

# COUNTY COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022**

**PRESENT:** Retiring Chair and former Councillor J.E. Williams

**Councillors (In Person):**

K.V. Broom	J.M. Charles	P. Cooper	D.M. Cundy
C.A. Davies	B. Davies	C. Davies	G. Davies
K. Davies	L. Davies	S.L. Davies	T. Davies
L.D. Evans	N. Evans	R.E. Evans	W.T. Evans
S. Godfrey-Coles	J.P. Hart	J.K. Howell	P.M. Hughes
J.D. James	R. James	G.H. John	D. Jones
H. Jones	A. Leyshon	D. Nicholas	M. Palfreman
B.D.J. Phillips	B.A.L. Roberts	D. Thomas	E.G. Thomas
G.B. Thomas	M. Thomas	J. Tremlett	F. Walters
D.E. Williams			

**Councillors (Virtually):**

S.M. Allen	L.R. Bowen	M.D. Cranham	S.A. Curry
A. Davies	W.R.A. Davies	T.A.J. Davies	H.L. Davies
L.M. Davies	M. Donoghue	A. Evans	D.C. Evans
H.A.L. Evans	A.D. Harries	T.M. Higgins	P. Hughes-Griffiths
M. James	J.P. Jenkins	B.W. Jones	A.C. Jones
A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis	N. Lewis	K. Madge
A.G. Morgan	D. Owen	D. Price	E. Rees
S.L. Rees	E.M.J.G. Schiavone	J. Seward	H.B. Shepardson
E. Skinner	R. Sparks	A. Vaughan Owen	P.T. Warlow
J. Williams			

**Also Present (In Person):**

W. Walters, Chief Executive;  
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;  
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;  
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;  
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy;  
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;  
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);  
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services;  
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;  
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator;  
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer;  
K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer;  
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer;

**Also Present (Virtually):**

G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services;  
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

**Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G.R. Jones.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

**3. PERSONAL MATTERS / OUTGOING CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Retiring Chair, former Councillor Eirwyn Williams, welcomed distinguished guests, Councillors, staff and friends to the meeting. He thereupon reflected on his year in office and the events and celebrations he had attended with his consort Mrs. Joyce Williams. He thanked the retiring Vice Chair, former Councillor Ken Lloyd, and his consort, Mrs Katherine Lloyd, for their support and invited former Councillor Lloyd to say a few words.

The retiring Vice Chair, former Councillor Ken Lloyd, paid tribute to the retiring Chair, former Councillor J.E. Williams and his consort, Mrs. Joyce Williams, and wished both the Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect well during their term of office. He expressed his gratitude to all Councillors and staff for their support not only during his term of office as Vice Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council but also over the last 5 years. Finally, he paid tribute to his consort, Mrs. Katherine Lloyd, and thanked her formally for all her support.

The Retiring Chair thanked former Councillor Ken Lloyd for his kind words and wished both he and Mrs Lloyd a happy retirement. He then expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for her advice and professional guidance, and to Directors, particularly Chris Moore who had assisted with the Chair's fundraising, and staff of the authority who had supported the work of the Chair. He thanked his driver Jeff Jones and Eira Evans for her professional and personal support, arranging his events and making sure that everything always ran smoothly. He paid tribute to his consort, Mrs. Joyce Williams, who had been at his side for the last 12 months and thanked her formally for her support. Finally he wished the Chair-elect Councillor Rob Evans and his consort Councillor Nysia Evans well in his year of office.

**4. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**It was moved by the retiring Chair former Councillor J.E. Williams and seconded by Councillor R. James and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor R. Evans be elected Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.**

Former Councillor J.E. Williams congratulated Councillor Evans on his election.

Councillor Rob Evans made his declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Councillor Evans expressed his gratitude to all Councillors for their support in appointing him as Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council and that he was looking forward to his year in office representing the Council. Councillor Evans also paid tribute to the retiring Chair, former Councillor J.E. Williams, and presented the Retiring Chair with a Past Chair's Commemorative Pendant.

The retiring Chair's consort Mrs Joyce Williams thereupon presented Councillor Nysia Evans with her Chain of Office and Councillor Nysia Evans presented Mrs Joyce Williams with a Past Chair's Consort's Commemorative Pendant.

Tributes were also paid to the Retiring Chair by the Leaders of the Plaid Cymru, Independent and Labour Groups for the excellent service he had given to the Council during his year of office.

The Chief Executive also paid tribute, on behalf of the Authority's staff, to the retiring Chair and his consort (former Councillor Eirwyn Williams and Mrs Joyce Williams) who had fulfilled his role with great professionalism and been very active and supportive of the work of the Council. She congratulated the newly elected Chair and Consort (Councillor Rob Evans and Councillor Nysia Evans), and the incoming Vice Chair and Consort (Councillor Louvain Roberts and Mrs Vanessa Rees) on their appointments and wished them a very happy and successful year in office.

## **5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**It was moved by Councillor J. Tremlett, seconded by Councillor S. Davies and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Louvain Roberts be elected Vice-Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.**

Councillor Louvain Roberts was invested by the former Vice-Chair, Ken Lloyd, with the Chain of Office and made her declaration of acceptance of office. The Vice-Chair expressed her appreciation to the Council on her appointment.

The Vice-Chair's consort, Vanessa Rees, was presented with a Chain of Office by the former Vice-Chair's consort Mrs. Katherine Lloyd.

The Chair congratulated the Vice Chair and her Consort on their appointments.

## **6. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Darren Price be elected Leader of the Council.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Darren Price be elected Leader of the Council.**

## **7. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE CABINET**

The Leader reported that he had considered the appointment of members to serve on the Cabinet and informed Council of the following appointments to each of the portfolios indicated:-

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Linda Evans	Deputy Leader and Homes
Ann Davies	Rural Affairs and Planning Policy

Glynog Davies	Education and Welsh Language
Philip Hughes	Organisation and Workforce
Gareth John	Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism
Alun Lenny	Resources
Edward Thomas	Transport, Waste & Infrastructure Services
Jane Tremlett	Health & Social Services
Aled Vaughan Owen	Climate Change, Decarbonisation & Sustainability

**NOTED.**

**8. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

In presenting his Annual Report to the Council covering the period 2021/22 the Leader spoke of the need to reflect on what had been achieved to date and consider what still needed to be done. He commented that it was his belief that no individual political party or group had the monopoly on good ideas and that each and every member had a role to play in contributing to the council's corporate vision. He spoke of the need to have systems in place which enabled good ideas, from whatever source, to see the light of day. Over the next few years he was keen to engage with members from across the chamber on a regular basis to discuss their ideas and concerns and to work together for the common good. He added that he had already met with the leaders of the Labour Group, New Independent Group and each of the unaffiliated members of council setting out his wish to develop an engaging and co-operative relationship.

The Leader suggested that it was the wish of everyone to see Carmarthenshire flourish and that it was the duty of all members to find ways of working effectively together in order to deliver shared objectives.

He commented that it was the administration's wish to tackle climate change, the cost of living crisis, regenerate the county's economy and town centres, provide quality housing, raise educational standards, ensure social care support to the most vulnerable, improve public transport, see cleaner streets and deliver quality and effective council services. Whilst these were matters, he added, that were important to all members and needed to be pursued together over the next 5 years he emphasised that much had already been achieved which he outlined as follows:

**Economic Recovery**

Early in the pandemic it had been recognised that alongside facing the day-to-day challenges a recovery plan was required. A comprehensive recovery plan had therefore been presented for supporting businesses, people, and communities. Covid-19 had had an impact on the local economy, but there were positive signs of a quicker recovery than originally anticipated and the Leader felt confident that Carmarthenshire's economy could recover to become one that was even more productive than before.

He considered that the economic recovery plan was unashamedly ambitious – and was determined to do everything to keep Carmarthenshire on track and continuing its journey of growth. The plan realised the ambition to help businesses replace more than 3,000 jobs lost during the pandemic: safeguarding and replacing up to 10,000 at-risk jobs and creating around 1,700 new jobs - as well as supporting thousands of local businesses. Key to the plan was supporting

the county's foundational economy and supporting local people to grow skills and talent in targeted areas so that there was a strong and resilient local workforce. The town centre recovery plans for Ammanford, Llanelli and Carmarthen would also be delivered - each of them highlighting key issues, opportunities, and specific interventions for the individual towns. The ten towns initiative continued to go from strength to strength with an agenda for change set for each of the identified towns and their wider communities. Consultation and development had taken place at all ten towns already - In Cross Hands; Cwmaman; Kidwelly; Laugharne; Llandeilo; Llandovery; Llanybydder; Newcastle Emlyn; St.Clears; and Whitland.

The drive to shop local had also continued with 100% Sir Gar. Our pop-up shops have been popping up across the county offering free retail space to local independent businesses. We've seen thousands of people shop locally keeping the Carmarthenshire pound in Carmarthenshire.

### **Swansea Bay City Deal**

As well as making progress on the Pentre Awel scheme in Llanelli which, it was considered, would deliver thousands of jobs to the area Carmarthenshire continue to benefit from Swansea Bay City Deal. Two significant schemes within the City Deal had been launched this year. The Skills and Talent Programme had been approved by UK and Welsh Government and would provide opportunities for thousands of people to access skills opportunities and support businesses to grow through developing a talented workforce across the Swansea Bay Region focussing on industries with high demand for workers.

The Regional Digital Programme had also received government approval this year. The scheme was being led by Carmarthenshire and was estimated to be worth £318m to the region in the coming years. The programme had three elements all of which, it was anticipated, would benefit the communities of Carmarthenshire:

- Connected Places: Ensuring the region's cities, towns and business parks have competitive access to full-fibre connectivity;
- Rural: Improving access to broadband in the region's rural communities;
- Next generation wireless: Paving the way for the region to benefit from 5G and 'Internet of Things' innovation

### **Rural (Mart)**

Carmarthen Mart had re-opened in March this year following a significant refurbishment and the creation of more rural jobs. Agriculture played a crucial role in rural development by supporting employment, ancillary businesses, and environmental services. Farming was the backbone of rural life and the Leader expressed delight that the Council had been able to support this and secure the future of Carmarthen Mart.

### **Roads and Infrastructure**

A superfast charging hub, the first of its kind in Wales, had opened in Cross Hands providing four 50KW rapid chargers and one 150KW super rapid charger. The chargers would provide a source of clean energy and help reduce draw from the national grid. The hub complemented the Council's ten-year Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and its vision of developing the infrastructure required to

enable employees, residents, communities, visitors, businesses, and other organisations to use Electric Vehicles as part of their everyday routine. The development and promotion of a network of electric charging points would continue to future proof the county's transport network as well as contributing to local and global pollution reduction target.

The Council had eight years before the 2030 goal was reached to become net zero carbon and the Leader considered that the appointment of a dedicated Cabinet member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability clearly demonstrated the importance that this administration placed on this particular agenda.

### **Housing**

The Housing Regeneration and Development Delivery Plan had been approved by Council this year and the plan aimed to deliver over 2,000 additional new and affordable homes across the county over the next five years. The vision and investment, however, were not just about housing but supporting the development of strong sustainable communities – places where people wished to live and work and giving people quality homes that were energy efficient and affordable to run. It was considered that the investment would have a huge impact in stimulating the economy, creating jobs for local people and supporting the county's recovery from the pandemic.

The right homes needed to be delivered in the right places, and this included providing affordable homes for young and working aged people in both rural and urban areas, helping them to remain in the county, increasing footfall in the County's towns and protecting the Welsh language and culture in rural areas. Work had already started on the Transforming Tyisha project which would deliver new mixed-tenure modern homes in the community.

### **Social care**

People's health and wellbeing would be supported and the social care teams continued to deliver a high standard of service under very difficult circumstances. The Council would continue to work with the Health Board and local partners to continuously improve Social Care across Carmarthenshire.

### **Education**

To ensure that future communities were vibrant communities and the future economy was a prosperous economy investment in providing children with access to the best education possible would continue. To support this vision an ambitious ten-year strategy had been launched outlining the future vision for education in Carmarthenshire. The plan established the council's aspirations for learners and staff for the next 10 years.

The strategy also included a commitment to continued investment in schools so that they were fit for 21st century learning and teaching, and in offering a high standard of bilingual education.

To date, the council's Modernising Education Programme had invested more than £300m in schools across Carmarthenshire which included the building of 12 new primary schools, two new secondary schools, and 48 major refurbishments and extensions benefitting more than 16,000 children throughout the county. Recently a new school in Ysgol Pum Heol had opened following a £4.5 million-pound investment. A similar sum had been invested to transform Ysgol Llangadog and £4.3m on Ysgol Rhys Pritchard. Work had also started on

building a new primary school in Pembrey with an investment of £8.25 million pounds.

### **Leisure**

The pandemic had brought into focus health and wellbeing and led to investment in the County's Leisure facilities.

Amman Valley Leisure Centre had already benefitted from more than £600,000 of upgrading work inside the building and earlier this year there had been a commitment to develop the 3G all-weather pitch and enhance athletics facilities.

Major improvements had also been carried out at Newcastle Emlyn Leisure Centre, and almost a year ago a new leisure centre had been opened at the former Ysgol Pantycelyn site in Llandovery bringing a state-of-the-art gym, sports hall, dance studio and community facilities to the area in addition to the existing swimming pool. The Leader commented that this administration was determined to ensure continued investment in leisure facilities across the county.

### **Looking forward**

The Leader commented that there was much to look forward to. Earlier this year the Tywi Valley Cycle Path project had been awarded £16.7million as part of the UK Government's new Levelling Up fund. The project would create a 20km off-road walking and cycling route linking Carmarthen to Llandeilo running alongside the River Tywi through stunning scenery past castles, country parks and historical estates as well as attractions including the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and Aberglasney Gardens.

In conclusion the Leader stated that his report was just a quick snapshot of the work this council was doing on so many fronts to try and improve the lives of the people of Carmarthenshire. The task now, he added, was to build on those firm foundations and realise the ambitions for this county. He looked forward to working with all members over the next 5 years in order to do just that and thanked members.

The Leaders of the Independent Group and Labour Group were afforded the opportunity of commenting on the Leader's report.

**RESOLVED that the Leader's 2021/22 Annual Report be noted.**

## **9. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY, REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM**

The Council considered the composition of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels and the membership of those committees.

The Chair advised that there was now a vacant Unaffiliated member seat on the Planning Committee by virtue of Councillor Michael Cranham not taking up the seat and that Councillor Fiona Walters had been put forward by the Independent Group for one of the two Independent seats on the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that as no nominations to these two vacant seats were proposed at the meeting nominations for all vacant seats would be brought to a future meeting for confirmation.

It was duly moved and seconded and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

**9.1 to confirm the allocation of 168 seats on the new Council to be split into 67 Scrutiny and 101 Regulatory and other seats;**

**9.2 to approve the composition of committees as detailed within the circulated report and the appointment of members to Regulatory, Scrutiny and Other Committees as set out within Appendix 1 of the report or reported at the meeting.**

**10. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND TO ELECT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR THE COMMITTEES / PANELS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Council, in accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 1.1 (n), considered nominations which had been received for the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

It was duly moved and seconded and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following appointments to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels be made for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:-**

<b><u>COMMITTEE / PANEL</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIR</u></b>	<b><u>VICE CHAIR</u></b>
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. D.M. Cundy	Cllr. B.W. Jones
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. C. Jones	Cllr. S.M. Allen
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. J.D. James	Cllr. K. Davies
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. A.G. Morgan	Cllr. K.V. Broom
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee	Cllr. H.A.L. Evans	To be confirmed
Appeals Committee	Cllr. J.K. Howell	Cllr. L. Davies
Appointments Committee A - Directors	Cllr. D. Price	Cllr. S.M. Allen
Appointments Committee B - Heads of Service	Cllr. J. Tremlett	Cllr. D. Price
Democratic Services Committee	Cllr. L. Davies	Cllr. W.T. Evans
Licensing Committee	Cllr. J.M. Charles	Cllr. D. Phillips
Member Appointments Committee	Cllr. J. Lewis	Cllr. W.R.A. Davies
Planning Committee	Cllr. W.T. Evans	Cllr. C. Jones
Housing Review Panel	Cllr. B.W. Jones	Cllr. G.B. Thomas
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee	Cllr. D.E. Williams	Not required

## **11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Council was reminded of the requirement for it to review its Constitution on an annual basis and that as part of that process it had established a Constitutional Review Working Group [CRWG] to present any recommended changes.

It was reported that the Constitutional Review Working Group of the previous Council had recommended that the Council should, at its Annual Meeting, consider a report on the possibility of appointing a presiding member. However, it was suggested that this be considered at a future meeting to allow initial discussions to be held with the Constitutional Review Working Group of the new Council in the first instance.

It was further reported that whilst no legislation requiring changes to the Council's Constitution had been introduced during 2021/22 there was a need for Part 6.1 thereof to be amended to reflect the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' (IRPW) prescribed amounts to be paid to Councillors for 2020/21, as detailed within the report.

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

**11.1 in accordance with the determinations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, to adopt the Councillors' and Co-opted**

**Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2022-2023, as detailed within Part 6.1 of the Constitution;**

**11.2 to adopt the Council Constitution for 2022-2023 subject to any necessary changes to the Constitution arising from decisions made earlier in the meeting;**

**11.3 that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any minor amendments, correct typographical or drafting errors and ensure all cross-references within the Constitution are correct and that these be reported to the Constitutional Review Working Group as and when necessary.**

**12. APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL'S ADVISORY PANELS, STATUTORY OUTSIDE BODIES AND JOINT COMMITTEES**

Council considered nominations received in respect of the appointment of members to serve on Statutory outside bodies, Joint Committees and the Council's Advisory Panels.

**RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:**

<b><u>OUTSIDE BODY</u></b>	<b><u>REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED</u></b>
<b>Brecon Beacons National Park Authority</b>	<b>Cllr. A. Davies</b>
<b>Dyfed Powys Police &amp; Crime Panel</b>	<b>Cllr. K. Davies Cllr. J.K. Howell Cllr. D. Jones</b>
<b>Mid &amp; West Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Authority</b>	<b>Cllr. K. Broom Cllr. K. Madge Cllr. G.B. Thomas Cllr. D.E. Williams 1 x seat to be confirmed</b>
<b>Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Cllr. R. James Cllr. A.G. Morgan Cllr. R. Sparks</b>
<b>South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance and Audit Sub Committee</b>	<b>Cllr. R. James Cllr. D. Thomas</b>
<b>South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee</b>	<b>Cllr. R. James Cllr. E. Schiavone Cllr. R. Sparks</b>
<b>Y Partneriaeth – Grwp Craffu /Scrutiny Group</b>	<b>Chair and Vice Chair of the Education &amp; Children Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Wales Pension Partnership Joint Governance Committee</b>	<b>Chair of the Dyfed Pension Fund Committee</b>

<b>COUNCIL PANELS</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED</b>
<b>Cross Party Constitutional Review Working Group [CRWG]</b>	Cllr. D. Price Cllr. L. Evans Cllr. A. Lenny Cllr. K. Broom Cllr. W.T.Evans Cllr. D.M. Cundy Cllr. R. James Cllr. D. Jones Cllr. A.G. Morgan Cllr. J.P. Jenkins
<b>Pay Policy Advisory Panel</b>	Cllr. D. Price Cllr. A. Lenny Cllr. G. John Cllr. D.M. Cundy Cllr. R. James Cllr. A.G. Morgan

### **13. APPOINTMENT OF LAY PERSONS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Further to minute 6 of Council held on the 19th January 2022 it was reported that the Governance & Audit Committee had recommended, following the application process and interviews, that Mrs. Julie James, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald and Mr. David MacGregor be appointed to the positions of Lay Persons of the Governance & Audit Committee for the period 25th May 2022 to 24th May 2027 in order to satisfy the requirement of the Council's Constitution.

#### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

**13.1 to approve the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee to appoint the following lay persons to the Governance and Audit Committee for the period 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2027:**

**Mrs. Julie James;  
Mr. Malcolm MacDonald;  
Mr. David MacGregor;**

**13.2 to note that the Authority would re-advertise for the remaining Lay Person vacancy.**

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

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