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THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2023

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 AM ON THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2023** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Kevin J Thomas
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224027
E-Mail:	kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.	
The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home	

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

COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 7 Members

Cllr. Betsan Jones (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Bryan Davies
Cllr. Terry Davies
Cllr. Handel Davies
Cllr. Ken Howell
Cllr. Denise Owen
Cllr. Russell Sparks

LABOUR GROUP - 4 Members

Cllr. Deryk Cundy (Chair)
Cllr. Rob Evans
Cllr. Martyn Palfreman
Cllr. Michael Thomas

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Anthony Davies
Cllr. Hugh Shepardson

UNAFFILIATED

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
- 4. EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION UPDATE
REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ALLOCATION
POLICY (MONITORING) 5 - 16**
- 5. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS - UPDATE 17 - 20**
- 6. COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23 21 - 44**
- 7. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 45 - 70**
- 8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 15TH MAY 2023 71 - 78**

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29TH JUNE, 2023

SUBJECT:
EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION UPDATE REPORT
ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ALLOCATION POLICY
(MONITORING)

PURPOSE:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with the monitoring report of the impact of the implementation of the Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

1. Consider the data provided in the monitoring report of the Emergency Social Housing Allocation update report on the operation of the new allocation policy;
2. Provide feedback on any additional or detailed information required for the next quarterly monitoring report being mindful of GDPR rules; and
3. To commence work formalising the Policy and proceed with formal consultation.

Reason(s)

Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 26th January, 2023 requested to receive updates at every meeting on the effectiveness of the change.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans, Deputy Leader & Housing Portfolio Holder

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Angie Bowen	Designations: Head of Housing & Public Protection Housing Hwb Manager	 JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk AnBowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION UPDATE REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ALLOCATION POLICY (MONITORING)

At its meeting held on the 20th February 2023 Cabinet considered the findings of the Communities, Homes, and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group to develop an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy for Carmarthenshire to address the unprecedented situation where the Council, as with all Welsh Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords, was facing increased demand for social housing that was exceeding the level of supply.

The Emergency Allocations Policy was approved by Cabinet at this meeting, together with the following recommendation:

That the Scrutiny Committee receive updates at every meeting from officers on the effectiveness of the change; that the content of the update reports (attached) include data for the previous period referring to:

- Proportion of properties directly matched and those advertised
- Banding of Clients directly matched
- Number of properties directly matched and advertised by each community connection area, type of property and landlord
- Proportion of direct matches that were successful
- Number of direct matches where the client requests a review of the allocation, and the outcome of those reviews
- Number of direct matches where the client refuses the allocation but doesn't request a review

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: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Housing & Public Protection

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

A thorough Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

3.Finance

Failure to respond to the current situation could result in significant financial pressures around the use of temporary accommodation and the inability to move households on to more permanent accommodation.

5. Risk Management Issues

Failure to implement the Policy may result in:

- The overall housing system in the County “silting up” with little move-on opportunities to permanent accommodation;
- Increased use of temporary, and more expensive accommodation, to meet housing need; and
- Perception that we are not looking at more sustainable plans for the general homeless population in the County.

6. Physical Assets

Council housing will be used as solutions for temporary as well as permanent solutions.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Include any observations here	
YES	<i>The Emergency Policy better supports residents and improves the process for those in greatest housing need. This monitoring report demonstrates the effectiveness of the way social housing is allocated in Carmarthenshire.</i>	
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
Report to Cabinet on 20th February, 2023 – Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy		<u>Emergency Allocation Policy - Final Draft - 26 01 23.pdf (gov.wales)</u>
Communities, Homes & Regeneration Scrutiny Task & Finish Report		<u>Task and Finish report - Final.pdf (gov.wales)</u>

The Emergency Allocations Policy Impact of Direct Matching

Outcomes April – June 23

June 2023



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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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At its meeting held on the 20th February 2023 Cabinet considered the findings of the Communities, Homes, and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group to develop an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy for Carmarthenshire to address the unprecedented situation where the Council, as with all Welsh Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords, was facing increased demand for social housing that was exceeding the level of supply.

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- Number of properties directly matched and advertised by each community connection area, type of property and landlord
- Proportion of direct matches that were successful
- Number of direct matches where the client requests a review of the allocation, and the outcome of those reviews
- Number of direct matches where the client refuses the allocation but doesn't request a review

This is the second report of data available for direct matching which covers from April 2023 to June 2023. This is the first data set fully implementing the Emergency Allocations Policy where we can directly match properties without using the Head of Services power to sign off allocations.

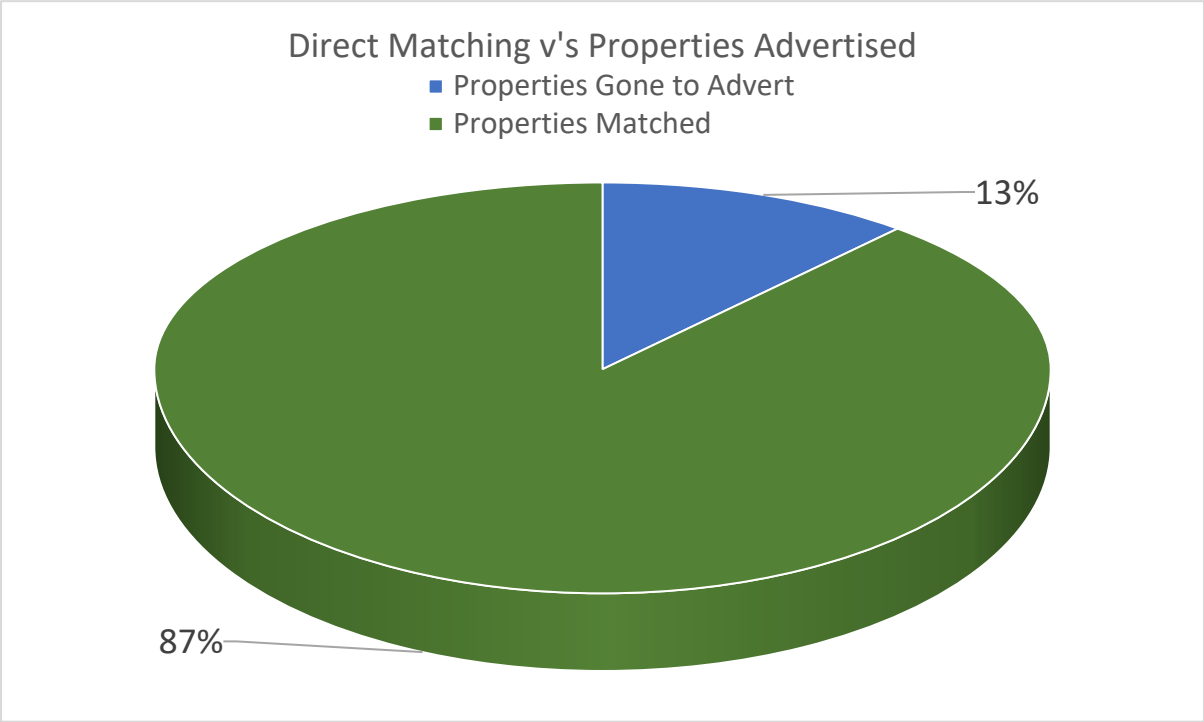
The data in this report highlights how this has impacted on the number of properties available to bid on for the wider housing register.

Recommendations

Communities, Homes, And Regeneration Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

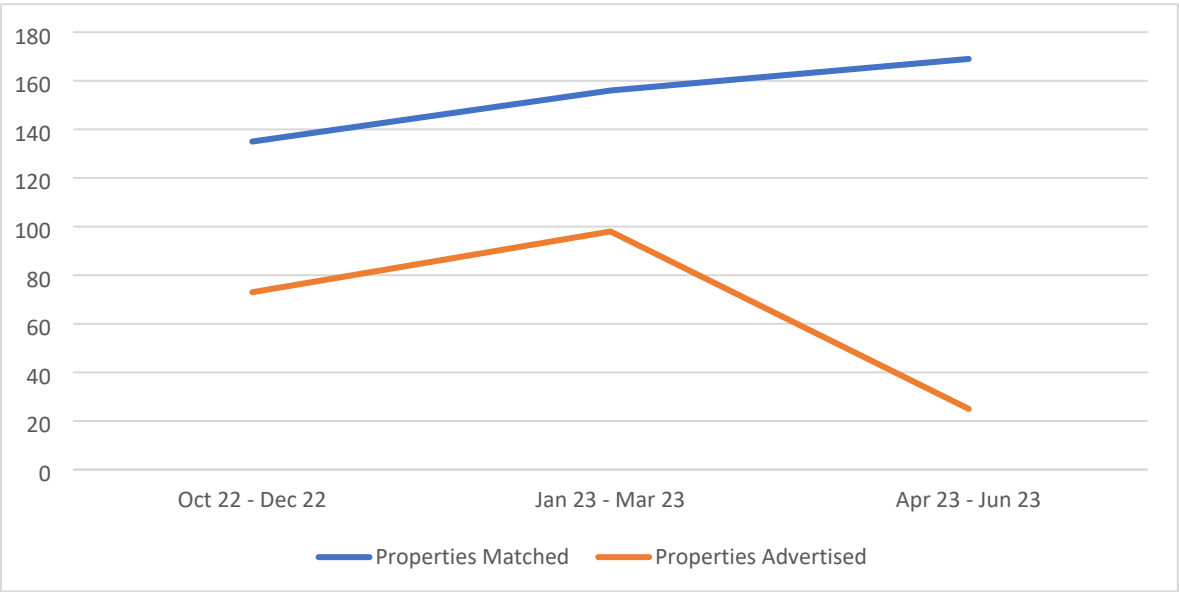
1. Consider the data provided in the monitoring report of the Emergency Social Housing Allocation update report on the operation of the new allocation policy;
2. Provide feedback on any additional or detailed information required for the next quarterly monitoring report being mindful of GDPR rules; and
3. Approve to commence work formalising the Policy and proceed with formal consultation.

Graph 1. Properties Matched April 2023 – June 2023

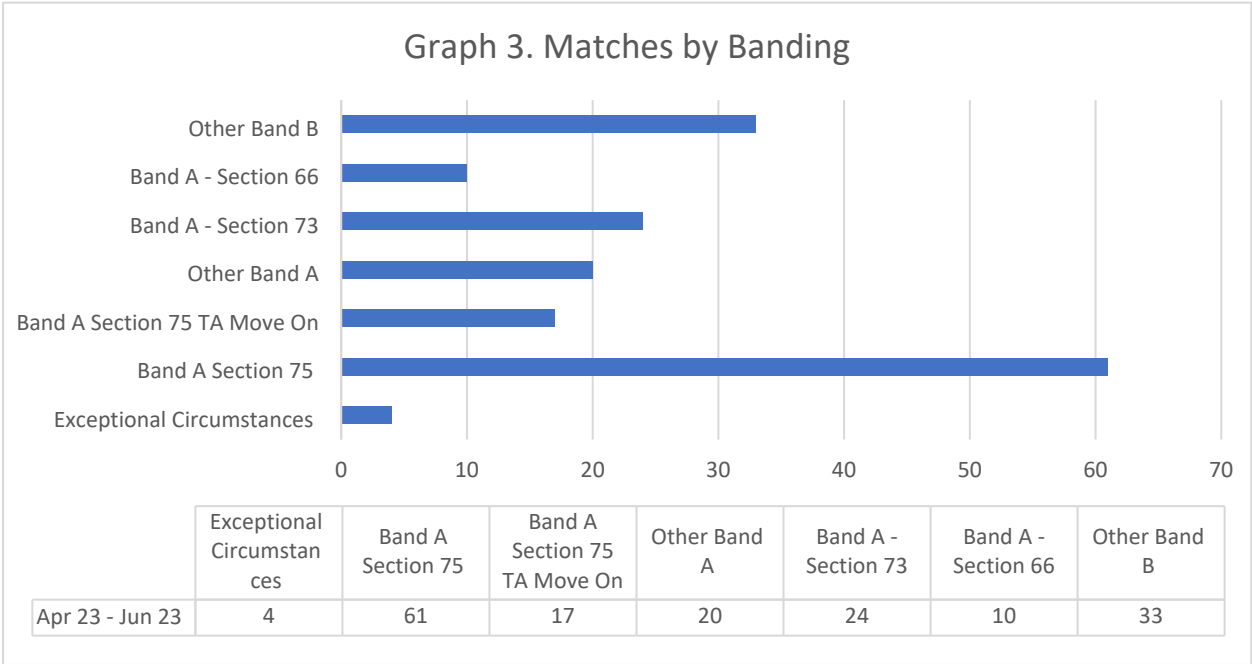


Properties Gone to Advert	25
Properties Matched	169

Graph 2. Properties directly matched v's properties advertised.



Matches by Band



Matches by Community Connection Ward, Property Type and Landlord

Table 1. Matches By Community Connection Area

Community Connection Area	No of Matches
Amman Valley	4
Ammanford	20
Carmarthen	14
Gwendraeth	10
Llandovery/Llandeilo	7
Llanelli East	15
Llanelli North/Rural	11
Llanelli Town	23
Llanelli West	15
Rural Central	2
Rural North	7
Rural West	41

Table 2. Matches By Property Type

Property Type	No of Matches
1 Bedroom Bungalow	7
1 Bedroom Flat	27
1 Bedroom Flat >55's	6
1 Bedroom House	0
1 bedroom Flat Extra Care	1
Bedsit	0
Shared Housing	6
2 Bedroom Bungalow	27
2 Bedroom Flat	12
2 Bedroom Flat > 55	0
2 Bedroom Maisonette	0
2 Bedroom House	38
3 Bedroom House	44
4 Bedroom House	1

Table 3. Matches By Landlord

Landlord	No of Matches
Bro Myrddin	10
Caredig	5
Carmarthenshire Council	99
Pobl	10
Simple Lettings	3
Wales and West	42
Western Valleys	0

Definitions for the purpose of this report

Homeless Duties within the Homeless (Wales) Act 2014

Sec 66 – Prevention

Once the household has been assessed and found to be at threat of homelessness, a duty to assist that household to try and prevent homelessness by taking all 'reasonable steps'. Some solutions such as mediation, support with debt advice/mortgage/rent arrears, security measures put in place, advocacy, private rented accommodation, social housing, prevention fund.

Sec 73 – Relief

Once the household has been assessed and found to be homeless, a duty to assist the household in resolving their homelessness.

Sec 75 – Final duty

Once the duty under Section 73 has ended, if the household is homeless, has a local connection and fits into a priority need group the authority has a duty to house. This accommodation must be for a minimum of 6 months.

Temporary Accommodation

If a household is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, they apply to the council for help. We may provide temporary accommodation; this can sometimes be referred to as 'emergency' accommodation or 'interim' accommodation'.

We provide different kinds of temporary accommodation. Some of which is provided by the Council, private landlords and commissioned rooms in Hotels and Bed and Breakfast that we have the responsibility for arranging and allocating.

At the time of writing this report (03 05 23) there are no households with children in Bed and Breakfast or Hotels. For families these are used in emergency situations only until such time as we can arrange more suitable temporary accommodation.

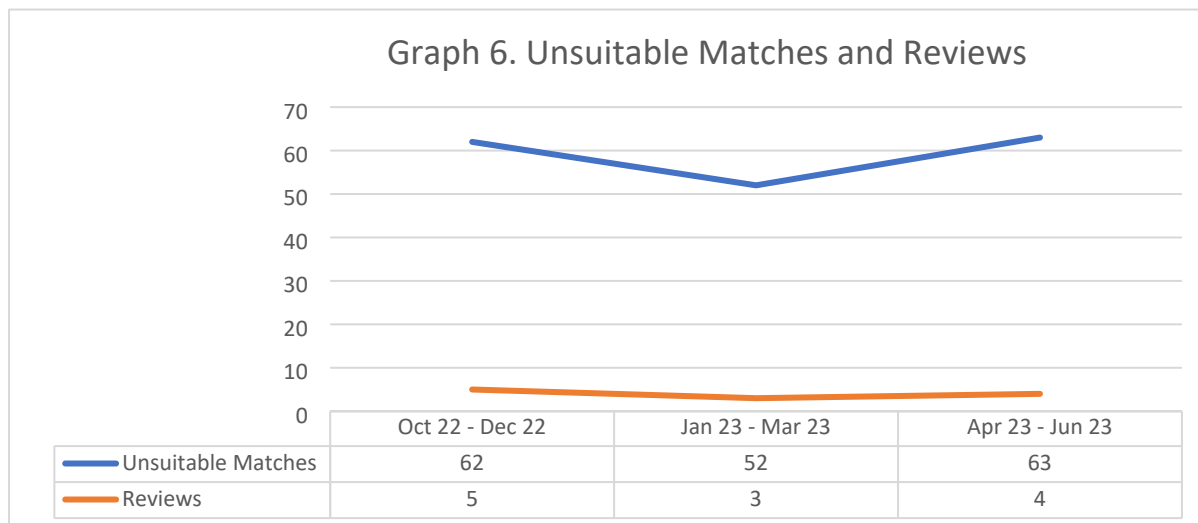
The impact of the direct matching has enabled us to reduce the time that households spend in temporary accommodation by 19 days for single people and 16 days for families. Although this demonstrates an improvement there are still substantial challenges ahead in reducing the use and length of stay in temporary accommodation.

No Preference Group

Applicants are placed in a Band depending on their housing need identified through the housing assessment. Applicants will fall under the 'No preference group' if they:

- Have the financial resources available to meet their housing costs.
- Have been guilty, or a member of their household has been guilty, of unacceptable behaviour serious enough to make them unsuitable to be a tenant of the Council.
- Do not have a local connection to Carmarthenshire, as defined at section 81 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. A person has a local connection with the area because:
 - the person is, or in the past was, normally resident there, and the residence is or was of the person's own choice.
 - the person is employed there.
 - of family associations.
 - unless they are exempt because of special circumstances (i.e., fleeing domestic abuse or violence, moving to receive or provide care to someone who has a local connection)

Unsuitable matches and reviews



Reasons for unsuitable matches:

- Change of Circumstances i.e., no longer needed accommodation, other needs we were unaware of.
- Property not suitable to meet their needs – medical conditions, family make up.
- Property topography unsuitable.
- Refusing properties after initial verbal offer – after viewing not happy with property offered i.e. don't like property or area, no off street parking

Housing Register data

Table 4. Number of Households on the Housing Register

Band	Applications 09/10/22	Applications 12/04/23	Applications 13/06/23
Band A	607	830	831
Band B	1197	926	887
Band C (Registered Only)	2610	2463	2488
No Preference Group	-	332	322
Total	4414	4551	4528

COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29th JUNE 2023

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS – UPDATE

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

- To request the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and generation of energy in relation to the historic stock of the county.

Reason(s)

- The Broad issues of energy efficiency and generation falls outside the remit to the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: A. Vaughan Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)

<p>Directorate</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Kevin Thomas</p>	<p>Designations: Head of Administration and Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel Nos. 01267 224012 LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224027 kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29TH JUNE, 2023

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS - UPDATE

At the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 5th April the Committee considered a report on the extension of 10 Conservation Areas within Carmarthenshire (as identified within the report) where it we explored the issue of Renewable Energy given our existing Climate Emergency. Members at that time felt strongly about the need to extend Solar Panels as broadly as possible across the County and resolved to approach the Welsh Government on the issue of restricting the installation of Solar Panels on the front elevation of roofs in Conservation Areas.

On Thursday 15th June the Chair of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee met with the Local Authority's Built Heritage team, Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability, Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, and Councillor Russel Sparkes to discuss the issues at the Tywi Centre in Llandeilo. At that meeting, a number of areas were explored in which it could be ensured that our old housing stock (33% of our domestic housing across Wales) is better adapted to helping us to meet our Zero Carbon targets, which included installing Solar panels on protected buildings.

As a result of that discussion, it was proposed that the Council do not now approach the Welsh Government on this issue, contrary to the Committees earlier recommendation, but that the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny committee be requested to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and generation of energy in relation to the historic housing stock of the county.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration and Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED Yes	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.	

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COMMUNITES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29TH JUNE 2023

Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2022/23

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

- That members consider and approve the Community Scrutiny Committee's annual report for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Reason(s)

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not Applicable

Directorate: Chief Executive's Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones Report Author: Kevin Thomas	Designations: Head of Administration & Law Democratic Services Officer	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: 01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224027 kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
29TH JUNE 2023

Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny
Committee –
Annual Report 2022/23

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

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

The report provides an overview of the workings of the Community Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 municipal year and includes information on the following topics:

- Overview of the forward work programme
- Key issues considered
- Issues referred to or from Executive Board / Other Scrutiny Committees
- Task & Finish Review
- Development Sessions
- Member attendance at meetings

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

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

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

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**
NO

Not Applicable

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW OR THERE ARE NONE (Delete as applicable)

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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Communities Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2022 - 2023

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Chair's Foreword



As the Chair of this Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year, I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during this period and provides an opportunity to reflect on this work.

The past year has again been a challenging period for the Council due to the effect of the covid pandemic and the Council's efforts to re-introduce services to pre-pandemic levels and I feel this Committee has continued to constructively play its part in terms of scrutinising performance and contributing to key council policies and decisions.

The forthcoming year will no doubt again be challenging but, I am confident the Committee will continue to focus on how to improve services effectively and efficiently and will have a positive impact on the outcomes for the residents of Carmarthenshire. I'm sure the Committee will also continue to work closely with the Council's Senior Managers and Staff to ensure that 2023/24 will be a productive year.

I would also like to thank all members of the Committee for their contributions and dedication during 2022/23.

Councillor Deryk Cundy
Chair of Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

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

The main aims of this report are to highlight the work undertaken by the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 municipal year. It gives Members the opportunity to reflect on the achievements during the year and to identify what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny.

The Committee was chaired by Cllr. Deryk Cundy and is made up of 13 Elected Members. Support is provided to the Panel by the Democratic Services Team and other Council officers as and when required.

2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2022/23

2.1 Number of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 7 meetings during the 2022/23 municipal year.

2.2 The Forward Work Plan

The Scrutiny Committee develops its own Forward Work Plan (FWP) and in the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined in the FWP, which was confirmed by the Committee at its meeting on the 29th September 2022.

The Plan was mainly based on key areas identified as objectives within the Integrated Community Strategy and Improvement Plan together with standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports, action plan monitoring reports and specific requests from the scrutiny committee itself. Additional reports were also requested by the scrutiny committee during the year and the Forward Work Programme was amended accordingly.

The development of the concept of the Plan, and the process for its agreement, has allowed each scrutiny committee to determine its own work agendas. The benefits of such an approach led to an improved level of debate and input during scrutiny committee meetings.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 put long term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are designed and delivered and it places emphasis on public bodies to work in partnership with each other and the public to prevent and tackle problems.

The Scrutiny Committees remits were updated by Council following the May 2023 elections and each Scrutiny Committee became responsible for the overview and scrutiny of specific Cabinet Portfolios and their respective services. As part of that update Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee changed to become the Communities, Homes and Regeneration

Scrutiny Committee with its remit being to scrutinise the following Cabinet Portfolios and their service areas:

- Homes
- Rural Affairs and Planning Policy
- Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

These service areas relate to a number of key responsibilities that include:

- Housing – Social and Private Sector
- Planning Policy
- Regeneration including physical and rural development
- Economic Development
- European and Externally Funded Programmes
- Libraries
- Arts and Theatres
- Museums and Archives
- Countryside facilities
- Sports, Leisure and Recreation

To compliment the work undertaken during formal meetings, the Committee also undertakes other scrutiny functions such as task and finish, visits to establishments falling within its remit together with member development sessions.

2.3 Pre- Decision Scrutiny

Scrutiny plays a key role in promoting accountability in the decision making process of the Local Authority. It is also useful in ensuring that Council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging partnership working with external agencies.

In order for Scrutiny Committees to take on greater ownership of their own Forward Work Plans, a pre-decision method of scrutiny was introduced in September 2022 which allows Scrutiny Committees to decide which reports from the Cabinet Forward Work Plan they wish to come before them. As per the normal process, Committees are also able to identify their own topics and Cabinet are still able to invite a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise a decision which was in the pipeline.

2.4 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues

Performance Monitoring Reports - One of the principal roles of Scrutiny Committees is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. They undertake this work mainly through the consideration of performance monitoring reports and various action plan monitoring reports. The performance monitoring reports provide a balanced picture of performance across the relevant service areas. The Communities, Homes and Regeneration

Scrutiny Committee received the Performance Monitoring Reports for the Council's 2022/23 Wellbeing Objectives at its meetings on the 19th December 2022 (Quarter 2 – 1st April 2022- 30th September 2022) and 5th April, 2023 (Quarter 3 – 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022). It was noted the Council would continue reporting on the Objectives throughout 2022/23 until they were superseded by the new Corporate Strategy.

Carmarthenshire County Council Annual Report 2021/22 - As part of its performance monitoring role, the Committee received relevant information from the Council's key strategies and plans. One of the key areas relating to the Council's management is the Annual monitoring of progress achieved against the Council's well-being objectives detailed within the 2021/22 Report. With that in mind, the Committee, in December 2022, considered the Annual report detailing the progress and adaptations made during the year in relation to those elements of the Council's 13 Well Being objectives falling within its remit, which was adopted in June 2018, as amended, to reflect developing priorities and the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, Brexit and climate change. The Committee noted that while it was considered good practice to ensure the Corporate Strategy was up to date and resources allocated to priorities, the Improvement Objectives must be published annually in accordance with both the Local Government (Wales Measure 2009) and The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. Equally, the Council had a duty under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales 2021) to report on performance-based self- assessment approach/

Outcome:

The Cabinet at its meeting in January 2023 recommended to Council that the Annual Report 2021/22 be received which was subsequently adopted by the Council in January 2023.

Departmental Draft Business Plans 2022 - 2023 – In April 2023 the Committee considered the Departmental Draft Business Plans 2023 - 2024 for those areas of the Communities, Chief Executive and Place and Infrastructure Departments falling within its remit (referenced below) detailing the strategic actions and measures required to be taken forward to enable the Council to make progress against its Well-Being Objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the priorities outlined for the departments.

- Housing and Public Protection
- Housing Property and Strategic Projects
- Leisure
- Regeneration
- Place and Sustainability

Outcome:

The Committee approved the above Draft Business Plans for the service Divisions within the Communities, Chief Executive and Place and Infrastructure Departments falling within its remit.

Actions & Referrals - During the course of the municipal year requests can be made by members for additional items to assist in discharging their scrutiny role. Actions & Referrals updates are presented to Committee bi-annually providing an update on progress in relation to these requests.

2.5 Revenue & Capital Budgets

Budget Monitoring Reports - The Committee received quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets. These reports enabled members to monitor and challenge the level of spend in each service area and the progress made in connection with any capital works.

Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2023/24-2025/26 - As well as monitoring the revenue and capital budgets, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26. The report provided the Committee with the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2023/24 together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/2026 financial years.

Outcome:

As part of the widespread consultation undertaken on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee considered the Strategy at its January 2023 meeting and endorsed the budget proposals, as submitted. The Budget Strategy was subsequently adopted by the Cabinet and Council at their meetings in February and March 2023, subject to some amendments and a reduction in the planned council tax levy.

2.6 Establishment of Pre-Decision Task and Finish Group – Development of Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy

In September 2022, the Committee considered a report on a proposal to establish a pre-scrutiny Task and Finish Group with the aim of developing an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy for Carmarthenshire. The policy was considered to be essential as the Council, along with all Welsh Local authorities, was experiencing an unprecedented situation where the demand for social housing was exceeding supply, with the position having significantly worsened due to a number of external factors including:

- Welsh Government's 'No one left behind' approach to ensure everyone has a safe and secure place to live and to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and unrepeatable.
- Unintended consequences of the introduction of the new Rented Homes Act
- Huge pressures in general market in terms of house prices and rents
- Ukraine re-settlement programme and,
- UK wide proposed asylum dispersal scheme

Outcome:

The Task and Finish Group was duly established, and the Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy was approved by the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 26th January 2023 and subsequently adopted by the Council's Cabinet on the 27th February 2023 subject to the policy being in place for a period of up to 18 months in lieu of the recommended period of approximately one year.

2.7 Leisure, Culture and Outdoor Recreation Strategy - Consultation

In November 2022, the committee was consulted on the development of a new 10 year Leisure and outdoor Recreation Strategy for Carmarthenshire centred on the themes of:

- Where the Authority had been and its journey from 2007-2022
- Where it was now
- Where it was going

The Committee raised a number of issues including, a greater promotion of fishing, the contribution of leisure to the health of the population, level of childhood obesity amongst the 4-5 age group, the promotion of minor sports and the potential impact the economic climate may have on the strategy's deliverability.

Outcome:

The Strategy was endorsed by the Committee. It was then subject to a formal consultation process with the final strategy initially being scheduled for consideration by the Council's Cabinet, post consultation, in October 2023.

2.8 Local Innovation Strategy

In November 2022, the Committee considered the Council's proposals to adopt a Local Innovation Strategy focussing on the following four innovation opportunities to support the recovery and restructuring of Carmarthenshire's economy.

Opportunity 1 – Digital

- Improved fibre and mobile connectivity
- Opportunities for next generation digital technologies
- Addressing digital skills
- Developing a rural digital innovation centre

Opportunity 2 – Health

Development of a dispersed living laboratory to test new medical products and services

Opportunity 3 – Foundational Economy

Sustainable food procurement and development of the local food supply chain

Opportunity 4 – Circular Economy

Leveraging an approach for the Net Zero Agenda through reducing waste and recycling

As part of the Committee's deliberations, a number of issues were raised which included, benefits arising for the county from the Swansea Bay City Deal, achievability of Welsh Government targets for a reduction in food production to enable the country to produce its own food while also achieving carbon reduction and also the progress of the Pentre Awel development.

Outcome:

The proposals were recommended for adoption to the Council's Cabinet and were subsequently adopted by the Cabinet at its meeting held on the 28th November 2022.

2.9 Community Asset Transfer Update

The Committee, in November 2022 received an update report on the progress of the Council's Community Asset Transfer Programme together with a newly proposed updated Community Asset Transfer Procedures Document. As part of its consideration, the Committee raised issues in relation to the reasons for delays in the transfer of some assets and to the condition of others on transfer.

Outcome:

The Committee received the updated report and recommended the adoption to Cabinet of the newly updated Community Asset Transfer Procedures Document, which was adopted on the 27th March 2023

2.10 Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22 Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan & Annual Performance Report

In November, the Committee received the 2021/22 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on the Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) together with the Annual Performance Report produced in accordance with statutory requirements for its submission to Welsh Government, and publication on the Council's website by the 31st October. The Committee noted the Adopted LDP would be developed as further evidence and data became available prior to submission to the Cabinet and Council for approval. The content of the AMR would also be used to inform the preparation of the revised Local Development Plan.

In considering the report the Committee raised a number of issues, including:

- the promotion of Hydro Electric Power and small-scale energy renewable projects
- the challenges facing town centre retail units.

Outcome:

The Committee received the report and noted compliance with the requirement for its placement on the Council's website by the 31st October 2022. The Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22 for the Adopted LDP was also approved by Council in December 2022

2.11 Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Draft Second Deposit

In November, the Committee received a progress report on the preparation and adoption of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Draft Second Deposit identifying the Council's land use vision, Strategic Objectives and Strategic Growth requirement for the County through to 2033. The report also detailed a comprehensive set of policies and provisions including site specific allocations for housing and employment use as well as environmental and other special considerations.

The Committee commented on a number of areas within the report including, the identification of land for the provision of affordable housing, place making policies and requirements, housing growth projections, the impact of phosphate regulations on development and also the provision of homes in the countryside for local people.

Outcome:

The report was received by the Committee. It was also considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 14th October 2023 which recommended its approval to Council. Council considered the report at its December 2022 meeting and endorsed it for public consultation.

2.12 Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Rent Setting for 2023/24

In December, the Committee considered the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Housing Rent Setting for 2023/24, presented as part of the budget consultation process. The report reflected the latest proposals contained in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, being the primary financial planning tool for delivering the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+).

The Committee endorsed the report and proposed rent increases to the Cabinet and Council for consideration as part of the budget submission to the Council.

Outcome:

The Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Rent setting proposals were adopted by the Cabinet and Council at their meetings in February and March, 2023 respectively

2.13 Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-26 Carmarthenshire's Housing Investment Programme

In December, the Committee considered the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-26 Carmarthenshire Housing Investment Plan, the five main themes of which were:

- Supporting Tenants and Residents
- Investing in Homes and our Estates
- Providing more homes
- Providing Affordable Warmth and Decarbonising Housing Stock
- The Local Economy, Community Benefits and Procurement

The Committee raised a number of issues on the report that included: void levels, the support offered to tenants and on the Council proposals to provide an additional 2,000 new homes over the next five years.

Outcome:

The Committee resolved to recommend the report to Cabinet and Council which was accepted at their meetings in February and March 2023 respectively.

2.14 An Alternative Outdoor Education Offer for Carmarthenshire

In December, the Committee was requested to feed into a forthcoming report reviewing the Council's current Outdoor Education Offer and to explore options for an alternative delivery model to be delivered from within existing resources. It was noted that as the existing outdoor education facility at Pendine had reached the end of its life, and the Council had no capital funding available for its replacement, an alternative delivery model was being explored with a new purpose being proposed and re-defined following consultation with schools and other key stakeholders, as follows:

- To deliver high quality, challenging, outdoor education opportunities, primarily to Carmarthenshire pupils, aligned to the new curriculum.
- To provide a range of residential opportunities for children to develop their social and emotional intelligence skill whilst experiencing being away from home.
- To deliver high quality outdoor education opportunities at a range of outdoor recreation sites and settings, including at schools.
- To consider wider, possibly commercial opportunities that will help grow and sustain the Outdoor Education offer across the County of Carmarthenshire.

The Committee referred to the value of the existing outdoor residential facility at Pendine and fully supported the need for the continued operation of outdoor education provision while also suggesting options to facilitate its continued provision

Outcome:

The Committee received the report with the final post consultation report initially being scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 18th September, 2023

2.15 Update on the Ten Towns Initiative

In December, the Committee considered an update report on the work of the Council's Ten Towns Initiative outlining the support secured to progress the initiatives at a local level.

Outcome:

The update report was received.

2.16 Planning Obligation (Section 106) Update

In December, the Committee received an update report providing an overview of the developer contributions received through planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements). The report outlined background information relating to planning obligations, the process of applying for developer contributions together with an overview of the income and expenditure during 2021/22, as well as providing an update on the position for the 2022/23 financial year.

Outcome:

The update report was received.

2.17 Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy 2022-2026

In January 2023, the Committee considered a report on the Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy 2022-2026, produced in accordance with Welsh Government requirements, detailing the strategic priorities of the Council, and its partner agencies, on homelessness prevention and housing related support services over the coming 4 years (2022-26). The Strategy refreshed earlier priorities included within the Local Authority's former homelessness strategy and the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Delivery Plan for 2021-22, with the development of the priorities having been informed by a comprehensive need assessment exercise that included direct engagement with stakeholders within the Local Authority providers of support services and service users.

A number of issues were raised on the report including funding / grant available together with the Service of Section 21 Notices by private landlords.

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report which was subsequently approved by Cabinet at its meeting on the 20th February 2023

2.18 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2022-2027

In January 2023, the Committee considered the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2022-27, produced in accordance with Welsh Government Requirements, containing a series of High-Level Actions to enable the Council to transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach to help make homelessness in Carmarthenshire rare, brief and unrepeatable.

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report which was subsequently approved by Cabinet at its meeting on the 20th February 2023

2.19 Update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund

In January, the Committee received an update report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The report contained information on the application form and assessment criteria for the Anchor and Standalone projects, and it was noted a guidance document to assist applicants was currently being prepared. The report also detailed information on the following 5 anchor projects approved by the Cabinet:

Community Anchor,
Rural Anchor,
Place Anchor
Supporting Local Business Anchor
Employability & Skills Anchor

A number of issues were raised on the report including the progression of the Fund through the democratic processes of the four constituent authorities of the Swansea Bay City Deal, the inclusion of the Ten Towns Initiative within the Rural Anchor together with there being opportunities for all town and community councils to apply for funding.

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report which was subsequently approved by Cabinet at its meeting on the 20th February 2023

2.20 Empty Homes Policy – Our approach to bringing empty homes back to use

In February, the Committee considered a report on the Council's Empty Homes Policy detailing its approach, vision and work programme for the next four years to tackle and bring empty private residential homes within the County back into use. It was noted that since 2017 the Council had reduced the number of private

empty homes within the County from 2667 to 1,984 with the aim of the policy being to further reduce that number to 1500 by 2026

A number of issues were considered as part of the report including:

- the targeting of empty homes and the options available to the council for their re-introduction to the housing stock
- the issue of second or holiday homes
- funding availability via grants/loans to bring empty homes back to use.
- implementation timescales

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report for referral to the Cabinet subject to some amendments. The Cabinet approved the report at its meeting on the 20th February 2023 for formal submission to the Welsh Government

2.21 Tenant Compensation Policy

In February, the Committee considered a report detailing the Council's approach to when it may be appropriate to compensate its tenants who have suffered loss or inconvenience due to service failure and to also help guide officers when dealing with tenants, ensuring a clarity and consistency of approach when compensation was being considered. It was noted the policy had been prepared in response to the Local Government Ombudsman's expectation for landlords to have a compensation policy to provide guidance on offering compensation and to ensure landlords were protected when claims were made.

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report for referral to the Cabinet which is scheduled for consideration at its meeting on the 3rd July 2023

2.22 Rechargeable Repairs Policy

In February, the Committee considered a report detailing proposed criteria for when a council tenant would be recharged for repairs undertaken by the council which were the tenants responsibility under their tenancy agreement.

The Committee raised a number of issues with the report which included:

- The Council undertaking works on a re-chargeable case by case basis where tenants were unable to undertake their own repairs,
- The introduction of an inspection regime
- Recovery procedures where tenants failed to repay recharges,
- Recharging for accidental damages

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the report for referral to the Cabinet which is scheduled for consideration at its meeting on the 3rd July 2023

2.23 Conservation Area Appraisals

In April, the Committee considered a report on appraisals undertaken on 10 conservations areas within Carmarthenshire and the proposed amendments to their boundaries, where applicable. The report detailed the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken between the 24th June and 26th August 2022, and outlined the next steps and future stages towards the adoption of the appraisals and their outcomes. It was also noted the appraisals had been undertaken in accordance with the Council's legal duties under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990:

The Committee raised a number of issues as part of the report that included:

- How to advise residents of their properties were situated within a Conservation Area
- The erection of solar panels on properties within the Conservation Area

Outcome:

The Committee approved the report and for a letter to be sent to the Welsh Government to highlight the challenges and contradictions between conservation areas and the climate emergency and that it considers how it can best support in both preserving, and saving, the environment. The report is also to be scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 17th July 2023.

2.24 Burry Port Harbour Petition to Full Council – update Position

In May 2023, the Committee received an update report on the petition submitted to Council on the 25th January 2023 regarding the condition of Burry Port Harbour detailing the current position and operational concerns raised by both Council Officers and the Friends of Burry Port Marina.

The Committee expressed serious concerns at the condition of the Harbour subsequent to the granting of a 150 year lease to Burry Port Marine Ltd in 2018 and to the numerous broken pledges and breaches of lease over that period. In particular:

- the lack of dredging in the harbour to the point where it now seriously affected harbour operations for boat users,
- lack of repair and maintenance including the harbour gates which had been inoperative for the past few months with oil leaking into the water.
- pontoons breaking free in the harbour and floating into the bay.
- While the harbour had 450 berths, only 49 were occupied.
- The company's financial position

- The current condition of the harbour could deter any interest by potential future operators.
- Additional concerns were raised in relation to a list of other improvements around the harbour not progressing, including an upgrade of the commercial pontoons, a re-commencement of work to the old RNLI building into a new Harbour Masters' Office and improved changing and showering facilities for harbour users.

Outcome:

The Committee resolved for its concerns at the current situation at the Harbour to be conveyed to the Cabinet and that Cabinet be requested to visit the Harbour at low tide and to consider terminating the lease agreement with Burry Port Marine Ltd if no improvements had been achieved by the end of the current legal process.

Cabinet at its meeting held on the 19th June was informed that subsequent to the Committees meeting, Burry Port Marine Ltd went into administration on the 22nd June. The Cabinet noted the position and that officers were in discussion with the appointed administrators.

2.25 Burry Port Placemaking Plan

In May 2023, the Committee considered a report on the adoption of a Placemaking Plan for Burry Port to identify opportunities aligning the recovery proposals for the town centre with the regeneration aspirations of the harbour side area to ensure Burry Port maximised the impact of planned regeneration activity in the local area, with the Plan's main aims being to:-

- Grow existing business.
- Maximise job creation.
- Support the development of a knowledge economy.
- Developing distinctives of the area
- Identify current and future role of service provision in the community.
- Support opportunities for sustainable energy provision
- Establish sustainable income generation for future growth.
- Increase resilience, sustainability and future growth of the town and surrounding communities.

Outcome:

The Committee endorsed the Plan which is also initially scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on the 3rd July 2023

2.26 Shared Prosperity Fund – Tackling Towns

At its May meeting, the Committee received a report on the Shared Prosperity fund and the operation of the Council's Tackling Towns Programme within the Place Anchor. The programme aimed to improve Carmarthenshire's town centres by being targeted towards supporting policies and interventions to

respond to on-going challenges they faced. Annexe A to the report provided the Committee with a list of the proposed projects within each of the 14 centres covered by the programme.

Outcome:

The Committee approved the report which is also initially scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 3rd July

2.27 Task and Finish

In September, the Committee resolved to establish a Task and Finish Group to develop an Emergency Social Housing Allocation Policy for Carmarthenshire. The Group met on 5 occasions between October 2022 and January 2023 culminating in a Draft Policy being submitted to its meeting in January 2023. The Committee endorsed the Draft policy which was subsequently adopted by Cabinet at its meeting on the 27th February, 2023.

The Committee also requested regular monitoring reports on the policy's operation be submitted to all its future meetings. The first monitoring report was received at the Committee's meeting in May 2023

2.28 Site Visits

While a number of site visits were included within the Committee's 2022/23 Forward Work Programme, it was unable to undertake those due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19.

2.29 Development Sessions

The Committee held one service specific development session during 2021/22 on the Draft Leisure Strategy to help inform its development prior to consideration by the Council in 2023.

The following all member development sessions / member seminars were held during 2022/23:-

- Introduction and overview of how to use Zoom
- Introduction and overview of mod.gov
- Code of Conduct, Ethics, Standards, Legal Duties & Responsibilities
- Introduction to Carmarthenshire County Council & Launch of Induction Programme
- Constitutional Matters & Meeting Preparation
- Local Government Finance
- External Regulators
- Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire
- Climate Change, Mitigation and De Carbonisation
- Planning

- Equalities & Diversity
- Carbon Literacy
- Personal Safety and Self Care, Stress Management, Personal Resilience, Work-life balance
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Cyber Security
- Introduction to Marketing and Media
- Armed Forces
- Complaints Policy
- Transform, Innovate and Change
- Emergency Planning
- Speed Reduction Legislation
- Council Owned Companies
- Section 106 Legal Agreements
- Council Performance Management Framework
- Modernising Education Programme Review
- Future Waste Changes
- Dyfed Pension Fund Training
- Sustainable Communities for Learning
- Member Enquiries
- Corporate Strategy Workshop
- Housing Repairs Briefing
- Conservation Areas Briefing

In addition to the above, several departmental budget seminars were held as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme.

2.30 Referrals

The Committee made no referrals to other scrutiny committees/cabinet during 2022/2023

3. Challenges

One of the significant challenges faced by the County in 2022/23 was the impact of the Covid Pandemic on the provision of services to the residents of Carmarthenshire and the councils' efforts to achieve a return to pre- pandemic service levels.

4. Future Work

The Committee has made significant progress and will continue to concentrate on topics where Members' input will result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement. To ensure best use is being made of meeting time and with the benefit of the added value of pre-meetings, the Committee is keen to achieve a more streamlined scrutiny process.

The future work of the Committee will be considered as part of the Forward Work Programme planning session. The FWP will continue to be monitored during the course of the year, together with the Cabinet FWP.

5. Support for the Scrutiny Function

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

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

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

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

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

6. Attendance

Attendance by members of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 municipal year is shown in the table below. A total of 7 meetings were held between September 2022 and May 23 against the scheduled 7.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr D. Cundy	7	100
Cllr. A. Davies	7	100
Cllr. B. Davies	6	86
Cllr. H. Davies	6	86
Cllr. T. Davies	6	86
Cllr N. Evans (From end of September 22- until April 2023)	4	57
Cllr R. Evans	5	71
Cllr. K. Howell	7	100
Cllr. B. Jones	6	86
Cllr. D. Owen	5	71
Cllr. M. Palfreman	6	86
Cllr. H. Shepardson	6	86
Cllr. R. Sparks	6	86
Cllr. M. Thomas (To end of September 2022 – RE-appointed to the Committee in April 2023)	2	29
Substitutes	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. E. William	1	
Cllr A. Leyshon	1	
Cabinet Member	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. L.D. Evans	6	
Cllr. A. Davies	4	
Cllr. G. John	5	
Cllr A. Lenny	6	
Cllr E. Thomas	2	
Cllr P.M. Hughes	1	

Agenda Item 7

COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29th JUNE 2023

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

- To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 28th September, 2023.

Reason(s)

- 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.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. L. Evans (Homes and Deputy Leader)
Cllr G. John (Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism), Cllr A. Lenny (Resources)
Cllr A. Davies (Rural Affairs and Planning Policy)**

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees Jones

Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

29TH JUNE, 2023

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

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

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 28th September, 2023.

Also attached for information are the 2023/24 Forward Work Plans in respect of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES:

- (1) List of Forthcoming Items
- (2) C & R Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan
- (3) Cabinet 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 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 NO	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.	

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**FORTHCOMING ITEMS – TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD
ON
28TH SEPTEMBER, 2023**

Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report
		<p>What is Scrutiny being asked to do? e.g. <i>undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate different policy options? Be consulted on final proposals before decision making? Monitor outcomes /implementation?</i></p> <p><i>If the item is for information or for noting, can the information be provided in an alternative format i.e. via email?</i></p>
Emergency Interim Social Housing Allocation Policy - Monitoring	The Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 26 th January 2023 resolved to receive an update monitoring report at every meeting on the implementation of the Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy	To enable the committee to undertake its monitoring role on the implementation of the policy
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (April to June 2023)	This is a standard quarterly budget report covering the revenue and capital budgets for the Community and Environment Departments which fall within the remit of the Community Scrutiny Committee	To enable the committee to undertake its monitoring role of the Communities, Regeneration, and Place and Sustainability budgets which fall within its remit
Incentive Scheme for Tenants	The use of incentive and reward schemes by social landlords underpins the wider approach to tenancy management and incentives may be considered to encourage desired behaviour whilst rewards recognise such behaviour. This report will set out the Council's approach on how it will reward tenants and introduce an incentive scheme	To enable the Committee to examine the policy proposal and to provide any recommendations / observations to Cabinet for consideration

Service Charge Policy	The purpose of this report is to introduce a new Service Charge Policy. This Policy sets out our approach to setting and collecting service charges. The aim is to make sure that Service Charges are clear and shown to be reasonable, accountable and reflect actual costs.	To enable the Committee to examine the policy proposal and to provide any recommendations / observations to Cabinet for consideration
Applying Intentionality to Priority Need (Homelessness Duty)	This report seeks permission to apply the intentionality test under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to all categories of priority need. By applying this test the Authority does not have a statutory duty to secure permanent accommodation for those individuals assessed as being intentionally homeless	To enable the Committee to examine the policy proposal and to provide any recommendations / observations to Cabinet for consideration

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting

Budget Monitoring Report as at 28th February 2023 in respect of 2022/23
N.B. Copies of these reports can be obtained by emailing Scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Items attached for information

1. The latest version of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24
2. The latest version of the Cabinet's Forward Work Programme 2023/24

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme 2023/ 2024

29 th June 23	28 th Sept 23	15 th Nov 2023	13 Dec 23	Jan 24 (Date TBC)	February 24 (Date TBC)	April 2024 (Date TBC)
Communities, Homes, and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring	Scrutiny Actions Update	Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring Report	Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring Report	Scrutiny Actions update	Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring Report
Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring Report			Emergency Social Allocations Policy – Monitoring Report	
	Incentive Scheme for tenants	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-27				
	Service Charge Policy	Supplementary Planning Guidance – Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033				
	Applying Intentionality to Priority Need					

	(Homelessness Duty)					

OTHER REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED:

Update reports on the Levelling Up Fund / Shared Prosperity Fund and the Arfor 2 Programme

Site Visits – 23rd June and 14th July

- Abergwili Museum – 23rd June
- Carmarthenshire Archives – 23rd June
- Pendine Attractor Project and Outdoor Education Centre– 23rd June
- St Clears Leisure Centre – 23rd June
- Burry Port Harbour – 14th July
- Parc Howard – 14th July
- Pembrey County Park – 14th July

TASK AND FINISH REVIEW

The Committee has yet to determine a Task and Finish Group for 2023-24

CABINET/COUNCIL – FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2023 TO 31 MAY 2024

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director Report Author
STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY	The report seeks to update on the preparation of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy. It sets out the responses received as part of the formal consultation on the policy and officer recommendations ahead of its formal adoption.	Cabinet County Council 22 May 2023 21 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carma rthenshire.gov.uk Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
BURRY PORT HARBOUR PETITION TO FULL COUNCIL – UPDATE POSITION	The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the position at Burry Port Harbour, following a petition presented to full Council on the 25th January 2023.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthe nshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
CARMARTHEN WEST LINK ROAD	To approve the deed of variation	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM FOR WEST WALES: HOW FAR, HOW FAST?	The report outlines a response in West Wales to progressing integration. Specifically, the paper outlines an opportunity in Carmarthenshire to develop and implement a health and care system for older people based on 'what matters' to this population and will be fit for purpose now and into the future. It also considers alignment to the Ministerial Discussion Document known as 'Further, Faster' and its expectations.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Rhian Matthews, Acting County Director, Hywel Dda University Health Board Rhian.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk
MODEL TEACHERS' PAY POLICY 2022/23	In order to comply with the requirements of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions (Wales) Document 2022, which requires every school to have a pay policy setting out how pay decisions are taken.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Director of Education & Children, Chief Executive Julie Stuart, Senior Business Partner (HR) jstuart@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
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 19 Jun 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022	This Annual Report provides an overview of the objectives and achievements of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards. It outlines the progress made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of the Joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2021-2022.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
BURRY PORT PLACEMAKING PLAN	Work has been commissioned to undertake a Placemaking Plan for Burry Port in order to develop a plan which supports the growth and resilience of the town.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION	To provide Cabinet with an update on the latest position of the Development Fund, and to seek Cabinet approval of a recent application to the Fund.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
					Services RHemingway@car marthenshire.gov.u k
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TASK & FINISH GROUP (BLACK, ASIAN, AND MINORITY ETHNIC) REPORT	A report to cabinet on the findings and recommendations of the Equality and Diversity Task	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Chief Executive Llinos Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer LISJenkins@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
PLOT 3 TROSTRE RETAIL PARK	Report outlining a revised development proposal for plot 3 Trostre Retail Park and sale terms for consideration.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarth enshire.gov.uk
PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND HELD IN TRUST SITUATED NORTH OF AMMAN ROAD, LOWER BRYNAMMAN	To consider whether the disposal, by way of lease, of an area of land situated on the north side of Amman Road, Lower Brynamman, which the County Council holds upon trust for the purposes of a Charitable Scheme created on the 4th May, 1972 is in the best interest of the charity and, if so, to grant consent to the disposal.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthe nshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: TACKLING TOWNS	To approve the projects earmarked for delivery through the Shared Prosperity Fund – Place Anchor - Tackling Towns project.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarthenshire.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 3 Jul 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
TENANT RECHARGE POLICY	Occasionally it may be necessary to recharge a tenant for work that we have 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.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT	As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, a standards committee of a relevant authority must make an annual report to the authority in	County Council 12 Jul 2023	No		Chief Executive Robert Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	respect of that year.				RJEdgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
10-YEAR SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGY (PRE-CONSULTATION)	To provide members with a vision on how we will provide the statutory social services functions over the next decade. The document will detail the following areas; Introduction, Vision Statement, The services people receive, Social Work Models of care, Safeguarding, Integration and Partnerships , Workforce and an Action Plan	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@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 the Scrutiny process prior to WG submission.	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support jarees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS	This report sets out the work being undertaken to review ten designated Conservation Areas across the County. It identifies the outcome of the review and the subsequent consultation exercise including on the: •A character appraisal;	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A boundary review and •A management plan. <p>The report in setting out the above identifies the outcome of the public consultation exercise and the next steps including the processes required to amend any of the Conservation Area designations.</p>				
COVID 19 IMPACT ON CONTRACTORS - MAJOR WORKS	<p>A report will be produced to explore the financial impact on Contractors as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report will establish the current contract provisions being enforced by the Authority compared against various government advice and relief procedures. To further inform stakeholders, the report will capture the potential implications for adopting and seek a decision on implementing contractor support mechanisms to mitigate the financial impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Jason G. Jones, Property Maintenance Manager JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2022-	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@carmarth

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
2023					enshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23	The Annual Report provides an overview of Council performance during 2022-23. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives. In addition, under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance, based, on a self-assessment approach. This report aims to meet both these requirements in one document.	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Gwyneth Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY	To consider the information contained within this report and to endorse Carmarthenshire County Council's draft Local Toilets Strategy. Approval is also sought to undertake a formal public consultation exercise with respect to the draft Local Toilets Strategy in line with statutory requirements.	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
MINOR WORKS SCHEDULE OF RATES INCREASES	The report considers the inflationary increases applied on the Minor Works Framework from commencement and the impact on budgets	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Jason G. Jones, Property Maintenance

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
					Manager JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)	<p>The PSPO, which gives police powers to address alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and crime in Llanelli town centre, expires 30 September 2023.</p> <p>It is proposed to extend the Order. Its impact will be evaluated and consideration given to the current geographical boundary following consultation with key stakeholders between now and September 2023.</p>	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Gwyneth Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager GAyers@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 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SECOND HOMES AND HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION IN CARMARTHENSHTIRE	To present a report highlighting the background and legislative and policy changes on the second homes and holiday accommodation and to highlight the consideration, evidence requirements and next steps in identifying and addressing the challenges for	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	Carmarthenshire's communities.				
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN-2; AN UPDATE ON ITS DELIVERY.	As a member of the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group and a coastal risk management authority, Carmarthenshire have a duty to deliver actions within the SMP2. This report highlights CCC actions, the action owners and our progress and approach being taken to manage our coastline.	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ben Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager BKathrens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 30TH JUNE 2023	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2023 to 30th June 2023	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2023-2026	Our Workforce Strategy describes how we plan to develop our current and future workforce to ensure they have the right skills, environment, and core values to deliver our Corporate Strategy.	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Paul R Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance) prthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL	To provide an update of the latest	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE	budgetary position for the 2023/24 capital programme as at 30th June 2023	2 Oct 2023		Resources	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 30th June 2023, in respect of 2023/24	Cabinet 2 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
10-YEAR SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGY (POST-CONSULTATION)	To provide members with a vision on how we will provide the statutory social services functions over the next decade. The document will detail the following areas; Introduction, Vision Statement, The services people receive, Social Work Models of care, Safeguarding, Integration and Partnerships , Workforce and an Action Plan	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
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 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SERVICE CHARGE POLICY	The purpose of this report is to introduce a new Service Charge Policy. This Policy sets out our approach to setting and collecting service charges. The aim is to make sure that Service Charges are clear and shown to be reasonable, accountable and reflect actual costs.	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23	The Report examines each Service area within Social Care and shows how service strategies, actions, targets and service risks will be addressed and delivered operationally. It comprises an overview on how we have performed in 2022/23 and an assessment on the future, together with our strategic priorities for 2023/24.	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MANAGING OUR	To adopt pollinator-friendly land management practices on Council-managed land where there is no conflict	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Rosie Carmichael,

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
LAND FOR POLLINATORS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE	between these and the existing land use, and as agreed with clients (e.g. Housing) and the contractor (Grounds Maintenance). We will ensure the way we manage our grasslands is consistent with the climate and nature emergencies.				Rural Conservation Manager racarmichael@car marthenshire.gov.u k
INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR TENANTS	The use of incentive and reward schemes by social landlords underpins the wider approach to tenancy management. Incentives may be considered to encourage desired behaviour while rewards recognise such behaviour. The report sets out our approach to how we will reward tenants but also introduce an incentive scheme.	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Les James, Contracts and Service Development Manager LesJames@carmar thenshire.gov.uk
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - CARMARTHENSHIRE REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2033	To present a series of draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to elaborate on and support the content of the Revised LDP for formal public consultation. Draft SPG to potentially include (subject to timing), but not limited to: Welsh Language, Landscape Character Assessments, Sites of Importance for nature Conservation	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
WASTE	The report provides an overview of the	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of Place &

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
STRATEGY UPDATE	first phase implementation of Carmarthenshire's Waste Strategy 2021-2025, providing detail on the changes that have been implemented, recycling performance and strategy progress to date.	30 Oct 2023		Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
BULKY WASTE REVIEW	This report will propose a cost effective, efficient bulky service for residents that will incorporate the waste hierarchy to ensure that more bulky waste can be reuse ahead of recycling and disposal. A review of the cost, number of bulks collected per item size, appointment management system and collection vehicle requirements for such a service.	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2023/24 capital programme, as at the 31st August 2023	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st August 2023, in respect of 2023/24	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
MONITORING REPORT					Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.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	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023	Cabinet 27 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
EQUESTRIAN	The Carmarthenshire Rights of Way	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of Place &

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
STRATEGY	<p>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). The ROWIP details Carmarthenshire's plan for the strategic management, development, and improvement of the County's Public Rights of Way network up until 2029.</p> <p>During consultation with the Local Access Forum, The Forum identified a need for the local authority to commit to producing a Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy to recognise the access opportunities and challenges for horse riding and carriage driving across the County.</p> <p>An Equestrian Strategy to 'promote and develop an accessible network for equestrian use' has therefore been published in the Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029. The report sets out the proposal to adopt an Equestrian Strategy for Carmarthenshire.</p>	11 Dec 2023		Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Infrastructure Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2027	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	Cabinet 11 Dec 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Dawn Rees, Business Support Officer

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	REVENUE BUDGETS AND CONFIRMS RENTAL LEVELS FOR TENANTS.				(Communities) dkrees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN-2	S10.7 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires all Local Authorities to publish their Local Flood risk management strategy and plan. The strategy and plan (referred to as the flood risk management plan, FRMP-2) will clarify where we are now in terms of flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM), where we want to be in 2030 and how we will get there.	Cabinet 19 Feb 2024	No	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ben Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager BKathrens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 8

**COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor D.M. Cundy (Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

B.W. Jones	B. Davies	H.B. Shepardson	R. Sparks
M. Thomas			

Councillors (Virtually):

W.R.A. Davies	R.E. Evans	H.L. Davies	J.K. Howell
M. Palfreman			

Also in attendance:

Councillor L. D. Evans – Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader and Homes
Councillor G. John – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism
Councillors J. James in connection with Minutes 4 and 5
Councillor S. Godfrey-Coles in connection with Minutes 4 and 5

Also Present (In Person):

J. Jones, Head of Regeneration
I. Jones, Head of Leisure
J. Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection
A Bowen, Housing Hwb Manager
R. Parkinson, Team Leader - Housing Advice
T Peregrine, Economic Development Co-ordinator
R. Morris, Members Support Officer
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present (Virtually):

J. Fearn, Head of Housing Property and Strategic Projects
S. Hendy, Member Support Officer

Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 10.00 am - 12.15 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of personal interest.

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. BURRY PORT HARBOUR PETITION TO FULL COUNCIL - UPDATE POSITION

The Committee received an update report in response to a petition submitted to Council on the 25th January, 2023, by the Friends of Burry Port Marina (FBPM), expressing their dissatisfaction with the operation and condition of Burry Port Harbour, prior to the report being considered by Cabinet in June. The harbour is operated on a 150 year lease by Burry Port Marine Limited (BPML).

The report unequivocally stated that the County Council shared the stated aim of FBPM in wanting a safe, functioning, attractive facility that is of genuine benefit for both the harbour users and the whole community.

The report specifically referenced issues and concerns flagged by the FBPM including:

- An acknowledgement that the lack of dredging in the harbour over recent years had led to a build-up of silt and mud hindering its operation and access and egress for vessels in the harbour. The report notes that a documented mixed-methodology dredging plan (to include regular sluicing and water injected dredging) had been submitted by BPML and posted on their website. However, a verbal update by the Head of Leisure, confirmed that timebound actions within this plan were slipping and were not currently being met.
- Confirmation that CCC, as landlord, had formally written to BPML to put them on notice of breaches against the terms of the lease, and specifically with regards to their obligation to dredge the Harbour to a depth of no less than 1.0 metre at impound level.
- That Council officers regularly met with the Managing Director of the Marine Group where operational concerns had and were continued to be raised as well as with local members and the Chair of the Friends of Burry Port Marina to regularly apprise on the situation at the harbour.

The report also referenced:

- The accumulation of debt to the Council in respect of rates, rental and other charges (and the Council's position in terms of recovery), set against, the challenging financial environment highlighted by BPML, along with the impact of Covid, and the financial and cost of living crises on the wider economy

Several references had been made by a local member, Cllr John James, and the wider Committee to the declining condition of the harbour over the previous 5 years, since the award of the Lease by the Council to the Marine Group, and to broken pledges and breaches of lease conditions made by the company over that time. Those, together with other concerns included:

- the lack of dredging in the harbour to the point where it now seriously affected harbour operations for boat users,

- lack of repair and maintenance including the harbour gates which had been inoperative for the past few months with oil leaking into the water.
- pontoons breaking free in the harbour and floating into the bay.
- While the harbour had 450 berths, only 49 were occupied.
- The company's financial position
- The current condition of the harbour could deter any interest by potential future operators.

Concerns were also expressed in relation to a list of other improvements around the harbour not progressing, including an upgrade of the commercial pontoons, a re-commencement of work to the old RNLI building into a new Harbour Masters' Office and improved changing and showering facilities for harbour users.

In view of the above, the Committee expressed serious concerns for the future viability of the harbour to the point where unless conditions were to improve in the near future, the Council should consider options available in respect of potentially terminating the lease agreement and finding an alternative operator.

Both the Head of Leisure Services and the Head of Regeneration confirmed that the Council recognised the ongoing difficulties at the Harbour and that regular discussion was ongoing with the operator, the Director of Resources, local members, the Chair of the FBML, and legal services to try and resolve the current unsatisfactory position. It was also stated that due legal process had to be followed given the status of the long-term lease agreement and that unfortunately, such matters would inevitably take time to fully address and resolve. Members were re-assured that matters would continue to be progressed as quickly as possible and were reminded that the Council had initiated a legal process to ensure its assets were safeguarded whilst all future options were considered.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Committee's concerns at the current situation at Burry Port Harbour be conveyed to the Cabinet and the Cabinet be requested to:

1. Undertake a site visit to Burry Port Harbour at low tide,
2. Consider terminating the lease agreement with Burry Port Marine Ltd if no improvements had been achieved by the end of the current legal process.

5. BURRY PORT PLACEMAKING PLAN

The Committee considered a report on the proposals for the adoption of a Placemaking Plan for Burry Port prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its June meeting. The Plan had been developed with key stakeholders in the area to identify opportunities that aligned with the recovery proposals for the town centre with the regeneration aspirations of the harbourside to ensure Burry Port maximised the impact of planned regeneration in the local area. It was noted the themes that emerged from the Plan would guide and support future funding applications with its main aims being to:

- Grow existing business,
- Maximise job creation,
- Support the development of a knowledge economy,

- Developing distinctiveness of the area,
- Identify current and future role of service provision in the community,
- Support opportunities for sustainable energy provision,
- Establish sustainable income generation for future growth,
- Increase resilience, sustainability and future growth of the town and surrounding feeder communities.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:

- Reference was made to the planned 250 home development on the former Grillo Site, together with other recent housing provision, and to whether any consideration had been given to the impact those developments could have on dental and GP services, especially as there was now only one GP surgery serving the whole of the area.

The Head of Regeneration advised that the proposed development currently had the benefit of outline planning permission. As the development progressed through the formal planning process, any potential impact on health provision in the area would be considered as part of that process

- In response to a question on section 4 of the report on 'movement', and to whether the existing free parking provision on Seaview would be retained, the Head of Regeneration advised that it would not be possible at the present time to guarantee its continued provision. That would be dependent upon any future discussions by the Council as part of its car parking strategy.
- The Head of Regeneration in response to several questions on various aspects of the Plan advised the Committee that it had been commissioned in 2021 and completed in May 2022. The Plan was therefore reflective of a given point in time. If the Plan was adopted by Cabinet, the next step would be for the Stakeholders to form a group to take forward and that group would have regard to changing data etc and formulate priorities accordingly. The Regeneration Division would then work with the Group to facilitate the Plan's provision and to explore funding opportunities.
- With regard to a question on the provision of the planned new Co-op store, the Head of Regeneration advised the development had been granted planning consent and it was anticipated construction would commence in the near future.
- Reference was made to the plan, together with future development proposals for Burry Port and to the potential impact that could have on traffic levels for Sandy Road in Llanelli.

The Head of Regeneration advised that developments at Burry Port were being undertaken as part of a Joint Venture with the Welsh Government and any planning consent for future developments would take into consideration the potential impact of increased traffic.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

6. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - TACKLING TOWNS

The Committee considered a report on the Shared Prosperity Fund – Tackling Towns Project prior to its consideration by the Cabinet. It was noted the project

sat within the Place Anchor element of the Shared Prosperity fund that aimed to improve Carmarthenshire's town centres by targeting support projects and interventions to respond to the on-going challenges faced by Town centres. The fund would be available to support the direct delivery of the key actions identified within the Council's regeneration masterplans for Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford together with the 11 other town plans listed within the report. The Committee noted that Appendix A to the report detailed a list of priorities for each of the 14 towns and that subject to the Cabinets approval, the project delivery teams would work to deliver the projects by the September 2024 deadline.

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

- Clarification was sought on whether there was any firm detail on the projects detailed within the report or whether they were indicative with detailed work having to be undertaken and to how the funding would be allocated to the projects.

The Committee was advised that the projects listed were in various stages of development whereby some were well developed with feasibility studies being at various stages, others required more work e.g. planning consent and some were able to progress at a quicker pace as they were relatively minor schemes.

The Head of Regeneration advised that all the proposed projects were fluid at the current time with the primary aim being to ensure their deliverability by September 2024. Should it become apparent some projects may not be deliverable within the time frame, there was flexibility within the system to progress with alternatives. Similarly, in terms of funding, there were other funding streams could be available to progress projects.

- In response to a question on the availability of different funding programmes the Head of Regeneration confirmed arrangements would be made for members to be provided with a list, by ward, of the various projects being undertaken as part of those programmes.
- With regard to a question on the process of identifying projects for progression it was confirmed they had been chosen by the forums in each of the towns.
- In response to a question on the limited time available for the completion of the projects by September 2024, the Head of Regeneration advised that was dictated by the Funding Regime.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION UPDATE REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ALLOCATION POLICY (MONITORING)

The Committee, in accordance with the decision made at its meeting on the 26th January 2023, received a monitoring report on the effectiveness of the new Emergency Social Housing Allocation Policy developed by its Task and Finish Group. It was noted the content of the report included data for the previous period relating to:-

1. Proportion of properties directly matched and those advertised,
2. Band if clients directly matched,
3. Number of properties directly matched and advertised by each community area, type of property and landlord,
4. Proportion of direct matches that were successful,
5. Number of direct matches where the client requested a review of the allocation and the outcome of those reviews,
6. Number of direct matches where the client refused the allocation but didn't request a review.

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

- In response to a question on the reduction in the proportion of properties matched in the first and second quarters, the committee was advised that could be attributable to a number of factors including the type of properties becoming available, their location and if they were in areas people wanted to live. The authority did however try to match properties to people in areas to which they had a connection, but they may not always be suitable.

The Committee was also advised that the data detailed within the report related to the period October 2022 to March 2023 where the Head of Housing had been granted powers to directly match properties in certain circumstances. The new Policy, introduced in April 2023, would allow the service to directly match all tenants in Bands A and B which would see a reduction in the level of housing being advertised.

- It was confirmed that all 4,500 on the Housing register had received communication detailing the change to the new Emergency Allocation Policy.
- It was confirmed that, currently, the housing division had sufficient resources to administer the new system following an increase in the numbers on the housing register from 4412 in October 2022 to 4551 on the 12th April 2022. Should circumstances change and additional resources were considered necessary, then a bid for those resources would be submitted in accordance with normal practice.
- With regard to the commissioning of rooms in hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation, it was confirmed that would be reduced wherever possible. The Committee was also assured that at the time of the report's preparation no family with children were placed in such accommodation.

The Committee was also informed that where possible, the service would be moving away from the larger type hotels / Bed and Breakfast accommodation to smaller providers and the local member would be informed of that provision within their ward.

- Reference was made to an expectation by the Task and Finish Group for a reduction to occur in the number of people presenting as homeless. As that reduction had not occurred, an explanation was sought on whether there were any specific reasons for the current increase.

The Committee was advised there were a number of reasons for the increase which could be attributable to Welsh Government Regulations,

the Renting Homes (Wales Act) together with the cost-of-living crisis. With regard to the Renting Homes Act, protection for existing tenants had been extended to the end of June 2023. Therefore, landlords could still issue Section 21 Notices up to the end of May. There was also a four-month backlog in the courts for Section 21 Notices which would see further notices being issued and people presenting as homeless.

- With regard to an increase in the number of people in Band A, that was attributable to those in Band B at risk of being made homeless being moved to Band A to facilitate their rehoming as soon as possible.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the monitoring report be received.

8. COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/24

The Committee, in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Council's constitution, considered its draft 2023/24 Forward Work Plan detailing issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year. It was noted that as the Plan was a 'living document' it would continually evolve throughout the Municipal year as the Cabinet Forward Plan evolved and from requests by the Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the draft 2023/24 Forward Work Plan be approved.

9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 5TH APRIL 2023

Reference was made to the Minute 8 relating to the Place and Sustainability business Plan and to a discussion undertaken at the meeting on a communication being sent by the HEAD OF Place and Sustainability to all elected members outlining the Section 106 process and their involvement in that process. It was suggested the minutes of the meeting be amended to reflect that.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 5th April 2023 be signed as a correct record subject to the minute 8 being amended to reflect that a communication was to be sent to all elected members on their involvement in the Section 106 process.

CHAIR

DATE

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