available within AQMA , Active Travel network being developed		Possible opportunity to link with town centre bus service. No options currently being actively developed, covid will influence travel behaviours This is very unlikely to be feasible
LLN7	Implement traffic survey for Llangennech / Dafen / Thomas Street to establish why that route is used. (Know what is Happening, Modal Shift)	Promoting Travel alternatives	Other	County Council (Head of Highways and Transportation)	2019	2020-21	Survey results	Low	Sat Navs often determines quickest route to Llanelli West Traffic modelling study Active Travel Improvements from Hendy M4 Junction planned		Information gathering to help understand driver habit/route choice to help inform other potential inventions Encourage modal shift to Active Travel
LLN8	Install AQMA signage (possibly suggest alternative routes?). (Know what is happening, Improve Air Quality)	Public Information	Via other mechanisms	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)	2021		Traffic counts / monitoring data	Low	None		Potential to link with smart sensors
LLD	LLANDEILO										

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLD1	Consider Diversion of HGV's to other routes or Restriction of HGV's (Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Important to ensure that diversions do not displace poor AQ Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD2	Consider one Way system with vehicles diverted around King Street with bypass (Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG £50 – £60m	WG Transport Study considering option		Important to ensure that diversions do not displace poor AQ. A bypass would reduce the amount of traffic diverted. Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD3	Consider Traffic Light system to reduce fumes at pinch points and improve traffic flow (Reduce congestion)	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities)/ SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Trial scheme may help monitor whether idling traffic creates AQ issues near lights. It will not reduce traffic numbers. Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD4	Build a bypass (Reduce congestion, Modal shift, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Traffic reduction Strategic highway improvements	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) / SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		A Bypass would remove through traffic not visiting Llandeilo and allow for improvements in Rhosmaen Street

Measure No.	Measure (Objective)	Category	Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Costs & Funding Source	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
LLD5	Consider removing parking bays along Rhosmaen Street and Bridge Street (Reduce congestion, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Congestion Management	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) /SWTRA / WG	2017	WG Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data	WG <£50m	WG Transport Study considering option		Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on. Removing parking would be very unpopular
LLD6	Rhosmaen Street Improvements - widening pavements, green infrastructure (Modal Shift, Improve Air Quality)	Traffic Management	Reprioritising road space away from cars	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) /SWTRA / WG	2017	Decision spring 2021	Monitoring data		WG Transport Study considering option		Must be carried out in conjunction with another traffic reduction measure to allow widening pavements Llandeilo Bypass issue which the CC has taken a position on.
LLD7	Introduce a bike hire scheme for the town. (Modal Shift)	Transport Planning and Infrastructure Promoting travel alternatives	Public cycle hire scheme Promotion of cycling	County Council (Head of Safer Homes and Communities) /Partners	2019-2020	2021-22	Uptake of bike hire	(~£50K)	WG Transport Study considering option		This would integrate well with existing bike hire schemes (Brompton) as well as proposed Tywi Valley Path and Heart of Wales Line (rail).

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24TH NOVEMBER 2022

**CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR
CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS**

Purpose:

To present and consider the results of a recent engagement survey in relation to the potential to introduce supplementary dog controls by means of an additional PSPO where evidence supports the need for additional orders

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

To review and assess the information and the merits of approach contained within the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member.

Reasons

With the current baseline Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Orders) in place, Carmarthenshire County Council continues to receive complaints of Dog related Anti-Social Behaviour in the County. It was agreed with Members to conduct an engagement survey to identify areas / issues being experienced that may require additional orders over and above the current base line. This report presents the results of that survey and presents options for future consideration.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Aled Vaughan-Owen - Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2022

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS

1 SUMMARY REPORT.

- 1.1 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are a tool to help deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is damaging to the local community's quality of life. They are designed to ensure that Carmarthenshire residents and visitors can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 In 2016, the Council made the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 (baseline order) to address antisocial dog behaviour and dog fouling on the basis that it had and was likely to continue to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people within Carmarthenshire. In 2019 and 2022 the order was extended for further three years. The current baseline order relating to the specific dog controls/restrictions set out in the bullet points below will expire on the 30th of June 2025.
- 1.3 The order sought to prevent or reduce the detrimental effects referred to above, by imposing reasonable restrictions, the order required people: -
- To clean up after their dogs on all public land in the county.
 - To put and keep their dog on a lead of not more than 2 Metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the council, where such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance, or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or the worrying or disturbance of any animal.
 - Not to take their dog onto or permits their dog to enter or remain on any enclosed children's play areas in the county.
- 1.4 Any additional dog restriction or control orders sought would have to be evidence based and reflect local circumstances and needs as prescribed in section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Authority has to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that in introducing so is to prevent:
- Occurrence or reoccurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order; or
 - An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.
- 1.5 Since the 2016 order came into force there have been 3,354 Complaints in relation to Dog related Anti-Social Behaviour including Dog fouling. During the same period 108 fixed penalty notices have been issued and 6 prosecutions have been implemented for offenders who have failed to pay the fixed penalty notice.

- 1.6 To address ongoing concerns of on-going dog related Anti-Social Behaviour within the community, it was agreed that an engagement survey would be conducted to capture the views on the current order, identify areas or issues being experienced that may require additional orders above the current baseline Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- 1.7 The Engagement Survey was conducted over an eight-week period between the 10th January to 11th March 2022. This was sent to all Members of Carmarthenshire County Council, all Town & Community Councils and nine Sports Groups/ Clubs that have an asset transfer agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council see Appendix A : Copy of Engagement Survey.
- 1.8 The engagement survey was not a full public consultation. It was a targeted survey, undertaken with key stakeholders affected by dog related anti-social behaviour.
- 1.9 The results of this survey showed that 54% of respondents thought that in their view our current orders are not sufficient to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour.
- 1.10 As a result, a number of options of additional orders for consideration are:
- Exclusion of dogs from Sports Pitches (site by site or countywide)
 - Dogs to be kept on Leads in all public spaces.
 - Means to pick up dog faeces
- 1.11 The result of the survey shows there is support for increasing our powers by means of additional PSPOs to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour. Increased controls will have to be balanced against the ability to enforce, the scale of the issue and the benefit from implementation. The options available are presented below for consideration
- 1.12 There are other means in which to address dog related anti-social behaviour through Community Protection Notices (CPN) and community action plans.
- 1.13 Community Protection Notices can be issued by the local authority to tackle ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life, by targeting the individual who is responsible for it.
- 1.14 Community led initiatives can also support the reduction in this issue through direct engagement with the local residents and creating a shared ideology to encourage themselves and other owners to act responsibly.
- 1.15 For any increase in PSPO's to be successful there would need to be enforcement activity undertaken to act as a deterrent. At present we have a team of 8 Enforcement Officers to cover the county. This team have enforcement functions across the county to enforce breaches of Environmental Law (litter and fly-tipping), Public Space Protection Orders, Abandoned vehicles and Anti-Social behaviour.
- 1.16 If the suite of PSPO's were to be expanded in Carmarthenshire this would have an impact on the availability and capacity of officers to tackle the other priority functions. There would need to be a review of the priorities of this team and whether current resources were sufficient to manage increased expectations relating to enforcement of any new PSPOs.

- 1.17 Given the level of enforcement capacity to tackle this problem it is recommended that we undertake the development of a community toolkit to support local activities in the tackling of dog related anti-social behaviour.
- 1.18 We would seek to develop several progressive stages for communities to follow in the process of reducing dog fouling and these could be followed in order, or by selecting those that are most appropriate to the particular local situation.
- 1.19 These actions can be undertaken while evidence is gathered to support the rationale for additional controls to be put in place.

2. SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

1. Consider the approach that additional Orders are implemented on a site-specific basis, with detailed evidence gathered to support any additional controls that may be necessary.
2. The Authority to draft a standard proforma and toolkit for sports groups / town and community councils etc for information and support for community action in relation to dog fouling and provide an evidence template to capture the nature and extent of the problem to support any additional orders that may be appropriate.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

1. Detailed Report
2. Appendix A Copy of Engagement Survey
3. Appendix B Summary of Survey Responses.
4. Appendix C Translated Welsh Responses.

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: D W John

Interim Head of Waste & Environmental Services

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

This matter falls within Community Safety and Public Health Policies and Initiatives. These proposals will support the Council's aims with regard to reducing environmental Crime and Safeguarding Public Health.

2. Legal

Expansion of the PSPO (Dog Control Orders) is not a legal duty but is a discretionary power. However, where appropriate and there are benefits in extending the current order, then this would be done in compliance with all the relevant legislation and in consultation with the Council's Legal Services Department

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) 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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Consideration of Additional Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Carmarthenshire Dog Orders



DETAILED REPORT.

1. Background to the 2016 Order (baseline order).

- 1.1 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are to help deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is damaging to the local community's quality of life. They are designed to ensure that Carmarthenshire residents and visitors can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 People who fail to clean up after their dogs on publicly accessible land cause nuisance to others. The presence of dog faeces is a potential hazard to all members of the public alike. It causes risks to health, defaces land and has the potential to deface people and their property.
- 1.3 When not properly supervised and kept under control, dogs that are allowed off a lead in public areas can cause road traffic accidents and can cause nuisance or injury to members of the public and to other animals.
- 1.4 Dogs in Children's play areas can become aggressive if startled. They can also defecate in these areas, defacing and causing a health risk to the young children that use them.
- 1.5 In 2016, the Council made the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 ("the Original Order") to address the above behaviour on the basis that it had and was likely to continue to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people within Carmarthenshire.
- 1.6 The original order i.e. the baseline order, sought to prevent or reduce the detrimental effects referred to above, by imposing reasonable restrictions, the order required people: -
 - To clean up after their dogs on all public land in the county.
 - To put and keep their dog on a lead of not more than 2 Metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the council, where such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance, or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or the worrying or disturbance of any animal.
 - Not to take their dog onto or permit their dog to enter or remain on any enclosed children's play areas in the County.
- 1.7 The Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 came into force on the 1st July 2016. It was initially made for a period of 3 years. In 2019 and 2022 the order was extended for further three years respectively. The current baseline order relating to the specific dog controls/restrictions set out in the bullet points above will expire on the 30th June 2025.

- 1.8 Public Spaces Protection Orders can be extended for a further period of up to 3 years at a time, so the next extension would be from 2025 to 2028.

2. Legal test for further orders

- 2.1 Any additional dog restriction or control orders sought would have to be evidence based and reflect local circumstances and needs as prescribed in section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 2.2 The Authority must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that in introducing so is to prevent: -
- Occurrence or reoccurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order; or
 - An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

3. Evidence and reasons for review/consideration for further orders

- 3.1 Since the 2016 order came into force there have been 3354 Complaints in relation to Dog related Anti-Social Behaviour including Dog fouling. During the same period 108 fixed penalty notices have been issued and 6 prosecutions have been implemented for offenders who have failed to pay the fixed penalty notice.
- 3.2 There are challenges in enforcing these orders as it requires authorised officers to be “in the right place at the right time” to defuse incidents. We do continue to receive complaints about dog related nuisance on public land and remain of the view that this is useful power which enables officers to deal with any incidents which they may come across.
- 3.3 A small number of complaints have been received about dogs in enclosed play areas and enforcement action has been taken when this occurs.

4. Engagement Survey.

- 4.1 With the introduction of our Public Spaces Protection Orders in 2016, the Authority continued to receive complaints from members and organisations / groups with asset transfer agreements of on-going dog related anti-social behaviour within the community, it was agreed that an engagement survey would be conducted to capture the views on the current order, identify areas or issues being experienced that may require additional orders above the current baseline Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- 4.2 The Engagement Survey was conducted over an eight-week period between the 10th January to 11th March 2022.

4.3 A set of specific questions were sent out to all Members of Carmarthenshire County Council, all town & community councils and nine sports groups/ clubs that have an asset transfer agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council (see Appendix A) : Copy of Engagement Survey.

4.4 The engagement survey was not a full public consultation. It was a targeted survey, undertaken with key stakeholders affected by dog related anti-social behaviour. It is clear that a number of responses have been received from individuals and organisations who we did not invite to respond. It is likely that the groups / organisations invited to participate in the survey have distributed the survey documents to other people and organisations who have then replied to it.

In addition, some respondents have not identified who they are. Therefore, we do not know whether these responses are from consultees who are invited to respond to the survey, or from other people or organisations.

4.5 We consulted with the following: -

- County Councillors.
- The Town and Community Councils.
- Organisation / Groups with Asset transfer leasing agreements with Carmarthenshire County Council.

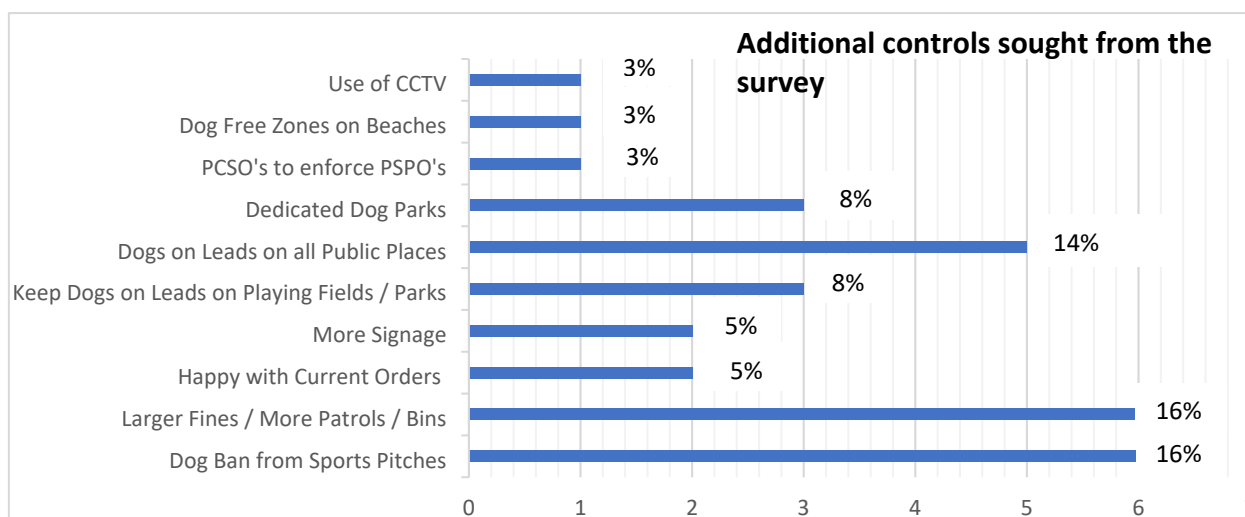
4.6 A summary of Responses is Provided below: -

- 38 Responses were received (these are as follows): -
- 6 County Councillors
- 17 Town & Community Councils
- 13 Other Organisations or Groups.
- 2 Anonymous

4.7 On the question do the current orders, in their view are current orders sufficient to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour?

- 54% Responded with No (20)
- 46% Responded with yes (17)

4.8 Graph showing the key responses.



Full Summary and Detailed Responses are available in Appendix B Summary of Survey responses & Appendix C Engagement Survey Results (Excel).

5. Options & Considerations.

The result of the survey shows there is support for increasing our powers by means of additional PSPOs to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour. Increased controls will have to be balanced against the ability to enforce, the scale of the issue and the benefit from implementation. The options available are presented below for consideration.

5.1 Exclusion of dogs from Sports Pitches.

- 5.1.1 A number of requests have been made for the Authority to consider a dog ban from playing fields / sports pitches.
- 5.1.2 Whilst there is support for a dog exclusion from sports groups and users of the playing fields on health grounds, there are other factors that the Authority has to take into account when considering whether or not it is reasonable to impose such controls.
- 5.1.3 The Authority takes the view that any request for such an order should be taken on a site-by-site approach, when considering the controls that are proportionate at each site- and site-specific evidence will strengthen the Authority's position if proportionality is an issue. Excluding dogs from sports pitches which form part of a much larger site, where there is still room left for dogs to be exercised off lead for welfare reasons would be considered a proportionate response to the problem. However, proportionality becomes more problematic where exclusions leave insufficient space for dogs to be safely exercised off lead. In those cases, we would need to consider whether there are alternative sites in the vicinity where residents can exercise their dogs off-lead, and whether alternative provisions can be made for local dog walkers (including disabled people).
- 5.1.4 Another factor to consider is whether enclosed dog walking areas within these sites are created which allows dogs to be walked off lead. We will also

need to consider the issue the position of pitches moving from one season to the next, people not knowing where the exclusion areas are, as some sports pitches have no defined boundary and some sports pitches are not marked up during the summer months and are formed as an open field out of season. This has the potential risk of dogs straying into the exclusion area. The authorities that have already introduced such exclusion orders have also included exemptions on the exclusion of dogs from sports fields. The exemptions are applied to people who are: -

- Registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 or
- Deaf, in respect of a dog trained by hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity Number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance (dogs must clearly marked as assistants) or;
- Classed as having a disability which affects that person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which that person relies for assistance (dogs must be clearly marked assistants).

5.1.5 A number of local authorities who introduced dog exclusion orders on sports pitches have indicated that sports pitches are regularly affected by dog mess, despite a PSPO being in place.

5.2 Dogs to be kept on Leads in all public spaces.

5.2.1 The Council will need to ensure that residents and visitors have the ability to exercise their dogs off-lead for animal welfare reasons. When introducing dog controls on public spaces, we must have regard to the need for public land where people can safely exercise their dogs off-lead for this animal welfare reason. We also need to carefully consider the impact that any controls could have and on elderly and disabled dog owners - who may have difficulty travelling to other areas of public land where they can do so.

5.2.2 The Authority already has the PSPO "Dogs on leads by direction" power that can be used to deal with on-going incidents of dog nuisance. We also have the Community Protection Notice (CPN) Powers that can be used to deal with any individuals persistently cause other problems (details on the use of CPN's is explained further in the report).

5.3 Means to pick up dog faeces.

5.3.1 No such representation was received to introduce an offence of not carrying a receptacle as means to pick up dog faeces during the engagement survey, however subsequently several members have requested that the Authority consider introducing such offence through a fixed penalty notice (FPN).

5.3.2 The Authority did consult with other authorities who have already introduced the offence of not carrying a bag or receptacles to remove dog faeces. Feedback from these authorities have indicated that the number of FPN's have been low.

5.3.3 One of the difficulties with imposing a requirement to carry "poo bags" etc is that it is difficult to clearly define precisely what is required, and what is and isn't considered acceptable for the purposes of the order. Different authorities word their requirements in different ways. Most of these orders require dog walkers to have "appropriate means" or "suitable means" to clean up after their dog. Others refer to "devices", "articles" or "receptacles" for removal.

5.3.4 An important issue to highlight is that local authority officers do not have powers to stop and search members of public, this may explain why the number of fixed penalty notices issued by local authorities that have introduced this offence is low. But the perceived benefit of such powers may increase the level of responsible behaviour within the County.

5.4 Any requests for enhanced orders will be subject to a formal public consultation.

6 Community Protection Notices (CPN's)

6.1 A Community Protection Notice (CPN), is a legal notice that imposes conditions on an individual who is causing anti-social behaviour. The Community Protection Notice (CPN) is intended to deal with particular, ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life, by targeting the individual who is responsible for it.

6.2 Community Protection Notices can be issued by the local authority, by police officers or by Police Community Support Officers.

6.3 A CPN can be issued against someone, if we are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the conduct of the individual, business or organisation:

- is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- is persistent or continuing in nature; and
- is unreasonable.

6.4 Before a CPN can be issued, a written warning must be issued to the person committing the anti-social behaviour. If they fail to modify their behaviour and the problem continues, they can then be issued with the CPN imposing conditions on them.

6.5 Breach of the CPN is then a criminal offence, unless the person has a reasonable excuse for doing so. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £2,500 for an

individual, or £20,000, in the case of a business or organisation. Alternatively, the offender can be issued with a fixed penalty notice, enabling them to discharge any liability to conviction for the offence by paying a fixed penalty. The maximum fixed penalty that can be demanded is £100

- 6.6 One of the advantages of using CPN's to deal with a dog control issue, is that they only impose restrictions of the individual(s) causing the problem. They can be used to impose conditions on the behaviour of an irresponsible dog owner, without affecting other dog owners who behave responsibly.
- 6.7 Where problems are being caused by a small minority irresponsible dog owners of people, CPN's can provide a fairer and more proportionate way of dealing with those problems, rather than imposing restrictions that will affect all dog owners. They provide a flexible means of addressing issues, as the requirements imposed by the CPN can be tailored to address the problem which each person is causing.
- 6.8 The downside of using CPN's is that it can be difficult to identify and target the irresponsible dog owners. Due to the staged approach that must be taken (Warning Letter; Issue CPN, Enforcement Action for Breach of CPN), at least 3 incidents need to occur before a Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued or an individual can be prosecuted.
- 6.9 There is also a need to consider whether the behaviour which we are seeking to address can be adequately addressed in other ways that might be considered more proportionate - for example through increased enforcement of the current PSPO, and/or using CPN's to deal with the irresponsible individuals rather than imposing additional restrictions which will apply to everyone, including responsible dog owners.

7 Enforcement capacity

- 7.1 For any increase in PSPO's to be successful there would need to be enforcement activity undertaken to act as a deterrent. At present we have a team of 8 Enforcement Officers to cover the county. This team have enforcement functions across the county to enforce breaches of Environmental Law (litter and fly-tipping), Public Space Protection Orders, Abandoned vehicles and Anti-Social behaviour.
- 7.2 If the suite of PSPO's were to be expanded in Carmarthenshire this would have an impact on the availability and capacity of officers to tackle the other priority functions. There would need to be a review of the priorities of this team and whether current resources were sufficient to manage increased expectations relating to enforcement of any new PSPOs.

8 Community Action

- 8.1 Given the level of enforcement capacity to tackle this problem it is recommended that we undertake the development of a community toolkit to support local activities in the tackling of dog related anti-social behaviour.

- 8.2 We would seek to develop several progressive stages for communities to follow in the process of reducing dog fouling and these could be followed in order, or by selecting those that are most appropriate to the particular local situation.
- 8.3 These actions can be undertaken while evidence is gathered to support the rationale for additional controls to be put in place and that the Authority act as a community enabler in this regard to support local community action.

9 Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- CMT consider and review the responses received from the engagement survey undertaken in early 2022.
- Approve the approach that additional Orders are considered on a site-specific basis, with detailed evidence gathered to support any additional controls that may be necessary.
- The Authority to draft a standard proforma and toolkit for sports groups / town and community councils etc for information and support for community action in relation to dog fouling and provide an evidence template to capture the nature and extent of the problem to support any additional orders that may be appropriate.
- Progress report to be completed to evaluate the evidence to support any additional orders

Appendices: -

Appendix A Copy of Engagement Survey
Appendix B Summary of Survey Responses.
Appendix C Translated Welsh Responses.

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Public Spaces Protection Enhanced Orders - Dog Controls

This engagement is designed to identify areas and issues that may require additional or enhanced orders.

At present we have three conditions

1. Dog fouling must be picked up forthwith anywhere in the county where the public have access, whether upon payment or otherwise.
2. Dogs must be put on a lead following direction from an authorised officer of Carmarthenshire County Council.
3. Dogs are banned from enclosed children's play areas.

It is an offence for each of the conditions if there is a failure to comply.

Any requests for enhanced orders will be subject to a formal public consultation which is required in law, evidence will be required to justify any new orders, organisations will also be required to address the need for people to be able to safely exercise their dogs off lead for animal welfare reasons. Organisations seeking enhanced orders should identify any other public land where people can exercise their dogs, organisations are asked to set out details of any steps that they intend to take to prevent dogs accessing the prohibited area (e.g. fencing them off) and / or to set out details any alternative arrangements that they are proposing are to accommodate for the needs of local dog owners, including elderly and disabled people who may not be able to travel far in order to exercise their pets.

(1) Are you responding as a?

- ☐ County Councillor
☐ Town & Community Council
☐ Other Organisation or Group

(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

(3) What additional dog controls would you like the county council to consider introducing. Please identify the areas where you would like the conditions to apply. (Please provide a specific location)

(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions or requirements are required? Please provide details of the ongoing dog related anti-social behaviour that you are experiencing, and the steps that have been taken to try to address the problems.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey
Please click ✓ to send us your replies



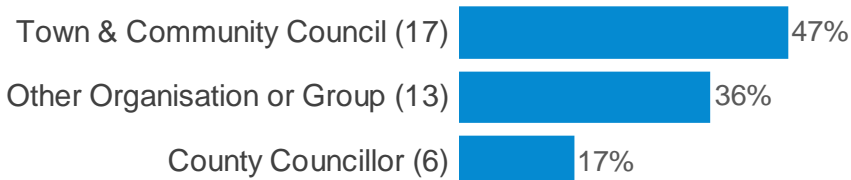
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This report was generated on 16/03/22. Overall 38 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

(1) Are you responding as a?



(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent

Llangyndeyrn	Carmarthen West
Ward Llansteffan	Pontamman
Ward Llanfihangel ar Arth	Llandeilo

(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you are responding on behalf ((1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...)

Eglwyscymmin Community Council	Trelech a'r Betws
Llandybie	St Clears
Llanelli Rural Council	St Ishmael Community Council
St Clears Carmarthenshire	Llanelli
Cyngor Cymuned Llangyndeyrn	Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council
Llanelli	Gorslas Community Council

snap template

(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are representing ((1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...)

Burry Port AFC	Myself
Parc Stephens Community Association	Llanerch community group
Pontiets RFC	Citizen
Bancffossfelen football	RESIDENT
Pontyberem Park Association	'Living Streets' -safer streets for walking
Myself	Safer Communities Action Group

(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to deal with dog related anti-social behaviour?



(3) What additional dog controls would you like the county council to consider introducing. Please identify the areas where you would like the conditions to apply. (Please provide a specific location) ((2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.)

We as a Club would like a total ban on dog walking on all Sports Pitches

None especially - the community council Members are agreed that the provision from 2016 should be continued.

Larger fines and more visits

possibly more signage would help. more visits to problematic hot spots by enforcement officers. signage explaining that dog litter can be deposited in ordinary street litter bins. send out literature with the annual Community Tax demand ?

Gwaherddir cwn ar ran penodol o Draeth Llansteffan dros fisoedd yr haf. Mae bobl yn mynd a'u cwn ar y traeth er y gwaharddiad ond does neb byth yn cael eu herlyn. Mae angen gofalu bod pwerau yn bod i erlyn pob un sy'n torri'r is-ddeddf hon. Mae hefyd problem gyda chwn yn rhedeg yn rhydd mewn mannau cyhoeddus - heb unrhyw gosb.

Dogs to be banned from using any sports pitches. this has already been noted in the consultation response previously made by the Council

Rheoli cwn ar dennyn ar gae chwarae Pentrefi. Rwy'n deall bod hyn yn anodd yw rheoli ond mae yna beryg i blant fynd yn sal iawn os byddent yn digwydd mynd ar draws baw cwn pan yn chwarae.

Dogs should not be allowed on any areas where adults or children are likely to come into physical/bodily contact with dog mess. In our case this means the playing surfaces and surrounding areas of the two pitches.

Dogs on sport and playing fields. Penllwyn Park Playing Field - dogs fouling on the pitch.

Riverside walk Pontamman to Glanamman. Dogs should be kept on a lead as this walk is shared with cyclists and on occasion horse riders.

None

football, Rugby pitches

Small areas in every village/town for dog park, other countries have them. I thought we were supposed to be a country of dog lovers, in Whitland they like to make things impossible

snap template

(3) What additional dog controls would you like the county council to consider introducing. Please identify the areas where you would like the conditions to apply. (Please provide a specific location) ((2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.)

More patrols in the town - New Road leading to Penlan Park . Crescent Road . Also Alan Road leading tow alks accross the river

All dogs must be on a lead at all times, especially on beaches. A more robust punishment for those not adhering to the rules for dog owners. More information on how to report anti social behavior with dog fowling.

Dog Park for off lead and no children access

In rural areas dogs must be secured within the boundary of a property except when accompanied By its owner .

Bod cwn yn cael eu gwahardd o bob Parc chwarae i blant a chaeau Rygbi a pheldroed. Boed y parciau hynny'n gaeedig ai peidio. Mae baw cwn yn broblem ar gaeau rygbi Pontiets ac yn y Parc chwarae sy'n ffinio'r Cae Rygbi, ac fe allai achosi salwch difrifol i blentyn ac oedolion. Mae baw cwn hefyd yn broblem ar hyd strydoedd Pontiets a Charwe. Oes modd gwneud mwy o ddefnydd o'r PCSO er mwyn dirwyo perchnogion sydd ddim yn cydymffurfio a'r rheolau.

Control All Public spaces, pavements, and route to schools. Pathways and lanes.

Dylsau pob ci fod ar dennyn mewn unrhyw leoliad cyhoeddus.

Dogs on leads at all times All public access areas other then dog exercise areas. We have a large area, some maintained and some naturalised. We would like to have dogs on leads at all times in the maintained areas and the naturalised area could be a designated dog exercise area.

Additional measures (signs and bins) along the new Peillac Way footpath and Welfare field.

More bins that are emptied at regular intervals. More public awareness campaigns. Campaigns at school so children that are potentially walking dogs are aware of the consequences and impact.

FEEL TIME TO NAME OFFENDERS in press - that may deter others from allowingntheir dogsn to foul ANYWHERE and NOT PICK IT UP, All areas for conditions to apply.

Bigger signage about dog-fouling Better and wider advertisement about who to call to get deposits cleaned up Less antagonism towards all the responsible dog owners who do clean up (not every dog owner is at fault)

We would like to have the option to introduce a dogs on leads only on the Rugby Field in Ferryside. We would like to have the option to introduce dog free zones on the beach in Ferryside / St Ishmael at least during the summer months.

LLanelli Tyisha and surrounding wards and parks.

Cameras in specific locations for the county to arm the enforcement officers with evidence on what time and place to engage with the community to stop this antisocial behaviour.

No additional controls as such but the Community Council would very much like to see improved levels of enforcement and more visibility of the Dog Patrol Officer(s).

The matter was discussed by members at the meeting of the Council last night. They remain concerned regarding the health and safety issues of dog fouling in the three parks and feel they would still wish for the option of requiring dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead whilst in the park.

snap template

(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions or requirements are required? Please provide details of the ongoing dog related anti-social behaviour that you are experiencing, and the steps that have been taken to try to address the problems.

Due to the health implications of players falling in dog mess We wish a total ban on dog walking on all Sports Pitches, We are constantly having to remove dog mess from our Pitch at Memorial Park Burry Port

Things are pretty good regarding dogs, in ECC's area. It's quite a small area by way of domiciles but there ARE a number of people who regularly walk dogs. (But - as far as I know - they never entering the children's fenced off area with them. I've never seen such, when passing there, anyway). AND - they're responsible people, too, who do not take liberties. So when it comes to their dogs' waste, they carry the necessary bags, gather up the waste and take it home with them. (We are probably only talking about four or five dogs, at best). I can well imagine that the issues are far greater in places where dog walking is prolific and need to be considered in a lot more detail. But here (in Eglwyscwmmin) there isn't a problem.

The dog fouling issue in the park is becoming a serious danger to other park users with some dog owners becoming aggressive when being asked to clean up their mess

continuous problems with dog owners allowing their canine to run free on playgrounds & recreation grounds. local problematic hot spots are : Pontiets Rugby Fields & Children's Park. Gwynfryn school play area & sports field, Carwe recreation grounds. pavements & footpaths around Ffoslas housing estates Carwe

Fe awgrymwyd y byddai'r Gorchymyn hwn yn gallu rheoli materion ynglyn a chwn. Dyw hyn ddim yn digwydd. Does dim un erlyniad wedi digwydd yn yr ardal hon ers blynnyddoedd. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyhoedd sy'n cerdded cwn yn parchu'r deddfau ac mynd yn grac pan mae cerddwyr anghyfrifol yn sarhau'r ddeddf. Mae carfan o gerddwyr cwn sy'n credu y gallan nhw fynd lle y mynnon nhw a bod is-ddeddfau yn "gyfyngiad ar eu rhyddid". Mae'n achosi llawer o ddrwgdeimlad. Mae cachu cwn yn broblem beunyddiol, ac mae angen "deddf" i erlyn bobl rhag rhoi'r cachu mewn bag yna'i adael ar lwybr, ar ffens, neu yng ngardd rhywun. Mae hen ddigon o finiau ar gael i dderbyn y bagiau baw ci. Yn fwy gwledig, yr wythnos diwethaf cafodd nifer o ddefaid eu hanafu'n ddifrifol gan gi. Mae angen agwedd "no tolerance" ar faterion cwn yn yr ardal hon unwaith ac am byth. Os yw'r pwerau addas yn bod eisioes, mae'n rhaid eu gorfodi neu mae bobl yn eu hanwybyddu ac mae'r holl beth yn troi'n jôc. Diolch.

Some owners continue to allow their dogs to foul on sports pitches and make no effort to clear up the mess. Club volunteers are often asked to review the playing areas before any training and matches. Often games are stopped so that mess can be cleared. Polite signs have been erected asking that dogs should not be allowed on the pitches but these are ignored and have no legal power.

I ddiogelu'r Cyhoedd

We regularly find dog poo on the playing surfaces of both our rugby pitches and the perimeters to those areas. This affects our senior players both during games and training sessions. This season we have reformed our junior sections and have over fifty children of primary school ages regularly playing and training. The children in particular do not have the awareness of the dangers of coming into contact with the excrement left by the dogs. We have signage around the grounds and regularly inspect the playing surfaces both before games and training sessions. In addition dog walkers have been approached and reminded of their responsibilities in relation to their dogs. Pontiets is in a rural location with a large number of footpaths and open spaces where dogs can be exercised so there is really no need to take them on to the pitches. Many of our players and members have dogs and none go anywhere near the areas where there are health implications for the players. It is also the case that other groups use the fields e.g. the local schools for sports days. The club has a compliance officer who keeps us informed of our legal rights and responsibilities in relation to this matter but it is still an ongoing problem, as it is for most sports clubs in the county, and indeed Wales.

Health hazard where children are playing sport. Town Council has closed the area due to anti social behaviour depriving youngsters of general access to the pitch. There is also an issue of enforcing any current orders.

snap template

(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions or requirements are required? Please provide details of the ongoing dog related anti-social behaviour that you are experiencing, and the steps that have been taken to try to address the problems.

Have witnessed many a near collision between free running dogs and cyclists especially where there are blind bends in the path.

Park is a shared space.

It is impossible to inspect these pitches prior to any match. The area is too vast and we do pick up many dog fieces but it is still a problem

People need to be trained to be able to have a dog

The tiny minority ignore signs but we need to pursue them as their spoiling it for others

There is still a minority of dog owners who feel that they do not have to comply with the rules on taking dogs out for a walk. They do not keep them on a lead and do not pick up any fouling of the pavements. They are aware that the chances of being caught are slim at best.

Allow dogs to have controlled off lead time and association with other dogs for social reasons

Too many dogs roaming onto highways causing drivers to take emergency action to avoid them

Mae rhai perchnogion cwn yn anwybyddu arwyddion ac yn ymateb yn dreisgar pan mae pobl yn gofyn iddynt godi baw eu cwn.

The dog fouling has become a nuance, and many don't pick up the mess and children and OAP are forever stepping in the mes and getting that into their homes.

Gall unrhyw gi sydd ddim ar dennyn achosi damwain ar unrhyw adeg petai'n croesi i lwybr cerbyd. Hefyd gall unrhyw gi nad yw ar dennyn niweidio person neu eiddo heb unrhyw rybudd.

People ignore the signs and there is not enough enforcement. This would make the situation very clear

An increased number of bins along Peillac way especially along the midpoint with more prominent signage would encourage visitors/walkers to dispose of their refuse correctly and reduce the amount of litter along a well used and attractive path, improving the appearance and being more environmentally friendly to the different biodiversity present. Ongoing anti-social dog related behaviours include instances of dog fouling and littering of full bags.

The tyshia ward has an abundance of dog mess some right outside doorways. Mansel street and other streets close by have dog mess outside practically everyday. There has been some mess spray painted which has made it easier to avoid but it still can get stepped on and tracked through houses and cars.

DIRTY OWNERS . health hazard especially walking at night NOT SEEINGN DOG POO. Health hazard if Poo gets into HUMAN EYES CCC absolutely brilliant dealing with our Dog poo dirty owners allowing their dogs to foul PAVEMENT AND PRIVATE FRONT LAWNS in Parc Howard Avenue. Response to our complaint was immediate NOT SEEN THESE DIRTY OWNERS SINCE !!! However, understand that these 2 are now FREQUENTING NPARC HOWARD GROUNDS !!! NOT SEEN THEM OURSELVES BUT HAVE BEEN TOLD. WELL DONE CCC FOR ALL THE HARD WORK IN TRYING TO SOLVE THIS MATTER ALLM OVER LLANELLI. GOOD LUCK FOR THE FUTURE IN YOUR BRILLIANR WORK

This area is a regular route to parks and the beach, everyone and his dog passes at least twice daily. This has always been a problem area but is not patrolled. I asked for 'dog-fouling' notices to be put up years ago but they are miniscule (smaller than the size of a teacup) insufficient signage, I would like them larger and noticeable. I would also ask that residents be informed about who to contact to clean up these deposits, most just complain online to neighbours because the correct procedure is unknown. Better interaction with the neighbourhood is needed, we feel neglected on this subject

snap template

(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions or requirements are required? Please provide details of the ongoing dog related anti-social behaviour that you are experiencing, and the steps that have been taken to try to address the problems.

Dog fouling appears to have increased greatly over the last couple of years which is causing a huge problem and distress to a number of residents. In addition to the general problem, we have two junior football teams wishing to play on the rugby field. Also, people are telling us that their children are unable to enjoy the beach due to the amount of dog fouling. Additional signage has been added and a number of posts etc have been shared on social media to remind people / raise awareness to clear up after their dogs, we employ a handyman who picks up dog mess from the field and have provided an additional bin in the field to try and alleviate the issue. Unfortunately, this has made little or no difference. It is a very big problem that is causing a lot of stress and anxiety.

The volume of dog mess on the streets and community areas is detrimental to the health and safety of the public. The Tyisha regeneration team is currently with an exercise to catch offenders that are antisocial in their actions by not picking up the dog excrement and disposing of it in proper bins. The offenders are walking their dogs outside of normal working hours and in the dark, making it difficult to catch the offenders. Notices and education through the schools and community is not influencing the offenders.

This Town is complaining daily regarding the huge challenge of cleanliness' of the streets and parks. There are officers working on this challenge and there is little deterrent out there to bring home the message that we need clean streets. Enforcement will get the message out and given the logistics a leaflet drop

Members of the public who do not pick up after their dog(s) and/or do not keep their dog(s) on a lead when required to do so operate in this manner partly because they believe they will not get caught and this generally seems to be the case. Since COVID Llansteffan in particular seems to have become a go to location for dog walkers. As a result the problem with dog faeces has increased exponentially, not just on the beach, but along the paths and on the grassed areas. As CCC has deemed Llansteffan to be in the top 8 tourist destinations in Carmarthenshire it is felt that enforcement should be prominent in the Ward.

Equally, as the Council will shortly have CCTV coverage in the park, which will identify offenders members would wish to know if the Council has powers to prohibit an owner who is a persistent offender from a particular park. Dog fouling, is a major concern and they would very much appreciate an opportunity to discuss the matter with you - via zoom or Teams before the closing date for the receipt of observations.

Q1	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2	Q3	Q4
(1) Are you responding as a?	(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent	(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...	(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...	(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to d...	(2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.	(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions...
County Councillor	Ward Llansteffan			No	<p>Gwaherddir cwn ar ran penodol o Draeth Llansteffan dros fisoedd yr haf. Mae bobl yn mynd a'u cwn ar y traeth er y gwaharddiad ond does neb byth yn cael eu herlyn. Mae angen gofalu bod pwerau yn bod i erlyn pob un sy'n torri'r is-ddeddf hon. Mae hefyd problem gyda chwn yn rhedeg yn rhydd mewn mannau cyhoeddus - heb unrhyw gosb.</p> <p>(Dogs are banned on a specific part of Llansteffan Beach over the summer months. People take their dogs on the beach despite the ban but no one is ever prosecuted. It must be ensured that powers exist to prosecute anyone who breaks this bylaw. There is also a problem with dogs running freely in public places - with no penalty).</p>	<p>Fe awgrymwyd y byddai'r Gorchymyn hwn yn gallu rheoli materion ynglyn a chwn. Dyw hyn ddim yn digwydd. Does dim un erlyniad wedi digwydd yn yr ardal hon ers blynnyddoedd. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyhoedd sy'n cerdded cwn yn parchu'r deddfau ac mynd yn grac pan mae cerddwyr anghyfrifol yn sarhau'r ddeddf. Mae carfan o gerddwyr cwn sy'n credu y gallan nhw fynd lle y mynnon nhw a bod is-ddeddfau yn "gyfyngiad ar eu rhyddid". Mae'n achosi llawer o ddrwgdeimlad. Mae cachu cwn yn broblem beunyddiol, ac mae angen "deddf" i erlyn bobl rhag rhoi'r cachu mewn bag yna'i adael ar lwybr, ar ffens, neu yng ngardd rhywun. Mae hen ddigon o finiau ar gael i dderbyn y bagiau baw ci. Yn fwy gwledig, yr wythnos diwethaf cafodd nifer o ddefaid eu hanafu'n ddifrifol gan gi. Mae angen agwedd "no tolerance" ar faterion cwn yn yr ardal hon unwaith ac am byth. Os yw'r pwerau addas yn bod eisioes, mae'n rhaid eu gorfodi neu mae bobl yn eu hanwybyddu ac mae'r holl beth yn troi'n jôc. Diolch.</p>

Q1	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2	Q3	Q4
(1) Are you responding as a?	(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent	(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...	(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...	(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to d...	(2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.	(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions...
						(It was suggested that this Order would be able to manage matters relating to dogs. This isn't happening. Not a single prosecution has taken place in this area for years. Most of the dog-walking public respect the laws and become angry when irresponsible walkers snub the legislation. There is a cohort of dog walkers who believe they can go where they want and that bylaws are a "restriction on their freedom". It causes a lot of animosity. Dog mess is a daily problem, and a "law" is needed to prosecute people putting it in a bag then leaving it on a path, on a fence, or in someone's garden. There are plenty of bins available for the dog poo bags. More rurally, last week several sheep were seriously injured by a dog. Dog issues in this area require a "no tolerance" attitude once and for all. If the right powers already exist, they must be enforced, or people ignore them and the whole thing becomes a joke. Thank you).
Page 3 of 4 County Councillor	Ward Llanfihangel ar Arth			No	Rheoli cwn ar dennyn ar gae chwarae Pentrefi. Rwyn deall bod hyn yn anodd yw rheoli	I ddiogelu'r Cyhoedd (To protect the Public).

Q1	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2	Q3	Q4
(1) Are you responding as a?	(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent	(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...	(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...	(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to d...	(2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.	(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions...
					<p>ond mae yna beryg i blant fynd yn sal iawn os byddent yn digwydd mynd ar draws baw cwn pan yn chwarae.</p> <p>(Control dogs on a lead on Village playing field. I understand that this is difficult to control but there is a danger for children to become very ill if they happen to come across dog poo when playing).</p>	
<p>Town & Community Council</p> <p>Page 375</p>		Cyngor Cymuned Llangydeyrn		No	<p>Bod cwn yn cael eu gwahardd o bob Parc chwarae i blant a chaeau Rygbi a pheldroed. Boed y parciau hynny'n gaeedig ai peidio. Mae baw cwn yn broblem ar gaeau rygbi Pontiets ac yn y Parc chwarae sy'n ffinio'r Cae Rygbi, ac fe allai achosi salwch difrifol i blentyn ac oedolion. Mae baw cwn hefyd yn broblem ar hyd strydoedd Pontiets a Charwe. Oes modd gwneud mwy o ddefnydd o'r PCSO er mwyn</p>	<p>Mae rhai perchnogion cwn yn anwybyddu arwyddion ac yn ymateb yn dreisgar pan mae pobl yn gofyn iddynt godi baw eu cwn.</p> <p>(Some dog owners ignore signs and react violently when people ask them to pick up their dog's poo).</p>

Q1	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2	Q3	Q4
(1) Are you responding as a?	(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent	(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...	(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...	(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to d...	(2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.	(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions...
					<p>dirwyo perchnogion sydd ddim yn cydymffurfio a'r rheolau.</p> <p>(Dogs are banned from all children's play parks and rugby and football pitches. Whether those parks are closed or not. Dog fouling is a problem on Pont-iets rugby pitches and in the play park bordering the Rugby Field, and could cause serious illness for children and adults. Dog fouling is also an issue along Pontiets and Carway streets. Can more use be made of the PCSO to fine owners who do not comply with the rules).</p>	
<p>Town & Community Council</p> <p>Page 376</p>		Trelech a'r Betws		No	Dylsau pob ci fod ar dennyn mewn unrhyw leoliad cyhoeddus.	Gall unrhyw gi sydd ddim ar dennyn achosi damwain ar unrhyw adeg petai'n croesi i lwybr cerbyd. Hefyd gall unrhyw gi nad yw ar dennyn niweidio person neu eiddo heb unrhyw rybudd.

Q1	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2	Q3	Q4
(1) Are you responding as a?	(1a) Please tell us which ward you represent	(1a) Please tell us which Town or Community Council you a...	(1a) Please tell us which Organisation or Group you are r...	(2) Are the current orders, in your view, sufficient to d...	(2a) Please add any comments that you wish to make.	(4) Why do you believe that these additional restrictions...
					(All dogs should be on a lead in any public setting).	(Any dog that is not on a lead can cause an accident at any time should it cross into the path of a vehicle. Any dog that is not on a lead can also harm a person or property without any warning).

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PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 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 15th December, 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

Tel No. / E-Mail Address:

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JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 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 took 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 15th December, 2022.

REPORT
ATTACHED?

YES:

- List of Forthcoming Items;
- Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting held on 4th October 2022;
- Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - Forward Work Plan;
- Cabinet Forward Plan.

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: 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

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:**

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Forward Plan	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s65277/Forward%20Plan.pdf

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FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 15th December 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
Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q2	Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance. Through Performance Monitoring we can demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and what appropriate interventions are implemented.	Pre-decision report Scrutiny Members requested include this item to be included onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan in order to carry out their role in scrutinising performance. The Monitoring report would cover the areas within this Scrutiny Committee's remit	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy – 12 month review	The report provides an update on progress with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested the opportunity to scrutinise this item as the highway network affects all residents in Carmarthenshire.	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
Waste Strategy	This report covers detailed policies implement within the strategic and operational functions of service in line with the interim (2022/2023) kerbside waste changes. Placing into context the impending changes following the 2021- 2025 waste strategy showing the planned path to improve recycling rates and adopt Welsh Government kerbside sort in Carmarthenshire.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested the opportunity to scrutinise this item as the highway network affects all residents in Carmarthenshire.	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

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 and 1st November 2022)

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
Budget Monitoring April 2022 to August 2022	This is a standard bi-monthly budget report covering the revenue and capital budgets for the Environment Department, Public Protection Services and Community Safety which fall within the remit of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role	Cabinet Member for Resources
Carmarthenshire County Council's Corporate Strategy	To update our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested the opportunity to consider the content of the strategy.	Leader of the Council
Graffiti Policy	This policy outlines the process in dealing with graffiti on public and private land. Covering a coordinated approach regarding graffiti on public land, council buildings and on private land where graffiti has a visual impact on public space. Prioritisation of graffiti removal, methods, timeframe and barriers for removal are detailed.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested the opportunity to consider the content of the Graffiti Policy.	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Homes Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting held on 4TH OCTOBER 2022

(in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Programme)

In line with the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Committee's decision to receive and scrutinise reports outside of the formal committee process, the following reports were forwarded to all members of the Scrutiny Committee by e-mail on 7th October and 25th October 2022:

1.	CYNLLUN BUSNES ADRANNOL ADRAN CYMUNEDAU 2022/23 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23
2.	ADRODDIAD ALLDRO CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2021/22
3.	ADRODDIAD MONITRO CYLLIDEB CYFALAF A REFENIW 2022/23 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2022/23
4.	ADRODDIAD PERFFORMIAD CWARTER 1 2022/23 (1 EBRILL I 30 MEHEFIN 2022) 2022/23 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT (1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2022)

[Cliciwch yma i weld pecyn addrodiad](#)

[Click here to view the report pack](#)

The Committee had no observation/comments/queries in relation to the above reports.

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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	Highways Maintenance Manual	CCC Strategy for Trees and Woodland	
E&PP Scrutiny Committee Actions Update report 2021/22.	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Report	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy – 12 month review	Revenue Budget Consultation 2023/24 – 2025/26		
E&PP Forward Work Programme 2022/23	County Council Annual Report	Waste Strategy	Departmental Business Plans		
Net Zero Carbon Annual Progress report	To revise the Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on Fly- Tipping		Equestrian Strategy		
Environment Act Forward Plan Update	Public Space Protection Order (Enhancement on dog related controls)		WG Speed Limit Changes in Legislation (20MPH)		

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 Sessions held on 21st September 2022 and 1st November 2022

Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q1	Task & Finish Implementation Report – FESS <i>Financial Exploitation & Safeguarding Scheme</i>	CCC Corporate Strategy	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to October 2022		Budget Monitoring April 2022 to December 2022
Communities Departmental Business Plan 2022-23	Highway Drainage Design Guide	Graffiti Policy	Sandbag Policy 2022 Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report Q2		
Budget Monitoring - 21/22 Outturn April 22 to June 2022	Budget Monitoring April 2022 to August 2022		CWM Business Plan and Progress Report		

PS&CC Scrutiny Member – Focussed Development Sessions:-

The Committee has requested for the following focused development sessions to take place following each of the scheduled formal Committee meetings (unless otherwise notified).

- Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Statement –**14th November 2022**
- 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 2023**
- Substance Use – **24th February 2023**
- Enforcement / Pollution – **March 2023 (date to be arranged)**
- To be determined – **April 2023**
- WG Speed Limit Change in Legislation (20mph) –Workshop 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. A revised Planning and Scoping Document is scheduled for 24th November 2022.

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”.

CABINET/COUNCIL – FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 29 DECEMBER 2023

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director Report Author
STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2	This is the annual report by the Director of Social Services on the performance of our Social Care Services in the county. It sets out the challenges of an unprecedented year due to COVID 19 and highlights those areas to be developed in the current year. It relates to performance for the year 2021/22.	Cabinet 17 Oct 2022	No	Cllr. Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member	Director of Communities Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
POST 16 REVIEW INCLUDING VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND THOSE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (NEETS)		Cabinet 17 Oct 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing jarees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
APPROVAL OF	This Strategy has been produced in	Cabinet	No	Cllr. Jane Tremlett,	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
THE WEST WALES CARE PARTNERSHIP'S	partnership between officers of the 3 Local Authorities, the Health Board and third sector partners as well as people living with dementia, their carers, and family members. It supports several key objectives within the Corporate Plan, and our wellbeing objective to 'support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years', and its approval will enable us to deliver services in line with the needs of our community.	17 Oct 2022		Cabinet Member	Communities Alex Williams (Head of Integrated Services), Head of Integrated Services AlexWilliams@car marthenshire.gov.uk
POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT & MARKET STABILITY REPORT	Under Part 2 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, the Health Board and Local Authorities are required to produce a Population Assessment. This work is undertaken through the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and is co-ordinated by the West Wales Care Partnership Team. This work has been overseen by the Regional Commissioning Programme Group with oversight and scrutiny from all partners. Regular updates have been provided to the Regional Partnership Board. These reports will	Cabinet 17 Oct 2022	No	Cllr. Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member	Director of Communities Kelvin Barlow, Senior Manager- Complex Needs and Transition KelvinBarlow@car marthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	inform the West Wales Area Plan and in turn inform regional and local, commissioning intentions.				
2022 SANDBAG POLICY	<p>The CCC sandbag policy has been in place for many years without significant change. However, with increased intensity and frequency of storms and increased flooding, in combination with budget constraints and staffing pressures comes a need for Council policies to adapt and be amended accordingly.</p> <p>As such, in line with new research, best practice, flood risk management national policy and our own better ways of working a new sandbag policy has been developed. The new policy seeks to empower and educate Carmarthenshire's residents with regards to flood risk management while clearly conveying our priorities and the standards of service that we can provide.</p> <p>The policy therefore combines advice on sandbags as per the old policy (chapter 2) with information on sandbag alternatives (chapter 3).</p> <p>The new policy document starts practical steps that property owners can implement to manage their own flood risk and finishes by clarifying how and which RMA they can report flooding to.</p>	Cabinet 31 Oct 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Ben Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager BKathrens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
IMPLICATIONS OF THE RENTING HOMES (WALES) ACT 2016	To raise awareness of the Act and its implications. The Act will replace the different tenancy and licence types that currently exist with just two types of 'occupation contract' - one for the private rented sector and one for the social rented sector.	Cabinet 31 Oct 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities JMorgan@cardiffshire.gov.uk
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER 1 2022/23(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2022)	Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance. We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented	Cabinet 31 Oct 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@cardiffshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme, as at the 31st August 2022.	Cabinet 14 Nov 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@cardiffshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st	Cabinet 14 Nov 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
BUDGET MONITORING REPORT	August 2022, in respect of 2022/23.				Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022	Cabinet 28 Nov 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@carmarthen-shire.gov.uk
HAMP ANNUAL REPORT	<p>The Annual Report provides an update on the condition and performance of the highway network together with related financial information.</p> <p>The report includes road condition forecasts for investment scenarios together with detailed information on carriageway condition trend analysis, highway structures and public lighting.</p>	Cabinet 14 Nov 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Richard Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager RWaters@carmarthen-shire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	Report normally presented to Scrutiny Committee				
HAMP MAINTENANCE MANUAL	<p>The Maintenance Manual is being developed as a portfolio of individual highway maintenance and management policies adopting a risk-based approach and according with a national code of practice.</p> <p>The topic being brought forward covers the management of highway drainage.</p>	Cabinet 14 Nov 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Richard Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager RWaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SECOND DEPOSIT REVISED LDP	To consider and approve for public consultation the content of the second Deposit Revised Local Development including: the written statement (strategic and specific policies); and, the Inset Maps setting out the location and type of developments for the period through to 2033 as well as environmental proposals and other constraints.	Cabinet 14 Nov 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Environment Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
LEISURE STRATEGY	To consult on the content of a new 10-year Leisure, Culture and Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the County	Cabinet 28 Nov 2022	No	Cllr. Gareth John, Cabinet Member	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
HIGHWAY DRAINAGE DESIGN GUIDE	Supplementary design guidance for developers proposing to connect surface water drainage outfalls from new developments into the highway drainage system. Guide also sets out charges for assessing applications and connection fees.	Cabinet 28 Nov 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
RECLASSIFICATION OF THE A476 CROSS HANDS	Following completion of the Cross Hands Economic Link Road planned for September 2022 it is proposed that the new road will be classified as the A476 and a section of the existing A476 be given a B road classification. Other minor modifications are also included.	Cabinet 28 Nov 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CARMARTHENSHERE COUNTY COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR TREES AND WOODLAND	The strategy reflects CCC's responsibilities for trees and woodlands. It sets out how CCC manages the trees and woodlands for which it is responsible, where and why it would like to plant more trees and woodland, and the steps it can take to do this.	Cabinet 28 Nov 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Environment Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CARMARTHENSHERE COUNTY COUNCIL'S	Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 we must publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22	October each year. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives. This report meets both these requirements in one document.				Manager njevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (HSP) STRATEGY 2022-26	This strategy sets out our priorities and those of our partner agencies for homelessness prevention, homelessness relief and housing related support services over the coming four years (2022-26) to support our most vulnerable citizens to live as part of their communities.	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Christine Harrison, Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning Chris.harrison@pembroke.gov.uk
CORPORATE STRATEGY	To update our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023/24	For Cabinet to consider the Tax Base calculations and determine the Tax Base in respect of the financial year 2023-24	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Ann Thomas, Revenue Services Manager
ALTERNATIVE	The purpose of this report is to review	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
OUTDOOR EDUCATION OFFER	Carmarthenshire County Council's current Outdoor Education offer and to explore options for a re-modelled service within existing resources.	12 Dec 2022		Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME	The report seeks formal adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Ann Thomas, Revenue Services Manager
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY, TWELVE MONTH REVIEW	The report provides an update on progress with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
WASTE STRATEGY	This report covers detailed policies implement within the strategic and operational functions of service in line with the interim (2022/2023) kerbside waste changes. Placing into context the impending changes following the 2021-2025 waste strategy showing the planned path to improve recycling rates and adopt Welsh Government kerbside sort in Carmarthenshire.	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
SECTION 106 (PLANNING OBLIGATIONS) - UPDATE	<p>The provides an update on the collection and use of planning obligations (often referred to as s106 agreements and/or developer contributions) in mitigating the impacts arising from development.</p> <p>It updates on the monies held and committed - the income and expenditure and monies available, as well as the current processes</p>	Cabinet 12 Dec 2022	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Environment Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
CWM BUSINESS PLAN & PROGRESS REPORT	This report presents the annual business plan of CWM Environmental, setting the annual actions and objectives and the progress the company has made	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Performance management Quarter 2 2022/23(1 July to 30 September 2022)	<p>Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance.</p> <p>We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented</p>	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
REVENUE	To provide the Cabinet with an overview of	Cabinet	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26	the budget issues and outlook for the forthcoming years	16 Jan 2023		Member	Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) – 2023/24 TO 2027/28	To enable the authority to agree a five-year capital programme 2023/24 to 2027/28	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Chris Moore, Director of Corporate Services cmoore@carmarthen-shire.gov.uk
SELF-EVALUATION AND SCHOOL DATA	Self-evaluation is integral to the business planning process. ECS has modified its approach by triangulating judgements from a wider range of perspectives	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing jarees@carmarthen-shire.gov.uk
SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE SCHOOLS IN	This report provides an overview of the support offered to our schools in relation to the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, from Partneriaeth and the Education and Children's services	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Elin Forsyth, Principal Challenge

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
CARMARTHENSHIRE – PARTNERIAETH AND THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT.	department. In addition, the report outlines the impact of this support and the effective practice that is developing within the authority.				Advisor EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme, as at the 31st October 2022.	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st October 2022, in respect of 2022/23.	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CONSERVATION	This report sets out the work being	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
AREA APPRAISALS	<p>undertaken to review ten designated Conservation Areas across the County. It identifies the outcome of the review and the subsequent consultation exercise including on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A character appraisal; • A boundary review and • A management plan. <p>The report in setting out the above identifies the outcome of the public consultation exercise and the next steps including the processes required to amend any of the Conservation Area designations.</p>	16 Jan 2023		Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Environment Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
WG SPEED LIMIT CHANGES IN LEGISLATION (20MPH)	<p>Welsh Government will introduce new legislation in September 2023 to reduce the mandatory speed limit on restricted (street lit) roads from 30mph to 20mph.</p> <p>The report provides an update on preparations for the new legislation</p>	Cabinet 16 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Richard Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager RWaters@carmarth enshire.gov.uk
EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY	The Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2019-2029 has been produced and published in accordance with section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmart

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	<p>The ROWIP details Carmarthenshire's plan for the strategic management, development, and improvement of the County's Public Rights of Way network up until 2029.</p> <p>During consultation with the Local Access Forum, The Forum identified a need for the local authority to commit to producing a Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy to recognise the access opportunities and challenges for horse riding and carriage driving across the County.</p> <p>An Equestrian Strategy to 'promote and develop an accessible network for equestrian use' has therefore been published in the Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029.</p> <p>The report sets out the proposal to adopt an Equestrian Strategy for Carmarthenshire.</p>				henshire.gov.uk
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - ENHANCEMENT ON DOG RELATED CONTROLS	The report sets out the results of an engagement exercise undertaken on the potential options of enhanced Public Space Protection Orders for the control of dogs within Carmarthenshire.	Cabinet 30 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
GRAFFITI POLICY	This policy outlines the process in dealing with graffiti on public and private land. Covering a coordinated approach regarding graffiti on public land, council buildings and on private land where graffiti has a visual impact on public space. Prioritisation of graffiti removal, methods, timeframe and barriers for removal are detailed.	Cabinet 30 Jan 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Environment Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@car-mar-thenshire.gov.uk
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2026	The HRA Business plan sets out our priorities and activities for new and existing council homes for the next three years. It also sets our capital and revenue budgets and confirms rental levels for tenants.	Cabinet 20 Feb 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Rachel Davies, Strategic Housing Delivery Manager RaMDavies@car-mar-thenshire.gov.uk
FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) – 2023/24 TO 2027/28	To enable the authority to agree a five-year capital programme 2023/24 to 2027/28	Cabinet 20 Feb 2023	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-mar-thenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st December 2022, in respect of 2022/23.	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2023-2024	That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2021-22 and recommendations therein. That Council formally approves the Treasury Management Indicators, Prudential Indicators, the MRP Statement, the Investment Strategy and recommendations therein.	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@car-marthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
BUSINESS RATES – RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2023/24	To consider the adoption of a rate relief scheme being made available to billing authorities by Welsh Government for 2023/24	Cabinet 13 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Ann Thomas, Revenue Services Manager
REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26	To enable the Authority to set its Revenue Budget for the Council Fund and resultant Council Tax for 2023/24.	Cabinet 20 Feb 2023 Council 1 March 2023	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
TENANT COMPENSATION POLICY	The report sets out our approach to when it may be appropriate to compensate a tenant who has suffered loss or inconvenience due to service failure. The policy will guide officers when dealing with council tenants ensuring a consistent approach.	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
TENANT	Occasionally it may be necessary to	Cabinet	No	Deputy Leader and	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
RECHARGE POLICY	<p>recharge a tenant for work that we have carried out to the property which was the tenant responsibility under the tenancy agreement.</p> <p>The policy will guide officers when dealing with council tenant recharges, ensuring a consistent approach.</p>	27 Feb 2023		Cabinet Member for Homes	<p>Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme, as at the 31st December 2022.	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
CARMARTHENSHERE'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING (CSCfL)	<p>To provide Cabinet with an updated CSCfL (formerly known as Modernising Education Programme (MEP)) as the long-term strategy and investment plan for schools.</p> <p>The plan will be brought forward following extensive consultation with stakeholders.</p>	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	<p>Director of Education & Children Simon Davies, Head of Access to Education sidavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S	This report outlines the range of differentiated support provided to our	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh	Director of Education &

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
SERVICES STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIST SETTINGS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE MOST CHALLENGED.	schools, PRUs and specialist settings ensuring that leaders, teachers and teaching assistants access the necessary support to ensure that all pupils progress and thrive.			Language	Children Elin Forsyth, Principal Challenge Advisor EMForsyth@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
AN EVALUATION OF ESTYN INSPECTIONS ACROSS CARMARTHENSIRE SCHOOLS, PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS AND SPECIALIST SETTINGS.	This report provides an evaluation of Estyn inspections over the last five years, outlining the strengths of our schools, PRUs and specialist settings, as well as providing an overview of recommendations for improvement. In addition, the report outlines how the ECS department supports schools both pre and post Estyn inspections to ensure that all of our learners' progress and thrive.	Cabinet 11 Apr 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Elin Forsyth, Principal Challenge Advisor EMForsyth@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)	The Carmarthenshire 2022-32 WESP became operative on 1.9.22. The Local Authority is required to submit an annual progress report to Welsh Government. It's deemed pertinent to present this report to the Scrutiny process prior to WG submission.	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing jarees@carmarthen shire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2022-2023	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities for 2022-2023	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme, as at the 31st December 2022.	Cabinet 27 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: (In Person) Councillor J.D. James (Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

P. Cooper, K. Davies, G.B. Thomas.

Councillors (Virtually):

S.M. Allen, N. Evans, T.M. Higgins, G.R. Jones,
B.D.J. Phillips, N. Lewis. A. Evans.

Also in attendance:

Councillor A. Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability.

The following Officers were in attendance (In Person):

N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy;
S. Pilliner, Head of Transportation and Highways;
J. Edwards, Business Improvement Manager;
D.W. John, Environmental Services Manager;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer [Minute Taker].

The following Officers were in attendance (Virtually):

R. Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability;
J. Morgan, Head of Housing,
K. Davies, Sustainable Development Manager;
R. Carmichael, Rural Conservation Manager.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP and remotely: 10:00am - 11:40am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A.D.T. Davies and Councillor C. Evans.

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

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Committee received the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Annual Report on the work undertaken during the 2021/22 municipal year. It was noted that the report had been prepared in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution and provided an overview of the work programme and key issues addressed, whilst also incorporating any issues referred to, or from, the Cabinet, Task and Finish reviews and development sessions.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22 be received.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ACTIONS - 2021/22

The Committee received the actions arising from the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee from its work during 2021/22 and considered the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions Report for 2021/22 be received.

6. FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23

The Committee, in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Council's constitution, considered its draft 2022/23 Forward Work Plan. The Committee also considered its Task and Finish arrangements for the 2022/23-24.

The Committee, at its informal Forward Work Plan development session on 21st September, 2022 began the process of formulating the forward work plan for 2022/23. The outcome of the development session was now presented to the Committee in the Forward Work Plan for confirmation.

Members developed the Committee's Forward Work Plan considering the issues subjects of concern within the remit of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, managing the agenda by way of the Gateway Methodology.

In addition, throughout the year Members noted that they would be considering the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan to identify pre-decision reports they wish to place on the Scrutiny Forward Work Plan.

The report highlighted that 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 Committee was asked to note the previously agreed arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews for 2022/2023-2024.

In considering the arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews, a concern was raised regarding the time it would take to undertake the dog breeding review. The Chair advised that Scrutiny Committee was to only undertake one Investigative Review (Task and Finish) within a scrutiny municipal year, however it was hoped that the review of the Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire be completed by April 2023, allowing the review on dog breeding within Carmarthenshire to commence in the 2023-2024 municipal year.

In addition, in relation to the Task and Finish Group review of the Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire, the Head of Housing informed the Committee that the conditions and legislation in regard to dog breeding was yet to be received from the Welsh Government and therefore it would be better timed to commence the review next year.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 6.1 the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Forward Work Plan the 2022/22 be endorsed.**
- 6.2 the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Forward Work Plan Forward Work Plan 2022/23 with the addition of the pre-decision reports identified from the Cabinet Forward Plan be brought to the next meeting for approval.**
- 6.3 The arrangements for the Task and Finish reviews for 2022/23 – 2023/2024 as stated within the report be noted.**

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

The Committee received a report which appended the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan 2020-23 for consideration. The report presented by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability outlined the progress the Council was making in delivering its legal obligation with reference to the Act. The Plan covers the period January 2020 to December 2022.

In order to evidence delivery of this duty, under the Environment Act, all public bodies in Wales had a statutory duty to prepare and deliver its Section 6 Biodiversity Duty which is placed on it by this Act. The plan covers a period of three years. In addition, it is a statutory requirement that every three years Carmarthenshire County Council reports on the delivery of its Environment Act Forward Plan to the Welsh Government with the next report due in December 2022.

Members noted that Carmarthenshire's approach to developing and delivering its Forward Plan had involved engagement with officers in looking at their working practices, plans and projects whilst assisting them in identifying present opportunities for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience, alongside the delivery of their other obligations and objectives.

The report highlighted that the actions set out in the Forward Plan were linked to the Council's Well-being Objectives (WBO10) and target dates for delivery of each action and the posts responsible were identified.

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

- Reference was made to the 'By When or EOY Target' column. An observation was raised regarding the inconsistent reporting in regard to the action targets. Some had no targets, others had past dates further with some stating ongoing, it was raised that further clarity in regard to targets would be beneficial going forward. The Head of ICT and Corporate Policy in explaining the description of the targets, acknowledged that it would be beneficial for the targets to be more descriptive in order to provide better clarity and understanding for the reader. In addition, the Rural Conservation Manager provided a verbal update on the progress made in respect of section 3 of the plan.
- In response to a query raised regarding the process to replace the Ash trees that have been removed due to being affected with the Ash Dieback disease, the Rural Conservation Manager explained that new tree planting was an integral part of the Ash Dieback plan stating last 2 winters 200+ new trees had been planted close to Parc Dewi Sant, Carmarthen with more going being planted this coming winter. In addition, it had been identified that in regard to property that had been annually let for grazing, 3 sites had been identified for planting this winter with Glastir Woodland Creation grants from the Welsh Government. It was reported that these grants took 2 years to be agreed and in that respect a programme of grant applications was in place following the identification of suitable land with no existing biodiversity value for the planting of new trees. Members were informed that new areas for planting was being sought across the County under the strategic land review.

It was asked if the new trees planted on Local Authority land was fed into the Welsh Government existing targets in regard to the number of acres within a specific time period? The Rural Conservation Manager stated that new tree planting was funded by the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme which would then be counted towards the Welsh Government targets.

The Head of Place and Sustainability added that this year a tree strategy would be developed which would include how the Council invests and manages its tree portfolio across the County. In addition, it was explained that in order to manage the Council's assets, a portal / management tool would be developed to assist with the management of Ash Dieback within the grounds of the Council.

In response to a further query on the replacement of the Ash trees, the Rural Conservation Manager stated that Ash trees were not being planted as nurseries were not producing the species. Many other native species were being planted which included Oak, Aspen, Alder, Birch and Wild Cherry to name a few in order to make woodlands resilient to future challenges attributed to tree diseases.

The Rural Conservation Manager explained that the permanent post of a Tree Safety Officer was involved at a national level in Wales in regard to the Ash Dieback and reported that Carmarthenshire was leading the Local Authorities in Wales in respect to the management of the disease.

- It was asked if any assistance was available for smaller projects within Town and Community Councils? The Rural and Conservation Manager stated that links were in place through the Local Places for Nature grants and there are many other funding streams available to Town and Community Councils for tree planting such as the Woodland Trust. Close links with One Voice Wales to provide information and where to access project funding was maintained. However, the Conservation and Biodiversity team would be happy to respond to requests for advice and ideas.

In addition, in commenting that there seemed to be limited support to Town and Community Councils, it was asked if there was any scope to provide assistance to help maintain assets in the longer term. It was felt that local Community Councils were cautious in getting involved with small projects due to potential budget implications in the longer term. The Rural Conservation Manager, in acknowledging the concern, agreed that there was no solution at present as a lot of the funding for Local Places for Nature is from capital budgets. Emphasis on keeping future maintenance costs as low as possible from the design phase of a project was advised.

- In response to a query raised in regard to the number of hectares the Council had planned for the new tree planting under Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme, the Rural Conservation Manager stated that this winter the plan was to plant circa 4.5 hectares with Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme and next year, subject to acceptance of the proposals a further 2.5 hectares was planned.
- In response to a query regarding the maintenance of trees through the period of growing, the Rural Conservation Manager explained that Glastir provided annual payments for the areas under that scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, subject to Committee approval, offered to collate the feedback obtained from the Climate Change Advisory Panel, officers and Members in respect of the actions related to the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan and report to the Committee. This proactive approach would help inform and formulate the next 3-year plan.

In welcoming this approach, it was formally proposed that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability Committee present the relevant feedback in respect of the actions within the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan to the Committee. This was duly seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 7.1 the review of Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020-2023 be received and**
- 7.2 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 be noted.**
- 7.3 the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability provides the relevant feedback in respect of the actions within the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan to the Committee.**

8. NET ZERO CARBON PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received the Net Zero Carbon Plan Progress Report presented by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability.

The County Council approved a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan on 12th February 2020 and Action NZC-28 of the Plan required performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.

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

- Reference was made to the table, summary of progress – Carbon Footprint on page 3 of the report. It was felt that it would be beneficial to include a monetary figure to the table which would show in financial terms how much energy was being saved. The Head of Place and Sustainability stated that the Auditor General of Wales, having recently completed a review on climate change plans in Wales, had identified that the inclusion of financial costs attributed to the carbon footprint would be beneficial. Therefore, the inclusion of financial cost will be included in the next iteration of the plan.

In addition, the Committee was informed of the work that would be injected into developing the plan further making it more informative by including trajectories in consideration of the programmes and plans that the Council had committed to date.

- In commending the content of the report, it was commented that an area of opportunity would be to consider the generation of electricity. It was felt that the rooftop solar panel installations were too small for the energy demand of the buildings they were sited on. It was cited that the overall annual generation of the Council was 1-megawatt hours (MWh) which was 50% less than the community sector currently produced in Carmarthenshire. With this information mind, it was asked if there were any plans to increase the amount of electricity generation through solar panels, batteries and possibly wind turbines? The Sustainable Development Manager explained that getting to 'zero carbon' was impossible and that 'net zero carbon' could only be achieved through compensating by way of offsetting through the increased generation of renewable energy and carbon sequestration. In specific response to rooftop solar panels, the Sustainable Development Manager reported that whilst the Council was amongst the largest local authority producers of rooftop solar energy in Wales, further investment is required in order to reach the goal to be net zero by 2030.

In response to the comments raised, the Head of Place and Sustainability added that there was a significant amount of work being carried out at a strategic level to develop renewable energy sites including the Nantycaws site which was the flagship site around the circular economy.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability acknowledged that there was an urgent need to be more agile with more emphasis on working with the third sector.

- It was asked if there were any grants or support available for local village halls to install solar panels? The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability that there may be support through the Leader Programme and the Bureau who are rolling out community grants for the installation of renewable energy sources. In the face of the increasing costs of living, it was recognised that this would be an opportune time to communicate the information and the benefits of renewable energy to communities.
- Reference was made to a paragraph on page 13 of the report which stated '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'. It was asked which eight towns were selected? The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability reported that the eight towns were Llanelli, Carmarthen, Ammanford/ Crosshands, Cwmmaman, Kidwelly, St Clears, Llandovery and Newcastle Emlyn. In addition, he would share a link to Committee Members on the Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy which was currently out for consultation.

- It was asked if there would be an investigation in respect of connecting the green and blue active travel corridors between the eight towns? The Head of Place and Sustainability stated that Active Travel in and around the eight towns was part of the consultation process and part of the area development plans.
- Following on from an earlier discussion, it was formally proposed that future progress reports of the Net Zero Carbon Plan include the cost of savings. This was duly seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET that:

- 8.1 the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan Progress Report be endorsed;**
- 8.2 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.**
- 8.3 future progress reports of the Net Zero Carbon Plan include the cost of savings.**

9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee considered the list of forthcoming items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled to take place on 24th November, 2022 and was afforded the opportunity to request for any specific information that Members may wish to include within the reports.

In addition to the reports that were to be presented at the formal Scrutiny Committee on 24th November, Members noted the reports that would also be circulated to them outside of the formal Committee process for scrutiny.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items for the Committee meeting to be held on the 24th November 2022 be agreed.

10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH 2022

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