Revised Carmarthenshire
Local Development Plan 2018-2033

Summary Introduction
Carmarthenshire County Council is starting to prepare a new Local Development Plan, or the LDP as it is commonly known. The LDP will guide development in the County up until 2033. The LDP will set out how much growth is needed and where it will be located within the County.

It will seek to protect certain areas from inappropriate development to support the landscape and countryside.

The LDP consists of a policy document called the “Written Statement” and maps which illustrate what is proposed and where.

This document describes our main aims for Carmarthenshire for the period up to 2033.

The LDP shapes the future of our communities through until 2033. Current and future generations will be living and working in a better Carmarthenshire shaped by our vision. This is why it is important we get your opinions, views and concerns.
About Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire is a diverse county with the agricultural economy and landscape of the rural areas contrasting with the urban and industrial south-eastern area.

The population density of Carmarthenshire is low at 75.7 people per square kilometre when compared to Wales’ population density of 140 people per square kilometre.

Carmarthenshire is made up of a mix of settlements

- Large towns such as Carmarthen, Llanelli & Ammanford.
- Smaller towns which play an important to the community and surroundings areas.
- Rural villages which have their own facilities and services.
- Other smaller villages and hamlets with no or little services.

The Local Development Plan Process
Planning Areas

- Housing
- Renewable Energy
- Retail
- Tourism & Recreation
- Natural and Built Environment
- Community Facilities
- Transport
- Welsh Language & Culture
- Minerals & Waste
- Economy & Employment
How will Carmarthenshire Grow?

We really want to make it easier and more attractive for young people to stay, live and work in Carmarthenshire. So, we will make it a key part of our Plan to have more new houses at affordable prices and more opportunities for getting work locally.

Population and Households

We will estimate how many people will live in the County by the end of 2033. When working this out we will look at a number of factors such as:

- The number of people moving in and out of the County;
- Birth and death rates;
- The number of houses built in recent year;
- Long-term regeneration schemes.

Carmarthenshire has a population of 185,610

- 31.3% of the population in Carmarthenshire are 16 to 44 years of age, compared to 35.4% in Wales.
- 23% of the population in Carmarthenshire are over 65 years, compared to 21% in Wales.

We really want to make it easier and more attractive for young people to stay, live and work in Carmarthenshire. So, we will make it a key part of our Plan to have more new houses at affordable prices and more opportunities for getting work locally.
The LDP will identify the amount of land that will be required for housing between 2018 and 2033. Land will be distributed in many of the County’s town and villages.

Affordable Housing is a key issue in the preparation of the LDP. Having affordable homes will create sustainable and balanced communities. These affordable homes can be provided in a number of different ways: on the development site; on a different site; or as a financial contribution towards supporting affordable housing provision in the locality.

We want to:
- Create healthy and connected neighbourhoods;
- Develop the right kind of homes in the right places;
- Ensure that they are close to local services like shops and health centres;
- Support existing community facilities.
Creating a Strong Vibrant Economy for Carmarthenshire.

We need to build a knowledgeable and creative economy by creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities.

In 2016, 84,700 people were employed in Carmarthenshire. 72.2% of the working age workforce were employed.

30% of the workforce are in Public Administration, Education, Health and Social Services.

11.9% of the workforce are in Manufacturing.

16.4% of the workforce are in Wholesale and Retail.

15,200 people are self-employed in 2015 and 2016.

92% of businesses are micro enterprises (employ less than 10 people).

28% of all businesses are categorised as ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’.

Carmarthenshire Facts:

- 92% of businesses are micro enterprises (employ less than 10 people).
- 72.2% of the working age workforce were employed.
- 16.4% of the workforce are in Wholesale and Retail.
- 30% of the workforce are in Public Administration, Education, Health and Social Services.
- 11.9% of the workforce are in Manufacturing.
- 28% of all businesses are categorised as ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’.
- 15,200 people are self-employed in 2015 and 2016.
Improving the quality of the environment is important for our health and for wildlife and plants. New development must consider its effect on the natural environment and its value to us.

How will we adapt to environmental change?

- Design and plan buildings that promote renewable energy developments and reduce energy consumption where we can.
- Support walking and cycling alongside sustainable transport. Reduce car journeys where possible.
- Manage flood risk in built up areas.
- Protect habitats, species and green spaces from inappropriate development.

The Built Environment

We want to make sure that Carmarthenshire’s old buildings are looked after and improved to a high standard. New buildings should be built in a way that suits where they are located.

The LDP’s policies will protect and enhance our built heritage from inappropriate development.
The LDP will set out policies which support tourism development in the County. This will include looking at the location of new tourist development, the design of any new buildings and how they impact on highways or the landscape.

Carmarthenshire’s Vision for its tourism economy

“To develop a prosperous visitor economy in Carmarthenshire based on its unique strengths and character, which generates higher spend and local income, enhances its image and reputation and improves the quality of life for local communities.”
The Welsh language plays an important role in the social, cultural and economic life of Carmarthenshire’s residents and visitors.

Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales at 80,700 according to the Welsh Language Use Survey 2015. 20% of Wales’ population can speak Welsh, but 45% of Carmarthenshire’s population can speak Welsh.

The LDP will support and promote the Welsh language by ensuring that there are employment and housing opportunities to retain Welsh speakers throughout Carmarthenshire.

The 2011 Census identifies 5 community council wards where 60% or more of their population are able to speak Welsh.
The LDP will seek to develop vibrant town centres for shopping, entertainment and leisure.

It will promote retail provision on both a large and small scale to meet the needs of Carmarthenshire’s residents, and will protect the role of the principal retail centres in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford.

The LDP will support town centre regeneration projects by guiding development to certain areas of the towns.

- **£75m**: Spent on St Catherine’s Walk Retail development in Carmarthen.
- Regeneration of Llanelli’s Eastgate, which comprises a cinema, cafes, restaurants, bars and offices.
- Ammanford has seen significant investments in the streetscape and landscapes and shop frontage improvements.
Minerals

Our society needs, and will continue to need a wide range of minerals for a number of uses including large construction projects, such as roads, buildings, bridges etc. The LDP sets out a balance between providing adequate supplies of minerals whilst protecting the environment and the amenity of Carmarthenshire’s residents from inappropriate mineral practices.

Minerals in Carmarthenshire

- Carmarthenshire has around 25 quarries, although this figure is monitored annually and can fall where inactive or dormant sites are unlikely to be worked again;
- The current hard rock landbank for the County is at least 68 years (a minimum of 10 years is required);
- The combined sand & gravel landbank is 18 years (a minimum of 7 years is required).

Waste

The LDP will seek to contribute towards sustainable Waste management by promoting recycling and reuse, instead of landfill. It will ensure that there is land available for new waste recycling and processing facilities, and that the impact of waste on the environment and human health is kept to a minimum.

The Waste Hierarchy

Most preferred option

Prevention
Preparing for Reuse
Recycling
Other Recovery e.g. Energy
Disposal

Least preferred option