

# Document Pack



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**FRIDAY, 13 JANUARY 2023**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE  
WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE  
EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAMBER -  
COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT  
10.00 AM ON MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2023 FOR THE  
TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED  
AGENDA**

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Julie Owens</b>
<b>Telephone (direct line):</b>	<b>01267 224088</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></b>
<b>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.</b>	
<b>The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- <a href="https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home">https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home</a></b>	

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

## **EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 7 Members**

Cllr. Carys Jones  
Cllr. Liam Bowen  
Cllr. Kim Broom  
Cllr. Llinos Mai Davies  
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths  
Cllr. Betsan Jones  
Cllr. Jean Lewis

### **LABOUR GROUP - 4 Members**

Cllr. Lewis Davies  
Cllr. Dot Jones  
Cllr. Edward Skinner  
Cllr. Michael Thomas

### **INDEPENDENT GROUP - 1 Members**

Cllr. Sue Allen

### **UNAFFILIATED**

Cllr. Sean Rees

### **NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS - 2**

Vera Kenny  
Rev. Delyth Richards

Roman Catholic Church Representative  
Church in Wales Representative

### **ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS - 3**

Deborah Elias  
Anthony Enoch

Felicity Healey-Benson

Parent Governor Representative - Area 1 - Dinefwr  
Parent Governor Representative - Area 2 -  
Carmarthen  
Parent Governor Representative - Area 3 - Llanelli

# **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. THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS** 5 - 18
- 5. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2023/24 TO 2025/26** 19 - 58
- 6. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT** 59 - 64
- 7. SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE** 65 - 70
- 8. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 71 - 98
- 9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2022** 99 - 104

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS		
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To provide the scrutiny committee with an overview of the support available to schools to implement the Curriculum for Wales. Please note that support is provided by the Partneriaeth region, as well as the Education and Children's Services (ECS) department.</p>		
<p><b>The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:</b></p> <p>Consider the findings of the report and the strategic direction of the region and the department in moving forward.</p>		
<p><b>Reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a request for information from the scrutiny committee.</li> <li>Following concerns raised regarding the engagement of schools in regional provision and the impact of curriculum support on schools' development.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision:</b> No</p>		
<p><b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:-</b> Cllr. Glynog Davies, Education and Welsh Language</p>		
<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aneirin Thomas</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Elin Forsyth</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Education Services and Inclusion</p> <p>Strategic lead for School Effectiveness / Principal Education Support Adviser</p>	<p><b>Tel: / Email addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 246506 <a href="mailto:ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>07584004000 <a href="mailto:EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

#### THE CURRICULUM FOR WALES AND SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR SCHOOLS

This report is written in response to a request for information from the ECS Scrutiny committee.

The aim is to briefly provide the current context regarding schools' implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, focussing predominantly on the support that is available for schools.

The report also aims to outline some of the challenges regarding curriculum implementation and the key focus areas for this academic year, sharing some of the actions in place.

Discussions regarding the delivery of curriculum support and related matters will inform future actions.

**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:**        **Elin Forsyth    Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>None</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

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

We will need to ensure that all schools are well supported in implementing the Curriculum for Wales and that all learners, irrespective of need, achieve good progress in line with the four purposes of the curriculum.

### **Finance**

We need to ensure that all funding ensures high quality support for curriculum development and value for money at all times.

### **Risk Management Issues**

Failure to support schools effectively in implementing the new curriculum for Wales will lead to a lack of suitable progress for learners in their skills and knowledge development. Learning environments and experiences need to be fit for purpose, authentic and effectively equipping our children and young people for their futures.

### **Staffing Implications**

Consideration may be needed regarding staff deployment in relation to any updated strategies relating to the local authority and to the region to ensure effective use of financial resources.

**CABINET 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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# **Craffu ar Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant- Cefnogaeth Cwricwlwm i Ysgolion**

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny**

### **Curriculum Support for Schools**

**23.1.2023**



## **Supporting the Implementation of the Curriculum for Wales in Carmarthenshire Schools, Settings and PRUs**

### **Context:**

- Curriculum Implementation for Primary schools – September 2022
- Curriculum Implementation for Secondary schools – September 2022 or 2023. Carmarthenshire Secondary schools have opted for 2023.
- The Curriculum for Wales contains a range of complex mandatory elements for schools to address when designing their curriculum. See below.
- Schools note how challenging a task this is, with time capacity and expertise noted as some of the key challenges. There is much positive work being developed across the schools within Carmarthenshire, however this is variable across schools.

## Mandatory Elements of the Curriculum for Wales:

Four purposes								
Ambitious, capable learners	Enterprising, creative contributors	Ethically, informed citizens	Healthy, confident individuals					
Developing a shared understanding of progression								
The principles of progression and the descriptions of learning are intended to guide the development of a curriculum which reflects appropriate progression								
Principles of progression								
Increasing effectiveness	Increase breadth and depth of knowledge	Deepening understanding, ideas and disciplines	Refinement and growing sophistication	Making connections and transferring learning				
Assessing for the future								
Assessment has three main roles in the process of enabling learner progression								
Supporting individual learners on a day to day basis	Identifying, capturing and reflecting on individual learner progress over time		Understanding group progress					
Principles of curriculum design								
Evidence-based	Authentic	Responsive	Inclusive	Ambitious				
Unified	Empowering	Engaging	Based on subsidiarity	Manageable				
Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)								
The 27 statements of what matters are the basis of learners progression throughout CfW and its 3-16 learning continuum								
Descriptions of learning provide guidance on how learners should progress within each statement of what matters as they journey through the continuum of learning								
Expressive arts	Health and well-being	Humanities Includes Religion, values and ethics (RVE)	Languages, literacy and communication	Mathematics and numeracy	Science and technology			
Cross-curricular skills			Integral skills	Cross-cutting themes				
Literacy	Numeracy	Digital competence	Personal effectiveness Creativity and innovation Planning and organising Critical thinking and problem solving	Relationships and sexuality education (RSE)	Human Rights	Diversity	Careers and work-related experiences	Local, national and international contexts
Pedagogical Principles								





## The Partneriaeth Business Plan

### Vision

#### Partneriaeth Mission Statement

Partnership working to achieve excellence for all.

### Our Aims

- 1) We lead schools and settings to design, develop and deliver a curriculum with equity and excellence at its core.
- 2) We support schools and settings to become ambitious, self-improving learning organisations.
- 3) We provide professional learning and opportunities for collaboration in order to develop strong and supportive partnerships.

### Strategic Objectives:

Priority 1– Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners

Priority 2– Developing a high-quality education profession - improving the teaching & learning in our schools

Priority 3 – Leadership and Career Pathways - supporting inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards. Includes future leadership & professional networks

Priority 4– Strong & inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity & well-being

Priority 5– Supporting a self-improving system - supporting a system in which the education profession have the skills, capacity & agency to continually learn & improve their practice

Priority 6– Ensure that Partneriaeth has strong governance and effective business and operational support that provides value for money

## Partneriaeth Business Plan:

### Priority 1 – Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners

SSA: Cressy Morgan

#### 1. Curriculum & Assessment Reform

#### 2. Curriculum reform professional learning programme (Curriculum Design and Development + New PL for curriculum)

- a. To develop the capacity of schools to engage in curriculum reform through a flexible, implemented programme of targeted interventions.
- b. To continue to support the national PL programme for Curriculum for Wales.
- c. To continue to provide asynchronous CfW support for middle leaders and teachers.
- d. To support schools with the collaborative development of shared understandings on curriculum and assessment in line with Curriculum for Wales guidance.
- e. To continue to support schools in progression conversations.
- f. To continue to support schools in their reform journey from curriculum vision to design and implementation.
- g. To ensure high-quality collaboration within Partneriaeth and with partners in the middle-tier.
- h. To deliver bespoke support for schools with furthest to go on reform journey.
- i. To support and facilitate local and national engagement through a range of focused networks.
- j. To develop and deliver a range of support for current qualifications and the Qualified for the Future agenda.

## **The Partneriaeth Professional Learning offer**

[Cynnig Dysgu Proffesiynol 2022/23 \(partneriaeth.cymru\)](https://partneriaeth.cymru)

Partneriaeth strives to deliver a consistent school improvement service, focused on challenge and support strategies that improve teaching and learning in classrooms and lead to improved pupil attainment and progress in all schools.

Our aim is to build school capacity through support, challenge and intervention so that schools become self-improving, resilient organisations. We facilitate school led support and intervention programmes at a peer to peer, department to department and school to school level according to the area of need that has been identified within the school.

The region will build school capacity through continuing support, challenge and intervention to become self-improving, resilient organisations which continually improve outcomes for learners. This regional strategy for a self-improving system is well underway and is firmly founded in the principles of school-to-school improvement.

Partneriaeth is committed to the Welsh Language and its prosperity, and the language is an integral part of all the administrative procedures of the organisation. We consider Welsh to be a central element of the identity of the region, and we will continue to do as much as we can to promote the language and its use.

The Professional Learning offer focuses on:

- The Curriculum of Wales
- Cross Curricular Skills
- Pedagogy
- National Leadership Development Programmes
- Equity and Wellbeing
- Cymraeg Mewn Addysg
- Secondary Subject Support
- Induction for Newly Qualified Teachers.

**The Carmarthenshire ECS Department School Improvement Strategy** works alongside schools reflecting on the progress achieved by pupils as a result of the school's curriculum provision.

This aligns to the Welsh Government Guidance for School Improvement.

Focus areas include:

1. Are learners progressing in the ways described in the principles of progression, supporting them to develop towards the four purposes?
2. Is the pace of learners' progress in line with the expectations of teachers and the curriculum?
3. Improving pupils' progression by ensuring their learning is supported by a range of knowledge, skills, and experience
4. Reducing the impact of poverty on learners' progression and attainment

**The Carmarthenshire Professional Learning offer for schools focuses on:**

- The development of Maths and Numeracy skills,
- Language Literacy and Communication skills in Welsh and English
- Digital skills
- The Curriculum for Wales
- Inclusion and Additional Learning needs
- Progression and assessment
- Equity
- Family and community engagement
- Positive behaviour management
- Progression in RSE
- Early Years foundation learning
- Leadership and Governance
- Cymraeg
- And so forth

*Please log into your HWB site so that you can access these platforms. We will navigate these during the Scrutiny meeting.*

Professional learning CCC - PORTH

[PobCwrs - AllCourses \(google.com\)](#)

Professional Learning Resources – Sharing effective practice across and between schools. GOOGLESITE

[Adnoddau Resources \(google.com\)](#)

## Challenges / Areas for development:

- Headteacher Survey notes that schools are not receiving the support for curriculum development that they need. 2021 2022
- Uptake of Carmarthenshire schools in the Partneriaeth professional learning offer is low. Possibly 4 / 5 / 6 schools attending a training session. Anecdotally some schools note that they value the progression workshops delivered by Partneriaeth, for example. However, the number of schools participating is low. Our maximum capacity for each event is 10 schools.
- Input from schools, notes that further support is required in the following areas:
  - Curriculum Design - Understanding of the mandatory elements and organising planning effectively.
  - Cross Curricular skill development – Literacy, numeracy and digital
  - Assessment and progression – what does this look like?
  - What do standards look like in relation to each AOLE?
  - Understanding and implementation of learning opportunities in relation to the integral skills
  - Understanding of the cross-cutting themes.

## Next Steps:

The Carmarthenshire ECS departmental Curriculum strategy focuses on the following priority areas during 2022 2023:

- Sharing key national messages in a timely manner.
- Curriculum Design - mandatory elements in particular
- Cross-curricular Skill progression
- Cluster working
- Transition
- Assessment and progression (within each AOLE)
- Professional learning

## Actions include:

Timeline	Focus area	What will we have achieved during this time?
Sept to Dec 2022	1. Implementation of the Curriculum for Wales – September 2022 for Primary schools and optional for secondary schools, 2022 or 2023. 2. Update School Improvement strategy in line with the WG guidance. Key focus	1. The Partneriaeth PL offer will support the implementation of the curriculum. 2. The SCIMP strategy will be based on a combination of the Estyn Framework, The School Improvement guidance and the principles of progression. Pupil progress in school will increasingly be monitored in the context of the curriculum for Wales.



	on Literacy, Numeracy and digital skills.	
<b>Jan to April 2023</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding of the mandatory elements (EF)</li> <li>2. Cluster Working (EG)</li> <li>3. Curriculum Design (EF)</li> <li>4. Transition (AL)</li> <li>5. Assessment and progression - Shared understanding of progression (within each AOLE) (MO HAJ)</li> <li>6. Professional learning (CLJ)</li> <li>7. Ensure that the SCIMP team invest time in familiarising themselves with their lead AOLE, followed by expectations in relation to cross cutting and integral skills.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint planning (Carmarthenshire and Partneriaeth) for the AOLE delivery to ensure that schools have a practical understanding of the Mandatory elements of the curriculum. See diagram below for reference.</li> <li>2. The Cluster Working strategy will ensure there is a standardised approach across all clusters.</li> <li>3. Partneriaeth will deliver PL on curriculum design that meets the needs of schools. A Carmarthenshire 'Sharing event' (6.2.2023) will launch the Curriculum and Evaluation platform and we will have more strategic methods to share effective practice in relation to Curriculum design.</li> <li>4. Transition Plan will be launched. Resources developed. Cluster to complete the transition plan.</li> <li>5. We will have developed a strategy to bring schools together to share pupil progress, across a cluster.</li> <li>6. Partneriaeth and CCC PL offer will be aligned avoiding duplication and ensuring that PL meets the needs of schools. Professional learning in relation to pupil skill progression continues on a bespoke basis, via networks and training sessions.</li> </ol>
<b>April to July 2023</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cluster Working Strategy.</li> <li>2. Professional learning offer</li> <li>3. Monitoring pupil progression</li> <li>4. SCIMP strategy,</li> <li>5. ESAs deployment.</li> <li>6. Sharing effective practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cluster Working Strategy will be refined ensuring consistency of progress across all clusters. We will have a robust understanding of grant expenditure across clusters. Sharing effective practice will become more routine.</li> <li>2. PL offer from Partneriaeth and CCC will be aligned for 2023 2024, addressing the areas for development for our schools robustly.</li> <li>3. We will be prepared for monitoring pupil progression in line with the curriculum mandatory elements, AOLEs, cross cutting themes, cross curricular and integral skills. Team development programme in place. Strategic monitoring plan drafted.</li> <li>4. Revised SCIMP strategy, addressing the principles of progression and the contributory factors.</li> <li>5. Consider how ESAs are deployed from September onwards. Should this now be on a cluster basis?</li> <li>6. A short, medium and long-term strategy is in place in relation to sharing effective practice.</li> </ol>

### **In addition, we need to:**

- Ensure efficient use of all financial resources in relation to Curriculum development, impacting positively on staff development and pupil progress at all times.
- Ensure that strategy and professional learning meets the needs of schools effectively.
- Strengthen strategies to ensure that messages regarding curriculum design and delivery, emanating from Welsh government or cross regional meetings, are shared with LA officers in a timely manner. Messages are currently not influencing school improvement strategy and approaches quickly enough.
- CCC delivered an AOLE developmental session on the Expressive Arts to schools, September 2022, to explore approaches. 42 schools attended. Feedback was very positive. As a result, in the Spring term 2023, CCC officers, supported by Partneriaeth officers, will delivery AOLE support for schools. 1 session per AOLE. We aim to translate the theory into practice, in line with school requests.
- Strengthen the facilitation of sharing effective practice to inspire innovation between teachers and leaders, securing pupil progression, wellbeing and enjoyment in their learning.

### **How will we know that our curriculum support for schools is successful?**

- Pupils will be achieving good progress in relation to their starting points and teachers' expectations across all mandatory areas of the curriculum. This will be reflected in ESA reports following support visit to schools.
- There is a shared understanding of progression across the cluster.
- Schools will have developed a purpose led curriculum which supports them to realise their vision. Schools will be able to exemplify and communicate their curriculum development journey.
- Our schools' curriculum is inclusive of all and enables all to develop in line with the four purposes of the curriculum.
- Teaching is of a high standard across all schools and aligns to the 12 pedagogical principles.
- Assessment informs the planning of teaching and learning experiences, routinely.
- Pupils are fully engaged in their learning and contribute towards curriculum design effectively.

### **The Education Support Advisers evaluate progress and impact routinely alongside our schools.**

Our professional learning offer is amended as a result.

Our strategy will be further updated for September 2023 ensuring that there is a rigorous focus on the principles of progression as well as the Welsh Government's School Improvement guidance and Estyn framework.

Agenda Item 5

**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2023/24 to  
2025/26**

Appendix A – Corporate Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26

Appendix A(i) – Efficiency summary for the Education and Children Department

Appendix A(ii) – Growth Pressures summary for the Education and Children Department

Appendix B – Budget monitoring report for the Education and Children Department

Appendix C – Charging Digest for the Education and Children Department

**The Scrutiny Committee Is Asked To:**

- consider and comment on the budget strategy proposals
- consider and comment on the proposals for delivery of efficiency savings for their service area identified in Appendix A(i)
- bring forward any other proposals for efficiency savings
- examine the Departmental Budgets
- endorse the Charging Digests

**Reason(s):**

The Cabinet at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 will have considered the attached Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Appendix A) and endorsed the report for consultation purposes. A verbal update will be given at the meeting in relation to any changes or specific proposals made by the Cabinet if appropriate.

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders:**

- Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Welsh Language)
- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

<b>Directorate:</b> Corporate Services	<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b>
<b>Name of Director:</b> Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	01267 224120 <a href="mailto:CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Randal Hemingway	Head of Financial Services	01267 224886 <a href="mailto:Rhemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">Rhemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023

#### REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2023/24 to 2025/26

The objective of the report is to allow members to consider the corporate budget strategy for the financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26 to consider the service delivery impact and options for the forthcoming years.

The report is set out as follows:

#### **Appendix A**

- The attached report is a copy of the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 that has been presented to the Cabinet. As part of the budget consultation process the report is presented to this Scrutiny Committee for your consideration.
- The report provides members with an initial view of the revenue budget issues for the forthcoming year and also reflects departmental submissions.

#### **Appendix B**

Current budget extracts for Education and Children Department.

#### **Appendix C**

Charging Digest for the Education and Children Department. The charges for 2023/24 have yet to be adopted and any change to the proposed charges will impact on the budget/efficiency proposals.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b>
----------------------------------	------------

# 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: **Chris Moore** Director of Corporate Services

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

## 1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

The budget is being prepared having regard to the Improvement Plan.

## 3. Finance

The report provides an initial view of the Budget Strategy for 2023/24, together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The impact on departmental spending will be dependent upon the final settlement from Welsh Government and the resultant final Budget adopted by County Council.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED?**  
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
2023/24 3 year Revenue Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

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<p align="center"><b>REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES</b></p> <p align="center"><u>Education, Young People &amp; the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p align="center"><u>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023</u></p> <p align="center"><b><u>REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 to 2025/26</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>(Copy of Cabinet report 09/01/2023)</b></p>		
<b>DIRECTOR &amp; DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NO.</b>
<b>C Moore, Director of Corporate Services</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>01267 224121</b>
<b>AUTHOR &amp; DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NO</b>
<b>R Hemingway, Head of Financial Services</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>01267 224886</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Cabinet in October 2022 received a report on the Revenue Budget Outlook for 2023/24 to 2025/26 which appraised Members of the financial outlook and the proposals for taking forward the budget preparation.
- 1.2. This report provides Members with the current view of the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The report is based on officers' projections of spending requirements and takes account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- 1.3. Whilst significant work has already been undertaken in preparing the budget, this represents an initial position statement which will be updated over the coming months as the budget is further developed, council members are engaged and public consultation takes place. The final settlement is due to be received from Welsh Government on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- 1.4. The report is broken down into six parts:
  - Funding Projections/Provisional Settlement
  - Budget Requirement
  - Impact on the Authority's budget requirement
  - Consultation
  - Conclusion
  - Recommendations

## 2. FUNDING PROJECTIONS/PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

- 2.1. The provisional settlement was announced on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Provisional figures for individual Local Authorities were provided for 2023/24, with indicative figures for 2024/25.
- 2.2. The Westminster Autumn Statement announced in November 2022 included a significant Barnett consequential for Welsh Government, reported at £1.2 billion over two years. This was primarily made up of increased funding for Education, Health and Social Care, and changes to business rates, all of which are devolved functions.
- 2.3. The main points of the Provisional Settlement 2023/24 on an all Wales basis are as follows:
  - 2.3.1. Local government revenue funding for 2023/24 set at £5.514 billion, an increase of 8.0% (£403 million) compared to 2022/23. Like for like, the increase is 7.9% on an all-Wales basis.
  - 2.3.2. The minister's letter accompanying the settlement highlights that the increase includes funding to meet the Foundation Living Wage, as well as passporting the Education consequential from the UK Autumn Statement.
  - 2.3.3. Whilst this is welcome, the inflationary pressures far exceed the funding provided. In particular, no additional funding has been provided to meet the inherent budget shortfall going forward as a result of the 2022 pay awards.
  - 2.3.4. There is no funding floor, meaning a wide variation between individual Local Authorities, ranging from +9.3% (Monmouthshire) to +6.5% (Blaenau Gwent). These variances are driven by updates to key datasets which influence the funding allocation, such as the number of Universal Claimants and Free School Meal Pupils in particular areas.
- 2.4. The Settlement figures for Carmarthenshire are:
  - 2.4.1. After adjustments for WG identified transfers, the increase in the provisional settlement is 8.5% (£26.432 million). The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) therefore increases to £338.017 million in 2023/24.

This settlement is significantly above the indicative figure of a 3.4% increase and provides some £15.5m more than our original assumption, **however Welsh Government themselves recognise that even this increased figure will not be enough to meet inflationary pressures facing councils and difficult decisions will need to be made.** The



level of inflationary cost increases is on a scale not seen for several decades, as discussed in detail later in this report.

We have set our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) assumptions for 2023 and beyond to accommodate an easing of inflation versus current rates. Whilst the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts a sharp reduction in CPI over the next 12 months – we have followed this pattern, albeit at a higher level – this is because the OBR forecast includes in particular the impact of energy and food costs, which our budget accommodates as separate cost pressures. A key assumption is that across our workforce, pay awards track the prevailing inflation rate over the medium term. The financial model forecasts a requirement for £20m savings over the three year MTFP period.

Details of the many Welsh Government Service Specific Grants were provided alongside the provisional settlement on 14 December 2022 at an all-Wales level. For 2023/24, as has been standard over several years, most remain at a broadly similar level (cash value) to previous years, which will in reality reduce outputs. With the level of general inflation as well as pay awards at a much higher level, the impact of this next year will be significant.

**2.5.** There are however some important updates to specific grants:

- There is new funding of £40m all-Wales to provide continued support to Ukrainians seeking refuge in Wales. This funding will be critical to mitigate any unfunded pressure on Local Authority budgets, meaning that the £1m pressure recognised in the October report can now be released.
- WG has provided additional £5.5m funding to flatline the Recruit Recover Retain Standards (RRRS), instead of the planned reduction. This will enable schools to continue catchup/recovery activities.
- The Additional Learning Needs Transformation grant has nearly doubled from £6.6 million to £12 million across Wales. This increase is estimated to contribute c. £300k-400k to Carmarthenshire.
- The Pupil Development Grant has been increased by a reported £9m across Wales, which is estimated at c. £500k-600k to Carmarthenshire

As with last year, there are a number of grant changes referred to in the text to the main WG budget narrative, for which the values do not appear to be reflected in the Local Government provisional grant tables – it is assumed that they are due to be updated for the final settlement.

### **3. BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2023/24**

#### **3.1. Current Years performance (2022/23)**

3.1.1. As the Authority's core spending requirement remains constant year on year, a review of current year's performance is important in identifying whether there are any underlying problems within the base budget

3.1.2. The current projection for the Revenue Outturn for 2022/23 (based on the October 2022 monitoring) is as follows

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

The main reasons for the departmental variances are as follows:

- Chief Executive's Department: underspends on member pay and travelling, registrars and vacant posts across the department, offset by People Management overspends
- Education and Children's Services: Significant overspends in children's services due to increased demand and agency costs, overspends in ALN budgets and School Meals Service, offset by additional grants in Early Years non-maintained provision.
- Communities Department: underspends in Older Peoples and Physical Disabilities budgets are offset by overspends in Learning Disabilities and Mental Health divisions. Additionally, Leisure income levels have been gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels, however this creates an in-year overspend. It should also be noted that without the sectoral staffing shortages in social care, the overspend could be significantly higher.

- Corporate Services: there are underspends on pre-Local Government Reorganisation pension costs, and Council Tax Reduction, partially offset by an overspend in Rent Allowances.
- Environment Department: Overspends in waste services, school transport and reduced car park usage post-pandemic, offset by vacant posts and reduced property maintenance activity due to contractor capacity.

At this point the Authority is currently forecasting an overspend of £3.5 million which will need to be met from general balances. **It is imperative that the structural pay issue causing this is dealt with in next year's budget as this is not a sustainable financial position.**

### 3.2. Validation

- 3.2.1. Validation reflects the changes in expenditure requirements to deliver the **current level** of services in future years. Primarily this is inflation, but also includes some service specific changes. Some areas of inflation are currently at rates that have not been seen in decades and present risks to our budget. The key validation factors are as follows:

	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Original</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u>
General inflation - Expenditure	3.0%	5.0%	3.0%	2.0%
General inflation - Fees & Charges	2.5%	10.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Electricity & Gas	5.0%	£9.5m	-10.0%	0.0%
Fuel	5.0%	50.0%	3.0%	5.0%
Pay Inflation - non teaching	2.5%	5.0%	3.0%	2.5%
Pay Inflation - Teaching	2.5%	5.0%	3.0%	2.5%
NI increase	nil	-1.25%	nil	nil
Levies (see para 3.2.9)	2.5%	13.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Pension Contributions	nil	-1.8%	nil	nil
Capital Charges	£500k	£500k	£500k	£500k

- 3.2.2. With the exception of pay, the largest change to the council's budget is the sharp increase in energy and fuel costs. As with large parts of the public sector, our gas and electricity needs are procured by Crown Commercial Services, who aggregate their client's requirements to secure prices in the year ahead. Whilst this paid handsome dividends for our 2022/23 energy needs, the wholesale energy market has been at unprecedented levels, largely driven by the war in Ukraine. Carmarthenshire has set a two year purchasing strategy, with around three quarters of our energy needs already secured for 2023/24 and half for 2024/25. Based on the latest figures from Crown Commercial Services, we will need to add £9.5m to energy

budgets for 2023/24, however there is expected to be a 10% reduction for 2024/25 which is built into our calculations.

3.2.3. The cost of Road Transport Fuel has also increased rapidly over the last year. This affects both the council's own fleet, for which a 50% price increase has been added to budgets, as well as third party run services such as school transport, for which an explicit budget pressure is included within Appendix B.

3.2.4. The Council's 2022/23 budget was set on the basis of a 4% pay award for both NJC staff (the largest share of our payroll by value and staff numbers) and Teachers. Against this:

3.2.5. The NJC award has been agreed at a flat value of £1,925 across all grades, which equates to a 7.1% increase when applied to our workforce. The unbudgeted 3.1% "catchup" must be built into the budget calculations for 2023/24

3.2.6. The independent pay review body's recommendation of a 5% increase for all Teachers has been accepted by Welsh Government, but at this point Unions are balloting for strike action, demanding an uplift to 12%. Our draft budget includes the 1% "catchup" to 5%, with a recognition that any extra above this would be unfunded and represent an explicit significant risk. Every 1% is worth approximately £1m.

3.2.7. The previous MTFP planning assumptions include future annual pay awards of 2.5% for all staff. This was updated to 5% for 2023/24 in the budget outlook paper to reflect the higher inflation combined with the level of industrial action across both the public and private sector currently. Looking beyond this, the picture is highly uncertain, therefore our assumption is that pay growth mirrors inflation.

**The impact of nationally set pay awards adds c. £19m to the estimated budget requirement for 2023/24, and a total of £33m over the 3 year planning period.**

3.2.8. Against these extraordinary increases, we are able to offset three separate cost savings which partially mitigate the scale of the increase required:

- Within the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor confirmed the removal of the Health and Social Care Levy. As the 2022-23 allowed for an increase of £2m across council employed staff

and a further £500k for commissioned care, these can now be reversed.

- Staffing budgets have historically been set at the “top of paycales” – this means for individual jobs, the budget provides for the maximum pay point an individual employee could reach in that role. Whilst prudent budgeting, this leads naturally to an inherent underspend due to normal levels of staff turnover, internal promotions etc. By budgeting more precisely according to the exact makeup of the current workforce, we are able to reduce staffing budgets by an estimated £2.5m. This would apply to all departments, with the exception of delegated school budgets, as they are governed by the fair funding formula.
- Strong investment returns and prudent stewardship of the Dyfed Pension Fund over many years has resulted in a funding surplus, confirmed by the fund’s independent actuaries following the most recent Triennial valuation of the Dyfed Pension Fund which has been carried out over the last year. As a consequence, Carmarthenshire is able to reduce our Employers contribution rate by 1.8%, which provides a saving of £2.8m. The final valuation results will be notified to Carmarthenshire before the end of the Financial Year.

**These three measures, taken together, are worth nearly £8m, and without which, the budget reductions requirement and/or council tax increase would have been considerably more challenging.**

3.2.9. We understand from the Fire Authority that their indicative budget assumed a levy increase of 13%. Since this was agreed, Welsh Government has indicated that Fire Authorities will be required to meet the ongoing annual costs of the emergency service network, the share of which we estimate and anticipate will add £150k to Carmarthenshire and is shown in the pressures appendix for reference. This is yet to be confirmed by the Fire Authority in a formal meeting.

3.2.10. As a result of these factors, validation adds over £30 million to the current year’s budget.

### **3.3. Cost Reduction Programme**

In anticipation of the settlement challenges, significant work to review service efficiencies/rationalisation proposals has been undertaken.

3.3.1. The savings targets set for each financial year are as follows:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Original target – MTFP (March 2022)	3.839	5.333	n/a
Budget Outlook (October 2022)	18.800	n/a	n/a
Proposed Savings (following Provisional Settlement and other budget adjustments)	9.377	6.448	4.531

3.3.2. Accordingly, departments have developed a range of proposals, and these efficiencies are included in **Appendix A** of this report.

- The efficiency proposals are categorised as follows:  
 Managerial – Efficiencies that result in no perceivable change to the overall level of service delivery.  
 Policy – Efficiency or service rationalisation proposals that will directly affect service delivery.

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Managerial	6.136	3.641	2.755
Existing Policy	0	0.200	0.952
New Policy	3.241	0.543	0.289
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.377</b>	<b>4.384</b>	<b>3.996</b>

(Detail at **Appendix A**)

3.3.3. More work will need to be undertaken to further develop these efficiencies.

### 3.4. New Expenditure Pressures and contingency

3.4.1. New expenditure pressures are the combinations of additional cost to meet existing service needs e.g. increased client base/greater service take up and the costs of meeting change in service provision e.g. policy changes.

3.4.2. The original budget outlook report included £5.5 million per annum to meet growth pressures.

As with recent years, a much higher value of initial growth bids were received from departments, totalling £17 million. Based on an evaluation of the value and unavoidable nature of pressures submitted as well as additional funding identified through grants as explained in paragraph 2.5 above. Initial indications that many of the submissions are genuinely unavoidable and have already been constrained where practical. At this stage in the budget development, and pending further analysis to be undertaken by Directors, an indicative sum of £12 million been allocated across departments (Appendix B).

This budget round, social care pressures in particular have been at a very high level:

- the Foundation Living Wage, which impacts commissioned social care delivery, has been increased to £10.90, a 10% uplift.
- As well as demographic growth pressures for older people's budgets, this year's bid recognises the demographic increase in adults living with learning disabilities, which has seen a significant overspend in the current year.
- There are significant and unavoidable increases to energy and food costs incurred by residential care providers.

Last year's budget provided part year increased funding to support changes to the waste collection methodology – required to achieve increasingly challenging statutory Welsh Government recycling targets. This budget completes this with a further £0.8m, which will also contribute towards the decarbonisation agenda.

The Education and Childrens department bids include areas of acute overspend in the current year such as ALN and Inclusion services, and pressures on children's services.

3.4.3 In total, pressures funding adds £12 million to the budget, including an unallocated sum of £250k. The detail is provided at **Appendix B**.

3.4.4 Last year's budget included an explicit contingency budget of £3.5 m, of which £0.5m was ringfenced for social care. This was

to meet increased costs or lost income following the cessation of the WG hardship scheme which came to an end in March 2022.

Of the £3m corporate contingency, £200k has been allocated to school transport costs, with additional allocations likely to be needed to cover a range of budgetary issues such as sustained reduction in car park usage and PPE purchase and storage. As this requirement is much lower than what was feared, and given the scale of the budget gap, **it is proposed that £1.5m can be released.**

### 3.5. Schools Delegated Budgets

- 3.5.1 Over recent years, our MTFP has provided in full for known pressures to school budgets including inflationary costs and pay awards, without requiring any budget reduction proposals. School balances have also benefitted from additional grant funding provided by Welsh Government, with aggregate balances in March 2022 totalling £15.2m.

In 2022/23 delegated school budgets represent more than 30% of the authority's net revenue budget. Given the scale of the financial challenge this year, it is impossible to maintain this protection without significantly impacting other council services. This budget therefore includes a £2.7m saving applied, which is consistent with the level of savings required of other areas of council services.

Members should also note that as outlined in paragraph 2.5 above, there are increases to the RRRS grant (which was not expected to continue at the same level), ALN and PDG grants. These will all help to support education funding over the year ahead.

Immediately following the provisional settlement publication, there were calls to ensure that the additional Education Barnett consequential funding was indeed spent on Education. This draft budget meets and exceeds that expectation.

### 3.6. Internal Funding

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



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

- Cash-flat grants next year with reductions in 2024/25, which inevitably will either reduce outputs, or increase pressure on core departmental budgets
- Teachers 2022 Pay Award – as this is currently not agreed by Unions
- 2023 NJC and Teachers Pay awards – our 5% assumption may be insufficient if inflation stays higher for longer
- Possible COVID19 resurgence, for which we have very little budgetary contingency, and would need to fall back upon reserves
- Social care delivery – the true demand pressures are currently constrained by what is operationally deliverable by the workforce – any positive progress made to increase capacity in this area will in effect have a negative impact on the budget

Following the significant change to funding from Westminster and the unrecognisable inflationary environment, Welsh Government has marginally increased its indicative settlement for 2024/25 from 2.4% to 3.0%. We have not uplifted our assumptions out of prudence, based upon:

- The indicative reduction in specific grant values could credible outweigh this, dependent upon individual grants and the extent to which they support core service delivery and fund staffing (direct or commissioned)
- The wide range in Local Authorities individual settlements. The 0.6% increase is dwarfed by the 2.8% variation from highest to lowest settlement.

It should also be noted that within the Westminster Government Autumn statement, much of the fiscal tightening is planned in the three years following the General Election in 2025.

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

	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2022 £'000	31 <sup>st</sup> Mch 2023 £'000	31 <sup>st</sup> Mch 2024 £'000	31 <sup>st</sup> Mch 2025 £'000
Schools Reserves	15,205	7,815	7,815	7,815
General Reserves	13,468	9,995	9,995	9,995
Earmarked Reserves	139,328	112,831	77,955	61,744

## **School Reserves**

- Schools have delegated responsibility for the management of their own finances. The level of reserves held by an individual school at any point in time will depend on a number of factors including the level of contingency fund that the school governing body considers appropriate, and the particular plans each school has for expenditure. Officers have yet to be informed of any transfers to/from these reserves by individual schools for future years.
- Legislation allows schools to carry forward reserves from one financial period to another. The School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 requires schools to limit their accumulated reserves at year end to £50,000 for Primary Schools and £100,000 for Secondary and Special Schools or 5% of their budget dependent on what is greater. School Improvement officers are currently working with schools to ensure they comply with the guidance. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 17 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special schools were in deficit.

### **3.6.4. General Reserves**

- In the changeable and challenging environment currently facing Local Government the Authority is committed to maintaining a reasonable level of General reserves or Balances. Whilst there is no prescribed minimum level for Balances, Council has previously deemed 3% of net expenditure as being a prudent level, which has been accepted by our Auditors as being reasonable
- The overall level of balances is taken into consideration each year when the annual budget is set and has on occasions been utilised to augment expenditure/reduce council tax. The 2023/24 budget was set on the basis of no transfers from the General Reserves. Based upon the October Budget monitoring (outlined in paragraph 3.1.2 above) there could be a draw on General Reserves of £3.5m and a fall of £7.4 m in school balances at the end of the current financial year.
- Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic response on our budgets and the uncertainty of continued WG support into next year, it is deemed imprudent at this stage to assume any further

support for future years budgets from the current General Reserves.

### 3.6.5. Earmarked Reserves

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

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

- As can be seen from the table above the level of earmarked reserves fluctuates greatly year on year, and whilst the level in each fund is not an exact science it is based on an informed estimate and past experience of the likely call on the authority in future years in line with the intended purpose of each reserve. Great care must therefore be taken when considering utilising such funds for purposes other than those which they were created as this could lead to the authority being faced with substantial unfunded liabilities in the future
- The budget proposals therefore assume nil contribution from reserves in support of the revenue budget in 2023/24 and a further analysis of the reserves held will be undertaken over the coming months with any further proposed utilisation being considered at the budget finalisation stage.
- Taking account of the proposals within this report, the Director of Corporate Services confirms that overall the estimated level of financial reserves (as indicated above) is adequate for the financial year 2023/24, with the General Reserves being at the appropriate level in line with guidelines and good practice, but is also very conscious of the significant risks highlighted in paragraph 3.6.2 of this Budget Strategy.
- The Director is also very conscious of the ongoing commitment to capital projects and of the demand on future services and

therefore feels the reserves will need to be monitored closely going forward.

#### 4. IMPACT ON THE AUTHORITY'S BUDGET STRATEGY

The table below provides an updated position on the current financial outlook taking account of the provisional settlement and also other recent validation changes.

**4.1.** The Current Financial Outlook (updated for the Provisional Settlement) is set out in the table below:

	Current MTFP		Proposed Financial Model		
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
<b>Previous Year's Budget</b>	416,085	430,746	415,885	450,157	463,183
General Inflation incl energy	5,247	3,203	18,886	2,285	2,614
Pay Inflation <sup>1</sup>	6,314	6,430	11,636	8,236	5,733
Other, incl capital charges and release of corp contingency	1,506	1,165	261	1,454	1,280
Growth	5,500	5,500	12,150	7,500	7,500
Savings proposals	-3,908	-3,982	-9,377	-4,384	-3,996
Further savings to be identified	Nil	Nil	Nil	-2,064	-535
Funding unallocated	Nil	Nil	716	Nil	Nil
Net Expenditure	430,746	443,063	450,157	463,183	475,779
Funded by:					
Revenue Settlement	322,509	330,249	338,017	346,130	354,777
Council Tax Receipts	108,237	112,814	112,140	117,053	121,002
<b>Council Tax Increase:</b>	<b>3.41%</b>	<b>3.85%</b>	<b>7.00%</b>	<b>4.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>

1. Includes effect of reductions to pay budgets outlined in paragraph 3.2.8

**4.2.** The total of budget reductions now required for 2023/24 is £9.4m and for the 3 year period are estimated at £20m.

**4.3.** The 2023/24 budget contains £716k which is as yet unallocated, which will allow members scope to consider additional information forthcoming in respect of:

- 4.3.1. Responses to the consultation process
- 4.3.2. Clarification of specific grants – including the inflationary impact of reduced outputs
- 4.3.3. Further growth pressures not currently addressed
- 4.3.4. Changes in assumptions on inflation and pay offers
- 4.3.5. Changes arising from the final settlement

## **5. CONSULTATION**

Budget consultation has been planned for the coming month and a summary of the individual approaches are as follows:

- 5.1.** Members seminars. (16-20 January 2023)
- 5.2.** The public consultation was launched on 21 December 2022 and will run until 29 January 2023
- 5.3.** Town & Community Councils meeting on 19 January 2023
- 5.4.** Commercial ratepayers consultation in January 2023
- 5.5.** Consultation with Scrutiny Committees 23-30 January 2023.
- 5.6.** Consultation with the Schools Budget Forum on 11 January 2023
- 5.7.** Trade Union Consultation meeting on 18 January 2023

## **6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

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

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

- 6.2.** In doing so, we must demonstrate the following 5 ways of working:
  - Looking at the long-term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
  - Understanding the root causes of the issues to prevent them recurring
  - Taking an integrated approach so that we look at all well-being goals and objectives of other services and partners

- Collaboration – Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involving a diversity of population in decisions that affect them

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

**Start Well**

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

**Live Well**

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

**Age Well**

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

**In a Healthy and Safe & Prosperous Environment**

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

**Corporate governance**

13. Better Governance and use of Resources

**7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1. Currently the budget proposals assume the full delivery of all of the savings proposals submitted.

- 7.2.** Work needs to be undertaken to further develop the cost reductions for years 2024/25 and 2025/26 to be able to maintain the current Budget Strategy and level of council tax. Departments will be working over the forthcoming year to refine these savings.
- 7.3.** It is recognised the critical importance of minimising the Council Tax increase for our residents during this cost of living crisis, whilst recognising the requirement to set a legally balanced budget in a time of economic turmoil.
- 7.4.** Given the current risks around this Budget Strategy and the ongoing inflationary backdrop, the Council Tax increase next year has been increased to 7%, seeking to mitigate reductions to critical services valued by our residents. In years 2 and 3, the financial picture remains uncertain, and as such we have modelled indicative Council Tax increases of 4% and 3% purely for planning purposes, seeking to strike a balance with budget reductions. This partially alleviates the scale of the reductions proposals which the council needs to consider over future years of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 7.5.** Over the coming weeks and part of the refining of the Medium Term Financial Plan where the Authority gets further clarification on costs and grant funding and feedback on the consultation, the Authority will aim to limit the Council Tax increase as far as possible.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

### **8.1. That Cabinet:**

- 8.1.1. Note the contents of the report and approve the three year Budget Strategy 2023/24 – 2025/26. This strategy will be used to support the budget consultation and form the basis of the final budget proposals.
- 8.1.2. Note the budget reductions/savings proposals in Appendix A, which will be considered as part of the consultation.
- 8.1.3. Note the unallocated sum of £716k in the current strategy, which will be given further consideration at the completion of the consultation as noted in paragraph 4.3.

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**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**23rd January 2023**  
**Efficiency Summary**

<b>Proposals</b>																
	MANAGERIAL				EXISTING POLICY PROPOSALS				NEW POLICY PROPOSALS				TOTAL PROPOSALS			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	718	344	10	1,072	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	718	344	10	1,072
Education	1,048	75	55	1,178	0	0	402	402	175	0	0	175	1,223	75	457	1,755
Schools Delegated	0	0	0	0	0	200	550	750	2,700	300	200	3,200	2,700	500	750	3,950
Corporate Services	325	125	0	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325	125	0	450
Communities	2,637	2,650	2,246	7,533	0	0	0	0	75	155	89	319	2,712	2,805	2,335	7,852
Environment	1,408	447	444	2,299	0	0	0	0	291	88	0	379	1,699	535	444	2,678
	<b>6,136</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>12,532</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>4,073</b>	<b>9,377</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>17,757</b>

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

## Education & Children

### Director & Management Team

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

### Education Services

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

### School Improvement

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

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Curriculum & Wellbeing							
Youth Support Service	586	Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service was established on 1/1/16 bringing together the Carmarthenshire Youth Service and the Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Service under a single integrated management structure. The Youth Support Service allows for the development of a more holistic approach to the delivery of the youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The service retains the statutory functions of the Youth Justice Team; promotes the ethos of working together to deliver targeted support and retains elements of direct universal youth work provision. Includes Youth Work Strategy Grant, YE&P Framework Grant, YJB YOT Partnership Grant, Promoting Positive Engagement Grant, Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner. Key responsibilities under Participation include the Children & Young People's Participation Strategy, support for Carmarthenshire Youth Council, support for School Councils, participation of vulnerable groups including the Junior Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Children's Rights.	100	0	0	100	Reconsideration not to proceed with a new post, keeping two p/time posts vacant (total =1.1FTE), reducing general expenditure, photocopying and transport.
Total Curriculum & Wellbeing			100	0	0	100	
Education & Children Total			798	75	55	928	
MANAGERIAL Total			798	75	55	928	

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

**Education & Children**

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

<b>Education &amp; Children Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>402</b>
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**Schools Delegated Budget**

Primary School Delegated Budget	67,171	We have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary schools in Carmarthenshire. This may involve opening new schools or adding places to existing schools where extra capacity is required. It may also mean reducing in size or closing schools with surplus accommodation. The challenge for the Council in attempting to secure value for money is to provide the right number of places in the right locations, to secure efficient and effective education for the pupils in its area. We have the second highest number of primary schools in Wales (94 Primary schools) and sustaining this number of schools provides many challenges including; recruitment and retention of staff, securing sustainable leadership, ensuring adequate funding to meet the needs of all learners and maintaining the school buildings.	0	200	550	750	We are proposing to review our primary schools' footprint, especially those unable to sustain effective staffing structures due to low pupil numbers and those that are disproportionately expensive to operate. Through carefully selected remodelling, strategically driven school federations and investment in sustainable settings the primary school estate could be reduced. The need to move to a more effective and efficient model is imperative and could improve the financial stability of the remaining schools and reduce demands on a range of County Council services e.g., Finance, HR, catering, cleaning.
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<b>Schools Delegated Budget Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>750</b>
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<b>EXISTING POLICY Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>1,152</b>
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DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2024/25 Proposed	2025/26 Proposed	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

**Education & Children**

School Music Service	333	Carmarthenshire Music Service provides weekly tuition to around 5000 children and young people across Carmarthenshire. With the introduction of the new Curriculum for Wales, the music service will evolve to deliver, engage, motivate and encourage learners to develop their creative skills.	75	0	0	75	We propose to look at all options to reduce costs including staffing and not appointing to vacant positions. We will review the skill set and balance required between staffing who hold qualified teacher status, paid on school teacher's pay and conditions, and those employed on a 'tutor' basis, aiming to meet the needs of schools efficiently.
Youth Support Services	586	The Youth Support Service provides a range of statutory and non-statutory functions to meet the needs of Carmarthenshire's children and young people. The service offers support from universal youth support e.g. Youth Clubs, through to specialist interventions supporting children and young people with complex needs. This incorporates School-based Youth Work; Youth Justice and Post 16 provision.	100	0	0	100	£16k reduction in youth club support (will try to replace with grant allocations) £84k reducing full time school based youth workers to 0.8FTE (potential for schools to fund 0.2 or be utilised for other youth work for the 0.2).

<b>Education &amp; Children Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175</b>
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**Schools Delegated Budget**

Delegated Schools Budget	128,035	In recent years, the delegated school budget has been protected by the Council. This budget is delegated to every school (1 nursery, 94 Primary, 2 special and 12 secondary) under the fair funding formula. This budget is to meet all the costs associated with running a school (e.g., employment of teachers and support staff, support for learners, buying resources and equipment, Premises costs, Cleaning, HR, IT, etc.).	2,700	0	0	2,700	While we will continue to provide full funding to meet the substantial increase in energy costs and teacher staff pay awards, we propose that the delegated budget to schools should be reduced by 2.1% in line with all other Council Departments. The management of the overall delegated school budget will be the responsibility of the school's governing body who will have to manage this reduction.
Primary Schools Rising 4's Policy	67,171	The statutory requirement is to provide full time education from 5 years of age. We currently have a Rising 4's policy that allows learners full time admission to primary schools in the school term of their fourth birthday rather than the term after their fourth birthday, or the September after their fourth birthday, which is common practice across Wales.	0	300	200	500	These non-statutory aged pupils receive a full-time education in a school when funding is available to provide this provision in alternative settings. The childcare funding for Wales provided by Welsh Government provides up to 30 hours free education and childcare for children aged between 3-4 for up to 48 weeks of the year. At a time when revenue expenditure is under extreme pressure, the funding of non-statutory full-time pupils at such an early age could be re-prioritised to fund other statutory functions from the schools delegated budget. Therefore, we are proposing to remove the rising 4's policy.

<b>Schools Delegated Budget Total</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3,200</b>
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<b>NEW POLICY Total</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3,375</b>
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**Demographic, Legislative or continuing pressures**

APPENDIX A (ii)

	Description	Bid 2023-24 £'000	Indicative Allocation 2023-24 £'000
Fostering - uplift in allowances	Increase applied May 2022, compounded by forecast increase for 2023	700	
Childrens services - Residential settings	Creation of Ty Magu offering has created an unfunded staffing structure	300	
ALN, ASD, Behaviour and Inclusion	Increase demand including statementing - commitments legally required in excess of current budgets	2,801	
School Meals service	Includes allowance for food inflation	1,200	
Other		30	
<b>Total for the Education &amp; Childrens Department</b>		<b>5,031</b>	<b>3,750</b>

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**Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2022 - Summary**

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2022 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	
<b>Schools Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>150,322</b>	<b>-22,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>128,035</b>	<b>157,712</b>	<b>-22,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135,425</b>	<b>7,390</b>
<b>Reserve Utilisation</b>				<b>0</b>		<b>-7,390</b>		<b>-7,390</b>	<b>-7,390</b>
Director & Strategic Management	1,608	0	-109	1,499	1,368	0	-109	1,259	-240
Education Services Division	5,905	-1,579	17,587	21,913	7,885	-3,684	17,587	21,787	-125
Access to Education	3,496	-103	1,339	4,733	11,529	-7,660	1,339	5,208	476
School Improvement	2,271	-119	460	2,613	11,182	-9,020	460	2,622	10
Curriculum & Wellbeing	9,721	-4,300	895	6,316	10,433	-5,247	895	6,081	-235
Children's Services	1,740	-538	134	1,336	2,136	-948	134	1,322	-14
<b>TOTAL excluding schools</b>	<b>24,742</b>	<b>-6,639</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>38,409</b>	<b>44,533</b>	<b>-26,558</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>38,281</b>	<b>-128</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>175,063</b>	<b>-28,925</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>166,445</b>	<b>202,245</b>	<b>-56,234</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>166,317</b>	<b>-128</b>

**Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2022 - Detail Monitoring**

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2022 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Primary Schools	77,981	-10,810	0	67,171	82,681	-10,810	0	71,871	4,700	
Secondary Schools	68,762	-11,327	0	57,435	71,472	-11,327	0	60,145	2,710	
Special Schools	3,579	-150	0	3,429	3,559	-150	0	3,409	-20	
Utilisation of school reserves				0		-7,390		-7,390	-7,390	
<b>Total Schools Delegated Budget</b>	<b>150,322</b>	<b>-22,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>128,035</b>	<b>157,712</b>	<b>-29,676</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>128,035</b>	<b>-0</b>	
Director & Management Team	1,238	0	-180	1,057	1,003	0	-180	822	-235	£225k earmarked for 2023/24 efficiency this year reducing the department's in year overspend. £590k has been vired to ALN since August.
Business Support	371	0	71	442	366	0	71	437	-5	
<b>Total Director &amp; Strategic Management</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-109</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-109</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>-240</b>	
School Expenditure not currently delegated	110	0	17,385	17,495	110	-0	17,385	17,495	0	
School Redundancy & EVR	2,133	0	20	2,153	1,980	0	20	2,000	-153	Low number of school redundancies due to the surpluses brought forward & continuation of RRRS grant
Early Years Non-Maintained Provision	364	0	9	373	912	-828	9	93	-280	WG grant funding received where already committed core budget. In year underspend supporting department pressures
Additional Learning Needs	3,298	-1,579	173	1,892	4,883	-2,856	173	2,200	308	New ALN pressures in excess of the already committed budget for school provision. Growth budget and reserve funding has been applied to specific pressures within the service since August
<b>Total Education Services Division</b>	<b>5,905</b>	<b>-1,579</b>	<b>17,587</b>	<b>21,913</b>	<b>7,885</b>	<b>-3,684</b>	<b>17,587</b>	<b>21,787</b>	<b>-125</b>	
School Admissions	420	0	29	449	343	0	29	373	-77	Part year vacant posts currently being recruited to
School Modernisation	142	0	814	956	296	-44	814	1,066	110	£101k closed schools & £9k additional transport costs following school reorganisations
School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	2,934	-103	496	3,328	10,890	-7,616	496	3,770	442	Based on existing costs and income levels for school meals £299k. Primary breakfast contributions for care element shortfall £90k & increased costs of food & labour £53k
<b>Total Access to Education</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>-103</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>11,529</b>	<b>-7,660</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>5,208</b>	<b>476</b>	
School Improvement	1,484	0	319	1,802	1,631	-139	319	1,811	9	
Education Improvement Grant	669	0	0	669	7,788	-7,119	0	669	0	
Other School Grants incl PDG	119	-119	142	142	1,763	-1,762	142	142	1	
<b>Total School Improvement</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>-119</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>11,182</b>	<b>-9,020</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>10</b>	

**Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2022 - Detail Monitoring**

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2022 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Post 16 Funding	2	0	0	2	152	-150	0	2	1	
Music Services for Schools	1,542	-1,210	46	379	1,574	-1,230	46	390	11	
Welsh Language Support	624	-186	88	526	636	-186	88	539	12	
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	3,506	-226	196	3,477	3,945	-616	196	3,525	48	Increased agency costs due to staff absences across the 4 settings
CCG - Families First Grant (Youth)	566	-564	0	2	579	-577	0	2	0	
Youth Support Service & Participation	2,239	-1,217	388	1,410	2,089	-1,207	388	1,270	-140	Number of part year staff vacancies, delays in recruitment and additional short term grants being utilised
Adult & Community Learning	556	-556	92	92	997	-995	92	94	1	
European Funded Projects	315	-314	38	39	208	-259	38	-13	-51	Project led by Pembs CC ended in May 2021, final grant income is still outstanding. £51k underspend on the flat rate allowance for indirect costs has been achieved due to the project not fully spending 15% allowance provided to cover any indirect or ineligible items. The project could still be subject to further European audits
School Information Systems	370	-28	47	389	253	-28	47	272	-117	Part year vacant posts being reviewed as part of current restructure
<b>Total Curriculum and Wellbeing</b>	<b>9,721</b>	<b>-4,300</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>-5,247</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>-235</b>	
School Safeguarding & Attendance	648	-354	75	369	807	-516	75	365	-3	
Educational Psychology	1,092	-184	60	967	1,329	-432	60	957	-10	
<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>-538</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>-948</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>-14</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>24,742</b>	<b>-6,639</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>38,409</b>	<b>44,533</b>	<b>-26,558</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>38,281</b>	<b>-128</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT INCLUDING SCHOOLS</b>	<b>175,063</b>	<b>-28,925</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>166,445</b>	<b>202,245</b>	<b>-56,234</b>	<b>20,307</b>	<b>166,317</b>	<b>-128</b>	

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## APPENDIX C

### CHARGING DIGEST - Education & Children

2021/22 Actual £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed Charge £	Comments
1,716	5,100	5,200	Curriculum and Wellbeing	<u>Community Centres</u> <b>Room Hire</b> Hourly - No Refreshments - minimum 1 hour	11.67	12.84	10% increase.
24,044	23,921	13,500	Curriculum and Wellbeing	<u>Welsh for Adults</u> Welsh for Adults charge for courses provided on behalf of the National Learning Welsh Centre (Full/Concessionary)  Welsh for the family course (15 hours over 10 weeks)  Early Bird Discount - if paid by end of September	90.00  Not staged in 2022/23  50%	To be confirmed by NCLW as per comment	2022/23 charges are correct as listed. Charges reviewed and amended by the National Centre for Learning Welsh. Charges for 2023/24 will depend on fees set by the NCLW and number of participants. Concessionary Rate of 40% will apply when full fees are paid. We have been over-subscribed in previous years with additional courses being run, we cannot guarantee this will continue each year.  Charges reviewed and amended by the National Centre for Learning Welsh. Charges for 2023/24 will depend on fees set by the NCLW. 16-18, and 18-25 Young People and Teaching staff are eligible for 100% discount.  2022/23 charges are correct as listed. Early Bird % discount applied against full price only. No further discount on concessionary rate. New courses offered in January 2023 will also have this discount applied.
0	0	0		<b>Room Hire</b> Hourly - Llandeilo Community Centre	11.67	Not applicable	Community Centre demolished 07/11/2022

## APPENDIX C

### CHARGING DIGEST - Education & Children

2021/22 Actual £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed Charge £	Comments
9,832	10,000	10,200	Curriculum and Wellbeing	<u>Adult Community Learning</u>  LA courses - Full fee per course term  Basic Skills & ESOL - ESOL – Full Cost Recovery (not eligible for Welsh Government funding) - per term One off registration fee at Basic Skills Centre Dyslexia Screening - 2.5 hours & resources ESOL City & Guilds examination fee GCSE Maths&English (Initial paper/second maths paper)	85.00 (75.00 + 10.00 Accreditation Fee)  200.00  10.00 75.00 50.00 60.00 / 30.00	85.00 (75.00 + 10.00 Accreditation Fee)  200.00  10.00 75.00 50.00 60.00 / 30.00	No increase appropriate for client group     No increase appropriate for client group No increase appropriate for client group No increase appropriate for client group No increase appropriate for client group
0	1,500	1,500	Curriculum and Wellbeing	<u>Carmarthenshire Music Service</u>  Concert Ticket Charges for concerts, including the Lyric & Ffwrnes Theatres	Adult 9.00 Concession 7.00	Adult 9.00 Concession 7.00	No income 2021/22 due to COVID19. Concert prices will need to remain the same to continue to encourage parents and pupils to return to attending activities and events.
0	5,000	7,000	Curriculum and Wellbeing	Parental charge for Intermediate and Senior Ensemble pupils attending weekly rehearsals.	70.00 per pupil for the academic year	70.00 per pupil for the academic year	No income 2021/22 due to COVID19. Proposed that charges for pupils remain at £70 for the 2023/24 academic year due to the cost of living issues that currently exist. Parents have contacted the music service informing us that charges are currently cost prohibitive and we have notice a reduction in numbers attending rehearsals at Senior level. This reduction, along with COVID19 issues, is proving challenging for restarting activities for pupils that assist greatly with wellbeing.

## APPENDIX C

### CHARGING DIGEST - Education & Children

2021/22 Actual £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed Charge £	Comments
178	200	200		Administrative charge added to all examinations fees collected for ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall Examinations	2.00 administration fee to be added to the cost of each graded exam	2.00 administration fee to be added to the cost of each graded exam	The administration charge is based on the fees set nationally by the examination boards. The fees have increased significantly this year, therefore, to ensure that pupils continue to engage, we will keep costs the same.
618	500	550	Curriculum and Wellbeing	<u>Youth Support Service</u> Room Hire  Hire per hour - Bwlch Youth & Community Centre and Streets Youth Club.	11.67	12.84	10% increase
150	1,900	1,400	Education Services	<u>In Service Training (INSET) -</u> <u>Course/Consultancy Fees</u>  Inspection Duties / Advisory Services	As per contract/tender	As per contract/tender	Dependent on Estyn requests
14,850	0	0	Education Services	<u>Griffith Jones Training Centre</u> Lettings Griffith Jones Centre - Half Day/Full day	60.00 / 96.80	Not applicable	Training Centre transferred for school use wef 01/09/2022

## APPENDIX C

### CHARGING DIGEST - Education & Children

2021/22 Actual £	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed Charge £	Comments
14,177	14,000	15,000	Education Services	<u>Neuadd y Gwendraeth</u>			
				Hall - Half Day / Full Day / Evening	108.10 / 163.20 / 140.75	118.91 / 179.52 / 154.83	
				Sound & Light - System only / System & Technician	21.90 / 43.85	24.09 / 48.24	
				Training Room - Half Day / Full Day / Evening	60.00 / 96.80 / 80.20	66.00 / 106.48 / 88.22	
				Meeting Room - Half Day / Full Day / Evening	60.00 / 96.80 / 80.20	66.00 / 106.48 / 88.22	10% increase
				Full building - Half Day / Full Day / Evening	163.20 / 216.25 / 193.80	179.52 / 237.88 / 213.18	
				Performance package (practice & show) - full building	195.85	215.44	
				Half day practice - full building	54.00	59.40	



## APPENDIX C

### CHARGING DIGEST - Education & Children

2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Budget £	2023/24 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2022/23 Charge Levied £	2023/24 Proposed Charge £	Comments
4,846,688	4,910,549	5,000,000	<b>School Meals</b>	<b>Primary Schools</b> Pupil Meal  Adult Meal  <b>Secondary Schools</b> Free Meal Token - Pupil  Free Meal Token - Adult  Paid meals - cafeteria	 2.67  4.16   2.67  2.67  various	 2.94  4.58   2.94  2.94  various +10%	 10% inflation increase (27p)  10% inflation increase as per Primary meal (42p)   10% inflation increase (27p)  10% inflation increase (27p)  10% inflation increase on all items

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

### NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

#### Purpose:

Explanation provided for the non-submission of a scrutiny report.

#### The Scrutiny Committee Is Asked To:

Note the explanation provided for the non-submission of a scrutiny report.

#### Reason:

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop, publish and keep under review an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. If a report is not presented as scheduled, officers are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why.

**To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO**

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Glynog Davies (**Cllr. Glynog Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language**)

**Directorate:**  
Chief Executive

**Name of Head of Service:**  
Linda Rees Jones

**Report Author:**  
Julie Owens

#### Designations:

Head of Administration and  
Law

Democratic Services Officer

#### Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:

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[lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

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[juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

#### NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop, publish and keep under review an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

If a report is not presented as scheduled, officers are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

## IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

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

There are none.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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# EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**23 JANUARY 2023**

## EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION:	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
<b>Corporate Strategy and Education and Children's Services draft Business Plan</b>	Noelwyn Daniel	The Council's new Corporate Strategy 2022-27 will take a new approach from previous versions which will also impact on business planning arrangements. The aim is to ensure greater alignment across the Council and to further strengthen performance management. In order to fully outline and seek feedback on this new approach a members' development session is being held on 27 January 2023 (invitation has been sent to all councillors). Feedback from this session will be considered in the development of the final version of the Corporate Strategy and business plans will be made available to scrutiny committees from end of February 2023.	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>10 Year Social Services Strategy</b>	Jake Morgan	There is a draft in progress, Director and HOS met on 10-01-2023 to discuss further to develop the document into its consultation format. The document will need to go into Scrutiny for initial consultation, to provide feedback and re-presented for its final approval later in the year.	Autumn 2023

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

### SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE

#### Purpose:

To apprise the Committee of actions taken in response to decisions made.

#### The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Review the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.

#### Reasons:

To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

#### To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision:

No.

#### Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Not Applicable.

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Julie Owens	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration and Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224088 <a href="mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

#### SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE

During the course of a municipal year, several requests for additional information are made by the Committee in order to assist it in discharging its scrutiny role.

The attached report provides members of the Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to these requests.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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# IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and Law

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

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

N/A

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

There are none.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee - Actions & Referrals 2022/23					
Action No.	Meeting Date	Recommendation/Minute Text / Action Required	Progress Update	Responsible Member(s) / Officer(s)	Status
EYP&WL22/23-01	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> a workshop be arranged in early 2023 to provide information on the Post 16 Review, Vocational Qualifications and NEETs. The Workshop to include an analysis of the gaps in supply of workers locally, together with funding issues associated with NEETs. The final report to be presented to the Committee on 16.03.2023	Provisional Date set for 10.02.2023	Julian Dessent, Curriculum & Learning Network Manager	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-02	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Given the change in membership following the 2022 local government elections, the Chair requested that previous reports on Elective Home Education (EHE) be circulated to the Committee. This information will determine what further reports/information should be requested by the Committee going forward given that the Council was limited in terms of funding and powers to progress this matter.	Previous reports and WG statistics circulated to the Committee 13/12/2022	Jan Coles, Head of Children's Services / Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-03	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Workshop on Self Evaluation and School Data to be provided as soon as possible.	Workshop delivered on 18.10.2022	Heads of Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-04	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Members, in recognising the benefits of <b>site visits</b> , expressed a desire to resume these in 2023 on the provision that schools were comfortable in hosting site visits.		Aneirin Thomas, Head of Education and Inclusion Services	
EYP&WL22/23-05	01.09.2022 & 13.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> An information note to be circulated to all County Councillors to provide an update on the progress made with the roll-out of the provision of <b>free school meals</b> . Furthermore, an update report to be circulated setting out how the Eligibility for Free School Meals (EFSM) categorisation issue has been addressed and will be measured going forward.		Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services.	
EYP&WL22/23-06	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> A development session to be arranged setting out the role and remit of the Committee following confirmation of its revised Terms of Reference.	Development session provided on 01.12.2022	Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services / Linda Rees Jones, Head of	complete
EYP&WL22/23-07	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> The Education department to determine appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on "Transformation, Innovation Change (TIC), including school budgets".	Incorporated into the Forward Work Plan 2022/23 - report to be presented 16.03.2023	Heads of Service/ Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-08	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> possible report to be provided on the topic of "Team Around the Family", if considered to be within the remit of the Committee.	Forward Work Planning Session arranged for 19.01.2023 whereby the relevance of the report to the Committee's remit will be discussed. If appropriate, dates to be confirmed for the Forward Work Plan.	All Members / Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-09	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> The Education department to determine an appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on "Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme".	Incorporated into the Forward Work Plan 2022/23 - report to be presented 20.04.2023	Heads of Service/ Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-10	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> The Education department to determine an appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on the provision of education post-COVID. Committee Members to set out the report requirements.	Forward Work Planning Session arranged for 19.01.2023 whereby the content and the date for the receipt of the report will be agreed.	All	ongoing

EYP&WL22/23-11	01.09.22 & 13.09.202	<b>FORWARD PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> Report on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to be considered by the Committee in the Autumn of 2023 following publication of the first year annual report.	Incorporated into the Forward Work Plan for 2023/24	Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	<b>complete</b>
EYP&WL22/23-12	01.09.2022 & 13.09.2022	<b>FORWARD PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> Further information on the <b>Welsh in Education Forum</b> terms of reference and membership be circulated to the Committee.		Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services / Head of Service	
EYP&WL22/23-13	06/10/2022	<b>EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</b> Typographical correction to section 6.2.3 of the report which would be updated to reflect that the committee had considered its report in 2021.	report updated on 06/10/2022. Currently awaiting translation of the annual report before it can be published on the website.	Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	<b>ongoing</b>
EYP&WL22/23-14	06/10/2022	<b>EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23</b> A request was made for an update on the recommendations from the <b>School Organisation Consultation Process Task and Finish Group</b> report to be incorporated into the Forward Work Plan.	Forward Work Planning Session arranged for 19/01/2023 whereby the date for receipt of the report will be agreed.	All	<b>ongoing</b>
EYP&WL22/23-15	06/10/2022	<b>FORTHCOMING ITEMS</b> - Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services to be invited to the next meeting to present the Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan	The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services presented the Youth Justice Plan at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 01/12/2022	Democratic Services Officer	<b>complete</b>
EYP&WL22/23-16	18/10/2022	<b>SELF EVALUATION AND SCHOOL DATA WORKSHOP</b> - Survey to be distributed to Parent Governors to collate data, including the issues experienced with the HWB platform, with a view to providing appropriate support in their roles.		Elin Forsyth, Head of School Effectiveness	
EYP&WL22/23-17	01/12/2022	<b>YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN</b> - the graphical representation set out at page 19 of the Youth Justice Plan pertaining to 'offence type' had been condensed and would therefore be re-issued to the Committee with the full information.	Updated graph and key circulated to Committee Members on 05/12/2022	Gill Adams, Youth Support Service Principal Manager	<b>Complete</b>
EYP&WL22/23-18	01/12/2022	<b>YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN</b> - Future reports to contain a comprehensive glossary to explain the full list of abbreviations, and keys would be provided to enable readers to easily interpret the graphical representations.	Noted for the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support / Gill Adams, Youth Support Service Principal Manager	<b>ongoing</b>
EYP&WL22/23-19	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 Page 19</b> - "Well-being Objective 1 Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences". Wording on graphs to be reviewed in terms of accuracy because, whilst the long-term trend has reduced, the figures for 2021/22 represent an increase on the previous year.		Head of Service / Robert James, Strategic Performance Manager / John Buck, Performance and Information Officer	
EYP&WL22/23-20	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</b> - Comparable information between the level of EU grant funding and the Shared Prosperity Fund to be provided to the Committee in due course.	Seeking information	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support	<b>ongoing</b>
EYP&WL22/23-21	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</b> - An update on the ongoing work within the Authority to tackle poverty in the education system to be circulated at the Committee in due course.	An update can be made available on request subject to reasonable notification.	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support	<b>ongoing</b>
EYP&WL22/23-22	01/12/2022	<b>EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT</b> - The report on 'Support for curriculum development across the schools in Carmarthenshire' to be provided to Committee at its meeting on 23.01.23. Representatives from PARTNERIAETH to be invited.	Report incorporated into the Forward Work Plan 2022/23 and a request sent to the Performance Information Officer on 01.12.2022	Elin Forsyth, Head of School Effectiveness / Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer / John Buck, Performance and	<b>ongoing</b>

## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

### FORTHCOMING ITEMS

#### Purpose:

To provide background information on the forthcoming items to be considered by the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

#### The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the following:

To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee to be held on 16 March 2023.

#### Reason:

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 which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

#### To be referred to the Cabinet for decision:

No.

#### Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

**Directorate:**  
Chief Executive's

**Name of Head of Service:**  
Linda Rees-Jones

**Report Author:**  
Julie Owens

#### Designations:

Head of Administration &  
Law

Democratic Services Officer

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JANUARY 2023

#### 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 Plan the Scrutiny Committee will take into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the latest version of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at its next meeting.

The published Cabinet Forward Work Plan, at the time of publication of this meeting pack, is attached to this report. However, as the Cabinet Forward Plan is updated on a regular basis, the most recent version is available to view in the following link:-

[Browse meetings - Education, Young People & the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee - Carmarthenshire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://moderngov.co.uk/carmarthenshire-county-council/committees/education-young-people-and-the-welsh-language-scrutiny-committee/)

Also attached for information is the 2022/23 Forward Work Plan for the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee, however it should be noted that the Committee is scheduled to meet on the 19 January 2023 to review the Forward Work Plan.

DETAILED REPORT  
ATTACHED?

YES:

- (1) List of Forthcoming Items
- (2) Cabinet Forward Work Plan
- (3) Education, Young People and Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee Forward Work 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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE /  
CONSULTED**

**YES**

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

**There are none.**

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## FORTHCOMING ITEMS – TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 16 MARCH 2023

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. Limiting the number of agenda items may help to keep meetings focused and easier to manage.

Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report
<b>Post 16 Review - including Vocational Qualifications and those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)</b>	The post 16 landscape is changing. A thorough review of Post 16 Education in Carmarthenshire is therefore underway. The review will gain a picture of how our provision ensures entitlement to an outstanding, broad and bilingual Post 16 curriculum, with clear pathways to higher education and the world of work.	To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to review and comment on the report following on from the work undertaken at the Post 16 Workshop.
<b>Transformation, Innovation Change (TIC), including school budgets.</b>	The Schools' Transformation Programme was introduced in 2017 to support schools with meeting the significant financial challenges facing them through a number of different work streams. The Committee is periodically consulted on progress. The work plan has recently been updated under the new thematic approach to corporate transformation.	This item will enable the Committee to comment on the current work plan and consider further ways in which the schools' budget can be supported.
<b>Education and Children's Services Draft Business Plan 2023/24</b>	The Committee is consulted on the Business Plans for the Education and Children's Services Department on an annual basis. These plans need to accompany the budget and Corporate Strategy. Business Plans show how Corporate Strategy ambition will be delivered.	This item will enable the Committee to consider and comment on the Education and Children's Services Business Plan's relevant to its remit.
<b>Corporate Strategy</b>	The new Cabinet has outlined its vision for the next 5 years and we have consulted with residents,	This item will enable the Committee to consider the strategic priorities of the Council relevant to the

	<p>businesses, staff and unions to develop a new Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives. Our Corporate Strategy needs to be considered alongside the budget and business plans. It is important that we integrate strategic and financial planning.</p>	<p>remit of this Scrutiny and how we can 'join-up Services' to support wider priorities.</p>
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## ***CABINET/COUNCIL – FORWARD PLAN***

FOR THE PERIOD 23 DECEMBER 2022 TO 22 DECEMBER 2023

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director  Report Author</b>
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 9 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22	Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 we must publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of 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.	Cabinet 9 Jan 2023	No	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@car-marthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME	The report seeks formal adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Ann Thomas, Revenue Services Manager
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 9 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of 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 9 Jan 2023	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Chris Moore, Director of Corporate Services cmoore@carmarthenshire.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 9 Jan 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Rachel Davies, Strategic Housing Delivery Manager RaMDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 2022/23(1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 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 9 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2025/26	To provide the Cabinet with an overview of the budget issues and outlook for the forthcoming years	Cabinet 9 Jan 2023	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.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 planed path to improve recycling rates and adopt Welsh Government kerbside sort in Carmarthenshire.	Cabinet 30 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
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 30 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL (UKSPF)	To provide an update on the continued preparatory work for the Shared Prosperity Fund and to endorse steps taken to date, and proposed, to ensure that the County benefits from this new investment Programme.	Cabinet 30 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ARFOR 2 APPROVAL	To consider and approve delivery of the Arfor II programme in Carmarthenshire. Arfor is a Welsh Government funding Programme with the aim to stimulate and grow both the Welsh Language and the economy. It will run to March 2025 and £11m is available for the 4 counties of Camarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Ynys Mon.	Cabinet 30 Jan 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SELF-EVALUATION	Self-evaluation is integral to the business planning process. ECS has modified its	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh	Director of Education &



<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
AND SCHOOL DATA	approach by triangulating judgements from a wider range of perspectives			Language	Children Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support jarees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE SCHOOLS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE – PARTNERIAETH AND THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT.	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 department. In addition, the report outlines the impact of this support and the effective practice that is developing within the authority.	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Elin Forsyth, Principal Challenge Advisor EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ALTERNATIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION OFFER	The purpose of this report is to review Carmarthenshire County Council's current Outdoor Education offer and to explore options for a re-modelled service within existing resources.	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CONSERVATION AREA	This report sets out the work being undertaken to review ten designated	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and	Director of Place & Infrastructure

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
APPRAISALS	<p>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"> <li>•A character appraisal;</li> <li>•A boundary review and</li> <li>•A management plan.</li> </ul> <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>			Planning Policy	Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
CORPORATE STRATEGY	To update our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@carmarth enshire.gov.uk
HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 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 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Richard Waters, Highways and Transportation Services Manager RWaters@carmarth enshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
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 13 Feb 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Christine Harrison, Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning Chris.harrison@pembroke.gov.uk
RURAL ESTATES	In January 2021, the Welsh Government announced regulatory measures to address agricultural pollution. These regulations are known as The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The regulations will have a huge impact on the majority of the Council's farms, especially the dairy farms, which will involve having to upgrade slurry storage facilities to accommodate at least five months' worth of slurry. The average capacity of slurry stores on Council farms currently stands at 2-3 months of storage. This report provides an update on the current situation regarding the impact of the regulations on the Farm Estate and the implications following the outcome of recent condition surveys carried out on all 24 farms.	Cabinet 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
PROPOSAL FOR	On 4 July 2022, Cabinet established a	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of Place &

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
CABINET TO CONSIDER THE FORMALLY SIGNING OF THE EDINBURGH DECLARATION ON POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK	Cross Party Advisory Panel to support the authority's approach to addressing the climate and nature emergencies and the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration. At the inaugural meeting of the Advisory panel, Members provided unanimous support for the Cabinet formally signing the declaration.	13 Feb 2023		Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Infrastructure Rosie Carmichael, Rural Conservation Manager racarmichael@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 13 Feb 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (COUNCIL FUND) – 2023/24 TO	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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
2027/28					Services RHemingway@car marthenshire.gov.uk
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	No	Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cabinet Member	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@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 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST	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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
APRIL 2022 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022					aparnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
EMPTY PROPERTY POLICY	TO INTRODUCE THE EMPTY PROPERTY POLICY THAT WILL SET THE VISION AND THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COUNCIL IN TACKLING EMPTY RESIDENTIAL HOMES WITHIN THE COUNTY FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS. THE POLICY ALSO SETS OUT THE LOCAL CONTEXT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING EMPTY HOMES BACK INTO USE TO HELP MEET THE HOUSING NEED IN THE COUNTY PARTICULARLY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE.	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Gareth Williams, Team Leader GajWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT TO EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY	To consider the Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the adoption of an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy	Cabinet 27 Feb 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Chief Executive Kevin J Thomas, Democratic Services Officer kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
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
EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY	<p>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).</p> <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</p>	Cabinet 13 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
	of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029. The report sets out the proposal to adopt an Equestrian Strategy for Carmarthenshire.				
WEST WALES ADULT ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2023 - 2027	THE ADULT ADVOCACY STRATEGY SEEKS TO SHAPE THE COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS OF HDUHB, CARMARTHENSHIRE CC, CEREDIGION CC AND PEMBROKESHIRE CC IN ORDER TO MEET THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES. IT SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT GOOD QUALITY ADVOCACY IS READILY AND EQUITABLY AVAILABLE, IN THE WEST WALES REGION.	Cabinet 13 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Christine Harrison, Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning Chris.harrison@pembrokehire.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 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
CARMARTHENSHIRE'S SUSTAINABLE	To provide Cabinet with an updated CSCfL (formerly known as Modernising Education Programme (MEP)) as the long-	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children



<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING (CSCfL)	term strategy and investment plan for schools. The plan will be brought forward following extensive consultation with stakeholders.				Simon Davies, Head of Access to Education sidavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY, TWELVE MONTH REVIEW	The report provides an update on progress with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIST SETTINGS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE MOST CHALLENGED.	This report outlines the range of differentiated support provided to our schools, PRUs and specialist settings ensuring that leaders, teachers and teaching assistants access the necessary support to ensure that all pupils progress and thrive.	Cabinet 27 Mar 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Elin Forsyth, Principal Challenge Advisor EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
TENANT RECHARGE	Occasionally it may be necessary to recharge a tenant for work that we have	Cabinet 11 Apr 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for	Director of Communities

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
POLICY	carried out to the property which was the tenant responsibility under the tenancy agreement. The policy will guide officers when dealing with council tenant recharges, ensuring a consistent approach.			Homes	Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities JMorgan@cardiffshire.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 11 Apr 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities JMorgan@cardiffshire.gov.uk
AN EVALUATION OF ESTYN INSPECTIONS ACROSS CARDIFFSHIRE 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@cardiffshire.gov.uk
CARDIFFSHIRE PUBLIC	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on each	Cabinet 11 Apr 2023	No	Leader of the Council	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel,

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
SERVICES BOARD (PSB) WELL-BEING PLAN 2023-28	PSB to develop and publish a county Well-being Plan. As part of the preparation of this Plan, Carmarthenshire PSB has undertaken a detailed Well-being Assessment. The objectives and actions identified as part of this plan will focus on areas of collective action that the PSB can influence by working together and does not therefore replicate what is considered to be the core business of the individual member bodies of the PSB, unless there is added value to be gained by the PSB working together.				Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CLEANSING SERVICE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN	To present the outcomes of the review into the Council's street cleaning service and make recommendations for future service delivery.	Cabinet 11 Apr 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Environmental Services Manager DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
GRANTS AWARDS POLICY	In line with the requirement of the Welsh Language Standards the Council must produce and publish a policy on awarding grants (or, where appropriate, amend an existing policy) which requires you to consider positive or negative effects the awarding and implementing of the grant could have on:	Cabinet 24 Apr 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
	(i) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.				
TACKLING POVERTY ACTION PLAN	The Council has prepared a tackling poverty action plan which incorporates its response to the cost of living crisis. The plan outlines actions to be taken by a range of Council services and steps to further our involvement with a range of external stakeholders.	Cabinet 24 Apr 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
DEFENCE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION SCHEME	To approve progression within the Defence Employee Recognition Scheme (DERS) to Silver Award and to strengthen our ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. In October 2021, Cabinet approved the re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant, which pledged a commitment to apply for the DERS. The DERS encourages employers to support those serving (reservists) or who have served in the armed forces (veterans) and their dependants. It aligns with the Armed Forces Covenant which is a pledge to the Armed Forces Community and their families that they will be given respect and fairness in the United Kingdom that they serve. The DERS encompasses Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards for employers	Cabinet 24 Apr 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
	that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to the Armed Forces Community.				
WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2023-28	To approve the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2023-28, as a part of our statutory responsibilities under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011. Carmarthenshire County Council leads on the preparation of the Promotion Strategy; however, we work closely with partners across the county to co-design our work to support the Language in our communities. This is the second promotion strategy and there will be an opportunity to reflect on the results of the 2021 Census as part of our work.	Cabinet 24 Apr 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
LEISURE, CULTURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY – POST CONSULTATION	The document provides a framework for the service to work with key stakeholders to deliver a strategically aligned Leisure, Culture and Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the next 10 years.	Cabinet 22 May 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.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	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
	the Scrutiny process prior to WG submission.				Learner Support jarees@carmarthen shire.gov.uk
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@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme	Cabinet 27 Nov 2023	No		

## Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2022/23

6 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	<del>22 December 2022</del> (meeting cancelled)	23 January 2023	16 March 2023	20 April 2023
School Engagement Session (update - Brynteg Primary School now participating in place of Swiss Valley)	Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan	<del>Actions and Referrals Update</del> (moved to 23/01/23)	Revenue Budget Consultation 2023/24 - 2025/26	Post 16 Review - including Vocational Qualifications and those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)	Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
Education and Children Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22	County Council Annual Report	<del>Revenue Budget Consultation 2023/24 - 2025/26</del> – (moved to 23/01/23)	<del>Education and Children's Services Draft Departmental Plan 2023/24</del> (moved to 16.03.23)	Transformation, Innovation Change (TIC), including school budgets.	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme
<del>County Council Annual Report</del> (rescheduled to 01.12.22)	<del>Support for Curriculum Development across the schools in Carmarthenshire – Partneriaeth and the Education and Children's Services Department</del> (moved to 23.01.23)	<del>Alternative Outdoor Education Offer</del> (to be considered under the terms and reference of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)	Support for Curriculum Development across the schools in Carmarthenshire – Partneriaeth and the Education and Children's Services Department	Corporate Strategy (moved from 23.01.23)	Actions and Referrals Update
Forward Work Plan 2022/23	<del>Corporate Strategy</del> (moved to 23.01.23)	<del>Forthcoming items</del>	<del>Corporate Strategy</del> (moved to 16.03.23)	Education and Children's Services Draft Departmental Plan 2023/24 (moved from 23.01.23)	Forthcoming items
Page 95			Actions and Referrals Update (moved from 22.12.22)	Forthcoming items	
Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming items		Forthcoming items		

## Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail

Performance Management Report (Quarter 4) (moved to 01.12.22)	Budget Monitoring April 22 to August 2022		Budget Monitoring April 22 to October 2022		Budget Monitoring April 22 to December 2022
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (outturn 2021/22)	Performance Management Report (Quarter 1) (moved from 06.10.22)		10 Year Social Services Strategy (report delayed - to be moved to 2023/24 Forward Work Plan)		Performance Management Report (Quarter 3)
Budget Monitoring April 22 to June 2022			Performance Management Report (Quarter 2)		
Director of Social Services Annual Report					

### Additional reports / information requested by the Committee during 2022/23 (to be circulated via email):

- Previously reports submitted to the Committee pertaining to Elective Home Education (EHE) – **information circulated on 13.12.2022.**
- Eligibility for Free School Meals (EFSM) - Information note to be circulated to all County Councillors to provide an update on the progress made with the roll-out of the provision of free school meals. Furthermore, an update report to be circulated to the Committee setting out how the EFSM categorisation issue has been addressed and will be measured going forward.

### Additional report(s) to be allocated to the Forward Work Plan (date(s) to be confirmed):

- **Post COVID Education Review** – **content of report and date to be confirmed on 19.01.2023 at the FWP session.**
- **Team Around the Family** – **If considered relevant to the Committee's remit, content and date to be confirmed on 19.01.2023 at the FWP session.**
- **Update on the recommendations from the School Organisation Consultation Process Task and Finish Group report.** **Content of report and date to be confirmed on 19.01.2023 at the FWP session.**



**Workshops:**

- Self Evaluation and School Data - held on 18/10/2022.
- Post 16 Review - including Vocational Qualifications and those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs) :- Provisional date set for 10.02.23 - date to be confirmed on 19.01.2023 at the FWP session.

**Development Sessions**

- Overview of the remit of the ECS Committee following confirmation of its revised Terms of Reference and clarity on the role/expectations of Members of Scrutiny Committees - held on 01.12.2022.

**Site Visits**

- The Authority transitioned to an alternative structure, in the form of online school engagement sessions, to temporarily replace school visits during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, to enable the Committee to continue with its school evaluation and improvement function. The Scrutiny Committee hope to resume its site visits during the 2023 calendar year.

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 1 December 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillor A.C. Jones (Chair) (In Person)

**Councillors (In Person):**

L. Davies, P. Hughes-Griffiths

**Councillors (Virtually):**

S.M. Allen, K.V. Broom, L.M. Davies, B.W. Jones, D. Jones, M.J.A. Lewis, S.L. Rees,  
E. Skinner, M. Thomas

**Co-opted Members (In Person):**

A. Enoch, V. Kenny

**Co-opted Members (Virtually):**

F. Healey-Benson

**The following Cabinet Members were in attendance (In Person):**

J. Tremlett, P.M. Hughes

**The following Cabinet Member was in attendance (Virtually):**

G. Davies

**The following Officers were in attendance (In Person):**

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

A. Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support

G. Adams, Principal Manager - Youth Support Service

A. Eynon, Principal Translator

J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer (Minute Taker)

**The following Officers were in attendance (remotely):**

N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy

S. Davies, Head of Access to Education

A Thomas, Head of Education Services and Inclusion

J.G. Buck, Performance & Information Officer

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

**Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 2.00 - 3.45 pm**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from D. Elias. The Chair advised the Committee that Councillor. S. Rees was required to leave the meeting early in order to attend other council business.

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

There were no declarations of personal interest including any party whips.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

### **4. CARMARTHENSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2022/2023**

The Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 was presented to the Committee.

Consideration was given to the governance, leadership and partnership arrangements which had culminated in the development of the Youth Justice Plan, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Youth Justice Plan outlined the provision of the Youth Support Service and the Youth Justice Team under a single management structure which provided a holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The Committee's attention was referred to section 8 of the Youth Justice Plan which detailed the performance of the partnership during 2021/22 and also set out the priorities and improvement planning objectives for the forthcoming year in accordance with the overarching 'child first' principles and an ethos of continuous improvement.

The Committee acknowledged the crucial work of the partnership in seeking to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in order to safeguard the most vulnerable and complex children and families across the County. Furthermore, it was noted that several strategic groups had been established to address emerging demands linked to the well-being of vulnerable children and adults.

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

The Committee commended the ongoing dedication and commitment of staff working within the Youth Justice Team in working with children and young people during the unprecedented challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

It was clarified to the Committee that the 'Bureau system' within the County was an out of court diversion scheme delivered in partnership between the Authority and Police and was designed to deliver interventions at an early stage to divert children and young people from the court.

In response to a query raised, it was explained to members that the graphical representation set out at page 19 of the Youth Justice Plan pertaining to 'offence type' had been condensed and would therefore be re-issued to the Committee with the full information. An assurance was also given to the Committee that future reports would contain a comprehensive glossary to explain the full list of abbreviations, and keys would be provided to enable readers to easily interpret the graphical representations.

A question was put forth regarding challenges that were anticipated in meeting the extensive priorities and objectives that had been set for the Youth Justice Team for 2022/23. It was explained to the Committee that the priorities were

strategically aligned with national expectations and in accordance with key performance indicator reporting requirements. It was emphasised that ambitious targets had been set to enable the Youth Justice Team to strive to deliver meaningful change for children and young people within the county. Reference was also made to the efforts made to promote participation and positive engagement across Youth Justice work going forward, and this focus would be supported and strengthened with the implementation of a strategy.

In response to a query, the Committee was assured to note the array of mechanisms by way of partnership working to address the exploitation of children regarding county lines and gangs, and the connections with the supply of drugs and serious violence.

Following a query in respect of funding for the delivery of services, the Youth Support Service Principal Manager was pleased to report that the funding contribution to the Youth Justice Team would increase by £20k for 2022/23, and further grant allocations in respect of prevention initiatives and early interventions would enable the team to maintain a stable staffing structure.

Reference was made priority area 8 which related to the delivery of services in Welsh. The Youth Support Service Principal Manager detailed the recruitment and training initiatives to ensure that the delivery of services in Welsh was maintained and strengthened where possible.

Reference was made to the performance measure pertaining to Mental Health, whereby the Youth Support Service Principal Manager provided background information on the reporting methodology and confirmed that she was confident that access to mental health services had been timely and effective during the reporting period.

In response to concerns raised by a Member, the Youth Support Service Principal Manager clarified to the Committee that due to the complexity of a small cohort of re-offenders, the annual weighted average could fluctuate considerably.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 be received.**

## **5. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22**

The Committee considered the draft Council Annual Report for the period 2021/22 which had been produced to meet the relevant provisions within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021. The report detailed the progress made with the Council's 13 Well-being Objectives (WBO) against a backdrop of unprecedented circumstances presented by the coronavirus pandemic, together with the Council's self-assessment against the performance requirements of the previous financial year. The Committee was advised that the draft Annual Report would be updated to reflect the outcome of the consultation process pertaining to performance requirements set out at Appendix 5C.

Consideration was given to the relevant Well-Being Objectives falling within the remit of the committee, namely:

WBO 1:	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.
WBO 2:	Help children live healthy lifestyles.
WBO 3:	Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners.
WBO 4:	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.
WBO 12:	Promote Welsh Language and Culture.

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

A concern was raised that the Authority's focus on the promotion of Welsh Language, which was an area that was already performing well, could cause undue pressure on children and their families, during a period of uncertainty in the context of the demands associated with the forthcoming academic year as the country emerged from the coronavirus pandemic, the implementation of the new curriculum and resource constraints. The Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language clarified that the agenda for the promotion of the Welsh Language was set at a national level through Welsh Government policy.

In response to a query on the graphical representation set out on page 87 of the report, it was confirmed that the wording would be reviewed because, whilst the long-term trend had reduced, the figure for 2021/22 represented an increase on the previous year.

Reference was made to the conclusion of EU grant funding eligibility and an update was requested on the alternative funding streams for Youth Services such as Cam Nesa, Cynnydd and NEET style interventions. It was confirmed to the Committee that the Shared Prosperity Fund had replaced the EU grant funding and it was expected that funds in the region of £38m would be received by Carmarthenshire to be distributed to areas of need. In response to a query, the Head of Strategy and Learner Support stated that figures could be obtained to provide comparable information between the EU level of grant funding and the Shared Prosperity Fund.

A member enquired regarding the support provisions in place to meet the needs of the increased number of children diagnosed with autism referred to in WBO1. The Director of Education and Children's Services referred to the challenges presented in meeting the needs of children requiring additional learning needs in the context of financial constraints, however investment was being made to provide a safe environment by way of specialist units and effective services.

In response to a query in respect of the obesity statistics set out at WBO2 of the report, the Director of Education and Children's Services confirmed that updated figures were awaited. It was recognised that the improvements made in this area in recent years had been somewhat curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic; accordingly, the health and wellbeing of children was considered to be a key priority in the development of the Authority's corporate strategy.

An update was requested in terms of the task and finish group's review of school pupil admission dates and age-ranges across the County. The Committee was duly advised that the matter had recently been discussed at the pre-cabinet stage whereby it was agreed that a comprehensive consultation process would commence in the new year, incorporating the recommendations made by the task and finish group. It was noted that any revisions to the admissions policy would not take effect until September 2024 at the earliest.

Reference was made to the recent introduction of free school meals in Wales and concerns were highlighted that parents/guardians would no longer apply for free school meals which would have an impact on the level of Pupil Development Grant (PDG) funding which the school would access. The Director of Education and Children's Services recognised that the PDG was an important measure for all schools across Wales to support vulnerable children and an assurance was provided that representations had been made to Welsh Government in this regard. Members were further advised of the ongoing work within the Authority to tackle poverty in the education system and further information would be available in this regard in due course.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to recommend to the Cabinet that the draft Council Annual Report 2021/22 be endorsed.**

## **6. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

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

- Support for curriculum development across the schools in Carmarthenshire.

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

## **7. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee reviewed the list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, which had been derived from the Committee's Forward Work Plan 2022/23. The Chair emphasised that the Forward Work Plan was a flexible document that could be updated as required throughout the year as new information emerges. Accordingly, a further Forward Work Planning session would be arranged in due course to review the Committee's priorities for 2022/23 in accordance with the Cabinet Forward Work Plan.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

- 7.1 That the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023 be noted.**
- 7.2 A Forward Work Planning Session be arranged in County Hall, in due course to review the Committee's priorities in accordance with the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.**

**8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 6TH OCTOBER 2022**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 be signed as a correct record.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**