

Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

16th November 2022

Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22 Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan & Annual Performance Report

Purpose:

To inform members of the monitoring outcomes in relation to the performance and implementation of the Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan and the requirement to prepare a Annual Monitoring Report for the planning function.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

- To consider the Annual Monitoring Report for the adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) – as required for submission to the Welsh Government.
- To note the outcomes and baseline data as part of ongoing LDP monitoring and as evidence in respect of the emerging Revised LDP 2018 - 2033.
- To note the update in relation to the preparation of an Annual Performance Report.

Reason(s)

To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the monitoring and implementation of the Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan.

To ensure we comply with our legislative responsibilities to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report for our adopted Local Development Plan.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Ann Davies, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs & Planning Policy

Directorate
Environment

Name of Head of Service:
Rhodri Griffiths

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22 Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan & Annual Performance Report

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This report follows the adoption of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) and presents the latest Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The report also considers the preparation of the Annual Performance Report 2021/22. The AMR has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Local Development Plan (LDP) Regulations 2005.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires each Local Planning Authority to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on its LDP following adoption and to keep all matters under review that are expected to affect the development of its area. Under the Act, the Council has a duty to produce information on these matters in the form of an Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Welsh Government, and publication on the Carmarthenshire County Council's website by 31st October each year following plan adoption.

Following consideration of the 2016/17 AMR it was resolved to prepare a Review Report into the LDP. This was considered at the meeting of Full Council on the 10th January 2018, which resolved to commence preparation of the Revised LDP 2018 – 2033.

Whilst the preparation of the Revised LDP continues, the Council is still required to prepare AMRs with the information and data produced used as evidence in the preparation of the Revised Plan.

A copy of the emerging draft AMR is appended as part of this report. It should be noted that the content of the AMR and this report will develop as further evidence and data becomes available ahead of reporting to County Council.

Each Local Planning Authority (LPA) is required to prepare an annual performance report (APR) monitoring the performance of its planning function and to publish its content by the 31st October of that year. The APR content includes information from a number of sources both internal and external. In relation to the latter this includes core information supplied by the Welsh Government. This information is currently unavailable and as such it is not currently possible to prepare an APR as required. The availability of this information will be monitored, and an APR prepared and reported as appropriate.

Note: the requirement to prepare an APR was suspended throughout the period associated with Covid-19.

2. AMR Background

As part of the requirement to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the adopted

LDP, Carmarthenshire County Council is required by the Welsh Government to produce and submit an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

This represents the latest AMR following the LDP's formal adoption on the 10th December 2014 and is to be submitted by the 31st October, with its preparation an integral component of the statutory development plan process.

Covering the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 this AMR assesses the progress in implementing LDP policies and proposals. It provides the basis for monitoring the effectiveness of the LDP. This, and other AMRs will aim to demonstrate the extent to which the LDP strategy and objectives are being achieved and whether the Plan's policies are operating and functioning effectively. It also assesses the impact the LDP is having on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County and any contextual, policy and legislative changes that may influence its implementation.

3. Content and Structure

The AMR is the principle means for measuring the success in implementing the Plan's policies. In recognition that measuring implementation is a continuous part of the plan making process, the monitoring of the Plan provides the connection between: evidence gathering; plan strategy and policy formulation; policy implementation; evaluation, and plan review.

The AMR also includes an analysis of the Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal.

4. LDP Monitoring Framework

The LDP Monitoring Framework identifies a series of targets and indicators with defined triggers for further action. These have been developed in accordance with Welsh Government Regulations and guidance and was considered at the Examination into the Carmarthenshire LDP and within the Inspector's Report.

The AMR utilises a traffic light system in monitoring its policies which allow for a visual interpretation on the success, or otherwise. This is supported by the accompanying explanatory narrative which assesses the respective success or failure against each indicator, with a series of options available to respond to any emerging issues.

5. Summary of Key Outcomes

An overview of the key findings from the 2021/22 AMR is set out in the Executive Summary of the appended Annual Monitoring Report.

6. AMR Conclusions and Recommendations

Whilst it is considered that there has in the main been positive progress in implementing many of the adopted Plan's policies and objectives, there are elements and components which are not delivering as intended. These are reflected in the content of the AMR with each monitoring measure accompanied by a commentary which provides a context on the performance as recorded as well as where appropriate identified mitigation in addressing any underperformance. It should be noted that some elements of the Plan its performance have been impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the associated restrictions. In this respect some of the findings of this AMR inevitably reflect the challenges experienced by some sectors and society.

It should also be noted that preparation of the Revised LDP will address elements of underperformance and or where contextual changes require alternative approaches.

7. Next Steps

The AMR will, in accordance with the Council's statutory duty, be submitted to the Welsh Government and published on the Council's website by 31st October. This publication will be accompanied by an informal consultation which will afford interested parties the opportunity to comment on the key issues raised. Whilst not a statutory requirement, such a consultation provides an important opportunity for views to be submitted, and where appropriate for those views to contribute to the content of subsequent AMRs.

The content of this AMR, along with that of the previous three documents, will be used to inform the preparation of the Revised LDP 2018 – 2033 and its associated evidence base.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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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: R Griffiths

Head of Place and Sustainability

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The AMR in monitoring the implementation of the LDP's policies and provisions, builds on the links and strategic compatibility between it and Carmarthenshire County Council's well-being objectives. It also ensures alignment with the national Well-being Goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. Through its land use planning policies, the Revised LDP will seek to promote the principles of sustainability and sustainable development by facilitating the creation of communities and local economies which are more sustainable, providing access to local services and facilities and reducing the need to travel.

The integration of sustainability as part of the preparation of the LDP is reflected in the undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment reflecting national and international legislative requirements. The AMR in considering matters of sustainability, further monitors the outcomes of the Plan in light of the Sustainability Appraisal indicators.

The AMR considers key national legislative changes including the requirements emanating from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Council's Well-being Objectives and the implications for the LDP. In this respect, the AMR undertakes a compatibility analysis of the LDP and the National and local Well-being Objectives. It is also noted that the LDP review will need to ensure the requirements emanating from the Act are fully and appropriately considered with the Plan.

2. Legal

The preparation and publication of the AMR ensures the Council meets its requirements in respect of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which requires each Local Planning Authority to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on its LDP. It also fulfils the requirements of section 76 of the Act in keeping all matters under review that are expected to affect the development of its area. The Council has a duty to produce information on these matters in the form of an Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Welsh Government, and publication on the Carmarthenshire County Council's website by 31st October each year following plan adoption.

Section 69 of the 2004 Act requires an LPA to undertake a review of an LDP and report to the Welsh Government at such times as prescribed (Regulation 41).

3. Finance

Financial costs to date are covered through the financial provisions in place - including reserves.

6. Physical Assets

Whilst not a consideration in respect of the content of the AMR, its monitoring outcomes in informing the preparation of the Revised LDP will impact on Council land and property holdings through their inclusion or otherwise for potential development purposes. This will have implications on potential disposal and land valuations and consequently capital receipts.

7. Staffing Implications

It is anticipated that the ongoing monitoring of the LDP and the preparation of the Revised LDP will be accommodated in the main by utilising the existing staff structure.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Cllr Davies to be further briefed on content

**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
Carmarthenshire Adopted Local Development Plan		http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/index.html
Annual Monitoring Reports		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr/#.YP-7r6hKjIU
Revised Local Development Plan		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/#.YP-8LKhKjIU
Supplementary Planning Guidance		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-guidance-spg/#.YP-8E6hKjIU
LDP Review Report		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213042/ldp-review-report-english-version.pdf