

COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)

Councillors:

F. Akhtar	S.M. Allen	L.R. Bowen	K.V. Broom
J.M. Charles	D.M. Cundy	S.A. Curry	C.A. Davies
W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies	G. Davies	H.L. Davies
I.W. Davies	J.A. Davies	K. Davies	S.L. Davies
E. Dole	J.S. Edmunds	D.C. Evans	H.A.L. Evans
L.D. Evans	R.E. Evans	W.T. Evans	S.J.G. Gilasbey
P. Hughes-Griffiths	A.D. Harries	T.M. Higgins	J.K. Howell
P.M. Hughes	J.D. James	R. James	D.M. Jenkins
G.H. John	C. Jones	B.W. Jones	D. Jones
G.R. Jones	H.I. Jones	A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis
K. Lloyd	K. Madge	S. Matthews	A.S.J. McPherson
E. Morgan	A.G. Morgan	B.D.J. Phillips	J.S. Phillips
D. Price	J.G. Prosser	B.A.L. Roberts	H.B. Shepardson
E.M.J.G. Schiavone	B. Thomas	D. Thomas	E.G. Thomas
G.B. Thomas	G. Thomas	J. Tremlett	A.Vaughan Owen
D.T. Williams	D.E. Williams		

Also Present:

W. Walters, Chief Executive
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services
S. Davies, Head of Access to Education
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
A. Wood, People Services Manager
I.R. Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager
S. Burford, Project Manager
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
E. Jones, Licensing Lead
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

(Note:

- At 12:55pm the Council's attention was drawn to Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 9 – Duration of Meeting and, as the meeting would have been underway for three hours at 1:00pm, it was resolved to suspend standing orders, in accordance with

CPR 23.1, to enable the Committee to complete the remaining business on the agenda.]

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 1.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Campbell, P. Edwards, A. Fox, C. Harris, T.J. Jones, S. Najmi, D. Nicholas and A. Speake

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
H.A.L. Evans	7.1 – Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027)	Sister is the Chief Executive of a Housing Association
B. Thomas	7.6 – Modernising Education Programme proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Y Felin	LEA appointed School Governor
K. Lloyd	8.3 – Cabinet Minutes 28 th February 2022 – Minute 6 – Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023	Shareholder in Carmarthenshire Energy – Has dispensation to speak, but not vote
E. Dole	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Son works in the Regeneration Department
T.A.J. Davies	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Sister-in-Law is a Head of Service
S.J.G. Gilasbey	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family member works as a Teacher
S.J.G. Gilasbey	8.2 Cabinet Minutes 21 st February 2022 – Minute 7 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 to 2024/25 Revenue and Capital and Housing Rent Setting for 2022/23	Family member is a Council Tenant
R. James	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Partner works in Llanelli Library
L. Bowen	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Wife works in the Translation Department
D. Cundy	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Relatives work for the Council
J.S. Edmunds	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family work for the Council

T.M. Higgins	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Niece works in the library service
K. Madge	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter works in Social Care
H.I. Jones	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter-in-Law works in Social Services Grand Daughter works in the Legal Department
S.M. Allen	7.1 – Housing Regeneration and Development – Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027)	Voluntary member of the Board of a Housing Association mentioned in the report
D.C. Evans	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Wife works for the Council
B.A.L. Roberts	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
P.M. Hughes	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
G. John	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Family Member works for the Authority
R. Evans	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Daughter works for the Library Service
M. Charles	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Sister works for the Authority
W.S. Walters – on behalf of all officers attending the meeting	5 - Pay Policy Statement 2022-23	Employed by the Authority
W.S. Walters	7.4 – Review of Election Fees payable at the County Council and Town/Community Council Elections	Returning Officer
C. Moore	7.4 – Review of Election Fees payable at the County Council and Town/Community Council Elections	Will be working in the elections

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The Chair announced the the following visits/events he had recently attended/ would be attending:-
 - March 3rd – the 110th Birthday of a resident in Awel Twyi, Llandeilo
 - March 5th – Carmarthen St David's Day Parade
 - March 8th – Celebrating Culture at Ffwrnes Theatre
 - March 10th – Actif Sports Awards at Ffwrnes Theatre

- The Leader, with the Chair's permission, updated the Council on the current position on the Covid Pandemic in Carmarthenshire and on the Welsh Government's recent easing of restrictions on mask wearing and social distancing. It was likely further reductions in those restrictions could occur later in March with the First Minister, in his recent address, stating that if the situation were to remain stable, the remaining restrictions would be removed from the 28th March 2022

The Leader then provided a further update to his address to Council at its meeting on the 2nd March on the situation in the Ukraine and its impact on its residents. He outlined the local efforts being taken to deliver donations to the Ukraine and its neighbouring countries and to the various avenues available to people to make financial contributions to various charitable organisations.

The Leader advised that, as with previously providing homes and safety for people fleeing the wars in Syria and Afghanistan, the Council was again preparing to play its part when needed to by the UK and Welsh Governments for Ukrainians fleeing to the U.K.

In conclusion, the Leader stated that the Council stands in unity with the people of Ukraine and when the time comes there will be a warm welcome for them in Carmarthenshire and there was a home for them here for as long as needed.

4. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

The Council received a report setting out the financial details relevant to the setting of the Council Tax for the 2022/2023 financial year together with the Council Tax amounts in respect of the different Council Tax Valuation Bands, as applicable to each of the individual Community and Town Council areas.

It was noted that the recommendations contained within the report brought together the authority's budget requirement and the precepts for the Police Authority and the Town and Community Councils into the consolidated Council Tax amounts in respect of the individual Council Tax Valuation bands.

The Council was also advised of a correction to note 4(a) in that the total of Community Council precepts included in the £662,792,890 was £7,000,517, as per note 4(f) and not £6,863,055, as stated in the narrative of note 4(a)

RESOLVED that, subject to the above correction and in order for the Council to comply with legislative requirements, the report and recommendations of the Director of Corporate Services on the setting of the Council Tax for the financial year 2022/23 be adopted.

5. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

[NOTE:

1. Councillors L.R. Bowen, M. Charles, D.M. Cundy, T.A.J. Davies, E. Dole, D.C.

Evans, J.S. Edmunds, R. Evans, S.J.G. Gilasbey, T.M. Higgins, P.M. Hughes, G. John, H.I. Jones, R. James, K. Madge and B.A.L. Roberts had earlier declared interests in this item and, left the meeting;

2. All officers in attendance were deemed to have a personal interest in this item and left the meeting prior to its consideration with the exception of the People Services Manager who remained in the meeting to respond to any questions arising on the report and officers who were facilitating the webcasting of the meeting.
3. As the Cabinet Member for Public Protection had declared an interest in this item and left the meeting, the People Services Manager presented the report on his behalf)

The People Services Manager, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, presented the report which outlined that, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 all Local Authorities were required to prepare a Pay Policy Statement which must be agreed and published by 1st April every year. The Statement required the approval of full Council and had to set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its Chief Officers, its lowest paid employees and the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and its employees who were not Chief Officers.

The politically balanced Pay Policy Advisory Panel had had input into the formulation of the Pay Policy Statement and its recommendations had been incorporated into final document for approval by County Council.

The Council was advised that information was still being updated within the some of the appendices, for example, the recent pay awards and those would be updated prior to the Statements' publication.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved in compliance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011

6. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-

6.1. DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY ACTION PLAN

The Council was reminded that at its meeting held on the 14th July 2021 (minute 5 refers) it had resolved to commit to being a 'Diverse Council' and endorsed the WLGA's Council Diversity in Democracy Declaration. Additionally, it had tasked the Democratic Services Committee with developing an action plan in advance of the 2022 Local Government Elections. In accordance with that decision, the Council received for consideration the Draft Diversity in Democracy Action Plan (detailed in Appendix A to the report) with the objectives therein being based on those suggested by Welsh Government. It also noted that additional objectives could be added, if so desired

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Diversity in Democracy Action Plan be approved

6.2. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE - TASK & FINISH FINAL REPORT - DEMOCRATIC PROCESS - NEW WAYS OF WORKING

The Council considered the Democratic Services Committee's Task and Finish Group's Final report on the Democratic Process – New Ways of Working. It noted that the Group had been established to review member requirements in order to determine their needs in driving the new way of working for the democratic services function and had formulated 5 recommendations for Council's consideration.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report and recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee's Task and Finish Group on New Ways of Working be approved

7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-

7.1. HOUSING REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT - FIVE YEAR DELIVERY PLAN (2022 - 2027)

(NOTE: Councillors H.A.L. Evans and S.M. Allen having earlier declared an interest in this item, re-declared that interest and left the meeting during its consideration)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 14th February 2022 (Minute 6 refers) had considered the Housing Regeneration and Development Five Year Delivery Plan (2022-2027) that set out the Authority's plans to support the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes across the County over the next five years. If adopted, the Plan would build on the success of the current affordable housing delivery plans, would support economic growth by investing over £300m into communities and directly support the actions in the Economic Recovery Plan, supporting business, people and places.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

- “6.1 To confirm that the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan will support the delivery of over 2,000 homes for rent and sale in the County over the next five years, meeting housing need, stimulating economic recovery and growth and supporting the Council's Net Zero Carbon Principles;**
- 6.2 To agree that the authority acquire non-Council owned land and buildings identified in the Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan, together with any other land and/or buildings that would add value to the Council's Housing and Regeneration priorities and aspirations be delegated to the Head of Regeneration in consultation with the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Team;**
- 6.3 To agree that the Plan would play a key role in increasing the supply of social rented homes in our communities, including homes suitable for:**
 - General needs households;**
 - Specialist supported accommodation for people with**

- complex needs and;
 - Easily adapted flexible accommodation for older people.
- 6.4 To confirm that mixed tenure developments, consisting of homes for social rent, low-cost home ownership and open market sale will be supported through this delivery plan, creating balanced, strong resilient communities;
- 6.5 To agree that the Plan would include providing new flexible, innovative, mixed tenure housing solutions that meet the needs of an aging population;
- 6.6 To agree that the Plan would support the delivery of the Council's strategic regeneration sites by providing more homes for rent and sale, including:
 - Town Centre Regeneration;
 - Rural towns and villages;
 - Pentre Awel Life Science Village and;
 - Tyisha.
- 6.7 To confirm that the homes supported through the plan would be delivered using a range of delivery vehicles that offer flexibility, scale and place;
- 6.8 To agree that the county-wide delivery of homes in the plan would follow the affordable housing action areas, building up wards in the County into distinctive areas which link geographically and culturally."

7.2. REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN NEXT STEPS AND REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 14th February, 2022 (Minute 9 refers) had considered an update report on the progress of the Revised Local development Plan (LDP) and, notably, the impact of a series of factors, issues and guidance on the progress and/or future Plan content. In detailing those areas, the report proposed a series of next steps and sought endorsement of the recommendations to prepare a further Revised Deposit LDP to address and mitigate the implications arising from the identified issues and to ensure it was procedurally compliant and 'sound' thus enabling its adoption.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

- "9.1 To provide delegated authority to officers to amend the Revised Delivery Agreement timetable and agree its content with the Welsh Government;
- 9.2 To consider the content of the report and endorse the need to prepare a consolidated second Deposit Revised LDP and associated documents;
- 9.3 To grant the Director of Environment, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Planning, delegated authority to establish the Afon Tywi Nutrient Management Board (NMB), develop its terms of reference and prepare a Nutrient Management Plan;
- 9.4 In conjunction with other key public bodies, to join the membership board for the Afon Teifi, Afon Cleddau and River Wye NMB's"

7.3. REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 7 refers) had considered a proposed revised Gambling Policy document which reflected the results of the consultation and review process and complied with relevant legislation and guidance. The Council's Licensing Committee had considered the report and unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet its approval.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“to approve the amended Gambling Policy”

7.4. REVIEW OF ELECTION FEES PAYABLE AT THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(NOTE: W.S. Walters and C. Moore having earlier declared an interest in this item re-declared that interest and left the meeting during its consideration)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 13 refers) had considered a report on the level of fees to be payable to the Returning Officer in respect of the forthcoming local elections

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“13.1 that the fees payable to the Returning Officer, which is inclusive of payments to those undertaking the role of Deputy Returning Officers and other key personnel involved in the planning and oversight of the County Council and Town / Community Councils, be as follows:

- a) £170.00 per contested election;**
- b) £56.61 per uncontested election;**

13.2. that the Chief Executive, as the Council's Returning Officer, be authorised to:

- a) make arrangements for the employment of persons to assist with the Local Elections;**
- b) determine the level of fees and payments to those employed on Election duties, subject to the total amount payable being within the available resources set to cover the cost of these elections;**

13.3 to note that there will be full cost recovery for any costs incurred for Town/Community Council elections”.

7.5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF YSGOL SWISS VALLEY FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 9 refers) had considered a report on proposals to change the age range of Ysgol Swiss Valley from 4-11 to 3-11.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, recommend to the County Council the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice”

7.6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y FELIN

(NOTE: Councillor B. Thomas having earlier declared an interest in this item re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 8 refers) had considered an objection report that summarised objections received and the local Authority's responses thereto on proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol y Felin to Welsh Medium education from 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, the objections and any responses to the notice in the objection report, recommend to the County Council the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice”.

7.7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE AND REMODEL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICES AT YSGOL RHYDYGORS TO IMPROVE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February, 2022 (Minute 10 refers) had considered a report on proposals to reconfigure and remodel Behaviour Support Services at Ysgol Rhydygors to improve provision for children and Young People.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“ Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, recommend to the County Council the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice”.

7.8. PENTRE AWEL

The Council was informed that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on the 28th February 2022 (Minute 14 refers) had considered a report providing an update statement on Pentre Awel including the procurement of a contractor for Zone 1. The report detailed:-

- progress of the design of Zone 1 and the maximum cost of the construction;
- progress on securing tenants for Zone 1;
- progress in design development Zone 3;
- associated progress including Schools networking and Third Sector policy.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Cabinet be adopted:-

“14.1 that the report of the process undertaken to progress the first phase of the two-stage design and build contract to deliver Pentre Awel Zone 1 be noted;

14.2 to receive the maximum cost (£87.07m) for the construction provided by Bouyges UK and to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services and the Chief Executive to agree the final cost envelope and confirm affordability in consultation with the Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for Resources;

14.3 to note the progress in securing tenancy agreements and to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to agree to progress to construction on achieving suitable assurance of rental income and to note that the delivery of Innovation and Business Development and therefore the shell and core space being developed is in advance of final plans and therefore at risk;

14.4 to approve the policy setting out the principles to be adopted for inclusion of Third Sector organisations within Pentre Awel;

14.5 to note the progress across other zones and associated discussions and impact beyond the immediate project boundaries.”

DURATION OF MEETING

Following the consideration of this item, the Council's attention was drawn to Corporate Procedure Rule 9 – Duration of meeting and the fact the meeting had been underway for nearly three hours. It was therefore:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Corporate Procedure Rule 9 be suspended to enable the remaining items on the agenda to be considered.

8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE:-

8.1. 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th February, 2022 be received.

8.2. 21ST FEBRUARY 2022

(NOTE: Councillor S.J.G. Gilasbey having earlier declared an interest in minute 7 of the meeting, re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 21st February, 2022 be received.

8.3. 28TH FEBRUARY, 2022

(NOTE: Councillor K. Lloyd having earlier declared an interest in Minute 6 of the minutes re-declared that interest and remained in the meeting)

RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 28th February, 2022 be received.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

10. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

10.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY TO COUNCILLOR EMLYN DOLE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

“March 23rd will mark two years since the first national lockdown, a period that saw significant changes to our way of life and work.

As we move forward, could the Leader say what Carmarthenshire residents and businesses can expect in the next phase as regards recovery and support?

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole – Leader of the Council:-

Thank you very much Alun and despite the fact it's coming at the end of the meeting, it's very timely and I'm very willing to answer this. I did say in the update at the beginning that it looks as if this pandemic has gone slightly but, of course its impact is going to be with us for quite some time. There have been many economic shocks as a result of the situation in Ukraine. The cost of fuel is increasing already, and National Insurance is going to increase as well. In order to give the best opportunity to Carmarthenshire to be able to mitigate the impact of the economic affect, we did develop a recovery plan that was a very detailed strategy as to how the economy of the county could recover as quickly as possibly from the impacts of Covid and I had an opportunity to share that update at the Cabinet meeting last week and here are some of the updates:-

- The Economic Recovery Plan update identified that more than 800 jobs have already been created and almost 700 jobs safeguarded as we implement the recovery plan.

- The Council's economic development team has engaged with well over 2,000 local businesses and provided around 250 people already with training support
- One of the key areas of targeted intervention is supporting people to improve digital skills so they have better employment prospects, and more than 200 people have received that training.
- Over the next 18-24 months, the council we'll provide employment support to some 3,000 people, helping a further 850 individuals into full time employment. We will also maximise the community benefits that arise from development schemes such as the multi-million-pound Pentre Awel scheme, we've just referred to, which is the first development of its scope and size in Wales providing world-class medical research and health care delivery and supporting and encouraging people to lead active and healthy lives, providing supply chain opportunities, as we've said to local businesses together with recruitment, training and work experience placements.
- It is estimated that 1850 jobs will be created from the entire development proposed, of which 750 – 950 jobs will be directly attributed to phase 1. Phase 1 construction is scheduled for completion early 2024, the new leisure centre for Llanelli
- We are currently offering business support grants and property development grants as well as business renewable energy grants. In total this grant support amounts to some £6m, which will lever in a further £5m of investment.
- The council has also committed to deliver 13 major projects, investing more than £140million, Creating and Accommodating 1250+ Jobs and providing opportunities for local business growth
- Supporting the delivery of over 2,000 additional homes, as we've said including bungalow across the County over the next five years, promoting economic growth by investing over £300 million into our communities. This level of investment is estimated to safeguard some 700 jobs over the next 5 years.
- We have recovery plans in place for the County's 3 primary towns – Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford – which highlight key issues and opportunities to provide a delivery framework of interventions that are specific to the individual town centres.
- Growth plans have been developed for out 10 market towns as well and we have committed £1m of capital funding to support delivery of prioritised projects across those ten towns
- This Council is leading on the £55 million Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure programme, estimated to be worth £318 million to the regional economy over the next 15 years and bringing an estimated £30m of inward investment into us in the next 5 years.
- We are also leading on the SBCD Skills and Talent Programme which aims to create 3,000 apprenticeships across the region.
- We recognise, of course, that we can't do this on our own – it'll take the ambitions and commitment of everyone in Carmarthenshire - from public sector partners and organisations, the private sector, to local businesses and local people. We really hope that we can all work to do that to develop Carmarthenshire.

- We are determined to take every advantage of every opportunity to accelerate Carmarthenshire's growth and enable the economic success that Carmarthenshire can achieve and deserves. This includes maximising opportunities to draw down additional external funding, including UK and Welsh government funding to add value to the activity already planned. For example, In the autumn, the Authority welcomed the announcements from UK Government that it we secured nearly £20m, jointly with Pembrokeshire County Council, creating two town centre hubs and a further £16.7m for the Tywi Valley Initiative. Both will be funded through that first round of the Levelling Up Fund. The Authority also welcomed further £2.97m funding from the Community Renewal Fund for projects that include upskilling, business support and town centre development – all of which will greatly contribute to the economic recovery of Carmarthenshire.

Thank you for the question Alun. Much appreciated

Supplementary Question By Councillor Alun Lenny:-

Thank you Leader for that detailed answer. You have detailed already about the excellent development at Pentre Awel. A development which was prevented by Labour members during the process that wanted to be 'called in' at the time but, this is part of the five year capital programme of the Council that reflects the ambition of the Administration to continue with the regeneration programme for Carmarthenshire. Can you tell us a bit more please Leader

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole – Leader of the Council:-

Yes, thank you Alun. Yes. I'm very pleased to do so and very confident of presenting a very ambitious programme. That is something that has defined this administration from the very first day and, it was a priority for us, and it's been set out completely clearly and has been implemented throughout the administration. That goodwill to go for it and to move ahead with the plans. I've already referred to some of the regeneration plans that were in that capital programme and there are more than that and, as an example, the 3G pitch in Amman Valley Leisure Centre and the schools in Ammanford and Llanelli.

At Council last week you will recall we voted on the capital programme for 2022/23 up to 2026/27. A very ambitious programme as you say but one we are very confident we will deliver on. Now I appreciate that the scale and ambition of the capital programme may frighten some members of the opposition. Frighten them enough that they would vote against it. Which is what they did, against the capital programme that included a leisure centre in Llanelli, within Pentre Awel, against investments in infrastructure, sport and leisure. (I'm sorry I'm being talked across) I'm just referring to the capital programme that was opposed that includes voting against the waste management the public transport infrastructure, the schools and I could go on but I won't, I don't want to cause any further embarrassment to the members of the Labour Group.

Thank you Alun for the question and to the Chair for your patience. It's very much appreciated.

11. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION (AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE WEBSITE)

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda were available for information on the Council website.

Following conclusion of this Item, the Chief Executive, Group Leaders and the Chair were afforded the opportunity of reflecting on the challenging last five years faced by the Council. Best wishes were also expressed to those members seeking re-election and those not standing.

CHAIR

DATE