

Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2019 - 2020

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



CONTENTS

Chairs Foreword	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2019/20	4
2.1 Number of Meetings.....	4
2.1.1 Scheduled meeting changes	4
2.1.2 The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Scrutiny	4
2.2 The Forward Work Programme.....	5
2.3 Performance Management.....	6
2.4 Revenue and Capital Budgets.....	6
2.5 Annual Reports and Service Improvement.....	7
2.6 Progress Monitoring	8
2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny and Consultation	12
2.8 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions	15
3. Scrutiny Committee Activity.....	15
3.1 Task and Finish.....	15
3.2 Site Visits, Development Sessions & Seminars.....	16
4. Committee’s Future Work.....	16
5. Support for the Scrutiny Function	17
6. Committee Member Attendance.....	18

Chair's Foreword

As the Chair of this Committee, I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee covering the period May 2019 to April 2020.

Whilst very busy, 2019/20 has been a very interesting and rewarding year. I would like to thank all of the Committee Members for their involvement and the contribution they made to the meetings and also the work and support of my Vice Chair, Councillor Aled Vaughan-Owen.



The topics included within our Forward Work Programme up to February 2020 were scrutinised in depth with all members being involved in the process and achieving the outcomes as set out in this report.

I would like to thank the officers and Executive Board Members for their support and hard work in facilitating the Scrutiny process. I am grateful to them for taking the time to provide us with information and for being so constructive in their sessions with us. I am sure that the same dedication will be shown to enable us to scrutinise the work of the Council and external partners during the year ahead.

Through scrutiny, the Committee had been active in recognising matters that are of concern to the residents of Carmarthenshire by challenging the Welsh Government on investments and environmental issues. Early in the year, the Committee commissioned a Task and Finish group to undertake a review on a scheme developed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards department, designed to implement safeguarding initiatives for the many vulnerable and elderly individuals from financial fraud.

Before the end of our Scrutiny Cycle, the world was faced with a sudden unprecedented pandemic of the Coronavirus, which impacted upon everything which we called 'normal', changed how we worked due to the need to exercise social distancing. I am sure you will appreciate and understand that resources have had to be diverted away from our usual work during the pandemic so that Councillors, officers and other council resources could concentrate on planning, reacting and responding to COVID-19 matters.

This Annual Report provides a summary of the key highlights of the work that the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has been engaged in during 2019/2020. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very productive year.

I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.

Councillor John James

Chair of Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

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 Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20 municipal year. It aims to provide Members with an opportunity to reflect on the achievements during the year and to identify what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny. 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 14 Elected Members. Support is provided to the Panel 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 8 –**
Live Well-Help people live healthy lives
- **Wellbeing objective 9 –**
Live Well/Age Well – Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities
- **Wellbeing objective 12 –**
Healthy and Safety Environment – Look after the environment now and in the future
- **Wellbeing objective 13 –**
Healthy and Safe Environment – Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

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 2019/20

2.1 Number of Meetings

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee met on 7 occasions between May 2019 and April 2020.

A Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting with the Social Care and Health Committee took place on 10th June 2019.

2.1.1 Scheduled meeting changes

As part of the budget setting process, Local Authorities in Wales receive a provisional settlement figure from the Welsh Government enabling Authorities to provide an initial view of the budget strategy together with indicative figures for future years ready for consultation. This draft figure is normally received in October of each year enabling Scrutiny Committees to be consulted accordingly.

The Scrutiny Committee, as part of its Forward Work Programme had dedicated its meeting in December to consider the corporate budget strategy and to consider the service delivery impact, the options for the forthcoming years and the departmental plans that sits under its remit.

However, this year the receipt of the settlement figure for 2020/21 from the Welsh Government had been significantly delayed, having an impact on the budget process consultation process timeline. Therefore, to accommodate the budget consultation and business plans, it was agreed to cancel the December 2019 meeting and move to the scheduled January meeting.

To ensure that the number of agenda items presented was managed to enable the Committee to provide quality scrutiny, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee reviewed the Forward Work Programme, which was duly accepted by the Committee.

2.1.2 The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Scrutiny

The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which began in December 2019, presented a significant challenge for the entire world. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11th March 2020. On 23rd March 2020, the Prime Minister placed the UK on a police-enforced lockdown in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Legislation in place requires local authorities to meet in person in specified offices, to make many meetings open to the public and to enable the public to inspect documents related to the meetings, in some cases, in the offices of local authorities.

As this was contrary to the government measures and guidelines in place for COVID-19 received, all local authority meetings were suspended for the municipal year 2020/21 until new legislation is received.

The last Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee meeting in 2019/20, due to be held in April was duly suspended and all reports would be included within the Forward Work Programme 2020/21.

2.2 The Forward Work Programme

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee's key responsibilities are as follows:-

- Visible front line services (e.g. highways, street cleaning, waste and recycling services, town-centre management, grounds maintenance, public conveniences, bus shelters and maintenance of car parks)
- Regional Waste Plan
- Transport
- Trading Standards
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Road Safety
- On/Off Street and Residents' Car Parking
- Conservation
- Shoreline Management & Coastal Protection
- Contaminated Land
- Public Protection (Air Pollution, Trading Standards, Pest control & Environmental Health)
- Community Safety issues —identified in the Corporate Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies, working with the relevant partners
- Environmental Enforcement (e.g. litter, dog fouling)
- Planning Enforcement
- Pest Control

In March 2019, the Committee during an informal meeting, identified agenda items to be considered during the next municipal year. The work programme included standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports as well as action plans and monitoring reports.

The Scrutiny Committee developed its own Forward Work Programme (FWP) and in the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined by the FWP, which was confirmed by the Committee at its meeting on 17th May 2019.

To complement the work undertaken during formal meetings the Committee also undertook other scrutiny activities, which included the completion of a task and finish project and Members development sessions.

The following sections provide a snapshot of the Committee's work over the last year.

2.3 Performance Management

One of the principal roles of scrutiny committees is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. They undertake this work mainly through the consideration of performance monitoring reports and various action plan monitoring reports. The performance monitoring report provides a balanced picture of performance across the relevant service areas.

The Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee considered a performance monitoring report at its meeting in September 2019. The report provided the Committee with detailed progress during Quarter 1, against the actions and measures in the Well-being Objectives delivery plan relevant to the Committee's remit.

As part of its performance management role the Committee received relevant information from the Council's key strategies and plans.

One of the key areas relating to the Council's performance management is the production of an annual report which presents a prime opportunity for review, monitoring and reflection and to enable it to capture on-going activity on meeting its general and specific duties.

The Committee in July, 2019 considered the Council's draft Annual Report for 2018/19 in relation to those areas falling within its remit and which had been produced in accordance with the requirements of both the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Outcome:

Recommended to Council that the 2018/19 Annual Report be approved.

2.4 Revenue and Capital Budgets

The Committee received quarterly budget monitoring reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets. These reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in any capital works.

As well as monitoring the current budget, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 together with the indicative figures for the 2020/21 and 2022/2023 financial years. [This was delayed to the January 2020 meeting as explained in 2.2.1]

During the consideration of the report the Committee noted that together with the identification and delivery of the shortfall in savings proposals 2021/22, and 2022/23, further cost reductions would need to be identified and/or larger council tax increases be agreed to deliver a balanced budget for the latter two years. Concerns were raised in relation to the draft proposal to close the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Whitland.

It was commented that the recycling centre was a much needed provision in the area with the next closest located in Nantycaws, Carmarthen. Whilst officers responded to Members queries providing reasons, the draft proposal generated significant public interest.

In addition to the concerns of the Committee, of the total consultation responses received by from residents, almost three quarters of the respondents opposed to the proposal to close Whitland Household Waste Recycling Centre, despite identifying a budget saving of £80,000 over three years.

Outcome:

Whilst the Committee did not recommend to change the budget proposals, as a result of the strong concern and responses received during the consultation period, the Council, at its budget meeting held on 3rd March, 2020 resolved to withdraw the proposal to close Whitland Household Waste Recycling Centre.

2.5 Annual Reports and Service Improvement

Performance Management and budget information provides the Committee with a basis to consider how well services are performing and whether or not further improvement is required.

Members also receive other reports that compliments performance management information and adds to the overall picture of how well the Council's services are performing. In January, the Committee received business plans for the Directorates within its remit for the forthcoming year. In addition the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee also received:

- **Business and Consumer Affairs Services Annual Report 2018/19** - This report provided Members with information and statistics on work undertaken by the Business and Consumer Affairs Service in 2018/19. The Service consisted of Trading Standards, Licensing and Animal Health Services.
- **Compliments and Complaints Annual Report 2018/19** - The Committee, in October 2018, received and endorsed the Annual Complaints and Compliments Report for 2018/19 paying specific attention to Sections 9.4 (Environment) of the report relevant to its remit.
- **Substance Misuse Service Annual Report 2017/18 and Area Planning Board's Drug and Alcohol Misuse Annual Report 2018 –**
On 10th June, 2019 the Joint Environmental and Public Protection and Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee was afforded the opportunity to scrutinise:-
 - The progress and developments of the Dyfed Area Planning Board who is the partnership body responsible for supporting the planning, commissioning and performance management of substance misuse services.

- The activity of the Carmarthenshire County Council Substance Misuse Team. The team are part of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities division within Communities and also receive grant funding from the Area Planning Board.

At the meeting, members of the Joint Committee were grateful for the opportunity to meet Ms Ros Jervis, Director of Public Health and Ms Joanna Dainton, Head of Commissioning and Partnership Strategy Development (Drug and Alcohol Misuse) of the Hywel Dda University Health Board who responded to the queries raised.

2.6 Progress Monitoring

The Committee receives update reports not only to ensure that progress is monitored but to provide an opportunity to scrutinise and properly question practices and methods. The Committee considered and noted the following reports:-

Active Travel Act Update July 2019

The Committee considered an update report on activities Carmarthenshire County Council have been undertaking in fulfilment of duties under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

The report provided an update on progress in meeting the obligations set out under the Active Travel (Wales) Act and the work which has been undertaken by the authority to support this.

During the consideration of the report, disappointment was expressed with the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport's view as to what constituted 'active travel' and the outcome of the Active Travel Fund Bid. Following a suggestion, the Committee unanimously resolved that the Chair liaise with the Executive Board Member for Environment to compose a letter to the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport conveying the Committees' concerns.

Officers assured Members that the Authority would continue to develop active travel opportunities.

Outcome:

Following receipt of the funding, Councillor Hazel Evans, the Executive Board Member for Environment and Councillor John James, Chair of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny wrote a letter on behalf of the Committee to Lee Waters AM on 12th February 2020.

The letter included the Committee's concerns in relation to the inadequate provision of funds to enable the walking and cycling infrastructure to be developed along with other interventions that could assist with reducing the impact of transport on climate change. Furthermore, the letter sought reassurance from the Minister of Transport, that rural authorities would not continue to be disadvantaged by the current funding needed for transport schemes which would ensure rural communities would not be left behind and/or disconnected for more urban environments.

On 20th February 2020, Councillors Evans and James received a response from Lee Waters AM, Minister of Transport, which was conveyed to members of the Committee.

In response, the Minister explained that he wanted to see the creation of routes in rural areas and would continue to work with colleagues to explore how they could be delivered. He included that "with our transport budgets however, we need to concentrate on enabling active travel, i.e. walking and cycling where it replaces motorised travel, connecting where people live with where they need to go." Adding that "This does not exclude rural areas. Local authorities need to revise their Integrated Network Maps for active travel over the next year and I will provide practical support to them to ensure they reflect the needs of local communities and that the plans for these networks are comprehensive."

Update on Progress in delivering Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment Act Forward Plan – July 2019

The Committee considered an update report on progress in delivering Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment Act Forward Plan which was published in March 2017.

Public bodies were required to publish their Environment Act Forward Plan by December 2019, to report to the Welsh Government on how they have met the Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystem Duty set out in the legislation, i.e. how they have delivered their Forward Plan. Ahead of the 2019 reporting, the Scrutiny Committee was provided with an opportunity to scrutinise and monitor the annual report of the progress being made in delivering the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan.

The Committee noted the detailed progress report on how each of the 29 actions set out in the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2017 had been delivered.

The Committee welcomed the progress update stating that it was pleasing to note that the Council was embracing new schemes such as 'pride in your patch' and was working in Collaboration and in partnership with Town and Community Councils.

Review of Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan 2016-2019 November 2019

The Committee received a review of the Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan 2016-2019, for consideration following its first publication in 2017.

In order to evidence delivery of this duty, under the Environment Act, it was a statutory duty that all public bodies in Wales prepare and publish a plan on how they intended to comply with the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty by March 2017.

The review detailed how the Council was meeting its legal obligation with reference to the Act. Carmarthenshire's approach to developing and delivering its Forward Plan had involved engagement with officers in looking at their working practices, plans and projects whilst assisting them in identifying present opportunities for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience, alongside the delivery of their other obligations and objectives.

During the consideration of the review, Members raised concern about the cost of managing the Ash Dieback disease. Members noted that whilst there was still a significant amount of work to be undertaken, it was confirmed that the £300k assigned over the next 2 years for the management of the disease would be required. In order to manage and control the spread of disease, surveys were being undertaken to identify high risk areas in order to prioritise appropriate course of action and target resources effectively.

Following a suggestion, the Committee unanimously agreed that an all member seminar on Ash Dieback disease be arranged in order to raise the awareness of the seriousness of this disease.

Outcome:

An all Member seminar was arranged to take place on 1st April 2020 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This would be rolled over to 2020/21.

Highway Footway and Road Safety Investment Programme Update – February 2020

The Committee received a report that provided an update on the current investment programme in relation to road safety and associated infrastructure. The report also included a summary of funding for road safety related and other infrastructure schemes for 2019/20 and the prioritised programme for road safety, footway and other infrastructure.

Members raised the following queries and concerns which Officers duly responded.

- Towy Valley Cycle Path – update and managing flooding
- The speed limits in rural areas, particularly outside of schools.
- Safe Routes in Communities - the feasibility for wards to join together in order to be more integrated?
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - the negative impact on rural areas due to the lack of available electric charging points

In addition, following the new Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations which came into force in January 2020, requiring all school transport vehicles registered to carry fare paying passengers to be DDA/PSVAR compliant. The Committee raised strong concerns in relation to the appropriateness of the current means of safe routes to school and the current statutory walking distance.

The Executive Board Member for Environment explained to the Committee that as a result of the legislative changes, the Executive Board at its meeting on 3rd February, 2020 had approved the establishment of a cross party Advisory Panel to carry out a general review of the authority's school transport policy, which would make necessary recommendations to the Executive Board.

However, the Committee, acknowledging the work of the School Transport Review Advisory Panel, expressed that that the Welsh Government, on a National Level should review how appropriate its current mechanism is in assessing safe routes and also urgently review the distances that is appropriate for pupils to walk/cycle to school.

The Committee unanimously agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Transport requesting that the Welsh Government:

- a) undertake a review of the current mechanism of assessing safe routes;
- b) urgently review the distances appropriate for pupils to walk to school;
- c) give consideration to make any additional funding required available following the outcome of the abovementioned reviews.

Outcome:

A letter to the Minister of Transport would be written at an appropriate time following the Covid-19 crisis and reported in 2020/21.

2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny and Consultation

The Committee are regularly provided with an opportunity to evaluate and comment on policy proposals before they go to the Executive Board or full Council. This gives the Executive Board the opportunity to hear Scrutiny Members' views prior to making their decision. During 2019/20 the Committee considered the following:-

Report on Public Space Protection Order consultation May 2019

The Committee considered the Public Space Protection Order Consultation Report which was reviewed by the Committee every three years as part of the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order.

Members raised the following queries, the Officers in attendance responded accordingly:

- With regard to Section 11(B) of the report which stated that Dogs are not permitted from entering an 'enclosed' children's play area, Members queried whether the order could be extended to areas that were enclosed on three sides, as there were several parks throughout the County with three sided enclosed play areas?
- Clarification was sought on how the Order applied to working dogs on farmland where there was a Public Right of Way through the land.
- Query as to the extent to which the order could be applied, to include sport pitches and school fields.

The Committee resolved to extend the duration of the Carmarthenshire County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 for a further period of 3 years with effect from the 1st July 2019. In addition, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee would meet with the Environmental Enforcement Manager to discuss proposed future controls.

Outcome:

In March 2020, the Committee's Chair met with Environmental Enforcement Manager to discuss what more could be done, resulting in the following actions:-

- Liaise with Legal department to ascertain the possibility of banning dogs from specific areas defined by boundary markers and extending powers to clubs;
- Research the problem of dog fouling on sports pitches
- Re-explore contact with the Police and the engagement of PCSO's in enforcing the orders.
- The Authority will be looking the work of other Local Authorities and liaising with them.

Draft Local Toilets Strategy June 2019

The County Council had a statutory duty to publish a Local Toilets Strategy for Carmarthenshire, the Committee considered a report which appended a draft Local Toilets Strategy, developed in accordance with Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. The Strategy incorporated the feedback and responses received following a Needs Assessment survey undertaken during October / November 2018.

Members noted that whilst there was no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public toilets, the strategy however, aimed to mitigate any potential impacts where a loss of toilet provision may occur.

The following queries were raised and responded to by the officers present:-

- The cleansing regime and management of public toilets.
- Whilst it was noted that it was not a statutory duty for the Council to provide toilet facilities, strong concern was raised regarding the provision of facilities and cleanliness particularly as the Council were promoting to increase tourism across the County.
Was it possible to transfer the ownership of public toilets to the private sector?
- The development project within Pendine – toilet facilities during construction phase.
- The consultation had not sought any views from tourists visiting Carmarthenshire.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial that that a representative of the Environmental and Public Protection scrutiny Committee attends the Toilet Strategy Study Group as mentioned in the report.

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the Executive Board that the Draft Local Toilets Strategy be approved and that a representative from the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee attend the Toilet Strategy Study Group.

Outcome:

The matter regarding a representative from the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee to attend the Toilet Strategy Study Group was discussed at the Executive Board meeting on the 29th July 2019 [Minute 19 refers] -

'The Executive Board noted the request from the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee, that a representative from the committee should attend the Toilet Strategy Study Group. However, the Board advised that the Study Group should remain an officer led group. Updates from the group should be presented to the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee as required.'

Storm Callum Section 19 Flood Report July 2019

The Committee considered a report which detailed 55 recommendations formulated as a result of investigations undertaken by Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in response to the flooding that had occurred across Carmarthenshire on the 12-14th October 2018 as a result of Storm Callum.

The Committee welcomed the recommendations set out within the report and emphasised the importance of involving local members in discussions regarding flood alleviation work.

Net Zero Carbon Action Plan November 2019

The Committee considered a report and draft plan which outlined a route towards becoming a net zero carbon Local Authority by 2030. The Plan was developed in accordance with Council's unanimous decision on 20th February, 2019 to support the Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen.

The Committee noted that it was essential to establish a robust business case for each potential renewable energy project. As the preferred primary method of compensating for the Council's residual carbon footprint would be to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy generated, it would require significant financing.

Officers explained that within the confines of the draft action plan, 'Net Zero Carbon' and 'Carbon Neutral' are inter-changeable and that the actions identified in the draft action plan would be reported on annual basis.

The following concerns/queries were raised and were duly responded to by the officers present and the Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs:-

- Concern was raised that the local electricity distribution network did not have sufficient capacity to enable the Council to pursue its aim of significantly increasing the amount of renewable energy generated on its land.
- Future working in collaboration with Public Service Boards (PSB).
- the Councils electric charging provision within County owned carparks and staff carparks.
- electric vehicles – fleet.
- With a view to relay the plan to communities, it was requested that a more accessible version be created including a version suitable for a young person to understand.

Outcome:

Committee Members unanimously resolved to recommend to the Executive Board that the draft net Zero Carbon Plan be endorsed.

2.8 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions

In respect of complying with Legislation regarding promoting public awareness at Scrutiny, in April 2019, correspondence was sent to Town and Community Councils containing information to encourage an increase in public attendance at Scrutiny Committees and also seek suggestions for future topics for consideration.

Whilst the Committee did not receive any scrutiny topic suggestions from the public during 2019/20, the Committee's Forward Work Programme included a range of topics which involved necessary public consultation/participation.

The Communications and Media department via various social media platforms provided kept the public abreast of relevant information providing an open dialogue with the public.

3. Scrutiny Committee Activity

3.1 Task and Finish

The Committee, at its informal Forward Work Programme Development Session held on the 22nd February 2019, considered a number of topics to review. Committee agreed in principal to undertake a review into the Carmarthenshire County Council Trading Standards initiative – The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS).

The Committee at its formal Scrutiny meeting held on 10th June 2019 considered and approved, the Planning and Scoping document which included the key aims and objectives for the task and finish review. Accordingly, the Committee agreed on a politically balanced Membership of six Councillors.

The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS), a multi-agency initiative created and developed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards works to detect and prevent the financial exploitation of vulnerable people by carers, family members, doorstep criminals, mail fraud, telephone and email scams.

The Committee noted that officers from the Trading Standards Department had contributed to the development of the Planning and Scoping Document and would continue to support the work of the Task & Finish Group.

In accordance with the Planning and Scoping document, it was hoped that the Group would be in a position to present a final report to the Committee in April 2020. However, early March saw further work on the review being suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The final report would be included in the Forward Work Programme for 2020/21.

3.2 Site Visits, Development Sessions and Seminars

The following member development sessions / member seminars were held during 2019/20:-

- Mod.Gov training (Delivered by Civica) – May
- Swansea Bay City Deal Seminar – June
- County Lines & Counter Terrorism Seminar – June
- Conservations & Biodiversity Seminar – June
- Life Science & Wellbeing Village Seminar – July
- Code of Conduct Training – July
- Canfod Cartref – July
- Carmarthenshire 50+ Annual Forum Event - September
- Schools Budget – November
- Digital Connectivity Seminar – December
- Net Zero Carbon Plan Seminar – January
- Dyfed Pension Fund Governance & Investments – March

The Committee did not attend any site visits during 2019/20.

4. Committee's Future Work

Throughout 2019/20, the Committee has made significant progress and will continue to concentrate on topics where Member's input will result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement. To ensure that the best use is being made of Scrutiny meeting time, with the benefit of pre-meetings, the Committee is keen to continue to work together as a team encouraging an effective scrutiny process.

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 Committee will aim to ensure it plans to enable focused Scrutiny to take place ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of reports, that the statutory responsibilities is focussed and are properly aligned with the council's strategic priorities.

In order to enhance Scrutiny, Members will continue to attend development sessions, seek officer's advice where appropriate and make use of informal pre-meeting discussions.

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>

5. Support for the Scrutiny Function

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

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- 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

6. Committee Member Attendance

A total of 7 meetings were held between May 2019 and April 2020 with the meetings in December being cancelled and April being suspended. Attendance by members of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2019/20 year is shown in the table below.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Mansel Charles	7	100
Cllr. Arwel Davies	7	100
Cllr. Joseph Davies	7	100
Cllr. Karen Davies	7	100
Cllr. Penny Edwards	6	86
Cllr. Jeanette Gilasbey	7	100
Cllr. Tina Higgins	4	57
Cllr. John James	7	100
Cllr. Eryl Morgan	5	71
Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen	7	100
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	6	86
Cllr. Susan Phillips	4	57
Cllr. Alan Speake	5	71
Cllr. Dai Thomas	4	57
Substitutes	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. Kim Broom	2	
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	2	
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	3	
Cllr. Ken Lloyd	1	
Cllr. John Prosser	1	
Cllr. Elwyn Williams	3	
Executive Board Member	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. H.A.L. Evans (Environment)	6	
Cllr. P. Hughes (Public Protection)	7	
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	1 (November 2019)	
Cllr. Emlyn Dole	1 (January 2020)	