

Document Pack



sirgar.llyw.cymru
carmarthenshire.gov.wales

THURSDAY, 13 JULY 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 FRIDAY, 21ST JULY, 2023 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

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

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

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

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

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 6 Members

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

LABOUR GROUP - 5 Members

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

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Sue Allen (Committee Member)
Vacancy

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
- 4. PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23** 5 - 30
- 5. FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2023/24** 31 - 36
- 6. TASK AND FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT - REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FLYTIPPING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE** 37 - 72
- 7. UPDATE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS** 73 - 78
- 8. FREE PARKING REVIEW** 79 - 98
- 9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 99 - 104
- 10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 15TH MAY 2023** 105 - 108

This page is intentionally left blank

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

That members consider and approve the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Reason

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:

Janine Owen

Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

Democratic Services Officer

Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:

01267 224010

lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224030

JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
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 2022/23 municipal year.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration & Law

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

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

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

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
Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	Online	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=403

This page is intentionally left blank

Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2022 - 2023

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



CONTENTS

Chairs Foreword	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2022/23	4
2.1 Management of Meetings	4
2.2 The Role of the Cabinet Member.....	4
2.3 The Forward Work Plan	5
2.4 The Gateway Framework and reports circulated under a separate cover	6
2.5 Performance Monitoring	7
2.6 Revenue and Capital Budgets	8
2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Reports.....	9
2.8 Additional Reports and Update Reports	12
2.9 Referrals	16
2.10 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions	16
3. Scrutiny Committee Activity	17
4. Challenges	19
5. Committee's Future Work	19
6. Support for the Scrutiny Function	20
7. Committee Member Attendance	21

Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of this election period. This report demonstrates the variety of work that this scrutiny committee has undertaken during the period between May 2022 to April 2023.

Whilst, the local elections in May 2022 saw a change in Committee membership, new members embraced the challenge and showed their enthusiasm and passion right from the start. In addition to the Member Development Programme, the Committee factored into its Forward Work Plan focussed development sessions in order to enhance the knowledge and understanding of specific subjects.



All Scrutiny Members managed the remote working well and adapted to the multi-location meetings with ease. The Committee successfully developed its forward work plan, and aligned it so that key issues would come in front of our Committee prior to Cabinet making the decision. The Committee achieved this by questioning and debating the content of reports and recommendations on pertinent and important items for the benefit of the Communities in Carmarthenshire.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Cabinet Members within this Committee's remit for presenting the Committee with detailed technical and operational information. Also, my appreciation goes out to local councils and the residents of Carmarthenshire who have actively got involved with this Committee by writing to us and joining meetings online.

Once again, I wish to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Karen Davies for her invaluable support and friendship throughout the year.

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

Councillor John James

Chair of Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee 2022/2023

1. Introduction

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

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

This report provides an overview of the work of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee during the reduced six-month committee cycle for 2022/23 municipal year. It aims to highlight the work of the Committee and reflect on the achievements identifying what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny. In addition, this report may aid to facilitate discussions on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by the Councillor John James and is made up of 13 Elected Members, one Independent Group place has been vacant for the duration of 2022/23. Support is provided to the Committee by the Democratic Services Team and other Council officers as and when required.

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

- **Wellbeing objective 5** – Create more jobs and growth throughout the County.
- **Wellbeing objective 7** – Live Well-Help people live healthy lives.
- **Wellbeing objective 8** – Support Community cohesion, resilience and safety.
- **Wellbeing objective 9** – Live Well/Age Well – Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities.
- **Wellbeing objective 10** – Healthy and Safety Environment – Look after the environment now and in the future.
- **Wellbeing objective 11** – Healthy and Safe Environment – Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.
- **Wellbeing objective 13** – Better Governance and use of Resources.

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

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

2.1 Management of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 7 meetings during the 2022/23 municipal year in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

In accordance with the provisions for section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 all meetings were held as a multi-location which provided an option to attend virtually via the platform Zoom or in-person. All members embraced the new way of working carried out their scrutiny role with confidence and professionalism either remotely or in person.

2.2 The Role of the Cabinet Member

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

In addition, Council at its meeting on 28th September, 2022 approved the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Working Group to amend the Scrutiny remits with each Scrutiny Committee being responsible for the overview and scrutiny of specific Cabinet Portfolios and their respective services.

At the same time the scrutiny name changed was adopted from Environmental and Public Protection to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change and the following Cabinet Portfolios and their respective service areas:-:

- Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
- Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

In addition, the Cabinet Member for Resources attended meetings to present finance related reports including the budget monitoring reports, the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy and the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health attended to present the relevant actions within the Corporate Performance Monitoring reports relevant to their remit.

2.3 The Forward Work Plan

The Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee developed its Forward Work Plan with matters that fall within remit which covers:-

Waste and Environmental Services including:-

- Refuse Collection,
- Street Cleaning,
- Grounds Maintenance,
- Building Cleaning (including Schools, where relevant),
- Public Toilets
- Biodiversity;
- Zero Carbon.

Transport and Streetscene including:-

- Highways, Street Lighting, Bridges,
- Traffic Management,
- Parking Services,
- Cycle paths and Rights of Way;

Environmental Enforcement including:-

- Litter, Dog Fouling;
- Abandoned Vehicles etc;
- Planning Enforcement;
- Trading Standards;
- Public Health Pest Control

Community Safety issues including:-

- Substance Misuse
- Crime and Disorder Referrals (*to include a power to make a report or recommendations to the County Council and/or the Council's Cabinet*);

In September 2022, the Committee at its annual Forward Work Plan development session developed its own Forward Work Plan (FWP) by identifying pre-decision reports from the Cabinet Forward Work Plan and prioritising agenda items for consideration during the next municipal year.

In addition to the standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports as well as action plans and monitoring reports the Committee identified pre-decision reports from the Cabinet's Forward Work Programme 2022/23.

Whilst the Committee has the option to co-opt non-voting employees, officers or members of Responsible Authorities or co-operating persons or bodies in respect of its crime and disorder functions, [subject to the provisions of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009] did not do so during the 2022/23 municipal year.

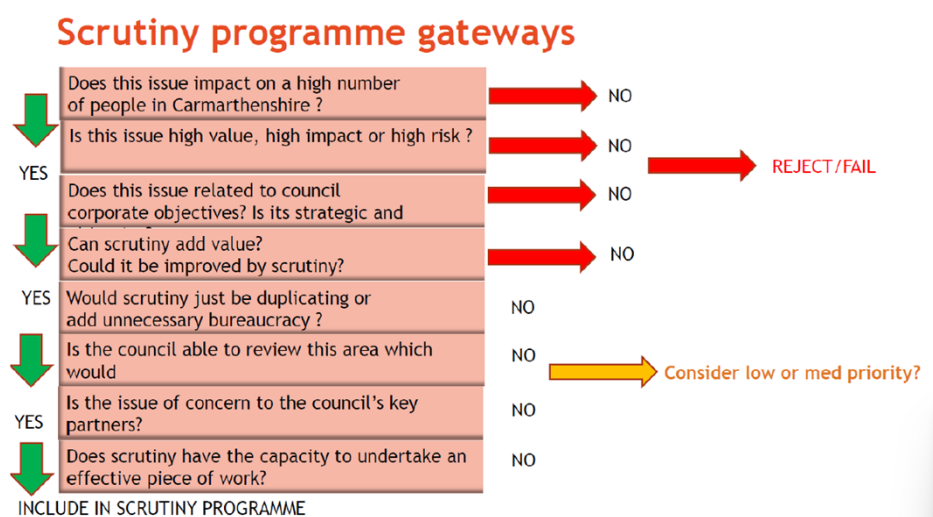
2.4 The Gateway Framework and reports circulated under a separate cover (e-mail)

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

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

In line with the Framework, Members agreed that 11 reports be circulated to members by e-mail. Members scrutinised the reports as they would in a formal meeting and forward any queries and/or concerns to the Scrutiny Support officer to arrange a response. Any queries raised together with responses were included within the Forthcoming Items report.

The Committee regularly reviewed its Forward Work Plan and as a flexible working document on occasion reports rearranged to manage the Scrutiny process accordingly.



2.5 Performance Monitoring

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

A series of Divisional Business Plans were presented by the respective Cabinet Members to Committee Members in April 2023. The Scrutiny Committee considered the strategic actions and measures that the services within each Division had planned to take forward, in order for the Council to make progress against its Well-being Objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities.

The following Divisional Business plans were received by the Committee:-

- Highways and Transportation Division
- Waste and Environmental Division
- Property Design and Maintenance Division
- Place and Sustainability Division
- Service Improvement and Transformation Division

[Carmarthenshire Council Annual Report 2021/22](#) – In November, 2022 the Committee was presented with a report which contained the Council's 15 Well Being Objectives and assessed the progress and adaptations made during 2021/22. Members focussed on the following sections within the document relevant to the Committee's remit:

- Well-being Objective 10: Look after the environment now and for the future
- Well-being Objective 11: Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Members raised pertinent questions in regard to the climate change, circular economy and fleet management (electric).

The relevant Cabinet member supported by Officers provided Scrutiny Members with detailed responses.

[2020/21 Performance Reports relevant to this Scrutiny](#) - One of the principal roles of a scrutiny committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. In October 2022, the Committee were afforded the opportunity to scrutinise the performance report by e-mail. The report detailed the progress as at the end of Quarter 1 of the deliverables linked to the Corporate Strategy and the Well-being objectives. No queries were received. Quarter 2 report was considered at the meeting in December 2022.

[Carmarthenshire County Council - Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#) - The Committee received the Corporate Strategy for 2022-27 at its meeting on 14th April, 2023 and acknowledged that the Strategy had already been endorsed by full Council. This was a cause for concern for Members of the Scrutiny Committee who proposed that future Corporate Strategy's be presented to Scrutiny Committee's in a timelier manner in order that members can properly scrutinise the contents of the Strategy before it has been ratified by full Council.

[Scrutiny Committee Actions Update](#) – In October 2022 and May 2023, the Committee received a report which included the progress updates in respect of the committee's requests and actions arising from Committee meetings for information.

2.6 Revenue and Capital Budgets

[Budget Monitoring Reports](#) – were circulated to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee members by e-mail in line with the Committee's decision to scrutinise outside of the Committees formal process.

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

- October 2022 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 30th June 2022 and
- November 2022 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st August 2022
- January 2023 – in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st October 2022.

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

[Consultation - Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26](#) - In January 2023, the Committee as a statutory consultee received the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 for consideration and comment. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 together with the indicative figures for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years.

The Committee raised a number of queries and concerns in regard to the proposed budgets on the following issues:

- Net Zero Targets
- Fixed Penalty Notices – charges
- Residents Parking Permit Admin Charges
- The promotion of the Buy with Confidence scheme
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)
- Property Maintenance – efficiency measures
- School Transport - Additional Needs Personal Travel Budgets
- Traffic Management - Road Safety innovation

The queries were responded to by the respective Cabinet Members supported by Officers. In addition, during the consideration of the saving proposals, the Committee formally proposed that in regard to the introduction of parking charges at the 9 car parks which were currently free to park, be reviewed by the Cabinet Member on a case-by-case basis.

Outcome:

The comments, concerns and recommendations raised by the Committee helped to shape the Revenue budget strategy for 2023/24 – 2024/25 which was considered at full Council on 1st March 2023.

In response to the Committee’s proposal, the Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services would be undertaking a review and submit a further report for Committee’s consideration.

2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Reports

2.7.1 Public Space Protection Order (Enhancement on dog related controls) – November 2022

The Committee considered a report on the additional Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Carmarthenshire Dog Orders, which included the results of a recent engagement survey in relation to the potential to introduce supplementary dog controls by means of an additional PSPO, where evidence supports the need for additional orders.

Committee Members were enthusiastic about this subject as it impacted all communities within Carmarthenshire. Following a lengthy discussion in respect of the possibility of banning dogs from sports pitches, the Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet that an additional Public Space Protection Order be introduced to band dogs from defined sports fields located within the County.

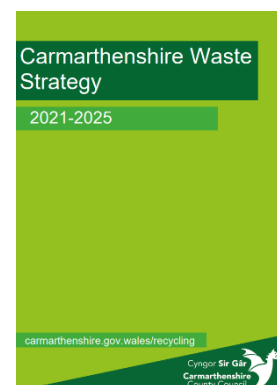
Outcome

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability agreed to undertake further work exploring the possibility and legal matters in respect of the Committee’s proposal. A further report would be provided upon completion.



2.7.2 Waste Strategy Update –December 2022

The Committee at its request received an update report in regard to the Waste Strategy 2021-2025, presented by the Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services. The report provided Members with a summary of the current waste management policies that was required to improve operational and strategic performance.



Members enthusiastic in their approach to improve the management of waste in Carmarthenshire, raised a number of queries which were responded to by the Cabinet Member supported by Officers in relation to:-

- Glass collection Service
- Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP's) and what was accepted as such
- Missed collections
- Concerns regarding the 3 weekly black bag collections
- Concerns regarding the potential increase in fly-tipping

Outcome

RESOLVED that the progress and delivery of the Waste Strategy update be received and noted.

2.7.3 Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Maintenance Manual – January 2023,

The Committee was presented with a report requesting Members to consider and comment on parts 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 of the HAMP Maintenance Manual prior to adoption by the Cabinet. The main concerns raised were in relation to the low priority of rural roads status. In addition, queries were raised in regard to:-

- Landowners responsibilities
- Waterways – NRW and Council responsibilities
- Drainage pipes

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers responded to the concerns and provided thorough explanations of the prioritised system of assessment, inspection and repair and the responsibilities.

Outcome:

Unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Parts 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 of the Highways Asset Management Plan Maintenance Manual be adopted.

2.7.4 Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – April 2023

The Committee considered a report on a proposed new Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme which included information outlining how the scheme would work in practice taking account of any potential legal issues.

Whilst Members welcomed the proposed scheme, a number of queries were raised in connection with costings and prioritisation of businesses.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme be endorsed.

2.7.5 Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023 – May 2023

In accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Plan, the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023 was presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services. The report presented the way in which the Council would review and improve its cleansing service delivery whilst meeting the legislative requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Cabinet Member, supported by officers responded to queries in regard to the following:-

- Communications in regard to litter bin receptacles identified for removal
- Public education and awareness
- Staffing costs in respect of the All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator rating

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023

2.8 Additional Reports and Update Reports

2.8.1 Air Quality Update – November 2022

At the request of the Committee, an update report was presented to Scrutiny members by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability. The update contained the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire which currently had three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) - Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli. This update reported information in regard to the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) monitoring across Carmarthenshire with results compared to previous years.

During the consideration of the information contained within the report, Members raised strong concerns in relation to the ongoing poor air quality at Rhosmaen Street, Llandeilo and emphasised that the only solution to improve the poor air quality in Llandeilo would be to develop a by-pass. It was proposed that an e-mail be sent to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change on behalf of the Committee in support of the Llandeilo by-pass.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to send an e-mail from the Scrutiny Committee to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change to convey the Committee's strong support for the development of the Llandeilo by-pass which would improve air quality in and around Llandeilo.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee forwarded an e-mail to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change- Lee Waters MS.

In response to the views expressed, the Cabinet Member received the following from the Deputy Minister for Climate Change:-

“We are currently considering the range of views expressed by the public and stakeholders with regards to Llandeilo at WelTAG Stage 2 in order to present proposals that could secure consensus amongst key stakeholders and allow the work to progress to WelTAG Stage 3.

To facilitate this consensus, Welsh Government officials will arrange a meeting with Carmarthenshire Council officers to discuss proposals to progress to Stage 3. Should agreement be reached between both organisations, development of short and medium-term measures could progress this Winter and be delivered within 3 years. The development of long-term measures could progress in parallel.”

In a further response:-

“We are currently considering the range of views expressed by the public and stakeholders with regards to Llandeilo at WelTAG Stage 2 in order to present proposals that could secure consensus amongst key stakeholders and allow the work to progress to WelTAG Stage 3. To facilitate this consensus, Welsh Government officials arranged a meeting with Carmarthenshire Council to discuss proposals to progress to Stage 3 in December 2022 and provided further clarification of options to the council in February 2023.”

2.8.2 Highway Drainage Design Guide for New Developments – November 2022 – Scrutiny by E-mail

At the request of the Committee, a report which appended the Highway Drainage Design Guide was circulated to Scrutiny Members by e-mail. The purpose of the report was to provide supplementary detailed guidance for developers designing and constructing surface water drainage systems and connecting surface water drainage systems to existing highway drains.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.3 Graffiti Policy – December 2022 – Scrutiny by E-mail

At the request of the Committee, a report which appended the Graffiti Policy was circulated to members for scrutiny by e-mail. The Policy provided the current procedures and guidelines that were being reviewed and the best practice that was identified to ensure that a balanced approach to Graffiti Management was being taken.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.4 Carmarthenshire County Council - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy– December 2022

Following the Cabinet approval of the proposal to adopt an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Carmarthenshire in December 2021, the Committee, ahead of Cabinet consideration, received an update report. The following main points were raised:-

- To encourage the use of electric vehicles in the fleet and electric car clubs
- To seek a better 'time of use' tariff – eg overnight charging

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers provided comprehensive responses.

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

2.8.5 Carmarthenshire Sandbag Policy 2022 –January 2023 – Scrutiny by E-mail

The Committee requested to receive the Sandbag Policy which was circulated to the Committee e-mail in January 2023. The policy provided with clear advice on when sandbags will be deployed to manage flood risk.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.6 Phosphate Levels in protected Riverine Special Areas of Conservation – Update – February 2023

At the request of the Committee, a report was presented by the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs & Planning Policy regarding the progress and work undertaken in responding to the impacts of phosphate pollution in protected Special Areas of Conservation.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the update report

2.8.7 Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy Update –January 2023

At the request of the Committee, a report on the Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy Update was presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

In acknowledging the vast network, Members raised concerns about the departments underfunding and recognised that more investment was needed in this area to save paths.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Equestrian Strategy Update

2.8.8 WG Speed Limit Changes in Legislation (20MPH) –January 2023

The Committee having requested to include this topic onto its Forward Work Plan, received an informative report in regard to the Welsh Government 20mph Speed Limit Legislation.

The report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services, provided an update on legislative change being introduced by Welsh Government in September 2023. The legislation would reduce the current 30mph default speed limit on restricted (street lit) roads in residential areas to 20mph.

Members finding the information within the report valuable raised queries in connection with:-

- Funding the change in legislation – eg signage, resources, Traffic Regulation Orders
- Enforcement

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the report

2.8.9 A Tree and Woodland Strategy for Carmarthenshire County Council 2023-2028 – February 2023

The Committee requested to include the Tree and Woodland Strategy onto its Forward Work Plan as the strategy addressed the Authority's responsibilities for managing trees and woodlands as well as opportunities for new planting.

Committee Members raised pertinent queries in respect of the strategy which were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Member supported by Officers.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Tree and Woodland Strategy for Carmarthenshire County Council 2023-28

2.8.10 Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report –May 2023

In January, in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Plan, Members received the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report –May 2023 by e-mail. However, at its meeting in February 2023, in response to a request by a Committee member, the Committee resolved to consider the report in a formal meeting by including onto the agenda in May 2023.

The report having contained some commercially sensitive information in relation to the company's business was exempt from the public and was considered in private.

The CWM Environmental Ltd Business Plan was for the three-year period 2022-23 to 2024-25 and has been produced to set out the company's strategic objectives, its service delivery objectives, the commercial risks that it faces together with its anticipated financial performance. It also ensures that CWM's strategy is aligned with and delivers upon Carmarthenshire's waste agenda and wider objectives

The Progress report provides a mid-year update on performance and actions against the business plan for the 2022-23 financial year

Member raised queries in relation to:

- Financial costs ;
- Compost and its pricing strategy;
- Electric vehicles in the fleet replacement program 2025-2030 – associated issues and costs;
- Circular Economy;
- The Repair Workshop and Re-use Shop (ETO).

Queries were responded to by the Managing Director of Cwm Environmental Ltd supported by Officers.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report.

2.9 Referrals

The Committee did not receive any referrals in the 2022/23 municipal year.

2.10 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions

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

In addition, complying with Legislation regarding promoting public awareness at Scrutiny, in April 2018, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Forum agreed to send correspondence to Town and Community Councils which would contain information to encourage an increase in public attendance at Scrutiny Committees and also seek suggestions for future topics for consideration. In response to this the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee received the following requests from two Town and Community Council's which was considered as part of the Scrutiny's Forward Work Programme development session in September 2022:-

1) Gors-las Community Council

Subject - The County Council Co-ordinating Action across the County to the issue of Dog Fouling in Public Areas /Parks

Committee Decision

This matter and suggestions would be considered as part of the Public Space Protection Order.

2) Gors-las Community Council

Subject – Review of the arrangements for play equipment safety inspections and repairs by CCC

Committee Decision

This was not within the remit of the Authority as play areas and equipment was the responsibility for Town and Community Councils.

3) Llandyfaelog Community Council

Subject – Litter on rural roads, especially in areas within a radius of local fast food take away restaurants

Committee Decision

This matter had been considered previously at a meeting where the Local Quality Environment Strategy had been presented. Further consideration would be undertaken as part of the Waste Strategy review.

3. Scrutiny Committee Activity

3.1 Scrutiny Investigations (Task and Finish)

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

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

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

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

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

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

At it's meeting in November 2022, the Committee considered and endorsed a revised Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on the management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. The Committee formulated a politically balanced Task and Finish group to undertake the review which is due to conclude in the summer of 2023.

3.2 Member Development and Site Visits

Following the elections members received an extensive development programme which included the following sessions / seminars 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 budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and the five-year capital programme.

Scrutiny Committee Members included informal focused development sessions to their Forward Work Plan which helped them to gain a more informed understanding about the policies and some of the operational aspects of the main topic areas that are important and relevant to communities within Carmarthenshire.

A series of focussed development sessions took place on a specific subject directly following the scheduled formal scrutiny Committee meeting. Officers provided a presentation on the agreed topic, with the Cabinet Member present. This provided an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to ask questions and exchange ideas.

Members were provided with the following development sessions:-

- Local Environment Quality Strategy
- Flooding
- Highway Asset Management Plan & Update on WG Speed Limit Change in Legislation (20mph)
- Conservation and update on the managing land pilot scheme for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire
- Waste
- Update on the Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Strategy
- Substance Misuse

4. Challenges

The past year included challenges in respect of a change in committee members following the elections in May 2023 however the committee worked to overcome this by providing development sessions and scrutiny support.

In addition, September saw a change in scrutiny name, remits, and reporting processes which took both members and officers time to get accustomed to.

Unfortunately, circulating reports for scrutiny by e-mail did not have the same level of engagement and quality scrutiny as a formal meeting. Therefore, going forward Members will be reminded of their duty to undertake scrutiny even when receiving the reports under a different cover.

5. Committee's Future Work

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

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

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

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

6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

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

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

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

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

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

7. Committee Member Attendance

A total of 7 meetings were held by virtual means between October 2022 and May 2023. Attendance by members of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 year is shown in the table below.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Karen Davies	7	100
Cllr. Arwel Davies	6	86
Cllr. Colin Evans	3	43
Cllr Neil Lewis	6	86
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	7	100
Cllr. Gareth Thomas	5	71
Cllr. Peter Cooper	4	57
Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles (joined the Committee 24/11/22)	3	43
Cllr. Tina Higgins	7	100
Cllr .John James	7	100
Cllr. Gary Jones	3	43
Cllr. Sue Allen	7	100
Cllr. Nysia Evans (left Committee after 4/10/22)	1	14

Substitutes	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	2
Cllr. Alex Evans	2
Cllr. Dot Jones	1
Cllr. Hefin Jones	1
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1

Cabinet Member	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Ann Davies	1
Cllr. Philip Hughes	1
Cllr. Alun Lenny	2
Cllr. Edward Thomas	6
Cllr. Aled Vaughan-Owen	7

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2023/24

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Committee confirms and notes its Forward Work Plan for 2023/24.

Reasons:

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

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2023/24

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

The Forward Work Plan:

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

Members will recall that the Committee held an informal Forward Work Plan development session on 13th June, 2023 to begin the process of formulating the forward work plan for 2023/24. This afforded Members the opportunity to develop the Committee's Forward Work Plan within the remit of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

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

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Forward Work Plan 2023/24

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/ CONSULTED	N/A The relevant Cabinet Members to the Committee’s remit have been informed of the draft FWP.
--	--

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	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	Meetings from September 2015 onwards: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=134

This page is intentionally left blank

Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - Forward Work Plan 2023/24

21 st July 2023	3 rd October 2023	23 rd November 2023	14 th December 2023	30 th January 2024	11 th March 2024	22 nd April 2024
Forward Work Programme 2023/24	PS&CC scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23	Highways Asset Management Plan Annual Statement update	Planning Enforcement	Budget Monitoring Report (April – October 2023)	Equestrian Strategy	Budget Monitoring Report (April – December 2023)
Task and Finish Group Report on the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.	A Strategic Plan for Managing Our Land for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire	Budget Monitoring Report (April – August 2023)	Pest Control	Flood Risk Management Plan-2		Public Rights of Way
PS&CC Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/2023	Waste Strategy Update	Local Toilet Strategy	Electric Fleet	Environment Act Forward Plan – (Jan 2023 – Dec 2025)		
Free Parking	Bulky Waste Review	Performance Monitoring Report Q2	PSPO (alcohol and drug related ASB and crime)			
PSPO (prevention dog fouling)						
Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail – as agreed by at the FWP development session on 13th June 2023 Forthcoming Items to include scrutiny queries and feedback at the next meeting.						
Budget Monitoring Report (April 2022-Feb 2023)	Shoreline Management Plan-2; an update on its Delivery.					
Council Annual Report 2022-23	Budget Monitoring Report (April to June 2023)					

PS&CC Scrutiny Member – Focussed Development Sessions/Site Visits:-

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

Cwm Environmental Ltd – 30/6/2023

TASK & FINISH REVIEW:

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

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

Update: The Task and Finish Group at its first meeting on 8th September, 2021 received an update from the Director of Environment on internal matters that had arisen since the Scrutiny Committee agreement on its Task and Finish arrangements and the endorsement of the review planning and scoping document in July. Considering the information received, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on Flytipping to 2022 following the Election process. The Committee at its meeting on 25th November 2021 received and noted a report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the reasons for the deferral. A revised Planning and Scoping Document was considered and a group was formulated at the Committee meeting held on 24th November 2022.

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

The Task and Finish review on flytipping is currently being finalised.

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

Task and Finish Group Final Report

REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FLYTIPPING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To endorse the report and recommendations for further consideration by the Cabinet.

Reasons:

- At its meeting on 24th November 2022, the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee agreed the planning and scoping document and formulated a politically balanced Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of the management of Flytipping in Carmarthenshire.
- The recommendations contained within the report have been formulated by the Group following the consideration of a range of evidence over a series of meetings held between December 2022 and June 2023.

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen (Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)

Chair of the Task & Finish Group:

Cllr. John James

Report Author:

Jonathan Morgan
Dan John
Sue Watts
Janine Owen

Designations:

Head of Housing
Interim Head of Waste
Environmental Protection
Manager
Democratic Services Officer

Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:

JohnJames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
01267 224030

jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
dwjohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

Task and Finish Group Final Report

REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FLYTIPPING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

1.0 Review Background

The Environment and Public Protection Committee, at its informal Forward Work Programme Development Session held on 9th April 2021, considered a topic suggestion from a Community Council who submitted a suggestion that the Committee to consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.

Committee Members recognised that fly-tipping was an increasing problem throughout Carmarthenshire and that the consequence had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities.

Following an informal agreement, the Committee, at its meeting on 2nd July 2021 considered a Planning and Scoping document on a Task and Finish Group's review of the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire. The Committee unanimously accepted the document and officially commissioned a task and finish group to undertake a focussed review which commenced in September 2021. However, following an update from the Director of Environment at the first meeting, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on fly-tipping to 2022, following the Election process. Subsequently, the Committee, at its meeting on 25th November, 2021 received and noted a report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the reasons for the deferral.

A revised Planning and Scoping Document was endorsed on 24th November 2022 and a politically balanced group of 6 members was formulated.

The Group, in accordance with the scoping and planning document carried out a focussed review by exploring the relevant policies, the current management process and considered how to improve upon them in order to help to reduce fly-tipping whilst using resources effectively.

2.0 The Scope and main aims of the review

The scope and aims of the review were formulated to consider and evaluate the current internal processes, operational issues and partnership arrangements of fly tipping on public and private land and explore improvements to help to reduce Fly Tipping, making sure we maximise the effectiveness of the resources available.

The subject for review aligns with the Council's Vision; 'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment' contributing to the objectives connecting to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015.

The Group undertook a review to:

- Review the drivers of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire;
- Identify and review other areas of the UK where there have been successful changes to policies and procedures that will then have a positive impact on Fly Tipping;
- Investigate best practice from other local authorities across the country in relation to Fly Tipping collection and handling;
- Investigate best practice from other local authorities regarding Fly Tipping Education, Information Gathering, Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution techniques;
- Explore how the sharing of information between sections and other agencies is currently undertaken; and
- Review the current internal processes and operational management issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.

3.0 Corporate / community objectives and well- being objectives

The Group agreed that the review coincided with the Council's Vision:

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

The review would contribute to achieving the following corporate / community objectives and well- being objectives and outcomes that contributed to the following Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives from the County Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23

(<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214849/corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf>):

Start Well/Live	In a Healthy Safe and Prosperous Environment
Wellbeing Objective 8 Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)	Wellbeing Objective 12 Looking after the environment now and for the future
Wellbeing Objective 9 Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities	Wellbeing Objective 15 Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources

4.0 Approach

A total of 9 meetings were held between December 2022 and June 2023, during which the Group considered evidence and information from a wide variety of sources. The sessions were designed to provide the Group with the relevant information, context and background to the topic.

The Task and Finish Group's membership was as follows:

- Cllr. John James (Chair)
- Cllr. Neil Lewis (Vice Chair)
- Cllr. Sue Allen
- Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles
- Cllr. Arwel Davies
- Cllr. Dorian Phillips

The Democratic Services Unit based in the Chief Executive's Department, provided research and general support to the Group.

The following officers provided specialist advice and support during the Group's review:

- Jonathan Morgan (Head of Housing)
- Daniel John (Interim Head of Waste)
- Sue Watts (Environmental Protection Manager)
- Robert Williams (Public health Lead)
- Steven Raymond (Environmental Enforcement Officer)
- Michael Roberts (Local Environment Quality Policy Officer)
- Jonathan Willis (Environmental Projects Manager)

5.0 Recommendations

The Group has concluded with the following recommendations for Cabinet approval:

➤ Recommendation One

To further explore the potential of streamlining the current Council's management of fly-tipping by way of a 'one team' approach in order to strengthen the departmental management of fly-tipping between private and public land sectors.

➤ Recommendation Two

To improve on the current reporting and recording of fly-tipping to ensure convenience for residents and provide a robust and accurate collation of data.

➤ **Recommendation Three**

To review and strengthen the current Education, Prevention and Communication Strategy to include:-

- i. the development of a Communications and Engagement Action Plan taking into account different types of fly-tipping across rural and urban settings;
- ii. Utilise social media to reach and engage with the public on a regular 'light touch' basis to ensure messages remain current.
- iii. a more prevalent presence at shows/fetes/Eisteddfod.

➤ **Recommendation Four**

To develop a co-ordinated approach with partners including robust arrangements to work together in tackling the issue of fly-tipping.

➤ **Recommendation Five**

To increase the use of overt CCTV in identified hotspot areas.

➤ **Recommendation Six**

To develop a Fly-tipping strategy which clearly sets out the Councils approach to flytipping.

To include:

- i. a criteria of corrective actions for first time fly-tipping offenders – Enforcement officer's discretion on a case-by-case basis
- ii. the clearance of fly-tipping incidents during the investigation phase

➤ **Recommendation Seven**

To introduce a regular joint crime prevention / enforcement forum with Councillors, Officers, partners and neighbouring local authorities (sharing best practice)

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	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Key strategic policies have been considered throughout the review and this review contributes towards achieving the Carmarthenshire County Council Well-being objectives as follows:

- **Live Well**
 - **Wellbeing Objective 8**
Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)
 - **Wellbeing Objective 9**
Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities
- **Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Environment**
 - **Wellbeing Objective 12**
Looking after the environment now and for the future
 - **Wellbeing Objective 15**
Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources

2. Legal

The development of a new fly-tipping strategy, policy and enforcement activities would be reviewed by the CCC legal team.

3. Finance

At this stage, there are no additional costs in relation to any of the recommendations as these would be managed by way of the current CCC staffing resources, within budget allocations and progress monitored by way of an action plan.

CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE?	YES
--	-----

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Task & Finish Group Planning and Scoping Document – PS&CC Scrutiny Committee (24 th November 2022)	Revised Planning and Scoping Document / Minutes: https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=403&MId=7127&Ver=4
County Council’s Corporate Strategy 2018-2023	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1214849/corporate-strategy-2018-23.pdf

This page is intentionally left blank

A Review of The Management of Fly Tipping within Carmarthenshire



**A report from the Task and Finish Group –
Place, Sustainable and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee**

CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's Foreword	3
Members of the Task and Finish Group	4
Acknowledgements	5
1.0 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND	6
1.1 Purpose	6
1.2 Scope	6
2.0 METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS	7
2.1 Methodology	7
2.2 Process	8
3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICIES	9
4.0 KEY FINDINGS	10
4.1 Strategic Approach	10
4.2 Data Systems and Recording	12
4.3 Education, Prevention and Communication	13
4.4 Management Arrangements	14
4.5 Enforcement Approach	15
4.6 Key Stakeholders, Expert Advisers and Witnesses	18
5.0 CONCLUSIONS	19
6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	20
7.0 APPENDICES	22
8.0 GLOSSARY	22

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure in presenting the final report of the Task and Finish Group which was identified initially by the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee and following a deferment and the general election the newly named Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review into the Management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire considering the negative impact it has on our communities and our environment.



The waste dumped by fly-tippers is unsightly and dangerous and attracts flies and vermin, creating the potential of spreading disease. The negative impact on our environment, wildlife, biodiversity, and people is vast, as a lot of waste materials are hazardous and not biodegradable. Also, fly-tipping undermines legitimate waste businesses where illegal operators undercut those in Carmarthenshire who operate within the law.

This review has provided this Task & Finish Group with the opportunity to consider issues and evidence in more detail through engaging with significant stakeholders. Of particular importance it has given the Group the chance to learn more about the legislation and policies that impact on the council such as safety, the environment, contractors, landowner's responsibilities, and financial implications.

Fly-tipping is a needless blight on our environment and on our communities. There are simple, safe, and compliant ways to manage domestic and trade waste. By engaging a recognised waste management company residents can be assured their waste will be handled responsibly. This is one of the key messages this report wants to put over to the residents of Carmarthenshire.

I would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who engaged with the group. Their time and commitment provided us with an invaluable insight into local issues regarding fly-tipping and what is currently being done and to what potentially can be done. I would also like to thank Cabinet Member, Cllr. Aled Vaughan-Owen, all the Council Officers and the Councillors who participated in this Task & Finish Group

Councillor John James
Chair of the Task and Finish Group and
Chair of the Environmental and Public Protection and Scrutiny Committee

Members of the Task and Finish Group

Following a deferment of the review, the Place, Sustainability Committee, at its meeting on November 2022 considered a revised Planning and Scoping document on a Task and Finish Group's review of the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire. The Committee unanimously accepted the document and officially commissioned a task and finish group to undertake a focussed review which commenced in December 2022 which comprised of the following cross-party membership:-

		
<p>Cllr. Sue Allen Whitland Independent</p>	<p>Cllr. Arwel Davies Cilycwm Plaid Cymru</p>	<p>Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles Burry Port Welsh Labour</p>
		
<p>Cllr. John James (Chair) Burry Port Welsh Labour</p>	<p>Cllr. Neil Lewis Abergwili Plaid Cymru</p>	<p>Cllr. Dorian Phillips Llanboidy Plaid Cymru</p>

Acknowledgements:

Members of the Task and Finish Group would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those who took part in the Review:

Internal expert advisors from the Public Protection and Environment Departments, Carmarthenshire County Council:

- Jonathan Morgan (Head of Housing)
- Daniel John (Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services)
- Sue Watts (Environmental Protection Manager)
- Robert Williams (Public health Lead)
- Steven Raymond (Environmental Enforcement Officer)
- Michael Roberts (Local Environment Quality Policy Officer)
- Jonathan Willis (Environmental Projects Manager)

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability – Councillor Aled Vaughan-Owen

Partners:

National Resources Wales (NRW)
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Dyfed-Powys Police
Farmers Union Wales

Scrutiny Review Support:

Janine Owen – Democratic Services Officer

1.0 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The Environment and Public Protection Committee, at its informal Forward Work Programme Development Session held on 9th April 2021, considered a topic suggestion from a Community Council who submitted that the Committee consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire.

Committee Members recognised that fly-tipping was an increasing problem throughout Carmarthenshire and that the consequence had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities.

Following an informal agreement, the Committee, at its meeting on 2nd July 2021 considered a Planning and Scoping document on a Task and Finish Group's review of the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire. The Committee unanimously accepted the document and officially commissioned a task and finish group to undertake a focussed review which commenced in September 2021. However, following an update from the Director of Environment at the first meeting, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on fly-tipping to 2022, following the Election process. Subsequently, the Committee, at its meeting on 25th November, 2021 received and noted a report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the reasons for the deferral.

A revised Planning and Scoping Document was endorsed on 24th November 2022 and a politically balanced group of 6 members was formulated.

The Group, in accordance with the scoping and planning document carried out a focussed review by exploring the relevant policies, the current management process and considered how to improve upon them in order to help to reduce fly-tipping whilst using resources effectively.

1.1 PURPOSE

A Task and Finish Group review group was commissioned by Members of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to review the management of fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire. Through research and information gathering, the group was tasked to explore the potential areas for improvement and identify recommendations for the Cabinet to consider.

1.2 SCOPE

The scope and aims of the review were formulated to consider and evaluate the current internal processes, operational issues and partnership arrangements of fly tipping on public and private land and explore improvements to help to reduce Fly Tipping, making sure we maximise the effectiveness of the resources available.

The subject for review aligns with the Council's Vision; 'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment' contributing to the objectives connecting to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015.

The Group undertook a review to:

- Review the drivers of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire;
- Identify and review other areas of the UK where there have been successful changes to policies and procedures that will then have a positive impact on Fly Tipping;
- Investigate best practice from other local authorities across the country in relation to Fly Tipping collection and handling;
- Investigate best practice from other local authorities regarding Fly Tipping Education, Information Gathering, Surveillance, Enforcement and Prosecution techniques;
- Explore how the sharing of information between sections and other agencies is currently undertaken; and
- Review the current internal processes and operational management issues of fly tipping on public and private land in Carmarthenshire.

2.0 METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

2.1 METHODOLOGY

Through a series of meetings, Task and Finish Group members gathered information on the issues in relation to Fly-tipping on both private and public land. As part of the process and to make sure there were clear findings and recommendations the following areas were identified as areas of focus:

- The strategic approach;
- Current approach to data systems and recording;
- Approach to education and prevention;
- Management arrangements and joint working;
- Enforcement approach; and
- Communication and publicity.

The above discussions were supported by involvement of partner agencies and an assessment of the impact on the environment, landowners and communities.

The methodology applied incorporated various techniques which included a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods, drawing upon data received from the Council's Environment and Communities departments and face to face discussions with key stakeholders.

The review was completed in six meetings between December 2022 and April 2023.

The research included:

- Desktop exercises – presentations by key officers
- Interviewing key stakeholders – Enforcement and Witnesses;
- Local knowledge / information obtained by the Task and Finish Group members;
- Data and evidence provided by Officers from the Environmental and Communities departments;
- Evidence provided by a presentation from the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign; and
- Financial information associated with the cost of dealing with fly tipping;

2.2 PROCESS

The Place, Sustainability and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 24th November 2022, formally received and endorsed the aims within the scoping and planning document for the review. A cross party Task and Finish group membership was commissioned to commence in December 2022 with a view undertake a focussed review due to be completed in 22/23 municipal year.

The timetable of the events leading to the production of this report are set out below:

Meeting Date		Plan
1	Wednesday, 8th December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Desktop Research - key officers presentation ➤ Considering the above information, the group <p>Reviewed and agreed the aims, project plan and overall approach</p>
2	Thursday, 26th January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current process of the management of fly-tipping, identify policy change/ in house improvements • Education, prevention and intervention strategies (promotion of behavioural change and positive reinforcement)
3	Tuesday 7th February 2023	Question and answer session with key stakeholders
4	Monday, 14th February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the information received from witnesses (7/2) • Reviewed the current Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Authority and partner Agencies

Meeting Date		Plan
5	Wednesday, 8th March 2023	Discussion with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability Group discussion on conclusions and possible recommendations
6	Thursday, 23rd March 2023	Agreed to defer the presentation of the report to 30 th June Place, Sustainability and Climate Change meeting to allow more time to finalise report.
7	Wednesday, 3rd May 2023	Review the recommendations of the report.
8	Tuesday, 13th June 2023	Discussed the contents of the Task and Finish Group report.
9	Monday, 10th July 2023	The Group costed the recommendations and finalised the report.
	Friday, 21st July 2023	Presentation of final report by the Task and Finish Group to the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

- Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015;
- Fly tipping Protocol (Wales);
- Welsh Government Litter and Fly Tipping Plan;
- Corporate Strategy 2021-2023 (incorporating Well Being Objectives specifically for Carmarthenshire);
- Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2016-2021 (currently under review); and
- Code of Practice Litter and Refuse.
- General Enforcement Policy

Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and Carmarthenshire County Council Corporate Wellbeing Objectives

The Task and Finish Group agreed that the issues and consequences of fly-tipping also aligns with the following specific well-being objectives.

- **Live Well**
 - **Wellbeing Objective 8**
Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)
 - **Wellbeing Objective 9**
Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities
- **Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Environment**
 - **Wellbeing Objective 12**
Looking after the environment now and for the future
 - **Wellbeing Objective 15**
Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources

4.0 KEY FINDINGS

The group considered information which has been summarised below in line with the key areas of focus that were identified during the review process.

Fly-tipping is the common term used to describe waste illegally deposited on land. The offence of fly-tipping and the additional offences of knowingly causing or knowingly permitting fly-tipping are set out in Section 33 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The waste can be solid or liquid and can vary on scale from the size of a bin bag of rubbish to large scale dumping of construction.

There is also an associated offence relating to the unlawful deposit of waste from a motor vehicle, whereby the person who controls or is in a position to control the vehicle shall be treated as knowingly causing the waste to be deposited.

Fly-tipping is a national issue, driven by a number of different influencing factors.

- Seasonally fly-tips will fluctuate in number and type, for example, the number of fly-tipping incidents containing garden waste increases during the summer.
- There is a direct correlation between the number of fly-tips and the state of the economy.
- Other influencing factors include differing socio-economic groups, transient populations and absent landlords.

4.1 Strategic Approach

4.1.1 Current situation

A high volume of fly tipped waste incidents is blighting communities within Carmarthenshire. The waste poses a threat to the environment which spoils the enjoyment of towns and villages. It is one of the most common forms of anti-social behaviour, constituting a criminal offence.

Fly-tipping can be defined as:

- Black bags (bags of rubbish) – fly-tipped by residents & linked to presentation of waste:
- Commercial Waste fly-tipping:
- Fly-tipping by transient populations:
- General fly-tipping by residents (bulky waste); and
- Recycling bring sites and litter bin abuse.

As part of the corporate well-being objectives one focus was enabling communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities).

Carmarthenshire Council currently manage incidents of fly-tipping by way of the following streams of approach:-

- **Public Land**
Waste and Environmental Services, Environment Department
- **Private Land**
Environmental Protection Section, Communities Department
- **Illegal Waste Sites**
Minerals and Waste Planning Section, Place and Infrastructure Department (construction and demolition waste)

4.1.2 Findings

It was found that the Council's Cleansing Service was clearing reported fly-tipping within the target of four days on nearly all occasions; the problem was that incidents were happening again just as fast as they were being cleared. This evidenced a need to develop a strategic approach, which focused on preventing and reducing the volume of fly-tipping.

The drivers for fly-tipping incidents were identified as follows:-

- Criminal Element/financial benefit
- Lack of information/educating owners, occupiers, landlords etc
- Social Economic/areas of deprivation
- Local Authority Policies on disposal of waste following Welsh Government Policies and Targets
- COVID and access to services
- Access to services/infrastructure – Household Waste Recycling Centres / Bulky Waste Service
- Convenience

4.1.3 Observations

At present there is no clear strategic approach to fly-tipping with the services being reactionary in their approach to clearance, enforcement and prevention.

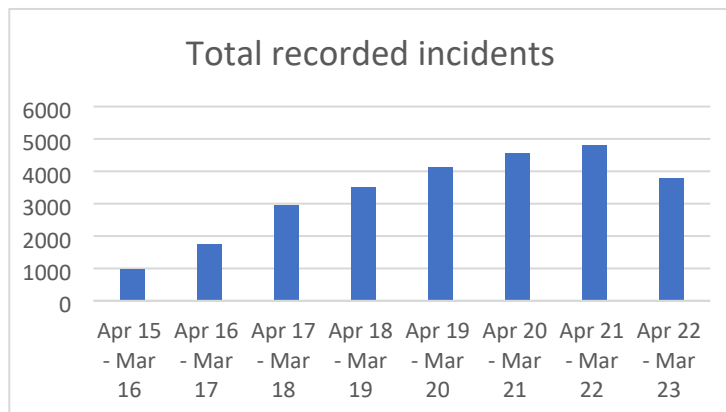
Develop a clear strategy to inform our future thinking around fly tipping.

A strategy would need to develop a vision and associated actions around several key themes: education; awareness raising; partnership working; and enforcement. Working collectively with residents, businesses, housing associations, landlords and our partners. With data underpinning our focus on hotspots and ensuring we educate as well as enforce.

4.2 Data Systems and Recording

4.2.1 Current situation

Fly-tipping incidents



The information below, highlights the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and court proceedings for the period 01/04/2021 to 31/03/22 and 01/04/2022 to 01/12/2022. Litter FPN's are issued for small scale illegal deposits of waste eg: cardboard box, black bag.

	Period 1 st April 2021 to 31 st March 2022*	Period 1 st April 2022 to 20 th of March 2023
Litter	62	114
Fly Tipping	11	33

*Period 1st of April 2021 to 31st of March 2022 coincides with lockdown restrictions easing.

Court proceedings 1st April 2022 to current date.

	Prosecuted	Pending Prosecutions
Litter	2	1
Fly tipping	12	5

At present the Council has multiple means of collating and recording fly-tipping data with the following systems being used (see section 7.0 for the details of each system):

- Flymapper
- TASK system
- APP system
- Firmstep
- Fix my street
- Internal reporting through Member enquiry process.

At present there is no consolidation/assessment of the data recorded across these multiple reporting/recording systems at local and national level. This leads to an inconsistent method of recording and results in a duplication of incidents being recorded in the nationally reported figures. However, the exact duplication figure is difficult to quantify.

4.2.2 Findings

The current approved Welsh Government reporting system is Fly-mapper, however, this system does not have a function to act as a work management tool. The APP system logs service complaints of fly-tipping sending information to the relevant team thereby giving more accurate data. However, this system does not have the ability to track and identify trends or hot-spot locations. TASK is also used to record public and member requests through the Democratic Services reporting and website systems. With the multiple reporting and recording methods in use, it was found that a single fly-tipping event was being recorded and reported several times.

In addition, there was currently a lack of clarity of what constitutes 'fly tipping', with complaints of littering, missed refuse collections, accumulation of waste in gardens and bags (stickered) that had been out for collection over days. These were a sample of complaints logged as 'fly tipping' causing an over inflation of the recorded fly-tipping figures.

4.2.3 Observations

A clear definition of Fly-tipping is required to provide clarity of reporting and recording supported by a single recording system to avoid duplication and erroneous records. This would enable the Council to accurately report the levels of fly-tipping and develop a targeted strategic approach.

4.3 Education, Prevention and Communication

4.3.1 Current situation

Council members endorsed a Local Environment Quality (LEQ) Management plan 2022-2026 which detailed aspects of education and prevention in relation to fly-tipping.

Carmarthenshire County Council is also heavily involved in Caru Cymru which is a collaboration project between 24 partners that aims to tackle Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) issues across Wales. This project engages people and communities in developing solutions to improve the environment for people and wildlife alike, bringing together LEQ expertise, undertaking research, targeted behaviour changes campaigns, and aiming to prevent litter at source and support community clean ups.

4.3.2 Findings

Although work had been delivered on Local Environmental Quality which encompassed in-part Fly-tipping, given the scale of the issue within Carmarthenshire, a greater emphasis on fly-tipping was needed with the development of a stand-alone education and prevention approach aligning with the objectives of reduction and prevention.

Research revealed that neighbouring authorities had used the 'Nudge Theory' which had proved successful by effectively reminding people that they could be being watched and that fly tipping is a crime.

At present, there is not a stand-alone approach for fly-tipping for Communication, Publicity and Engagement as this is undertaken in through the LEQ channels.



4.3.3 Observations

Group Members were keen to ensure that opportunities were being missed in educating the public about harm and damage that fly-tipping does to the environment, whilst at the same time provide guidance and supportive information to victims of fly-tipping. Members were keen for the Council to enhance the following areas:

- Improved attendance at local shows
- Requests for attendance
- School education program
- Communication of enforcement activity and perpetrators

4.4 Management arrangements

4.4.1 Current situation

The Environmental Enforcement Team are responsible for Investigating Environmental crimes committed on “Public Land”. The team of officers have been afforded legislative powers to respond to such incidents as Fly Tipping. The team has no responsibility to clear and remove fly-tipping from public land and this duty is undertaken by the cleansing service. The Enforcement Team when at full strength, consists of one line manager and eight Environmental Enforcement Officers. The County is divided into four areas, with two Officers operating within each area.

The Public Health Team in the Environmental Protection Section are responsible for investigating and enforcing fly tipping on private land. Fly-tipping is a non-statutory waste (where it is not a public health issue). The Team is made up of four officers, each with their own area.

The two teams engage with each other on issues and involve both other internal and external stakeholders and have strong relationships with key partners.

4.4.2 Findings

At present, the two-team internal approach often leads to a duplication of efforts and also misunderstandings in terms of the scope and responsibility of each team. The public and Members desire a speedy resolution to fly-tipping and a separated approach could impact on the timeliness of in terms of managing fly-tipping incidents.

Although there are good working relationships with partner organisations this is often done on a reactionary basis and a result of an incident. A formalised strategic multi-agency group could enhance working arrangements and develop a greater understanding of fly-tipping causation, hot spots and perpetrators.

The work of the two departments raised concern in regard to the lack of knowledge of the work each department was undertaking. Whilst the approach to dealing with each reported incident was being managed, the level of duplication that was and could potentially occur was of concern. It was felt that the link between the departments could be better streamlined and strengthened by way of a one team approach. The current process to deal with incidents of fly-tipping on private land is located at Appendix A and public land at Appendix B.

4.4.3 Observations

Members of the task and finish group whilst considering the management arrangements felt that there may be benefit in exploring the following to avoid Duplication of efforts and improve efficiency:

One Team Approach: A Single team responsible for public and private land fly-tipping.

Timely clearance: Enforcement officers require adequate resources/equipment to clear fly-tipping at the investigation stage.

4.5 Enforcement Approach

4.5.1 Current situation

Currently, in Carmarthenshire, fly-tipping is being investigated where evidence is available, this includes evidence from local residents who may have witnessed the incident. The Council's Enforcement Team of 8 officers has a multi-faceted purpose including tackling environmental issues, including dog fouling, litter, abandoned vehicles, commercial waste management and prosecutions for fly-tipping cases where evidence is found. All Enforcement Officers obtain the skills, training and knowledge required to effectively tackle fly-tipping. Carmarthenshire Council actively encourages stakeholders to report fly-tipping incidents on the public highway and other council owned land online or telephone.

The team effectively deals with environmental crime, which they have been afforded a range of legislative powers enabling them to catch and deter those who illegally deposit waste. The principal piece of legislation widely used by the team is, "The Environmental Protection Act 1990". Sections contained within the Act allows the enforcement team to combat and target such instances as:

Description of Offence	Max FPN Amount	Max Penalty Upon Conviction
Persons who Illegally Deposit Waste (Fly Tipping)	£400	Unlimited Fine/Imprisonment
Persons Who Transport Waste and Fail To Produce Waste Documents	£300	Unlimited Fine
Householders Who Fail To Comply With Duty of Care Regs	£300	On Summary Conviction Unlimited Fine
Persons Who Deposit Litter	£125	£2500
Persons Who Fail To Comply With a Waste Receptacle Notice	£100	£1000

Additional powers are contained in The Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989.

Description of Offence	Max FPN Amount	Max Penalty Upon Conviction
Persons Who Fail To Produce Authority To Transport Waste	£300	£5000

Contained within the Legislation, the enforcement team can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) as a way for an offender to discharge any liability to conviction for the offence. As a guide to how officers determine the category and consequence for the offender, consideration is given to the following.

- Up to the size of one black bag – Litter FPN = £125
- Between one black bag and eight bags – Fly Tipping FPN = £400
- Over eight black bags = Prosecution

Any mitigating circumstances could require a different approach eg: The waste was classified to be hazardous waste.

In the event of a business being caught fly tipping, there is no provision to issue a fixed penalty notice, and the matter would be subjected to court proceedings.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Environmental Enforcement Team have a range of CCTV systems which are deployed to deter and catch those who illegally deposit waste or fly tip at locations commonly known as 'hot spots'. Hot spots can be classed as areas known to be subjected to high levels of fly tipping incidents.

The Enforcement Team regularly receive requests to deploy CCTV. Any CCTV deployment is not regarded as a panacea to a problem but is regarded as a 'useful tool' in reducing fly tipping incidents.

4.5.2 Findings

The recycling facility at Carway Football Club was identified as a fly-tipping hotspot with regular incidents occurring. Carmarthenshire County Council in partnership with Carway Football Club deployed a CCTV system in order to capture the perpetrators in the act providing suitable evidence towards a potential prosecution.



CCTV was deployed at this location on Two separate Occasions – 15th March 2022 – 27th June 2022 and 4th July 2022 – 27th October 2022. The success of the CCTV is shown in the statistics:-

Total FPN's Issued = 36.

Paid = 29.

Straight Prosecution = 1

Prosecutions.

Court Hearings = 3 All Guilty.

Files submitted to Legal Awaiting Trial = 2

Other result

Formal Caution = 1

Failure to Prosecute = 1 (Outside Statute of Limitations).

4.5.3 Observations

The current approach to enforcement is either a verbal warning, a Fixed Penalty Notice or a court summons. Group Members are keen to develop an approach where a corrective action for first time offenders could be implemented.

It was clear that the use of CCTV at Carway evidenced the benefits of such an approach the it was acknowledged that an increased CCTV activity in a coordinated way could be of benefit in reducing further fly-tipping in known areas.

4.6 Key Stakeholders, Expert Advisers and Witnesses

Whilst managing fly-tipping involves working with a range of external stakeholders the group at its meeting on 7th February, 2023 invited the following stakeholders to the meeting in order to gain a better understanding of how fly-tipping is managed outside of the Authority and to gauge the level of integration and effectiveness of the current approach:-

- Chairman, Carway Football Club;
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- Dyfed Powys Police;
- Natural Resource Wales.

A series of questions were asked which provided valuable information to inform this report. The discussions highlighted that stakeholders had a range of approaches to respond to fly-tipping and worked with others in order to prevent and educate about fly-tipping.

Members of the Task and Finish Group would like to thank stakeholders for their assistance and openness during the course of the investigation. Relevant information has helped in the formulation of the recommendations to Cabinet.

4.6.1 Observations

Members recognised the value of working with partners in a co-ordinated approach and felt that it would be beneficial to make robust arrangements to work together in tackling the issue of fly-tipping.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

After all the evidence was collated, the following conclusions were drawn:

Following the analysis of the research undertaken, together with the information gathered, Members of the Task and Finish Group arrived at the following conclusions:-

1. Fly-tipping whether it be on private or public land in Carmarthenshire has a significant impact on residents, the environment and council resources;
2. Based on the overall evidence, Members realised that improvements could be made to strengthen and improve the way the local authority managed fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire;
3. In finding that whilst the current approach to fly-tipping was reactionary and dictated by demand, with enforcement being exercised as necessary, Members strongly believed that investment in advisory/education/prevention would be a sustainable approach rather than continuing to invest in advancing enforcement;
4. Reporting issues were arising in the fact that there was an absence in a clear definition of fly tipping and a strategy;
5. The internal management of fly-tipping on public and private between the two departments managing fly-tipping on public and private land raised concern. It was felt that the link between the departments could be streamlined and strengthened by way of a one team approach;
6. The research in relation to the provision of CCTV at the Carway Football Club provided clear evidence of a marked improvement deterring fly-tipping in the area. It was felt that in identifying hotspots and working in partnership this could be replicated providing a solution for the area;
7. A decision/definition on types of waste to be cleared from private land (with consent of the landowner) including quantity limit (MoU with NRW =<20m3). This is to include aesthetics, cost, implications on consequences (wrong messages to perpetrators that waste can be dumped and will be cleared with little recourse in Carmarthenshire).

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Task and finish group have undertaken extensive research on the current internal management of fly-tipping in regard to both public and private land. In considering the findings of the research and drawing the conclusion propose that the Cabinet approve the following recommendations:

Recommendation One

To further explore the potential of streamlining the current Council's management of fly-tipping by way of a 'one team' approach in order to strengthen the departmental management of fly-tipping between private and public land sectors.

Cost implication

This will be developed as part of the review into the options and considered within the analysis.

Implementation Term

Medium Term

Recommendation Two

To improve on the current reporting and recording of fly-tipping to ensure convenience for residents and provide a robust and accurate collation of data.

Cost implication

This will be developed as part of the review into the options.

Implementation Term

Short Term

Recommendation Three

To review and strengthen the current Education, Prevention and Communication Strategy to include:-

- i. the development of a Communications and Engagement Action Plan taking into account different types of fly-tipping across rural and urban settings;
- ii. Utilise social media to reach and engage with the public on a regular 'light touch' basis to ensure messages remain current.
- iii. a more prevalent presence at shows/fetes/Eisteddfod.

Associated cost implications

In the development of this strategy, in conjunction with the Marketing and Media Team a costed action plan will be developed which will fit within the current budget allocation for the services.

Implementation Term

Short Term

Recommendation Four

To develop a co-ordinated approach with partners including robust arrangements to work together in tackling the issue of fly-tipping.

Associated cost implications

CCC Staff Resource costs only

Implementation Term

Short Term

Recommendation Five

To increase the use of overt CCTV in identified hotspot areas.

Associated cost implications

Costs associated to the initial set up of CCTV
Costs of ongoing resources which would be recovered through successful prosecutions.
The aim is to provide a CCTV approach which is cost neutral.

Implementation Term

Medium/Long Term

Recommendation Six

To develop a Fly-tipping strategy which clearly sets out the Councils approach to flytipping.

To include:

- i. a criteria of corrective actions for first time fly-tipping offenders – Enforcement officer’s discretion on a case-by-case basis
- ii. the clearance of fly-tipping incidents during the investigation phase

Associated cost implications

CCC Staff Resource costs only

Implementation Term

Medium Term

Recommendation Seven

To introduce a regular joint crime prevention / enforcement forum with Councillors, Officers, partners and neighbouring local authorities (sharing best practice)

Associated cost implications

CCC Staff Resource costs only

Implementation Term

Medium Term

In order to monitor the progress of the recommendations, an action plan will be devised and managed through the in house developed Performance Information Monitoring System. A progress report will be monitored by the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

The outcomes of the recommendations will also be reported to the Cabinet and Council within the Corporate Strategy Performance Monitoring Report.

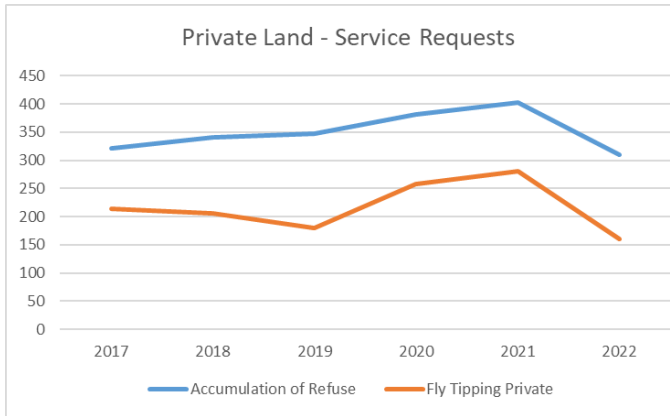
7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A	Data
Appendix B	Process of the management of fly-tipping – Private Land
Appendix C	Process of the management fly-tipping – Public Land
Appendix D	Environment Agency – Flytipping Protocol Flowchart (Wales)

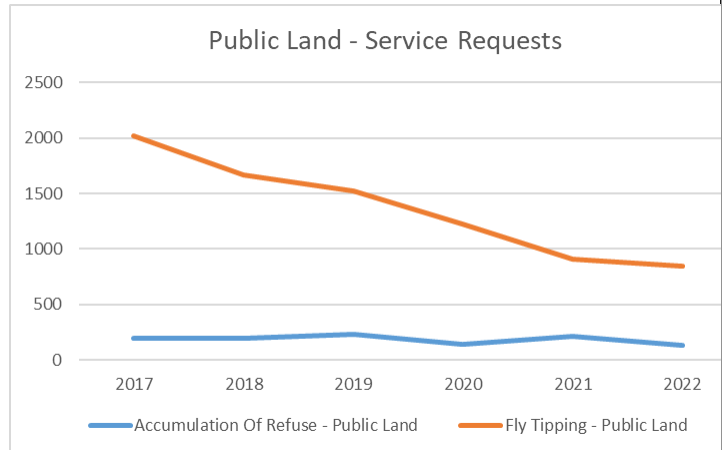
8.0 GLOSSARY

- Flymapper:**
FlyMapper is a web-based tool for the field recording of fly-tipping incidents. FlyMapper has two main components - a mobile application to record the location of incidents along with a photo, and a website where data can be analysed in more detail. FlyMapper has been developed as a practitioners tool for the recording and management of substantiated fly-tipping incidents.
- TASK system:**
Total repairs is a Job and financial management system which allows us to record and manage all activities within jobs received to include scheduling works/planned works/allocation and spend against each individual or group activity. Data is able to be analysed to provide up to date and historical information, monitor and improve service performance.
- APP system:**
Civica APP Management system is a software solution which allows regulatory services with Carmarthenshire to deliver responsive services, with case management at its core, all regulatory services tasks is managed by one platform, the system reduces the level of administration, boost productivity and in turn improves service quality, automated process to improve efficiency, manages the enquiries received for regulatory services within Carmarthenshire County Council.
- Firmstep:**
Firmstep is our CRM system used within the contact centre setting which manages interactions with customers and interfaces with total repairs to reduce administration in providing information in relation to service requests allocated to each department.
- Fix my street:**
FixMyStreet is a map-based website and app by mySociety that helps people in the United Kingdom inform their local authority of problems needing their attention, such as graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or broken streetlights, etc. Reports submitted to FixMyStreet are also published on the web site.
- CCTV** – Closed Circuit Television
- CRM** – Customer Records Management
- MoU** – Memorandum of Understanding
- NRW** – Natural Resource Wales
- FPN** – Fixed Penalty Notices

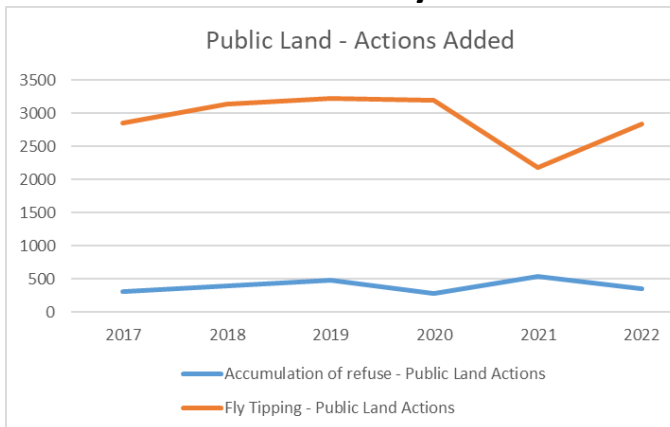
Reported service requests over last 5 years (PP)



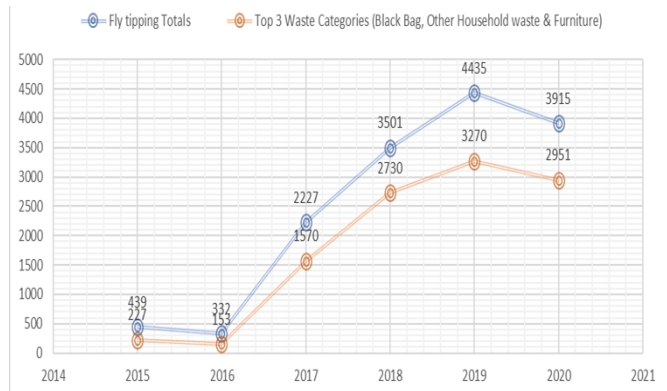
Reported service requests over last 5 years (PP)



Number of actions related to waste SR over last 5 years



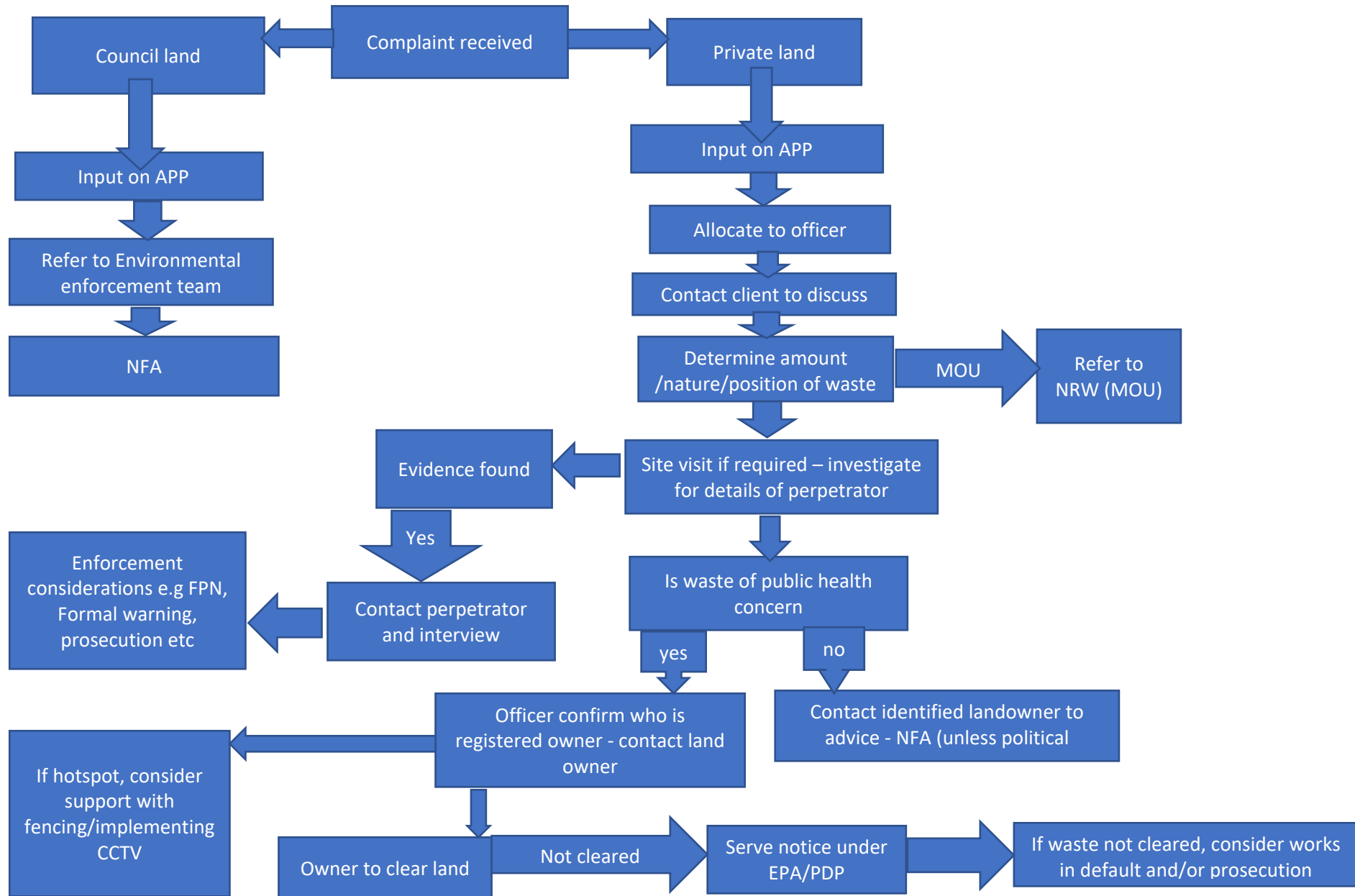
Fly mapper recordings



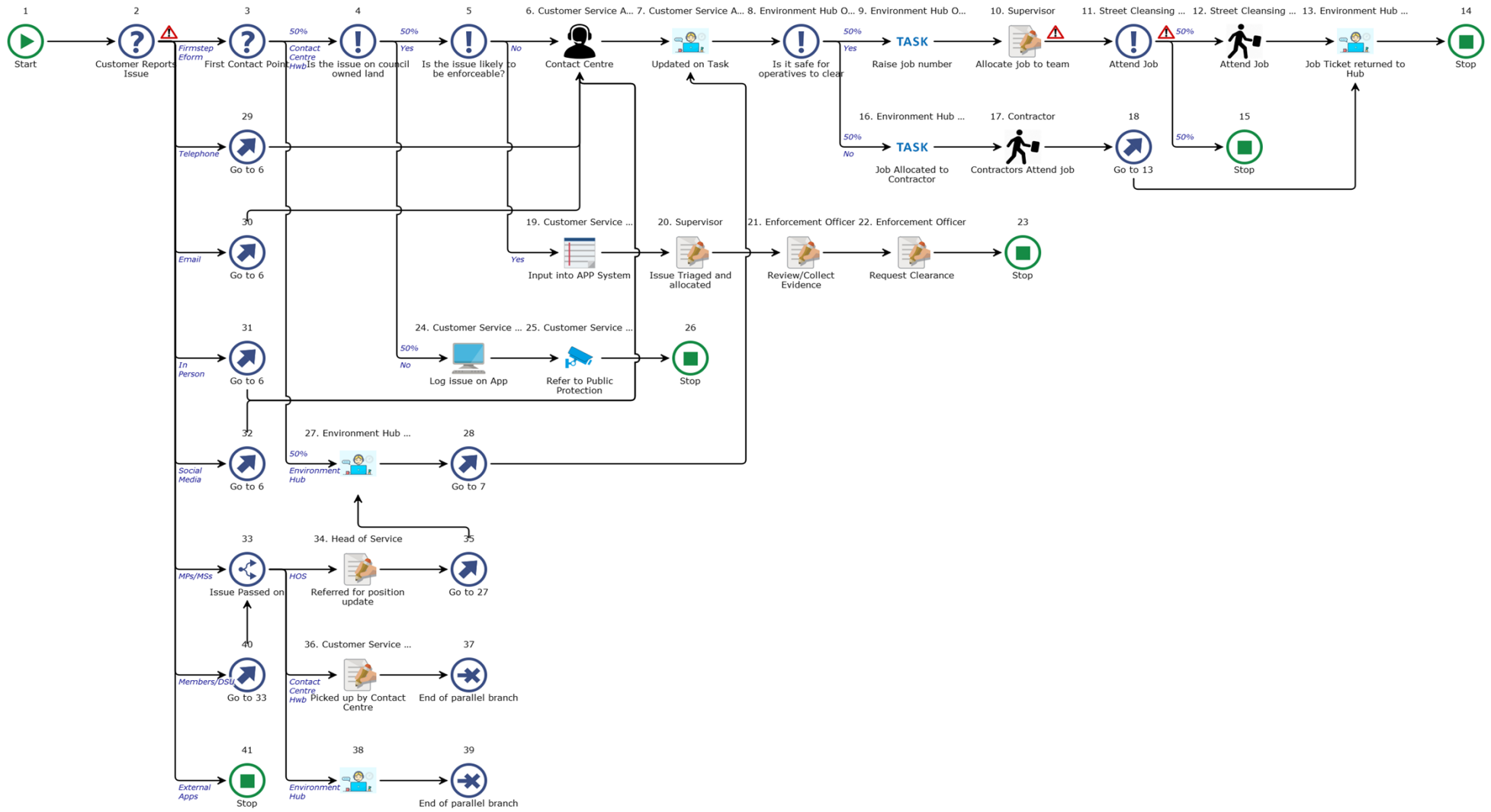
Number of actions related to waste SR over last 5 years

			2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Wales			36259	38614	35434	35076	33542
Wales	North Wales		5730	5975	5764	5622	5035
	North Wales	Isle of Anglesey	1831	2010	1567	1712	1305
Gwynedd		645	624	461	323	633	
Conwy		1078	1351	1540	1734	1162	
Denbighshire		1120	1004	1207	665	700	
Flintshire		898	800	774	1013	1067	
Wrexham		158	186	215	175	168	
Mid and South West Wales			10891	9214	8760	8836	8470
Mid and South West Wales	Powys	Powys	1019	1013	1436	1225	494
		Ceredigion	390	252	240	156	159
		Pembrokeshire	1199	1521	1323	1159	852
		Carmarthenshire	972	1732	2939	3516	4111
		Swansea	6040	3646	1766	1450	1450
		Neath Port Talbot	1271	1050	1056	1330	1404
South East Wales			19638	23425	20910	20618	20037
South East Wales	Bridgend	Bridgend	1086	1283	1604	1937	1788
		Vale of Glamorgan	532	612	324	357	371
		Rhondda Cynon Taff	4023	4252	3349	3247	2946
		Merthyr Tydfil	1682	1970	2273	2909	1850
		Caerphilly	2359	1992	1773	1949	2214
		Blaenau Gwent	723	845	955	1167	1327
		Torfaen	905	794	696	836	866
		Monmouthshire	303	414	420	300	572
		Newport	1811	3270	3588	2697	2725
		Cardiff	6214	7993	5928	5219	5378

Process map - Fly tipping private land



Process map - Fly tipping public land

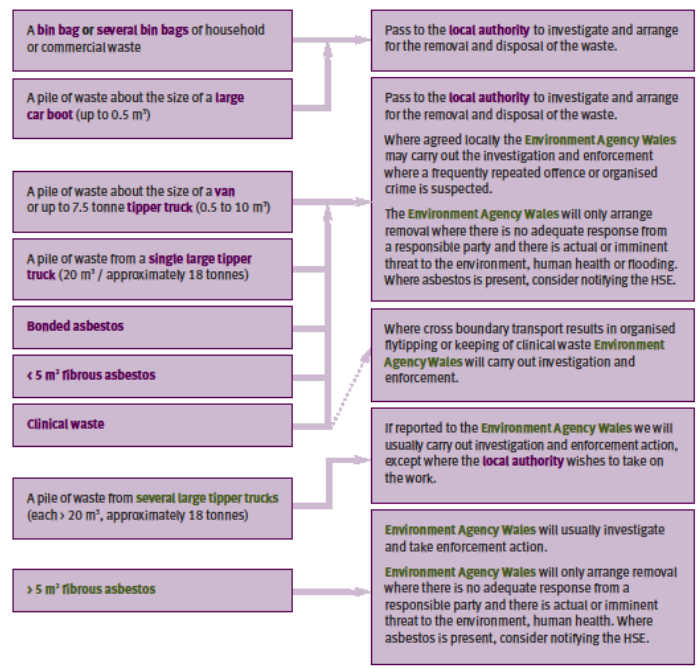




Flytipping protocol flow chart (Wales)

This document does not replace the flytipping protocol but can be used to determine the appropriate response.

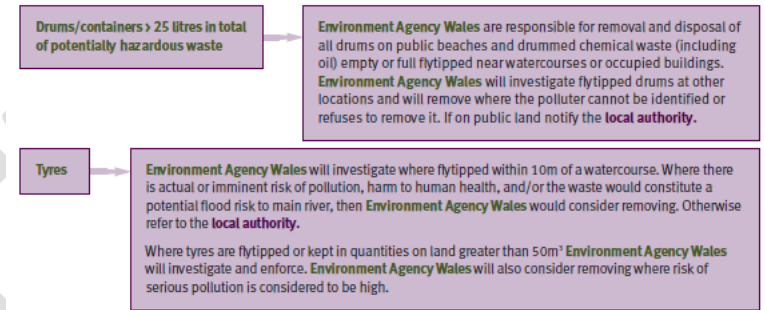
Reports of flytipping on public or private land



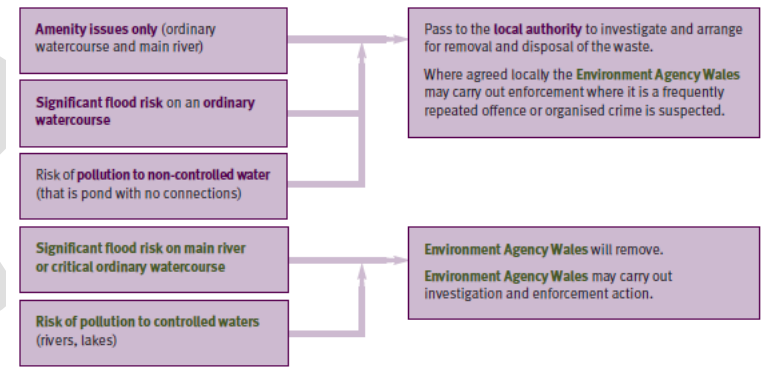
Author: EO Focus Team
Document owner: Claire Winlow
Doc no: 536_06

Issue date: February 2008
Review by: May 2009
Version: 2

Flytipping protocol flow chart (Wales)



Reports of flytipping and waste (including animal carcass) dumped in water or into tidal foreshore



Reports of illegal waste sites – landfills, transfer stations, treatment sites



This page is intentionally left blank

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

UPDATE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS

Purpose:

To consider the approach to Public Space Protection Orders based upon the evidence available regarding dog fouling that occurs on sports pitches.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

To consider the information and the proportionality of the proposed approach to Public Space Protection Orders for dog fouling on sports pitches.

Review the recommended option to tackle Dog Related ASB issues.

- The Authority to draft a standard proforma and toolkit for sports groups / town and community councils to support for community action.
- Provide evidence template to capture the nature and extent of the problem in specific locations to support additional orders that may be appropriate on a site-by-site basis.
- Introduction a Fixed Penalty Notice for the offence of not having the means of cleaning up after their dog in public spaces.

Reasons

It was recommended at the Place, Sustainability & Climate Change Scrutiny meeting of the 24th November 2022 to introduce a County wide ban of dog's entering a marked up sports pitch and the introduction a Fixed Penalty Notice for the offence of not of not having the means of cleaning up after their dog. This report provides members with an update and the options available to the authority based upon legal advice given.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Councillor Aled Vaughan-Owen - Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate:-

Name of Head of Service:

Daniel W John

Report Author: Michael Roberts

Designations:

Interim Head of Waste & Environmental Services.

Local Environmental Quality Policy Officer

Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:

01267 224531

DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 225806

MJRoberts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

UPDATE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE DOG ORDERS

1 SUMMARY REPORT.

- 1.1 On the 24th November 2022 the Scrutiny Committee recommended the introduction of an additional Countywide Public Spaces Protection Order to ban dogs from a defined sports pitches located within the county and the introduction of a fixed penalty notice for the offence of not having the means of cleaning up after their dog.
- 1.2 A review has been undertaken to gather the existing data of the problems and extent of dog related anti – social behaviour to support the introduction of an exclusion order of dogs from Marked sports pitches, the data gathered shows the number of complaints received in 2022 – 23 was just 209, and no complaints were received of dog related ASB occurring on playing fields or sports pitches.
- 1.3 A review was also undertaken of the previous consultations to see how many respondents raised the issue. It shows that a number of respondents have raised the issue over the years, although the number of responses which do so is quite low. It should be noted that this historical evidence is a number of years old and therefore of limited value.
- 1.4 Current data held by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The table below show the number of Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions taken by the authority since the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order 2016.

Table A: No of FPN's and Prosecutions taken by Carmarthenshire County Council.

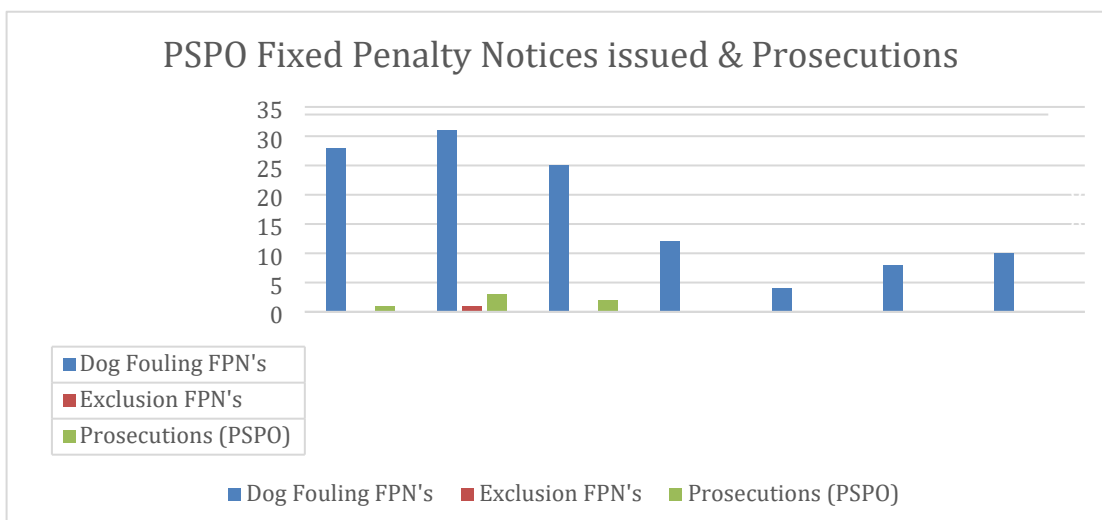
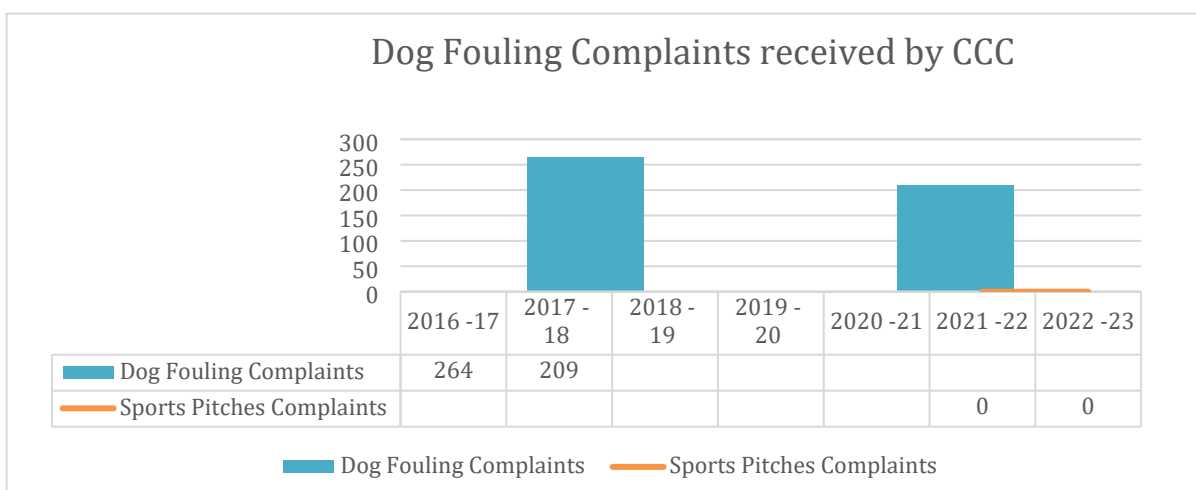


Table B: Number of complaints received by CCC for the 2021/22 7 2022/23 period.



N.B. No warning letter / community protection notices have been issued by the authority for dog related anti-social behaviour issues.

- 1.5 Legal Advice has stated that any PSPO needs to be evidence based, and a proportionate response to the problems which are occurring. From a legal perspective it is deemed that we have insufficient evidence at present to sufficiently demonstrate that the introduction of a County Wide PSPO to address this problem is proportionate.

- 1.6 Also, at present the authority does not have sufficient data on all community owned playing fields / sports pitches currently used in the county of Carmarthenshire. Further work will be required to identify these assets working with communities to identify areas that are maintained privately but are accessible to the public.
- 1.7 Based on the current available evidence gathered, and considering the proportionality of our options the recommendation is:
- To engage with communities and sports groups to facilitate further evidence gathering through the provision of a toolkit.
 - Maintain the use of existing powers to address the current problems.
 - Working with the community to develop site specific PSPO's based on evidence and proportionality to address the issue, once evidence is gathered and provided by the community or sports group.
- 1.8 A community proforma and toolkit is being produced for sports groups / town and community councils etc to support for community action in relation to dog fouling and provide an evidence template to capture the nature and extent of the problem to support any additional orders that may be appropriate.
- 1.9 The Toolkit will allow sports Groups / Town and Community Councils to records incidents as part of the evidence gathering electronically (epicollect system) or using paper audit sheets.
- 1.10 The Local Environmental Quality Team will provide guidance and support to all the Sports Groups / Town & Community Councils who want to undertake the evidence gathering exercise.

2. SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

1. Develop a community toolkit and evidence gathering proforma to support community groups and sports associations to tackle the problem of dog fouling.
2. Encourage sports Groups / stakeholders to provide greater intelligence to evidence the extent of the dog related anti-social behaviour to aid the enforcement team to undertake targeted action and develop site specific PSPOs based on proportionality.
3. Introduce a new Fixed Penalty Notice for the offence of not having the means of cleaning up after their dog in public spaces.

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:

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

This matter falls within Community Safety and Public Health Policies and Initiatives. These proposals will support the Council's aims with regard to reducing environmental Crime and Safeguarding Public Health.

2. Legal

Expansion of the PSPO (Dog Control Orders) is not a legal duty but is a discretionary power. However, where appropriate and there are benefits in extending the current order, then this would be done in compliance with all the relevant legislation and in consultation with the Council's Legal Services Department

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER
AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

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

THERE ARE NONE

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

FREE PARKING REVIEW

Purpose: The Council has supported town centres with the provision of free parking schemes for several years. This report provides members with information that considers the impact of the schemes from an output and revenue perspective. It provides several options for decision.

Scrutiny Committee is asked to:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Cabinet will be asked to consider the following options:

1. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy and cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week or provide a budget.
2. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy and cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week or introduce the one-hour free parking and support with a budget.
3. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy, cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week and allow the BID teams from key towns to provide a free car parking offer subject to the bid funding in full the authority's calculated loss of revenue.
4. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy, cease the existing free parking offer and provide a set budget allocation for towns for them to determine their own free parking periods relative to the budget provided and the authority's calculated loss of revenue.
5. Reinstate standard charging to part address the current budget pressures and remove all free parking offers.

Reasons: Revenue support for the existing free parking offer is no longer available. Scrutiny Committee is being consulted for views to formulate a submission to the Cabinet for consideration.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -
Cllr. Edward Thomas. Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services.

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service: S.G. Pilliner

Report Author: S.G. Pilliner

Designations:

Head of Highways and Transportation

Tel: 01267 228150

Email addresses:
SGPilliner@Carmarthenhsire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

FREE PARKING REVIEW

The Council has supported town centres with the provision of free parking schemes for several years. This report provides members with information that considers the impact of the schemes from an output and revenue perspective. It provides several options for decision.

Car parks serve extremely important environmental, economic and social objectives that include:

- Enabling the expeditious movement of traffic*
- Reducing congestion
- Improving air quality
- Managing the environment
- Making towns attractive to visitors/tourists
- Stimulating and supporting economic activity and retail spend in town centres.
- Stimulating sustainable travel

Behavioural changes and the growth of internet shopping continues to impact on town centres. The stimulus introduced to support free car parking has not changed parking behaviours and this is consistent with the findings of previous research. It is the town centre offer that influences demand. Parking charges are a low proportion of total annual car operating expenditure for a motorist.

The two biggest concerns of motorists from the findings of recent survey work undertaken by the RAC are the cost of fuel which takes up a greater proportion of the operating cost of a car. Motorists are also more concerned about the condition of the highway. Parking charges feature on the bottom quartile of motorists' concerns.

The existing budget pressures caused by a reduction in income are being mitigated by reductions in expenditure on car parks and other highways and transportation related expenditure which impacts on the standard and appeal of car parks and the town centres. It is also mitigated by an increase in revenue from the camera enforcement. Both are not sustainable.

There are options for consideration in the report as set out in the recommendations.

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: **S.G. Pilliner**

Head of Transportation and Highways

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

1. Finance

Parking income is not achieving budgeted target with income for off street parking forecast to be circa £817k below the target, this is partly offset by an increase in on street income from enforcement which is not sustainable in the medium term. Options two three and four all have a financial implication ranging from a minimum of £219k to £409k.

2. Physical Assets

The continued reduction in maintenance expenditure is leading to a deterioration in the parking asset.

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

YES

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

There are none

Free Parking Review

1.0 The Council has supported town centres with the provision of free parking schemes for several years. There are two schemes in operation. The first scheme provides town centres with **five free parking days** per annum to support events in towns, the second scheme as introduced at the end of 2018 and provides towns with **free parking periods for set hours and days of the week**. The periods vary by town. This report provides members with information that considers the impact of the schemes from an output and revenue perspective.

1.1 The Council has twenty-seven pay and display car parks across villages and towns to provide off road parking that adds value to towns and villages. The car parks serve extremely important environmental, economic and social objectives that include:

- Enabling the expeditious movement of traffic*
- Reducing congestion
- Improving air quality
- Managing the environment
- Making towns attractive to visitors/tourists
- Stimulating and supporting economic activity and retail spend in town centres.
- Stimulating sustainable travel

* This is a statutory obligation

1.2 The objectives help deliver a balanced transport solution for town centres. This is particularly important for Carmarthenshire because like most rural and coastal areas, the visitor economy is important and generally there is a high level of car ownership.

1.3 Town Centres across the UK are changing, the COVID pandemic has stimulated behavioural change and has affected the way people shop, (which is impacting on the retail sector) and the way we work.

1.4 The RAC Report on Motoring 2022 confirmed that hybrid working has resulted in less people working in offices around town centres and people using their car less. Forty one percent of people now commute five days a week by car compared to forty nine percent prior to the pandemic, thirteen percent commute four days a week up from eleven percent prior to the pandemic. The number that commute between one and three days in the average week has risen from seventeen percent to thirty six percent .

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
(2) RAC Motoring Report 2022
(3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

How many days a week do drivers use a car to get to and from work?



1.5 Similarly, the continued growth in internet shopping has moved spend from the more traditional retail outlets.

1.6 The matter of car parking charges can often stimulate debate and opinion when charges are introduced or increased.

1.7 Parking charges represent a small proportion of the annual operating costs of a car. The costs of running a car with an average of **7,604** miles per annum is typically **47** pence per mile. The average motorists will spend around **£44** per annum on parking charges. This represents **1.23%** of the annual running costs of a car. ⁽¹⁾ Generally, motorists do not consider parking charges as a major influence when visiting towns. This was confirmed by the most recent RAC Report on Motoring.

1.8 The RAC report identified that the two biggest concerns of drivers was the rising cost of fuel (55%) followed by the state of local roads (46%) with the cost of parking at (12%). Parking was in the lowest quartile of twenty areas of concern raised by drivers. ⁽²⁾ The report also identified that **eighty one** percent of drivers would find it very difficult to adjust their lifestyles to being without a car. This figure rises to **eighty eight** percent in rural areas.

1.9 The Covid pandemic has had a disruptive impact on the retail sector across the UK. Sales volumes continued to fall from January 2020 to January 2023. The proportion of retail sales via the internet grew throughout the pandemic, it has fallen back from a peak of circa thirty eight percent in November 2020 to circa twenty seven percent in January 2023. ⁽³⁾ Overall retail sales, however, have continued to decline.

1.10 Such changes have had an impact on car park use in town centres across the UK. Please refer to Charts One and Two overleaf.

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922

(2) RAC Motoring Report 2022

(3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Chart One.

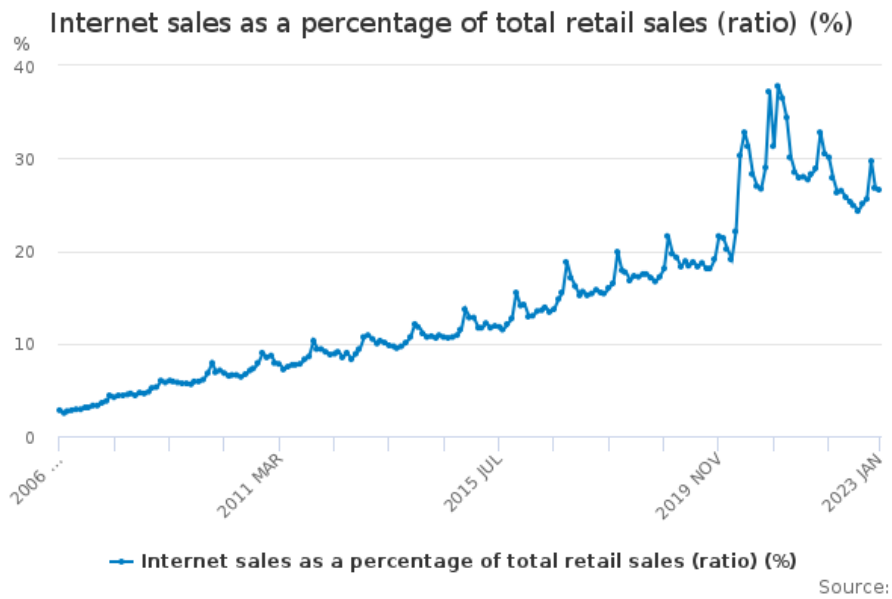
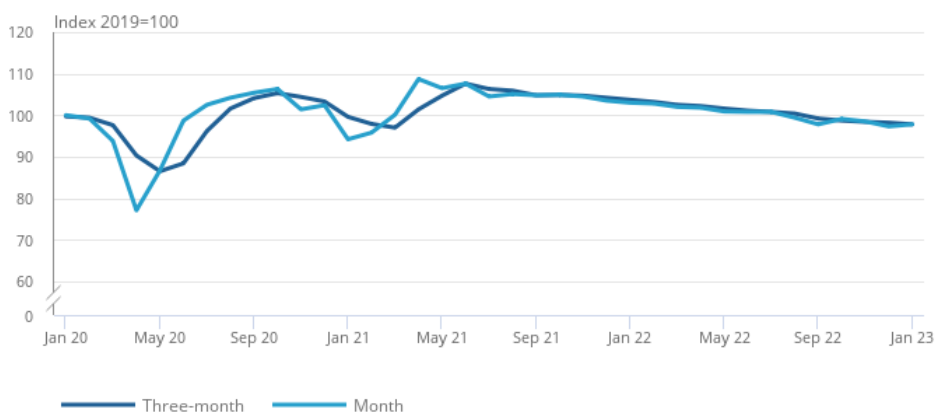


Chart Two.

Figure 1: Retail sales volumes continue a downward trend since summer 2021

Volume sales, seasonally adjusted, Great Britain, January 2020 to January 2023



Source: Office for National Statistics – Monthly Business Survey, Retail Sales Inquiry

- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

1.11. A review of car park use across Carmarthenshire has been undertaken. The reviewed covered the period from January 2018 to January 2023. A summary of the analysis of ticket and sales data for the period from 2018 to date follows. Chart three illustrates the total number and the change in the number of tickets sold in car parks across towns. Chart four illustrates the impact on income.

Chart Three – Tickets Issued

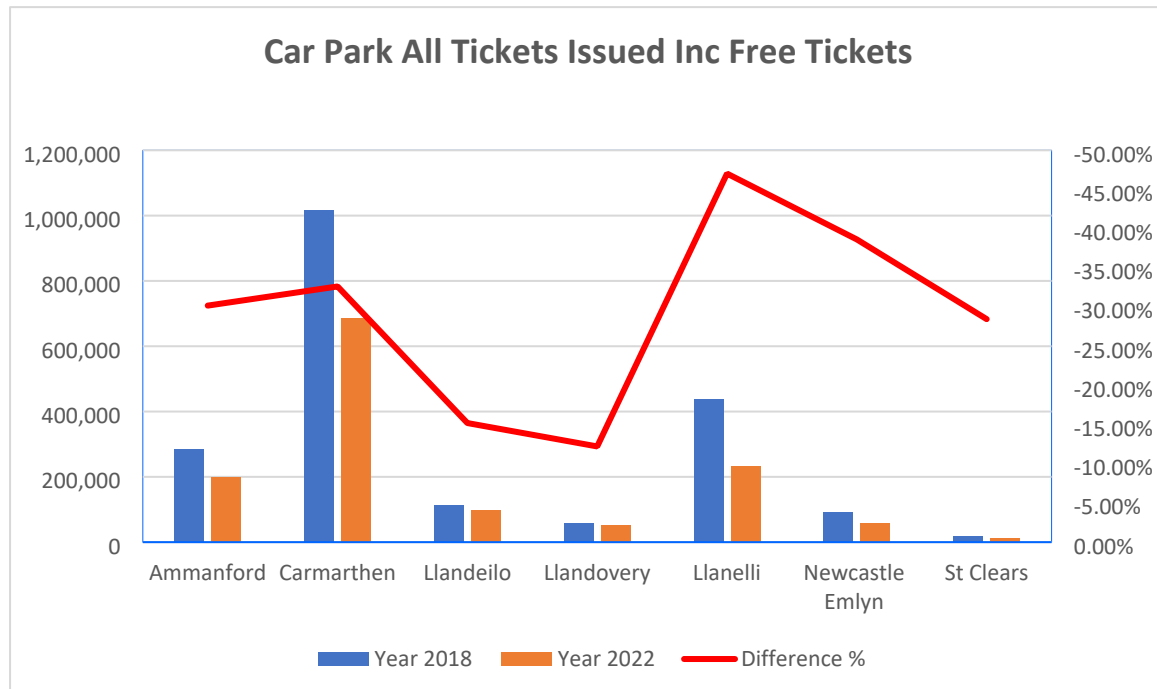
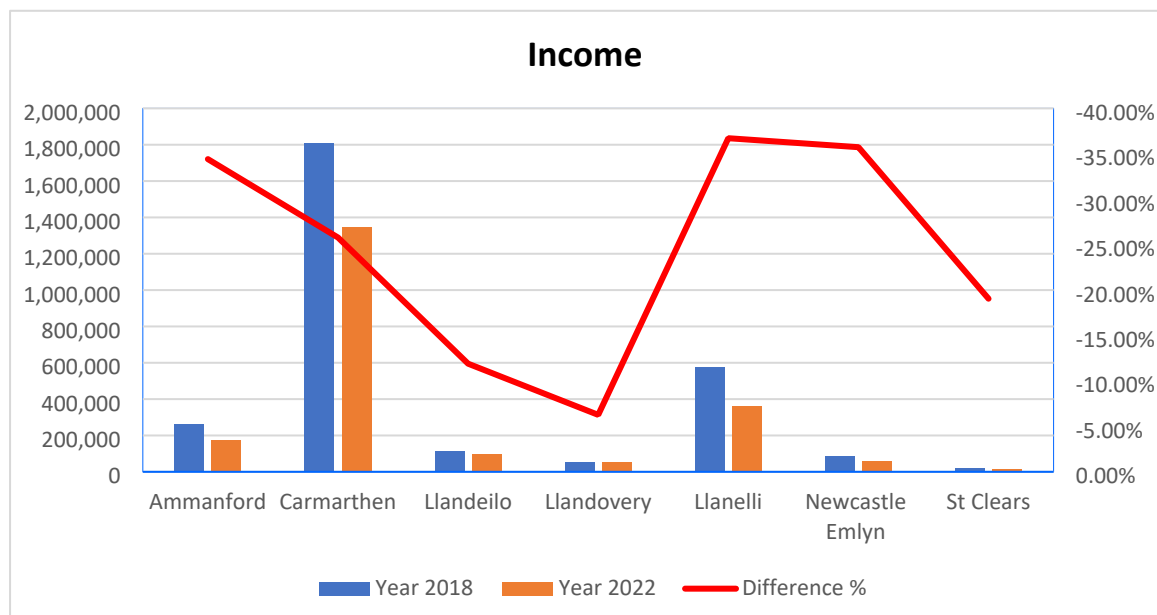


Chart Four – Income



(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
 (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
 (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

1.12 The variations in income by town reflect the wider parking policy considerations relating to town centres including the local and visitor demographic, population and the different socio-economic characteristics of each town across the County. Local services on town centre streets depend on demand in the local economy which is driven by income and the mix of jobs people undertake.

1.14 From the four charts it is evident that the behavioural change caused and stimulated by the pandemic continues to have an impact on trade and as transport is a derived demand, it has impacted on car park demand as evidenced above. Parking demand for each town fell from the levels attained in 2018 when compared to 2022. The fall in demand for each town is summarised in Table One below:

Table One.

Town	Fall in Demand 2018 to 2022 Tickets	Fall in Demand 2018 to 2022 Revenue
Ammanford	-30.18%	-34.42%
Carmarthen	-32.62%	-25.79%
Llandeilo	-15.2%	-11.9%
Llandovery	-12.21%	-6.27%
Llanelli	-47.03%	-36.72%
Newcastle Emlyn	-38.63%	-35.73%
St Clears	-28.46%	-19.05%

1.15 The Council has introduced interventions to help stimulate the post pandemic recovery of town centres with the assistance of both Welsh, UK Government funding and further authority support. The Welsh Government funding was provided at the end of 2018 and ceased in 2022, it enabled the Council to introduce **periods of free car parking for each town**. The specific periods adopted for each town were determined by the respective representatives from each town relative to the available allocated budget and proportion of total income. Each town selected different periods. The detail is set out in Table Two below:

Table Two.

Town	Free Parking Period
Ammanford	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Carmarthen	Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Llandeilo	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Llandovery	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Llanelli	Monday and Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4 :00p.m.
Newcastle Emlyn	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
St Clears	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

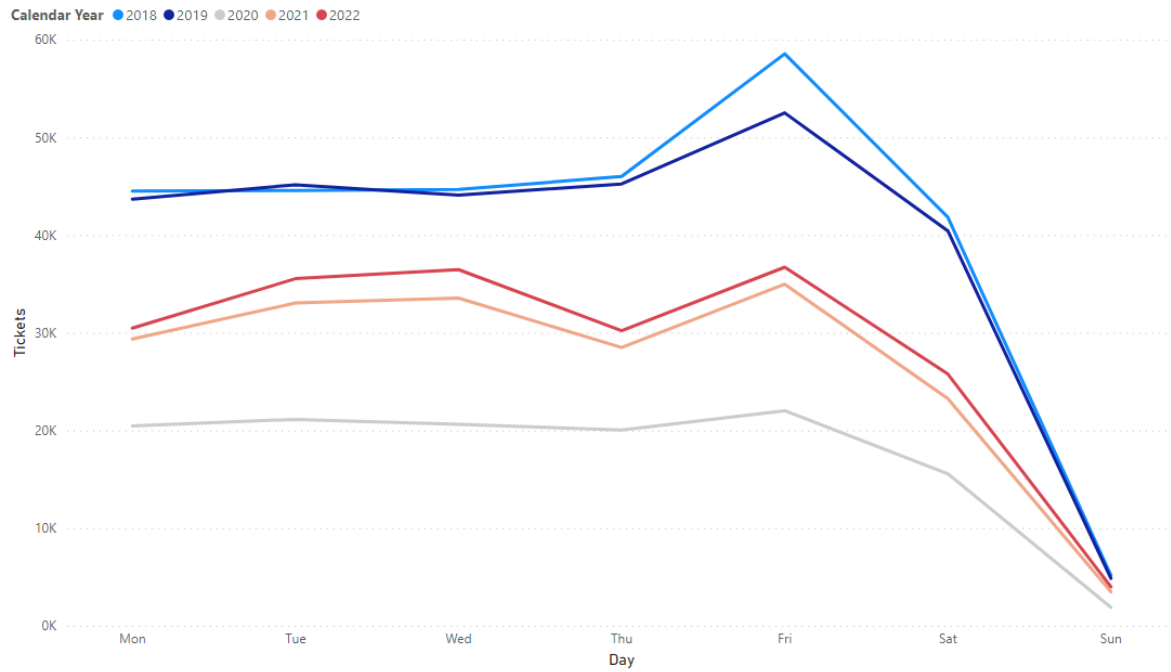
1.16 Further analysis of demand patterns of car park use by day of week and town for the period from 2018 to the end of 2022 is set out in Charts five to eleven that follow:

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
 (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
 (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

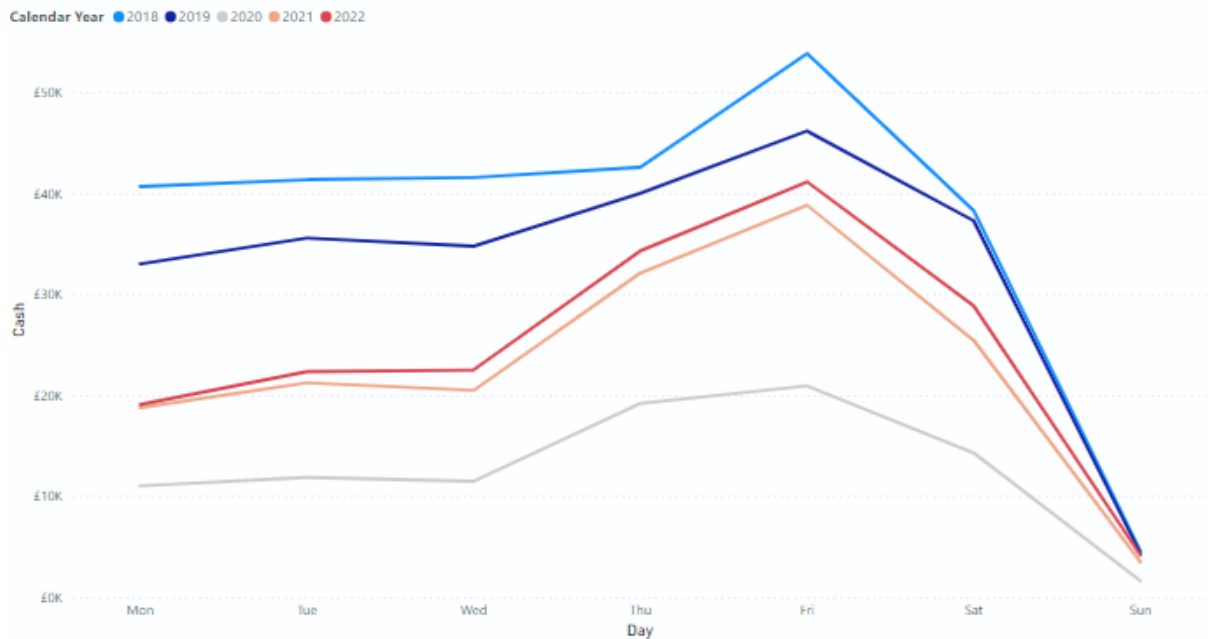
Chart Five - Ammanford

Free Parking Period : Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year



Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year



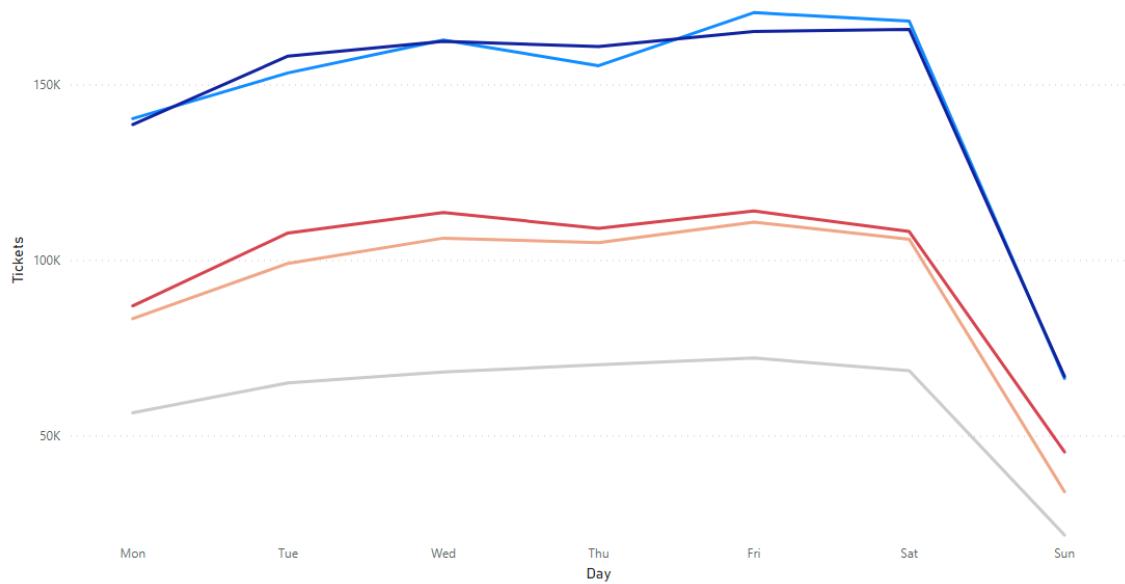
- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Chart Six - Carmarthen

Free Parking Period : Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

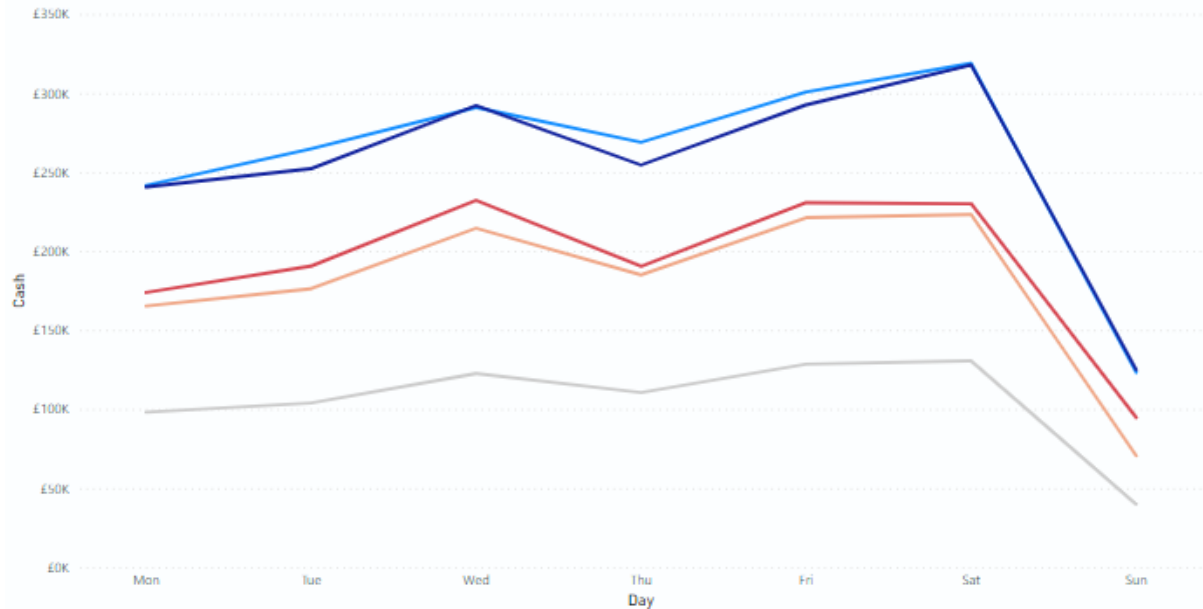
Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year

Calendar Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year

Calendar Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

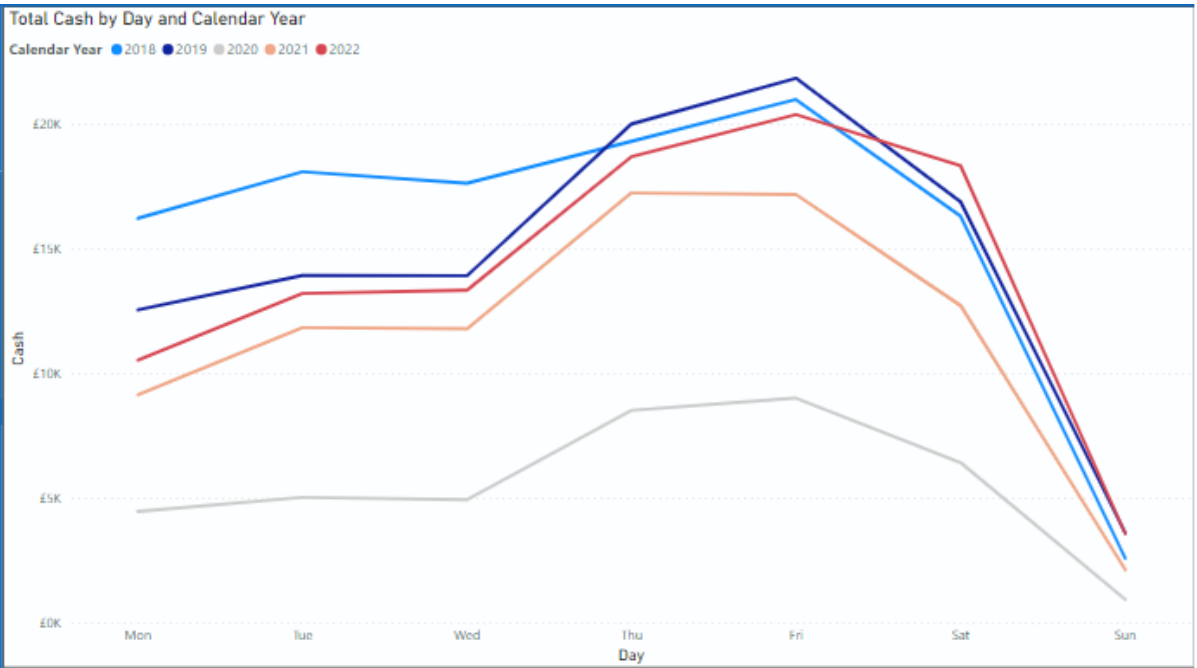
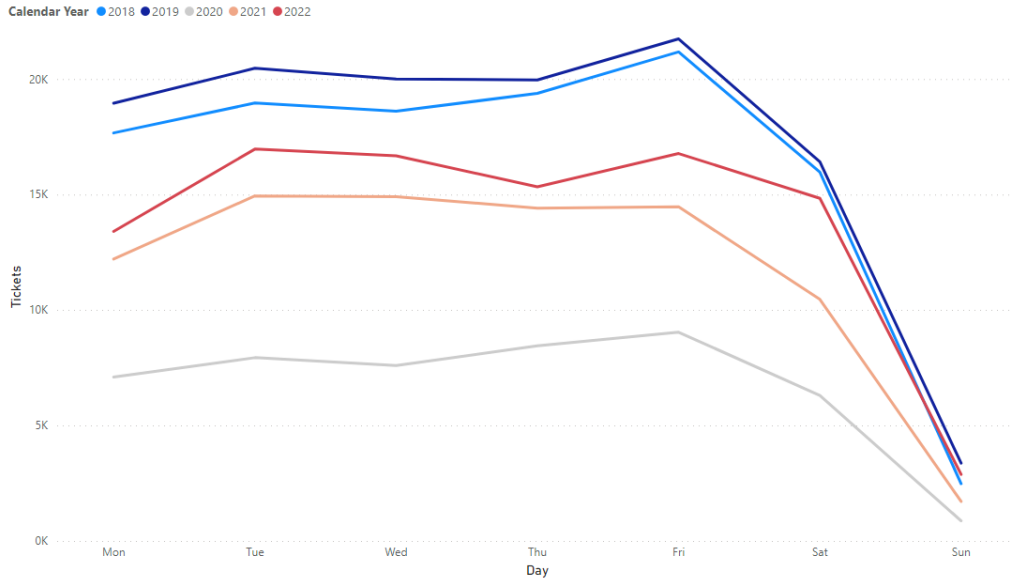


- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Chart Seven – Llandeilo

Free Parking Period : Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year

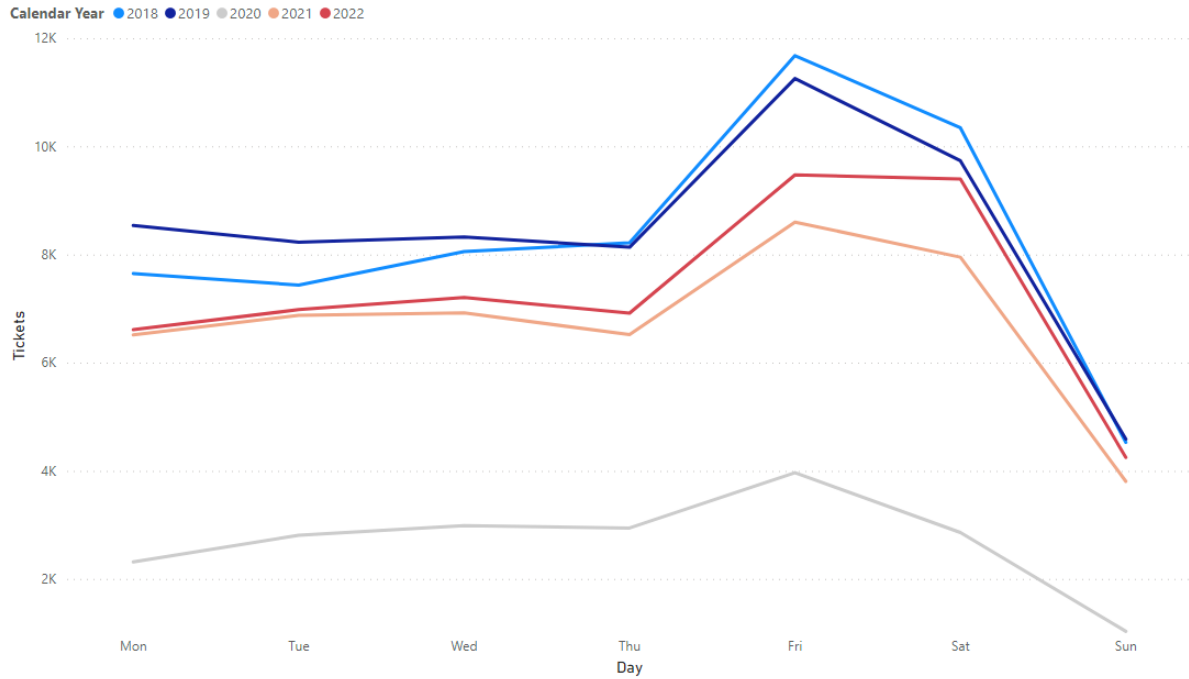


- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

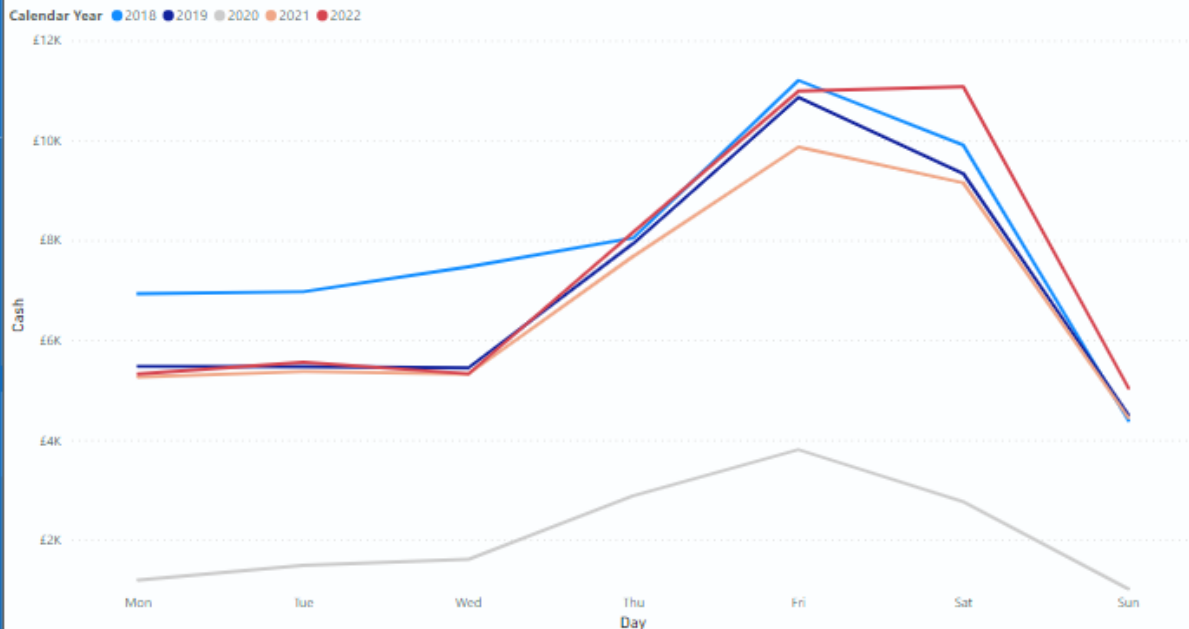
Chart Eight – Llandovery

Free Parking Period : Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year



Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year

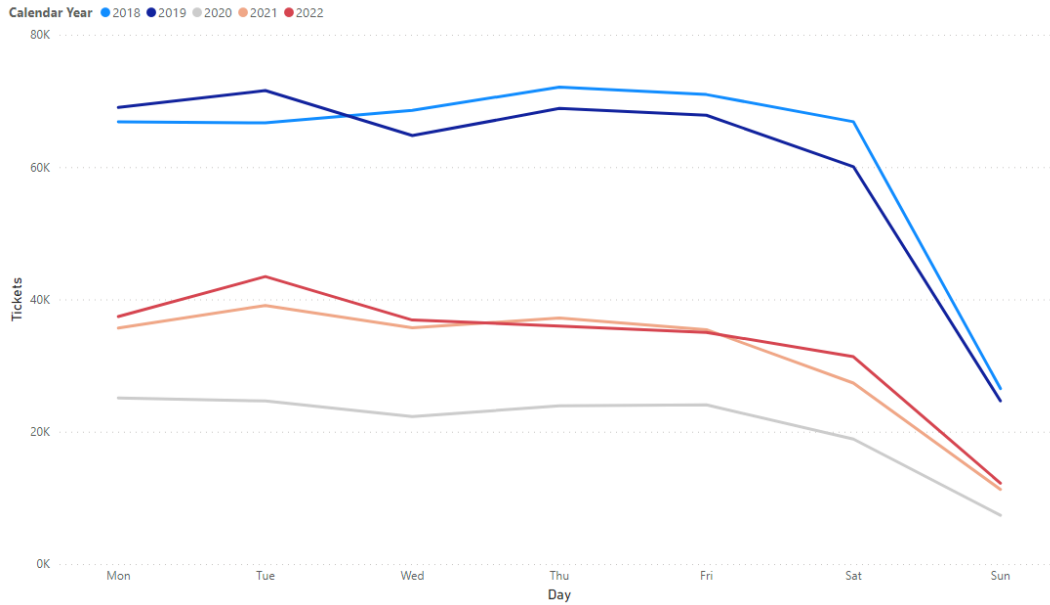


- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

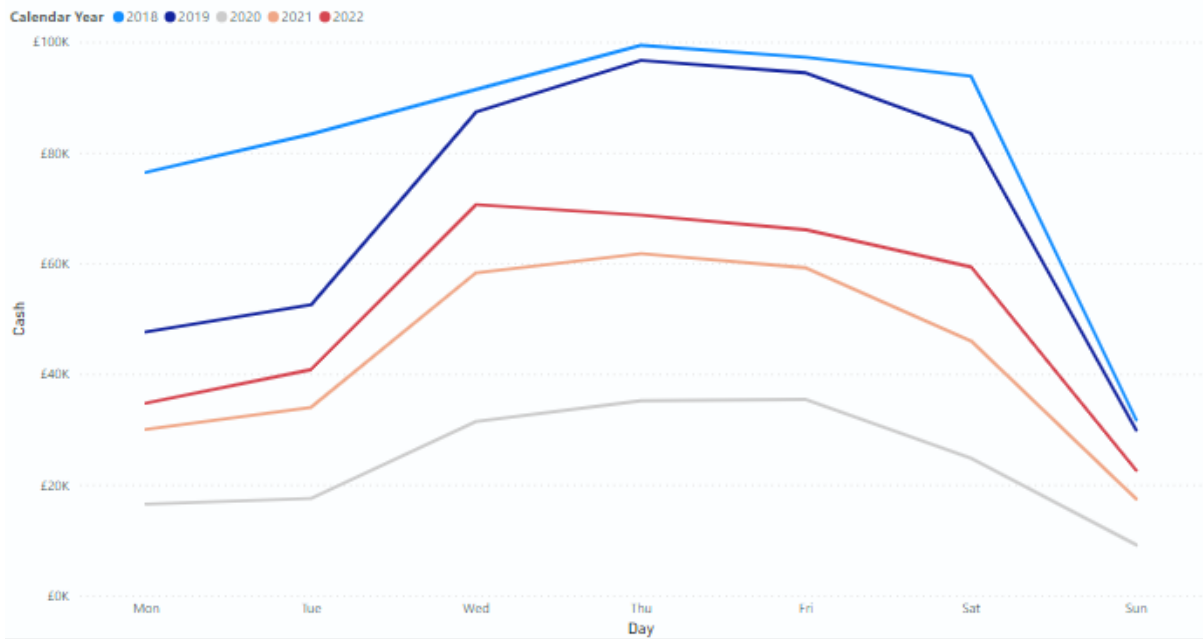
Chart Nine – Llanelli

Free Parking Period : Monday and Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4 :00p.m.

Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year



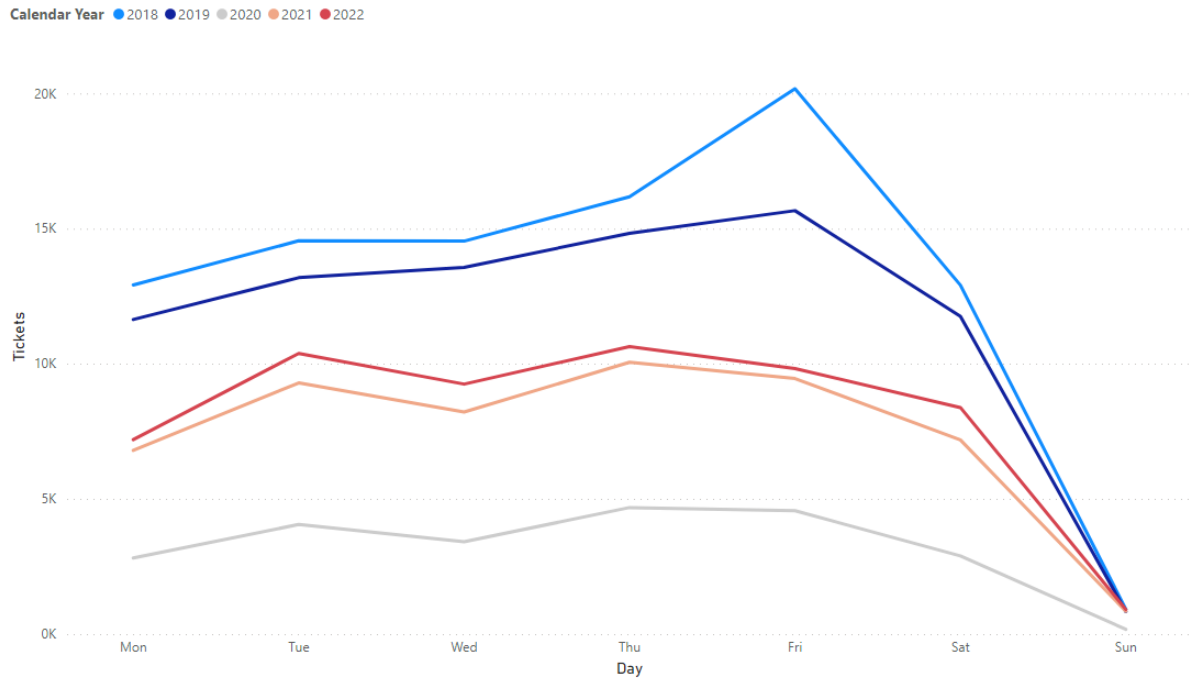
Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year



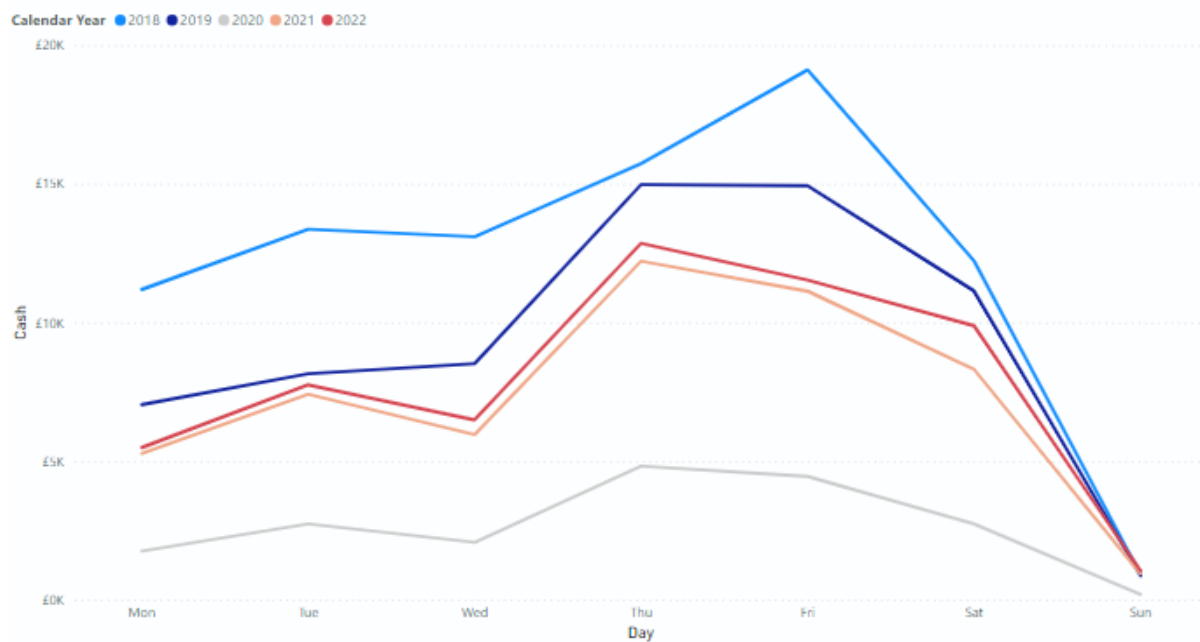
- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Chart Ten - Newcastle Emlyn

Free Parking Period : Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year



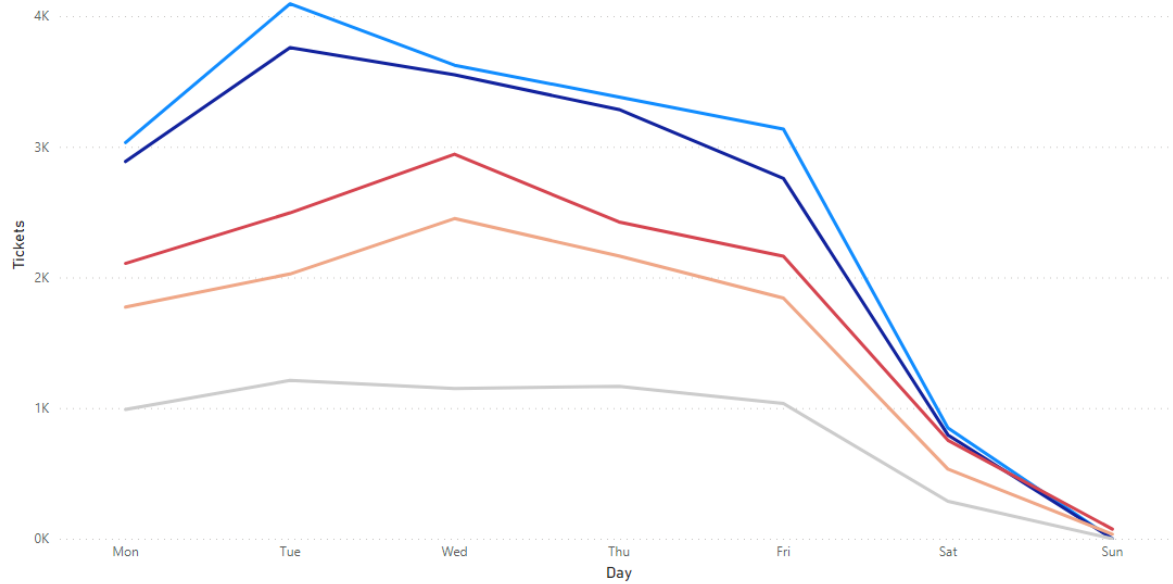
- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Chart Eleven - St Clears

Free Parking Period : Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

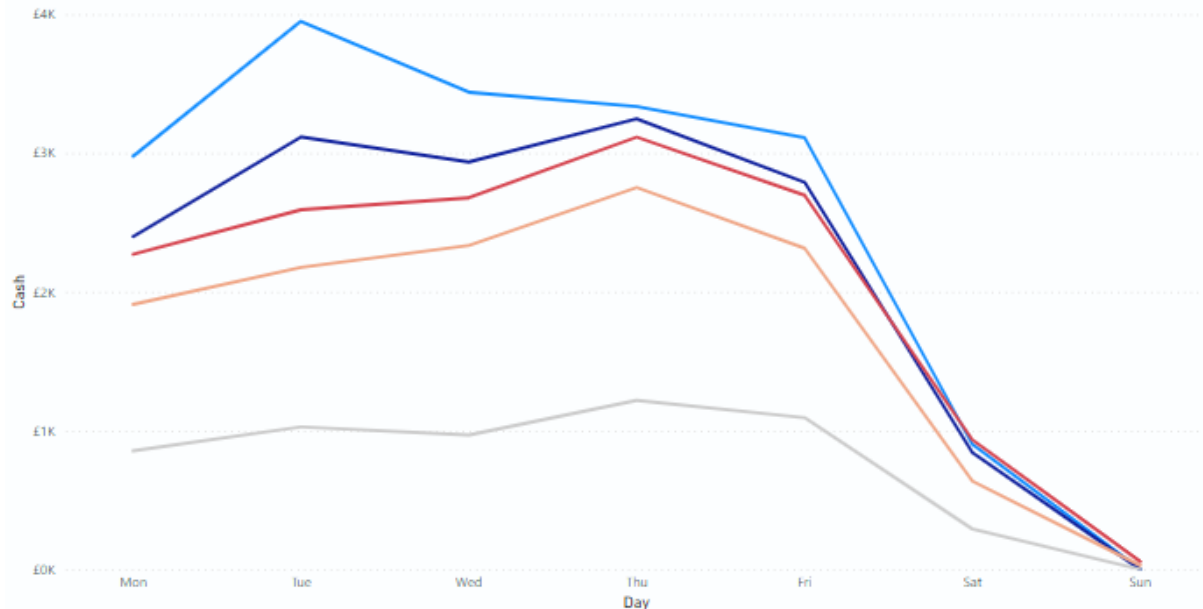
Total Tickets by Day and Calendar Year

Calendar Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Total Cash by Day and Calendar Year

Calendar Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



1.17 In addition to the Welsh Government funding for free parking periods, the Council has continued to support five free parking days per year to support events within each town centre outside of the peak Christmas trading period. The reduction in Government funding support of £217,000 for the **free parking days** scheme has,

- (1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
- (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
- (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

in effect created an additional budget pressure that is not currently funded. It can be seen from Charts five to eleven above, the free parking period offer has not generated additional demand, the demand distribution has followed the same pattern of demand from 2018 to 2022.

1.18 The extent of behavioural change in society has been sustained. Consequently, the free parking stimulus does not appear to be having a material impact on consumer behaviour. In exploring the trends further, the rural towns appear to have recovered with people shopping locally however the principal towns continue to be impacted. The extent of the impact shows some correlation between the increased trend in internet retail sales with a mean average growth of thirty percent and the reduction in income from parking of circa thirty four percent in Ammanford, twenty six percent in Carmarthen and thirty seven percent in Llanelli.

1.19 The reduction in income from car parks is causing an overall budget pressure. The pressure has been mitigated by a reduction in maintenance spend and an increase in income from mobile on-street parking offences as demonstrated in Table Three overleaf. Both mitigation measures are not sustainable. The impact of the mitigation measures is illustrated in Table Three overleaf:

Table Three:

Comparison of income and maintenance expenditure 2018 to 2022

Budget Item	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	+/-
PCN Income with Mobile Enforcement	-£311,344	-£307,061	-£212,357	-£387,212	-£652,210	£340,866
Maintenance Expenditure	£287,831	£258,478	£221,927	£172,440	£182,101	-£105,730

1.20 The analysis of income performance against the budget income target is set out in Table Four below:

Table Four

Analysis of parking fees for the Place & Infrastructure department

Account Code	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Forecast	Budgeted
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
8523 Parking Fees	-2,410,367	-3,005,113	-2,233,409	-2,760,277	-589,252	-2,793,703	-1,859,563	-2,644,287	-2,007,261	-2,838,523
shortfall		594,746		526,868		2,204,451		784,724		831,262
WG covid claim reimbursement						-1,708,047		-674,521		
						<u>496,404</u>		<u>110,203</u>		

The net contribution from off Street Parking to support services is set out in Table Five.

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
 (2) RAC Motoring Report2022
 (3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Table Five

Car Parks Off Street - Net Contribution

Financial Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*
Net Contribution**	-£ 658,959	-£ 676,666	-£ 516,410	-£ 375,918	-£ 576,724

* Forecast

** Net Contribution Income - Expenditure

The net contribution funds essential highways and transportation services.

1.21 Unfortunately, meeting the demands of all, in a challenging economic climate, is extremely difficult if not impossible. Free parking is often sighted by town centre traders as the panacea for recovery. Previous studies and pilot projects have shown that it is the extent of the overall town offer that attracts visitors to town and parking charges that are set at a reasonable level, have little bearing on a decision to visit. This is demonstrated by the trends of parking as illustrated in Charts five to eleven above.

1.22 The current budget position is unfortunately not sustainable. This is an important consideration for the overall Highways and Transport budget where there is continued pressure on key areas such as Highway Maintenance, Public and School Transport and the Parking service.

1.23 Whilst Parking fees will go up by five percent as part of the budget, the net impact on the budget does not bridge the budget shortfall to any great extent. Assuming there is no elasticity of demand and parking followed the same patterns of demand as the current financial year, there would still be a budget shortfall in income of circa £730,000. It would lead to a vicious circle where the condition of the parking stock, similar to highways would continue to deteriorate which in turn would not promote a positive experience to visitors.

1.24 Every neighbouring authority has increased the level of parking charges as part of their 2023/24 budget setting process.

1.25 Nevertheless, an option of introducing free parking for one hour to replace the current free parking offer that was introduced at the end of 2018 whilst retaining the five free parking days for events has been considered. The current free parking period offer has a net cost of circa £219k per annum (excluding events days), this is based on tickets sales for the current free parking offer by town. There is no longer a budget to fund which is compounding the budget pressure.

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
(2) RAC Motoring Report2022
(3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

Table Six

Town	Free Parking Period	Free Tickets Issued	Ticket Cost Revenue Foregone	Total Net Revenue Foregone Per annum*
Ammanford	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	47,256	1.2	47,256.00
Carmarthen	Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	30,232	2.4	60,464.00
Llandeilo	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	17,087	1.2	17,087.00
Llandovery	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	7,404	1.2	7,404.00
Llanelli	Monday and Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4 :00p.m.	40,752	2.2	74,712.00
Newcastle Emlyn	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	10,454	1.2	10,454.00
St Clears	Monday to Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	1,641	1.2	1,641.00

* Excluding VAT

219,018.00

1.26 Should Cabinet wish to consider an alternative option for example free parking for one hour for each day the financial implications have been evaluated and summarised as follows:

Table Seven

Town	Free Parking Period	Ticket Cost	Ticket Sales One Hour	Percentage Revenue Foregone	Net Ticket Cost Revenue Foregone	Ticket Sales Two Hours	Ticket Cost Revenue Foregone	Percentage Revenue Foregone	Net Ticket Cost Revenue Foregone	Total Revenue Foregone
Ammanford	1 Hour	£ 0.90	82,235	100%	£ 61,676	52,332	£ 1.20	33%	£ 14,391	96,626
Carmarthen**	1 Hour	£ 0.70	48,997	100%	£ 34,298	382,651	£ 2.80	33%	£ 105,229	154,226
Llandeilo	1 Hour	£ 0.90	29,008	100%	£ 26,107	34,795	£ 1.20	33%	£ 9,569	38,577
Llandovery	1 Hour	£ 0.90	18,589	100%	£ 16,730	19,116	£ 1.20	33%	£ 5,257	23,846
Llanelli	1 Hour	£ 1.40	56,443	100%	£ 79,020	38,795	£ 1.80	33%	£ 10,669	67,112
Newcastle Emlyn	1 Hour	£ 0.90	17,130	100%	£ 15,417	23,000	£ 1.20	33%	£ 6,325	23,455
St Clears	1 Hour	£ 0.90	5,008	100%	£ 4,507	2,694	£ 1.20	33%	£ 741	5,749

* Excluding VAT

** Minimum Charge Band is 2 Hours for all car parks except St Peters

£ 237,756

£ 409,590

1.27 Introducing a free parking ticket for one hour would result in a **loss of net revenue of £237,756** for the absolute value of one hour ticket sales. However, there is likely to be significant displacement of two-hour ticket sales as people shorten their stays. Applying a conservative estimate of thirty three percent; displacement **the total net loss of income would equate to £409,590**. People are likely to modify their visit and will stay for a shorter period in town and potentially spend less.

2.0 Conclusions

2.1 Consumer/Visitor perspective: Behavioural changes and the growth of internet shopping continues to impact on town centres. The stimulus introduced to support free car parking has not changed parking behaviours and this is consistent with the findings of previous research. It is the town centre offer that influences demand. Parking charges are a low proportion of total annual car operating expenditure for a motorist.

2.2 Motorist perspective: The two biggest concerns of motorists from the findings of recent survey work undertaken by the RAC are the cost of fuel which takes up a greater proportion of the operating cost of a car. Motorists are also more concerned

(1) NimbleFins – Insurance Analyst – Average Cost of Running a Car UK 270223 Danev – Carplusuk 280922
(2) RAC Motoring Report2022
(3) ONS Retail sales index internet sales

about the condition of the highway. Parking charges feature on the bottom quartile of motorists' concerns.

2.3 Financial. The existing budget pressures caused by a reduction in income are being mitigated by reductions in expenditure on car parks and other highways and transportation related expenditure which impacts on the standard and appeal of car parks and the town centres. It is also mitigated by an increase in revenue from the camera enforcement. Both are not sustainable.

The current free parking pilot is not funded.

2.4 Options. There are options for consideration in the report with regards to changing the free parking offer by offering the first hour free, such an intervention will require funding as will the current shortfall in budgeted income.

3.0 Recommendations.

3.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the following options:

- 1. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy and cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week or provide a budget.**
- 2. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy and cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week or introduce the one-hour free parking and support with a budget.**
- 3. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy, cease the current free parking offer which provides towns with free parking periods for set hours and days of the week and allow the BID teams from key towns to provide a free car parking offer subject to the bid funding in full the authority's calculated loss of revenue.**
- 4. Retain the five free days for events in line with the current policy, cease the existing free parking offer and provide a set budget allocation for towns for them to determine their own free parking periods relative to the budget provided and the authority's calculated loss of revenue.**
- 5. Reinstate standard charging to part address the current budget pressures and remove all free parking offers.**

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st JULY 2023

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

To consider and comment on the following:

To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 3rd October, 2023.

Reason:

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

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders:

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability)

Cllr. Edward Thomas (Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services)

Report Author:	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Janine Owen	Democratic Services Officer	01267 224030 JanineOwen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st JULY 2023

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

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

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 3rd October, 2023.

Scrutiny Committee members, as part of their role are required to regularly refer to the Cabinet Forward Plan in order to identify any future pre-decision reports, within the scrutiny remit for inclusion onto the Committee's FWP.

Council/Cabinet Forward Plan can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#)

REPORT
ATTACHED?

YES:

- List of Forthcoming Items – 3rd October 2023;

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **Linda Rees-Jones** **Head of Administration & Law**

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
--	-----

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

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Forward Plan	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=17&RP=131

This page is intentionally left blank

FORTHCOMING ITEMS for next meeting to be held on 3rd October 2023

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

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
A Strategic Plan for Managing our Land for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire	This report will provide information on pollinator-friendly land management practices on Council-managed land where there is no conflict between these and the existing land use, and as agreed with clients (e.g. Housing) and the contractor (Grounds Maintenance). Ensuring that the way the Council manages grassland is consistent with the climate and nature emergencies.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Scrutiny Members requested that this item be included onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan. To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the report.	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
Waste Strategy Update	The report provides an overview of the 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.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Scrutiny Members requested that this item be included onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan. To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the report.	Cllr Edward Thomas
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 reused 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.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Scrutiny Members requested that this item be included onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan. To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the report.	Cllr Edward Thomas

Items to be circulated under a separate cover to Scrutiny Committee members
(as agreed at the Committee's Forward Work Programme development session on 13th June 2023)

Proposed Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report	Cabinet Member
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.	<i>Pre-decision report</i> Scrutiny Members requested that this item be included onto the Committee's Forward Work Plan. To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the report.	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
Budget Monitoring Report (April to June 2023).	This report covers the revenue and capital budgets for the Environment Department, Public Protection Services and Community Safety which fall within the remit of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.	Cllr Alun Lenny

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 MAY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor J.D. James (Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (In Person):

K. Davies P. Cooper T.A.J. Davies B.D.J. Phillips S. Godfrey-Coles

Councillors (Virtually):

S.M. Allen T.M. Higgins G.R. Jones G.B. Thomas
Councillor A. Evans - Substitute for Councillor N. Lewis.

Also in attendance (In Person):

Councillor A. Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability;

Councillor E. Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services.

Also Present (In Person):

A. Williams, Director of Place and Infrastructure;
D.W. John, Interim Head of Waste;
S. Gallagher, Managing Director, Cwm Environmental Ltd;
G. Baxter, Grounds and Cleansing Manager;
R. Morris, Members Support Officer;
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present (Virtually):

M. Runeckles, Members Support Officer;
K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Observer).

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP and remotely: 2:00pm - 3:18pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received by Councillor N. Lewis.

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

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

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS - 2022/23

The Committee received the actions arising from the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee from its work during 2022/23 and considered the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee Actions Report for 2022/23 be received.

5. STREET CLEANSING STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023

The Committee received a report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services, which provided key information in relation to the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023. The report presented the way in which the Council would review and improve its cleansing service delivery whilst meeting the legislative requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Plan would shape 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.

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

- Reference was made to paragraph 1.19 of the report which cited that ‘The All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator for 2022-23 is 68.8 and Carmarthenshire currently have a rating of 67.4 placing us 14th overall in Wales.’ In response to a query raised, the Cabinet Member stated that there was confidence that the new Cleansing Service together with collaborative working would further improve upon the All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator in future.
- It was raised that Councillors receive many e-mails from residents reporting full bins which require emptying. In recognising these were often dealt with by local litter picking teams and therefore it was commented that this issue was under-reported having not gone through the Democratic Services reporting channel. The Interim Head of Waste stated that as part of the efficiency savings litter bin receptacles would be reduced by 20% across the County and encouraged members to feed into the monitoring process. In response to a query, the Interim Head of Waste stated that the litter bin receptacles identified for removal throughout the County would be communicated to the respective ward member together with the rationale.
- A query was raised regarding the educating the public in respect of the Strategy. The Interim Head of Waste explained that separate to the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan there was a robust education and awareness programme which was set out within the Local Quality Environment Plan. In addition, key work was being carried out along side other local Authorities in respect of a developing an All-Wales approach as part of the Caru Cymru project.

- In response to a query raised regarding raising awareness and education through the attendance of shows/fetes/events, the Interim Head of Waste explained that it was not possible to attend all shows/fetes/events, however a list of planned attendance would be shared with members and consideration would be given to developing a process whereby Members could request attendance at local shows/fetes/events should resources allow.
- It was reported that Members would be in attendance at the Urdd Eisteddfod to educate children on reducing waste and recycling.
- Clarity was sought in relation to the strategy to improve upon the current stage on the All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator rating and in striving for improvement included an increase in staffing levels and if so, would the dependency of agency staff be reduced and costs offset? The Interim Head of Waste reported that as part of the strategy, staff would be employed and the reliance on agency staff would be reduced which would take place over the next 3 months.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Report on the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023 be received.

At this point, Councillor John James addressed the Committee to inform Members that this meeting was his last meeting as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. Councillor James having been the Chair of the formerly named Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee transitioning to the more recently named Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee over the last 6 years, extended his appreciation to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee past and present, Vice Chairs, Cabinet Members and Officers for their hard work, support and dedication.

Cabinet Members, Committee Members and Officers extended their gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Councillor John James for his invaluable years of service. Councillor James' dedication, passion and leadership to the Committee, had been instrumental in driving the Committee forward for the benefit of the communities within Carmarthenshire.

6. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 14TH APRIL 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 14th April, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as the reports contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

8. CWM ENVIRONMENTAL LTD 2022-2023 BUSINESS PLAN AND HALF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 7 above, not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act). The public interest test in respect of this report outweighed the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in order to preserve the company's interests and standing in commercial / business negotiations.

The Committee received for consideration the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress report, presented by the Managing Director of Cwm Environmental Ltd.

Members noted that the three-year CWM Environmental Ltd Business Plan 2022-23 to 2024-25 had been produced to set out the company's strategic objectives, its service delivery objectives, the commercial risks that it faces together with its anticipated financial performance. The Plan also ensured that CWM's strategy was aligned with and delivered upon Carmarthenshire's waste agenda and wider objectives.

The Progress report provided a mid-year update on performance and actions against the business plan for the 2022-23 financial year.

A number of queries were raised in relation to the report which were responded to by the Managing Director of Cwm Environmental Ltd supported by Officers.

Queries raised were in relation to:

- Financial costs ;
- Compost and its pricing strategy;
- Electric vehicles in the fleet replacement program 2025-2030 – associated issues and costs;
- Circular Economy;
- The Repair Workshop and Re-use Shop (ETO).

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-2023 Business Plan and Half year Progress Report be received.

CHAIR

DATE