

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

Task and Finish Group Final Report REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FLYTIPPING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

To consider and comment on the following issues:

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

Reasons:

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

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

Chair of the Task & Finish Group:

Cllr. John James

Report Author:

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST JULY 2023

Task and Finish Group Final Report

REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FLYTIPPING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

1.0 Review Background

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

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

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

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

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

2.0 The Scope and main aims of the review

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

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

The Group undertook a review to:

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

3.0 Corporate / community objectives and well- being objectives

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

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

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

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

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

4.0 Approach

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.0 Recommendations

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

➤ Recommendation One

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

➤ Recommendation Two

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

➤ **Recommendation Three**

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

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

➤ **Recommendation Four**

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

➤ **Recommendation Five**

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

➤ **Recommendation Six**

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

To include:

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

➤ **Recommendation Seven**

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

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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

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

2. Legal

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

3. Finance

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

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

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

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