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**FRIDAY, 5 MAY 2023**

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

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

*Wendy Walters*

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Janine Owen</b>
<b>Telephone (direct line):</b>	<b>01267 224030</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b>JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</b>

**This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.**

**The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:-  
<https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>**

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

**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
13 MEMBERS**

**PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 6 Members**

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

**LABOUR GROUP - 5 Members**

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

**INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members**

Cllr. Sue Allen (Committee Member)  
Vacancy

# AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
3. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
4. **PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS - 2022/23** 5 - 10
5. **STREET CLEANSING STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023** 11 - 14
6. **TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023** 15 - 22
7. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

THE REPORTS RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION AS THEY CONTAIN EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH 14 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) (WALES) ORDER 2007. IF, FOLLOWING THE APPLICATION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST, THE COMMITTEE RESOLVES PURSUANT TO THE ACT TO CONSIDER THESE ITEMS IN PRIVATE, THE PUBLIC WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DURING SUCH CONSIDERATION.
8. **CWM ENVIRONMENTAL LTD 2022-2023 BUSINESS PLAN AND HALF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT** 23 - 64

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## PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

<b>PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS – 2022/23</b>		
<b>Purpose:</b> To apprise the Committee of actions taken in response to decisions made during 2022/23.		
<b>To consider and comment on the following issues:</b> To scrutinise the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.		
<b>Reasons:</b> To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.		
<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Not Applicable</b>		
<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones  Report Author: Janine Owen	<b>Designations:</b> Head of Administration and Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:</b> 01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@cararthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224030 <a href="mailto:janineowen@cararthenshire.gov.uk">janineowen@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

#### PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS – 2022/23

The attached report provides members of the Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to actions raised and recommendations made during the 2022/23 municipal year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES – List of Actions and progress during 2022-23 Scrutiny year.

## 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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

N/A

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

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

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**Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions 2022-2023**

**Actions from 2022/23**

Ref No	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Description	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
PS&CC-01-22-23	4th October 2022	<b>Recommendation</b>	<p><b>7. REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023</b></p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that: 7.3 the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability provides the relevant feedback in respect of the actions within the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan to the Committee.</p>	<p>Feedback on the 2020-23 Environment Act Forward Plan, to be circulated to Committee Members by e-mail before the end of August 2023.</p>	<p>Members of PS&amp;CC Scrutiny</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability</p> <p>R. Carmichael, Rural Conservation Manager</p>	In progress
PS&CC-02-22-23	4th October 2022	<b>Recommendation</b>	<p><b>8. NET ZERO CARBON PLAN PROGRESS REPORT</b></p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET that: 8.3 future progress reports of the Net Zero Carbon Plan include the cost of savings.</p>	<p>We'll be publishing a new Decarbonisation / NZC Plan by 31/12/2023. Amongst other things, this will address:</p> <p>PIMS Action ID: 16153 - In order to meet its net zero ambition the Council needs to fully cost its action plan and ensure that it is aligned with its Medium-Term Financial Plan</p> <p>Revised target date: 31/08/2023</p> <p><i>*See below for detailed progress update</i></p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability</p> <p>K. Davies, Sustainable Development Manager</p>	Complete
PS&CC-03-22-23	24th November 2022	<b>Recommendation</b>	<p><b>4. UPDATED FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23</b></p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of a report on the phosphates levels in Rivers within Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Forward Work Plan the 2022/22 be endorsed..</p>	<p>This was included on the Committee's FWP and considered at its meeting held on the 24th February 2023.</p>	<p>J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer</p>	Complete
PS&CC-04-22-23	24th November 2022	<b>Recommendation</b>	<p><b>9. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS</b></p> <p>9.2 UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET that an additional Public Space Protection Order be introduced to ban dogs from defined sports fields located within the County.</p>	<p>The PSPO report was withdrawn from the Cabinet agenda held on the 12th December 2022 to further consider and reflect the observations made on the report by the Committee. Once this report is finalised the updated Cabinet recommendations will be circulated to Committee Members.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability</p> <p>D. John, Environmental Services Manager</p>	In progress

## Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Actions 2022-2023

PS&CC-05-22-23	23rd January 2023	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>5. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2023/24 to 2025/26</b>  RESOLVED that:- 5.4 the proposal for the introduction of parking charges at the 9 carparks as stated in the report be reviewed by the Cabinet Member on a case-by-case basis.	At its meeting held on the 1st March 2023, Council recommended that:  'The Introduction of charging at the 9 car parks that were currently free be deferred, to allow the Authority time to assess and consider the wider impact on the individual areas.'	Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services,  Head of Transportation and Highways	Complete
PS&CC-06-22-23	23rd January 2023	<b>Action arising</b>	<b>8. CARMARTHENSHIRE EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY UPDATE</b>  Whilst it was pleasing to note that over 500 responses had been received following the comprehensive public survey questionnaire between 21st June 2021 and 25th July 2021, it was asked if the Committee could receive a summary of the responses [ <i>where they are from</i> ], to consider the data. The Head of Highways and Transportation agreed.	A breakdown of the origin of the responses to be circulated to Members.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services,  Head of Transportation and Highways	In progress
PS&CC-07-22-23	14th April 2023	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>6. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022-27</b>  UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Committee receive the Corporate Strategy for public scrutiny in a timely manner prior to being endorsed by full Council.	PS&CC Scrutiny Committee to include the Corporate Strategy onto its Forward Work Programme 2023/2024. Officers to advise of timeline.	Chair of PS&CC Scrutiny Committee	Complete

\*PS&CC-02-22-23 Progress:

This is the single Recommendation that the Council received from Audit Wales following publication of their report 'Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030' (July 2022). In the absence of guidance on costing methodology the council has a draft costing ESTIMATES for its net zero plan working on a basis similar to another Local Authority in the SBCR [Swansea Bay City Region]. That estimation is however recognised to be subject to a wide degree of tolerance and we are working to produce robust £ costings by adopting the following approach:

1. Developing carbon reduction trajectories to produce various scenarios regarding our likely residual carbon emissions in 2030.
2. To estimate the corresponding £ spend to deliver carbon reductions, seeking technical support from Local Partnerships (via Welsh Government Energy Service) to develop a consistent methodology for the four SW Wales local authorities, and potentially all Welsh public bodies.
3. Our non-domestic buildings are responsible for 70% of our reported NZC emissions; consequently, our Re:Fit Cymru service provider is producing a High Level Appraisal of 30+ sites as part of our planned Phase 2 project in order to provide robust £ costs for a range of energy conservation measures.
4. To establish the cost for compensating our residual carbon emissions: (a) Welsh Government Energy Service costing five priority renewable energy opportunities on our Estate, and (b) City Science engaged to cost potential opportunities for carbon sequestration on our land holdings. We continue to lobby Welsh Government on adopting an all-Wales approach and work with other LAs to refine the estimate model.

## PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

### STREET CLEANSING STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023

**Purpose:**

To provide the future strategy, actions and considerations for the Street Cleansing Service, to provide an efficient environmental cleansing programme to enhance the environmental quality within Carmarthen enhancing its attractiveness to live, work and visit.

**THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-**

Review the report noting the challenges and need for change and service modernisation.

**Reasons:**

This report presents the way in which the Council will review and improve it's cleansing service delivery meeting the legislative requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and shaping the future of the service to deliver the needs of the Local Environmental Quality Management Plan and duties discharged upon the Authority through the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

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

<p>Directorate: Place and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Designations:</p>	<p>01267 224531 <a href="mailto:DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b></p>	<p>Interim Head of Waste &amp; Environmental Services.</p>	<p><a href="mailto:DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">.uk</a></p>
<p>Daniel W John</p>		
<p><b>Report Author:</b></p>	<p>Grounds and Cleansing Manager</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dgbaxter@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">dgbaxter@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Gary Baxter</p>		<p><a href="mailto:dgbaxter@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">.uk</a></p>

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

#### **STREET CLEANSING STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023**

- 1.1 Carmarthenshire County Council recognises that maintaining high quality public places is an important issue and a major concern for local residents. Accordingly, this is reflected as a key priority in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The Council is a principal litter authority with a statutory duty under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that relevant land in its area is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse.
- 1.3 In order to enable the Council to achieve its objectives the services need to deliver high quality, efficient and sustainable services to ensure the future cleanliness and prosperity of the area. This has to be achieved against an increasing pressure on public finances and a need to reduce the net cost of delivery. Therefore, the way that the services are delivered has to be continuously challenged to ensure that efficiencies are achieved where possible without having an adverse impact on standards.
- 1.4 As the principal litter authority, Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory duty to keep "the relevant land" clear of litter and refuse, and to keep clean its highways maintained at public expense, including the removal of detritus. These duties emanate from the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 1.5 Carmarthenshire County Council Cleansing Service is delivered by an in-house service, working from three key geographically placed depots, Trostre, Cillefwr and Glanamman and sits within the Place and Infrastructure Department of Carmarthenshire County Council with a net operating cost of circa £2.7m.
- 1.6 The Cleansing service has become static in its service delivery methodology and has operated in its existing formation for a significant period, although sweeping and litter bin emptying is undertaken on planned schedules the service on a whole has become a reactionary service.

- 1.7 In addition, there are interdepartmental cross overs within the existing cleansing duties, whereby the Highways service will undertake certain functions of the Local Environment Quality management.
- 1.8 The aims of the Street Cleansing Service are to provide an efficient environmental cleansing programme not only meet the statutory duty placed upon the Authority but enhance the environmental quality within Carmarthen enhancing its attractiveness to live, work and visit, this supported by effective enforcement team and high-profile education/awareness campaigns that will ensure the cleanliness and prosperity of the area.
- 1.9 It is evident that there is inconsistency in our performance, and we are below the Welsh Median at present. The cleanliness Indicator for Wales gives an indication of the cleanliness of an area. Higher figures indicate cleaner environments. The All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator for 2022-23 is 68.8 and Carmarthenshire currently have a rating of 67.4 placing us 14<sup>th</sup> overall in Wales.
- 1.10 As a front-line service, we expect to deliver a first-class service in a proactive manner. However, at present we are a reactionary service. This approach feeds service demand and relies upon customer reports and requests. This means, we sometimes fail to meet customer demand and expectation.
- 1.11 In order for us to modernise and improve our service we have commenced a strategic review of the cleansing service. With a focus to develop a smarter way of interpreting the Code of Practice and develop a strategic tool to assess routes within zones on a "needs" basis.
- 1.12 The initial stage of our review has identified the main contributory factors of our service challenges at present are: -
- Staffing levels and recruitment
  - Staff profile (agency)
  - Fleet resource
  - Service efficiency and cleansing approach.
- 1.13 We are developing a strategic plan to improve our service delivery. The vision of this plan is to provide a high quality efficient and sustainable service adding to the attractiveness of the area and promoting a Cleaner/Greener, Safer and Stronger County.
- 1.14 This will be achieved by evaluating existing working practices and driving efficiency saving to meet the reduction in budget yet ensure that service delivery standards are improved.
- 1.15 There is distinct cross over of cleansing activities with the Internal departments and the plan will take account and clarify these activities.

1.16 The quality of the local environment in particular the cleanliness of our streets and open spaces is fast becoming a benchmark for public, business and visitors in determining how an area is being managed and its attractiveness to live, work and visit. It is imperative that service delivery standard is improved to meet the expectation yet delivered against increasing pressure on public finances.

1.17 We will seek to build on existing knowledge and working practices to further improve the cleanliness of the county, the initial baseline of our service and review will mean our strategy will produce a way forward in the following key areas:

- Route rationalisation and new zoning
- Staff resources and consistent approach
- Gang structures and roles
- Inter-departmental working
- Fleet strategy
- Education
- Enforcement

1.18 The strategy in development will contain details of an exhaustive list of actions to address these issues. This strategic document will be presented to Cabinet as part of the forward work plan.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>No</b>
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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: D John Interim Head of Waste & Environmental Services**

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

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED:</b>	<b>YES</b>
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### **3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

### **4. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2022/23**

Presented by the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Committee considered the financial monitoring report on the 2022/23 Revenue and Capital Budget for the Place & Infrastructure and Public Protection Services for the period up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.

It was reported that overall, the revenue budget was forecasting a £593k overspend to year end. The capital budget reported a forecasted net spend of £15,263k compared with a working net budget of £19,105k giving a variance of -£3,824k.

The Committee noted that in regard to the savings report, the expectation was that at year end, £694k of Managerial savings against target of £824k was forecasted to be delivered. In addition, £20k of Policy savings against a target of £20k was put forward for 2022/23 and was forecasted to be delivered.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:

- In terms of improving the environment, reference was made to Appendix B where concern was raised that the ongoing financial pressure could put the journey to become net zero carbon in jeopardy. The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that it the Local Authority would continuously strive to meet the required targets.
- Reference was made to Appendix B to the report – Highways and Transportation. In respect of the matter of school crossing patrols which reported that ‘several posts had become vacant and would not be refilled’, it was asked if this was the policy and if so, would pedestrian crossings be put in place? The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that it was policy to retire school crossing staff in places where electronic provision was in available. In places where suitable provisions were not available school crossing staff would remain.
- Reference was made to Appendix E to the report, Ammanford Highway Infrastructure which reported that a ‘Corporate decision was required given WG roads review’, an explanation was sought. The Head of Highways and Transportation explained that further consideration would be required following the recent Welsh Governments Roads Review. The outcomes of the review consisted of new policy criteria which would have an implication on all future road schemes.



- Reference was made to Appendix B to the report – Waste and Environmental Services. In terms of the underspend attributed to Environmental Enforcement it was asked when would this be assessed, and the outcome reported? The Interim Head of Waste reported that the Committee’s Task and Finish Group were considering these elements within its review on the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. The underspend was attributed to the departure of staff, where interim arrangements have been put in place. It was reported that following consideration of the departmental structure, the recommendations of the Task and Finish review and budgetary constraints the timescale would likely be up to 6months.
- Reference was made to Appendix E – Property. In terms of the Schools Handyvan Service which reported that ‘more work being identified within schools which require to be undertaken’, concerns were raised in regard to the older schools within the County that the overspend could continue to escalate. The Property Maintenance Manager explained that the work of the Handyvan was to predominantly carry out required health and safety work. As part of the service, planned maintenance requirements were being identified which would be prioritised within the available budget. In addition, stock condition surveys were currently being undertaken across the entire corporate stock which would provide a wider overview of the financial requirements.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 be received.**

## **5. ROUNDABOUT SPONSORSHIP SCHEME**

Presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services, the Committee considered a report on the new Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme.

It was reported that the new Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme would involve businesses being able to sponsor a roundabout within the County, having their company being promoted in a potentially highly visible location without incurring costs to the Council.

The report provided information outlining how the scheme would work in practice taking account of any potential legal issues. As well as how relevant safety criteria could be established to mitigate any potential risk to road users and potentially to the Council.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:

- A query was raised if the scheme was open to enquires from business’ outside of the County? The Cabinet Member stated that each request would be considered on its own merit. In response to a further question, the Business Improvement Manager explained that a small working group which comprised of departments including Marketing and Media, Planning and Highways which would consider the range of requests and

specifications using a prioritising matrix. In addition, it was reported that a roundabout could include more than one sponsor.

- It was commented that whilst new sponsorship scheme was welcomed, it was hoped that roundabouts would remain free of signage as there was a risk of having too many signs. It was suggested that this could be achieved by businesses sponsoring sculptures on roundabouts instead of using many overpowering signs.
- In response to a query regarding how the competition between local businesses and multi-national businesses would be managed, the Business Improvement Manager stated that the prioritisation matrix would favour local businesses and that the weighting of the matrix would be monitored.
- It was asked if local smaller businesses could receive a better cost. The Business Improvement Manager explained that as this was a mutual benefit scheme the prices offered were good value particularly given the current climate.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET that the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme be approved.**

## **6. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022-27**

Presented by Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, the Committee received the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-27 for consideration.

The Council's Corporate Strategy, included the Council's well-being objectives, sets the direction of travel and priorities for the organisation over the period of the current administration. The Strategy provided the framework for delivering on the Cabinet's vision and commitments during that period. The new strategy would focus on a smaller number of population-based objectives whilst identifying the thematic priorities, service priorities and core business enablers that the Council would aim to progress during that period.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:

- The Chair reported that in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Plan and the Non-submission report agreed at the Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, the Corporate Strategy had already been endorsed by full Council at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. In light of this, the Corporate Strategy remained an item on the Committee's agenda, providing Scrutiny Committee Members with an opportunity to scrutinise with an understanding that the plan had already been endorsed.

In noting that the Corporate Strategy had already been endorsed prior to the Committee's receiving for Scrutiny, it was proposed that future Corporate Strategy's be provided to the Committee in a timely manner in order that the members can properly scrutinise the contents of the Strategy before it has been ratified by full Council. This was duly seconded.



In acknowledging that the Strategy had already been endorsed, the Cabinet Member highlighted that all Elected Members were invited to attend a consultation session held on 27 January 2023 which provided an opportunity for Members to provide feedback on the Corporate Strategy as well as Cabinet held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

No questions were raised on the content of the Corporate Strategy.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Committee receive the Corporate Strategy for public scrutiny in a timely manner prior to being endorsed by full Council.**

## **7. DRAFT DIVISIONAL DELIVERY PLANS 2023-24**

The Committee received for consideration Draft Divisional Service Delivery Plans relevant to the divisions within the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change directorate for 2023/24 as follows:

- Highways and Transportation Division – Appendix 1 to the report
- Waste and Environmental Division - Appendix 2 to the report
- Property design and Maintenance Division - Appendix 3 to the report
- Place Sustainability Division - Appendix 4 to the report
- Service Improvement and Transformation Division - Appendix 5 to the report

The Draft Divisional Service Delivery Plans set out the strategic actions and measures to be implemented within each Division in order for the Council to progress with its well-being objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities.

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed by each Draft Divisional Plan as follows:-

### Divisional Delivery Plan - Highways and Transportation [Appendix 1 to the report]

- Reference was made to the Action and Measure within the Highways Asset Management section - ‘withdrawal of Welsh Government funding, explore all possible funding options to support a programme of improving the condition of rural roads.’ It was asked what funding options were being considered? The Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services stated that Carmarthenshire has the second largest road network in Wales which comprises mainly of B, C and unclassified roads which were in a poor state of repair with a significant backlog. It was emphasised that alternative funding methods must be sought.

The Cabinet Member for Resources added that this matter was as a result of the UK Government Austerity Project but when budget cuts were commenced in 2010, the highway road network were the first to be targeted. As a result, the conditions of the road network have deteriorated with a shortfall of £45m which is what is needed to maintain the roads. It was highlighted that this extends outside of Carmarthenshire.

In terms of future funding, the Head of Highways and Transportation reported that funding had been achieved by placing bids to access Welsh Government funding in order to repair roads that suffered from storm damage. In addition, bids to access funding for road refurbishment and resilient roads had been made. Members were assured that as soon as grant funding opportunities were presented, bids would be submitted to achieve the funding in order to improve the road network.

- In recognising the heavy workload of the highways department, praise and gratitude was extended to the highways team for their swift response to reports of hazardous road conditions.
- In response to a query raised in respect of the 'source reference' within the plan, the Cabinet Member explained that the plans were new in design to better align with the Corporate Strategy and Well-being objectives and Cabinet's vision.
- Reference was made to the Action and Measure within the Planning & Infrastructure section – '*Review the current vehicle fleet strategy with a view to utilising the most suitable and low emissions vehicle technology (including electric or other power sources) over the coming years.*' In terms of setting targets, it was requested that a suitable ambition be set. It was suggested that in terms of setting targets, many sources of outside expertise were available to be accessed which could prove to be cost effective. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability welcomed the enthusiasm and suggested that the Committee, in developing its Forward Work Plan could request information to monitor the development and pace of the work on this subject.

Divisional Delivery Plan - Waste and Environmental Division  
[Appendix 2 to the report]

- No issues/observations were raised by the Committee.

Divisional Delivery Plan – Property design and Maintenance Division  
[Appendix 3 to the report]

- No issues/observations were raised by the Committee.

Divisional Delivery Plan – Place Sustainability Division  
[Appendix 4 to the report]

- No issues/observations were raised by the Committee.

Divisional Delivery Plan – Service Improvement and Transformation Division  
[Appendix 5 to the report]

- No issues/observations were raised by the Committee.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Draft Divisional Plans for 2023/24 be received.**

## 8. **DRAFT DIVISIONAL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24 FOR HOUSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION**

The Committee received for consideration the 2023-24 Draft Divisional Service Delivery Plan for the Housing and Public Protection relevant to the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change directorate. The plan detailed the strategic actions and measures to be taken forward to enable the Council to make progress against its Well-Being Objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability welcomed issues/queries in relation to the Public Protection element of the divisional plan as the remit of this scrutiny.

There were no issues/observations raised by the Committee.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Draft Divisional Plans for Housing and Public Protection 2023/24 be received.**

## 9. **EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS**

The Committee received an explanation for the non-submission of the scrutiny report pertaining to the Delivery Plan for Community Safety/Crime and Disorder. The revised submission date being 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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

## 10. **FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee reviewed the list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which had been derived from the Committee's Forward Work Plan 2022/23. The Chair emphasised that the Forward Work Plan was a flexible document that could be updated as required throughout the year as new information emerges.

The Chair reported that the following reports would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023:-

- The Task and Finish Group Report on the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire, as the report was currently being finalised.
- The Cwm Environmental Business Plan 2022-23, due to personal circumstances of the representative from Cwm Environmental.

**RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be noted.**

**11. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

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

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

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# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

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