

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

**7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

**PARKING STRATEGY REVIEW**

Purpose:

To advise Scrutiny Committee on the forthcoming review of Carmarthenshire's Parking Strategy

**THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-**

**Review and assess the information contained in report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and Director.**

Reason

To ensure the views of the Scrutiny Committee are considered in commissioning the Parking Strategy Review.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

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

**Directorate: Place, Infrastructure & Economic Development**

**Dan John**

**Head of Environmental Infrastructure**

[dwjohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:dwjohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

**PARKING STRATEGY REVIEW**

Carmarthenshire County Council's current *Carmarthenshire Parking Strategy* was produced in February 2018. However, much has changed since 2018 and the County Council has continually revised its goals and strategies to reflect this.

To ensure the Council continues working for the long-term improvement of the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the residents and communities of Carmarthenshire, key documents have been developed since 2018 which include:

- Cabinet Vision Statement 2022-2027,
- Corporate Strategy 2022-2027,
- Transformation Strategy 2022-2027.

How we manage parking within Carmarthenshire has a primary role in supporting much of what the Council aims to deliver. This includes issues such as the economic regeneration of our town centres and the important role car parking plays in enabling towns to flourish, particularly following the impacts of the covid pandemic in 2020.

The County Council also has a range of statutory duties regarding the management of traffic on our highway network and the promotion of sustainable travel. The management of both on and off-street parking operations has a key supporting role in these areas.

The County Council also continues to face difficult financial challenges, and the utilisation of our off-street car park assets again has an important role to play.

It is therefore appropriate to review the changing needs of Carmarthenshire and the County Council with a view towards bringing forward an updated parking strategy and ensure it supports our corporate goals.

In order to provide an updated strategy, it is proposed to commission consultancy support to review existing parking needs with respect to corporate objectives, societal demands, economic and environmental necessities, and to ensure the optimal utilisation of emerging technologies for service delivery.

The overarching aims of the commission will be to develop evidence-based strategy proposals which:

1. Support the County Council's corporate goals and objectives, particularly with regard to sustainability and economic regeneration.
2. Aligns with national and regional strategies and statutory duties.
3. Ensures, where reasonably practicable, that parking services and provision meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors while minimising congestion.

4. Promote the use of sustainable transportation options such as public transport, walking, or cycling.
5. Provide and promote inclusive facilities, such as for blue badge holders, electric vehicle charging, car clubs, cyclists and motorcyclists.
6. Supporting Economic Development - Facilitating access to businesses and commercial areas by providing adequate parking options to encourage patronage and support local economic activity.
7. Ensure parking services are enabled to operate efficiently within budget requirements to provide an effective service which fully utilises the legal powers and technology available.

It is proposed that the commission is procured through the *South West & Mid Wales Regional Civil Engineering Services Framework* which is managed by the Carmarthenshire County Council's Professional Design Services as the lead authority.

The commission will be undertaken within the current financial year and funded from the existing Parking Services budget. The commission will enable a new parking strategy to be brought forward in 2025/26.

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|



| <b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b>  | YES          |   |
|--|--------------|---|
| <b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information<br/>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b> |              |   |
| Title of Document  | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
| <b>Carmarthenshire<br/>Parking Strategy<br/>February 2018</b>  |              | <a href="#">parking-strat-eng-pdf.pdf (gov.wales)</a>         |