

Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2022 - 2023

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of this election period. This report demonstrates the variety of work that this scrutiny committee has undertaken during the period between May 2022 to April 2023.

Whilst, the local elections in May 2022 saw a change in Committee membership, new members embraced the challenge and showed their enthusiasm and passion right from the start. In addition to the Member Development Programme, the Committee factored into its Forward Work Plan focussed development sessions in order to enhance the knowledge and understanding of specific subjects.



All Scrutiny Members managed the remote working well and adapted to the multi-location meetings with ease. The Committee successfully developed its forward work plan, and aligned it so that key issues would come in front of our Committee prior to Cabinet making the decision. The Committee achieved this by questioning and debating the content of reports and recommendations on pertinent and important items for the benefit of the Communities in Carmarthenshire.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Cabinet Members within this Committee's remit for presenting the Committee with detailed technical and operational information. Also, my appreciation goes out to local councils and the residents of Carmarthenshire who have actively got involved with this Committee by writing to us and joining meetings online.

Once again, I wish to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Karen Davies for her invaluable support and friendship throughout the year.

On a final note, my sincere thanks to all the Committee Members for your attendance, professionalism and for providing excellent scrutiny for and on behalf of our communities.

Councillor John James

Chair of Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee 2022/2023

1. Introduction

The scrutiny function is a key element of the County Council's governance arrangements and decision-making process. Although not a decision-making body, Scrutiny is at its most effective when it grasps the potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Council and partner bodies affecting the County.

Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution requires all scrutiny committees to "prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committees activities over the previous year."

This report provides an overview of the work of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee during the reduced six-month committee cycle for 2022/23 municipal year. It aims to highlight the work of the Committee and reflect on the achievements identifying what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny. In addition, this report may aid to facilitate discussions on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by the Councillor John James and is made up of 13 Elected Members, one Independent Group place has been vacant for the duration of 2022/23. Support is provided to the Committee by the Democratic Services Team and other Council officers as and when required.

The Committee helps deliver a number of key outcome measures within the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-23:

- **Wellbeing objective 5** – Create more jobs and growth throughout the County.
- **Wellbeing objective 7** – Live Well-Help people live healthy lives.
- **Wellbeing objective 8** – Support Community cohesion, resilience and safety.
- **Wellbeing objective 9** – Live Well/Age Well – Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities.
- **Wellbeing objective 10** – Healthy and Safety Environment – Look after the environment now and in the future.
- **Wellbeing objective 11** – Healthy and Safe Environment – Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.
- **Wellbeing objective 13** – Better Governance and use of Resources.

Some of the measures and actions within Wellbeing objective 12 overlap with Community Scrutiny, however the necessary information was also be provided to this Committee.

2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2022/23

2.1 Management of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 7 meetings during the 2022/23 municipal year in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

In accordance with the provisions for section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 all meetings were held as a multi-location which provided an option to attend virtually via the platform Zoom or in-person. All members embraced the new way of working carried out their scrutiny role with confidence and professionalism either remotely or in person.

2.2 The Role of the Cabinet Member

The Council, at its meeting held on the 22nd October, 2020 agreed a number of changes to its Scrutiny Procedure Rules and remits. The principal change was that the Cabinet Members would be expected to attend, present the reports placed on the Forward Work Programme by the Committee and answer questions raised by Scrutiny Members thus holding the Cabinet to account. Relevant Officers were called upon in order to provide additional information on operational issues.

In addition, Council at its meeting on 28th September, 2022 approved the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Working Group to amend the Scrutiny remits with each Scrutiny Committee being responsible for the overview and scrutiny of specific Cabinet Portfolios and their respective services.

At the same time the scrutiny name changed was adopted from Environmental and Public Protection to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change and the following Cabinet Portfolios and their respective service areas:-:

- Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
- Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

In addition, the Cabinet Member for Resources attended meetings to present finance related reports including the budget monitoring reports, the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy and the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health attended to present the relevant actions within the Corporate Performance Monitoring reports relevant to their remit.

2.3 The Forward Work Plan

The Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee developed its Forward Work Plan with matters that fall within remit which covers:-

Waste and Environmental Services including:-

- Refuse Collection,
- Street Cleaning,
- Grounds Maintenance,
- Building Cleaning (including Schools, where relevant),
- Public Toilets
- Biodiversity;
- Zero Carbon.

Transport and Streetscene including:-

- Highways, Street Lighting, Bridges,
- Traffic Management,
- Parking Services,
- Cycle paths and Rights of Way;

Environmental Enforcement including:-

- Litter, Dog Fouling;
- Abandoned Vehicles etc;
- Planning Enforcement;
- Trading Standards;
- Public Health Pest Control

Community Safety issues including:-

- Substance Misuse
- Crime and Disorder Referrals (*to include a power to make a report or recommendations to the County Council and/or the Council's Cabinet*);

In September 2022, the Committee at its annual Forward Work Plan development session developed its own Forward Work Plan (FWP) by identifying pre-decision reports from the Cabinet Forward Work Plan and prioritising agenda items for consideration during the next municipal year.

In addition to the standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports as well as action plans and monitoring reports the Committee identified pre-decision reports from the Cabinet's Forward Work Programme 2022/23.

Whilst the Committee has the option to co-opt non-voting employees, officers or members of Responsible Authorities or co-operating persons or bodies in respect of its crime and disorder functions, [subject to the provisions of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009] did not do so during the 2022/23 municipal year.

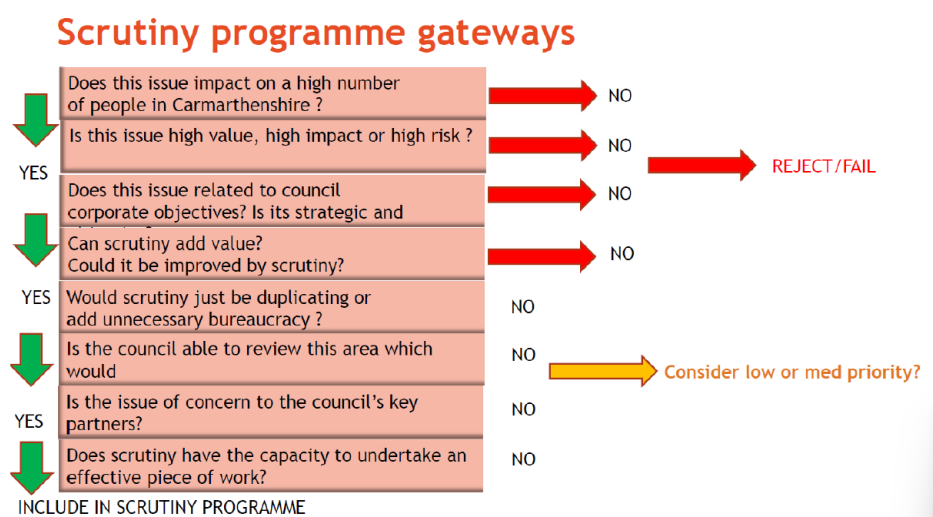
2.4 The Gateway Framework and reports circulated under a separate cover (e-mail)

The Committee at its Forward Work Plan development session utilised the Gateway Framework method in order to manage the number of reports being presented at each meeting. Considering the number of reports for consideration enables the Committee to undertake a quality scrutiny process.

The Committee, following the identification of the reports for the Forward Work Plan further shaped their programme by taking each subject/report through the Gateway Framework.

In line with the Framework, Members agreed that 11 reports be circulated to members by e-mail. Members scrutinised the reports as they would in a formal meeting and forward any queries and/or concerns to the Scrutiny Support officer to arrange a response. Any queries raised together with responses were included within the Forthcoming Items report.

The Committee regularly reviewed its Forward Work Plan and as a flexible working document on occasion reports rearranged to manage the Scrutiny process accordingly.



2.5 Performance Monitoring

Divisional Business Plans (within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee) -

A series of Divisional Business Plans were presented by the respective Cabinet Members to Committee Members in April 2023. The Scrutiny Committee considered the strategic actions and measures that the services within each Division had planned to take forward, in order for the Council to make progress against its Well-being Objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities.

The following Divisional Business plans were received by the Committee:-

- Highways and Transportation Division
- Waste and Environmental Division
- Property Design and Maintenance Division
- Place and Sustainability Division
- Service Improvement and Transformation Division

[Carmarthenshire Council Annual Report 2021/22](#) – In November, 2022 the Committee was presented with a report which contained the Council's 15 Well Being Objectives and assessed the progress and adaptations made during 2021/22. Members focussed on the following sections within the document relevant to the Committee's remit:

- Well-being Objective 10: Look after the environment now and for the future
- Well-being Objective 11: Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Members raised pertinent questions in regard to the climate change, circular economy and fleet management (electric).

The relevant Cabinet member supported by Officers provided Scrutiny Members with detailed responses.

[2020/21 Performance Reports relevant to this Scrutiny](#) - One of the principal roles of a scrutiny committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. In October 2022, the Committee were afforded the opportunity to scrutinise the performance report by e-mail. The report detailed the progress as at the end of Quarter 1 of the deliverables linked to the Corporate Strategy and the Well-being objectives. No queries were received. Quarter 2 report was considered at the meeting in December 2022.

[Carmarthenshire County Council - Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#) - The Committee received the Corporate Strategy for 2022-27 at its meeting on 14th April, 2023 and acknowledged that the Strategy had already been endorsed by full Council. This was a cause for concern for Members of the Scrutiny Committee who proposed that future Corporate Strategy's be presented to Scrutiny Committee's in a timelier manner in order that members can properly scrutinise the contents of the Strategy before it has been ratified by full Council.

[Scrutiny Committee Actions Update](#) – In October 2022 and May 2023, the Committee received a report which included the progress updates in respect of the committee's requests and actions arising from Committee meetings for information.

2.6 Revenue and Capital Budgets

[Budget Monitoring Reports](#) – were circulated to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee members by e-mail in line with the Committee's decision to scrutinise outside of the Committees formal process.

The Committee, received quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets in

- October 2022 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 30th June 2022 and
- November 2022 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st August 2022
- January 2023 – in respect of the budgetary position as at 31st October 2022.

The reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in connection with any capital works.

[Consultation - Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26](#) - In January 2023, the Committee as a statutory consultee received the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 for consideration and comment. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 together with the indicative figures for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years.

The Committee raised a number of queries and concerns in regard to the proposed budgets on the following issues:

- Net Zero Targets
- Fixed Penalty Notices – charges
- Residents Parking Permit Admin Charges
- The promotion of the Buy with Confidence scheme
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)
- Property Maintenance – efficiency measures
- School Transport - Additional Needs Personal Travel Budgets
- Traffic Management - Road Safety innovation

The queries were responded to by the respective Cabinet Members supported by Officers. In addition, during the consideration of the saving proposals, the Committee formally proposed that in regard to the introduction of parking charges at the 9 carparks which were currently free to park, be reviewed by the Cabinet Member on a case-by-case basis.

Outcome:

The comments, concerns and recommendations raised by the Committee helped to shape the Revenue budget strategy for 2023/24 – 2024/25 which was considered at full Council on 1st March 2023.

In response to the Committee’s proposal, the Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services would be undertaking a review and submit a further report for Committee’s consideration.

2.7 Pre-Decision Scrutiny Reports

2.7.1 Public Space Protection Order (Enhancement on dog related controls) – November 2022

The Committee considered a report on the additional Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Carmarthenshire Dog Orders, which included the results of a recent engagement survey in relation to the potential to introduce supplementary dog controls by means of an additional PSPO, where evidence supports the need for additional orders.

Committee Members were enthusiastic about this subject as it impacted all communities within Carmarthenshire. Following a lengthy discussion in respect of the possibility of banning dogs from sports pitches, the Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet that an additional Public Space Protection Order be introduced to band dogs from defined sports fields located within the County.

Outcome

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability agreed to undertake further work exploring the possibility and legal matters in respect of the Committee’s proposal. A further report would be provided upon completion.



2.7.2 Waste Strategy Update –December 2022

The Committee at its request received an update report in regard to the Waste Strategy 2021-2025, presented by the Cabinet Member for Waste, Transport and Infrastructure Services. The report provided Members with a summary of the current waste management policies that was required to improve operational and strategic performance.



Members enthusiastic in their approach to improve the management of waste in Carmarthenshire, raised a number of queries which were responded to by the Cabinet Member supported by Officers in relation to:-

- Glass collection Service
- Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP's) and what was accepted as such
- Missed collections
- Concerns regarding the 3 weekly black bag collections
- Concerns regarding the potential increase in fly-tipping

Outcome

RESOLVED that the progress and delivery of the Waste Strategy update be received and noted.

2.7.3 Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Maintenance Manual – January 2023,

The Committee was presented with a report requesting Members to consider and comment on parts 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 of the HAMP Maintenance Manual prior to adoption by the Cabinet. The main concerns raised were in relation to the low priority of rural roads status. In addition, queries were raised in regard to:-

- Landowners responsibilities
- Waterways – NRW and Council responsibilities
- Drainage pipes

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers responded to the concerns and provided thorough explanations of the prioritised system of assessment, inspection and repair and the responsibilities.

Outcome:

Unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Parts 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 of the Highways Asset Management Plan Maintenance Manual be adopted.

2.7.4 Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – April 2023

The Committee considered a report on a proposed new Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme which included information outlining how the scheme would work in practice taking account of any potential legal issues.

Whilst Members welcomed the proposed scheme, a number of queries were raised in connection with costings and prioritisation of businesses.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme be endorsed.

2.7.5 Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023 – May 2023

In accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Plan, the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023 was presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services. The report presented the way in which the Council would review and improve its cleansing service delivery whilst meeting the legislative requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Cabinet Member, supported by officers responded to queries in regard to the following:-

- Communications in regard to litter bin receptacles identified for removal
- Public education and awareness
- Staffing costs in respect of the All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator rating

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the Street Cleansing Strategic Management Plan 2023

2.8 Additional Reports and Update Reports

2.8.1 Air Quality Update – November 2022

At the request of the Committee, an update report was presented to Scrutiny members by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability. The update contained the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire which currently had three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) - Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli. This update reported information in regard to the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) monitoring across Carmarthenshire with results compared to previous years.

During the consideration of the information contained within the report, Members raised strong concerns in relation to the ongoing poor air quality at Rhosmaen Street, Llandeilo and emphasised that the only solution to improve the poor air quality in Llandeilo would be to develop a by-pass. It was proposed that an e-mail be sent to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change on behalf of the Committee in support of the Llandeilo by-pass.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously resolved to send an e-mail from the Scrutiny Committee to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change to convey the Committee's strong support for the development of the Llandeilo by-pass which would improve air quality in and around Llandeilo.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee forwarded an e-mail to the Deputy Minister for Climate Change- Lee Waters MS.

In response to the views expressed, the Cabinet Member received the following from the Deputy Minister for Climate Change:-

“We are currently considering the range of views expressed by the public and stakeholders with regards to Llandeilo at WelTAG Stage 2 in order to present proposals that could secure consensus amongst key stakeholders and allow the work to progress to WelTAG Stage 3.

To facilitate this consensus, Welsh Government officials will arrange a meeting with Carmarthenshire Council officers to discuss proposals to progress to Stage 3. Should agreement be reached between both organisations, development of short and medium-term measures could progress this Winter and be delivered within 3 years. The development of long-term measures could progress in parallel.”

In a further response:-

“We are currently considering the range of views expressed by the public and stakeholders with regards to Llandeilo at WelTAG Stage 2 in order to present proposals that could secure consensus amongst key stakeholders and allow the work to progress to WelTAG Stage 3. To facilitate this consensus, Welsh Government officials arranged a meeting with Carmarthenshire Council to discuss proposals to progress to Stage 3 in December 2022 and provided further clarification of options to the council in February 2023.”

2.8.2 Highway Drainage Design Guide for New Developments – November 2022 – Scrutiny by E-mail

At the request of the Committee, a report which appended the Highway Drainage Design Guide was circulated to Scrutiny Members by e-mail. The purpose of the report was to provide supplementary detailed guidance for developers designing and constructing surface water drainage systems and connecting surface water drainage systems to existing highway drains.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.3 Graffiti Policy – December 2022 – Scrutiny by E-mail

At the request of the Committee, a report which appended the Graffiti Policy was circulated to members for scrutiny by e-mail. The Policy provided the current procedures and guidelines that were being reviewed and the best practice that was identified to ensure that a balanced approach to Graffiti Management was being taken.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.4 Carmarthenshire County Council - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy– December 2022

Following the Cabinet approval of the proposal to adopt an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Carmarthenshire in December 2021, the Committee, ahead of Cabinet consideration, received an update report. The following main points were raised:-

- To encourage the use of electric vehicles in the fleet and electric car clubs
- To seek a better 'time of use' tariff – eg overnight charging

The Cabinet Member supported by Officers provided comprehensive responses.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the Council be adopted.

2.8.5 Carmarthenshire Sandbag Policy 2022 –January 2023 – Scrutiny by E-mail

The Committee requested to receive the Sandbag Policy which was circulated to the Committee e-mail in January 2023. The policy provided with clear advice on when sandbags will be deployed to manage flood risk.

No comments or queries were received in connection with the report.

2.8.6 Phosphate Levels in protected Riverine Special Areas of Conservation – Update – February 2023

At the request of the Committee, a report was presented by the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs & Planning Policy regarding the progress and work undertaken in responding to the impacts of phosphate pollution in protected Special Areas of Conservation.

Outcome:
The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the update report

2.8.7 Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy Update –January 2023

At the request of the Committee, a report on the Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy Update was presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

In acknowledging the vast network, Members raised concerns about the departments underfunding and recognised that more investment was needed in this area to save paths.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Equestrian Strategy Update

2.8.8 WG Speed Limit Changes in Legislation (20MPH) –January 2023

The Committee having requested to include this topic onto its Forward Work Plan, received an informative report in regard to the Welsh Government 20mph Speed Limit Legislation.

The report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services, provided an update on legislative change being introduced by Welsh Government in September 2023. The legislation would reduce the current 30mph default speed limit on restricted (street lit) roads in residential areas to 20mph.

Members finding the information within the report valuable raised queries in connection with:-

- Funding the change in legislation – eg signage, resources, Traffic Regulation Orders
- Enforcement

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the report

2.8.9 A Tree and Woodland Strategy for Carmarthenshire County Council 2023-2028 – February 2023

The Committee requested to include the Tree and Woodland Strategy onto its Forward Work Plan as the strategy addressed the Authority's responsibilities for managing trees and woodlands as well as opportunities for new planting.

Committee Members raised pertinent queries in respect of the strategy which were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Member supported by Officers.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Tree and Woodland Strategy for Carmarthenshire County Council 2023-28

2.8.10 Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report –May 2023

In January, in accordance with the Committee's Forward Work Plan, Members received the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report –May 2023 by e-mail. However, at its meeting in February 2023, in response to a request by a Committee member, the Committee resolved to consider the report in a formal meeting by including onto the agenda in May 2023.

The report having contained some commercially sensitive information in relation to the company's business was exempt from the public and was considered in private.

The CWM Environmental Ltd Business Plan was for the three-year period 2022-23 to 2024-25 and has been produced to set out the company's strategic objectives, its service delivery objectives, the commercial risks that it faces together with its anticipated financial performance. It also ensures that CWM's strategy is aligned with and delivers upon Carmarthenshire's waste agenda and wider objectives

The Progress report provides a mid-year update on performance and actions against the business plan for the 2022-23 financial year

Member raised queries in relation to:

- Financial costs ;
- Compost and its pricing strategy;
- Electric vehicles in the fleet replacement program 2025-2030 – associated issues and costs;
- Circular Economy;
- The Repair Workshop and Re-use Shop (ETO).

Queries were responded to by the Managing Director of Cwm Environmental Ltd supported by Officers.

Outcome:
The Committee resolved to receive the Cwm Environmental Ltd 2022-23 Business Plan and Half Year Progress Report.

2.9 Referrals

The Committee did not receive any referrals in the 2022/23 municipal year.

2.10 Public Engagement and Scrutiny Topic Suggestions

Listening to and giving the public a voice is key to scrutiny's effectiveness. It was important to the Committee to grant the people of Carmarthenshire (and beyond) an opportunity to shape the Forward Work Programme. The Communications department provided active involvement through social media throughout the municipal year picking up on various topics on the Scrutiny's Forward Work Programme.

In addition, complying with Legislation regarding promoting public awareness at Scrutiny, in April 2018, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Forum agreed to send correspondence to Town and Community Councils which would contain information to encourage an increase in public attendance at Scrutiny Committees and also seek suggestions for future topics for consideration. In response to this the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee received the following requests from two Town and Community Council's which was considered as part of the Scrutiny's Forward Work Programme development session in September 2022:-

1) Gors-las Community Council

Subject - The County Council Co-ordinating Action across the County to the issue of Dog Fouling in Public Areas /Parks

Committee Decision

This matter and suggestions would be considered as part of the Public Space Protection Order.

2) Gors-las Community Council

Subject – Review of the arrangements for play equipment safety inspections and repairs by CCC

Committee Decision

This was not within the remit of the Authority as play areas and equipment was the responsibility for Town and Community Councils.

3) Llandyfaelog Community Council

Subject – Litter on rural roads, especially in areas within a radius of local fast food take away restaurants

Committee Decision

This matter had been considered previously at a meeting where the Local Quality Environment Strategy had been presented. Further consideration would be undertaken as part of the Waste Strategy review.

3. Scrutiny Committee Activity

3.1 Scrutiny Investigations (Task and Finish)

The Committee at its Forward Work Programme Development Session held on 9th April 2021, considered a topic suggestion received from Llandyfaelog Community Council suggesting that the Committee consider the issues in relation to fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. Committee Members in recognising that fly tipping was an increasing problem in Carmarthenshire and that the consequence of fly-tipping had a detrimental effect on the environment and communities suggested to consider this matter be a review for the Task and Finish Group.

The Committee, in ratifying its Forward Work Programme on 2nd July 2021 unanimously resolved that its Task and Finish arrangements for 2021-22-23 would be as follows:

- 1) *Review on the Fly tipping within Carmarthenshire
- 2) Review on Dog Breeding in Carmarthenshire.

*The Committee in making the above decision superseded the Committee's previous decision made at its meeting held on 15th November 2019 – "unanimously resolved that dog breeding in Carmarthenshire be the subject for Committee's next Task and Finish review in 2021".

The Committee, having agreed to undertake a Task and Finish on the issues of fly-tipping, received the Task and Finish Draft Planning and Scoping Document on the Management of Fly-tipping within Carmarthenshire and agreed the politically balanced Membership of the Task and Finish group. The Task and Finish Group commenced the review in September 2021.

However, the Task and Finish Group at its first meeting on 8th September, 2021 received an unexpected update from the Director of Environment on internal matters that had arisen since the Scrutiny Committee agreement on its Task and Finish arrangements and the endorsement of the review planning and scoping document in July. Considering the information received, the Group unanimously agreed to defer the review on Flytipping to 2022, following the Election process. At its meeting in November, the Committee received an update report from the Task and Finish Group which outlined the Groups decision and reasons.

At it's meeting in November 2022, the Committee considered and endorsed a revised Task and Finish Planning and Scoping Document on the management of Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. The Committee formulated a politically balanced Task and Finish group to undertake the review which is due to conclude in the summer of 2023.

3.2 Member Development and Site Visits

Following the elections members received an extensive development programme which included the following sessions / seminars during 2022/23:-

- Introduction and overview of how to use Zoom
- Introduction and overview of mod.gov
- Code of Conduct, Ethics, Standards, Legal Duties & Responsibilities
- Introduction to Carmarthenshire County Council & Launch of Induction Programme
- Constitutional Matters & Meeting Preparation
- Local Government Finance
- External Regulators
- Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire
- Climate Change, Mitigation and De Carbonisation
- Planning
- Equalities & Diversity
- Carbon Literacy
- Personal Safety and Self Care, Stress Management, Personal Resilience, Work-life balance
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Cyber Security
- Introduction to Marketing and Media
- Armed Forces
- Complaints Policy
- Transform, Innovate and Change
- Emergency Planning
- Speed Reduction Legislation
- Council Owned Companies
- Section 106 Legal Agreements
- Council Performance Management Framework
- Modernising Education Programme Review
- Future Waste Changes
- Dyfed Pension Fund Training
- Sustainable Communities for Learning
- Member Enquiries
- Corporate Strategy Workshop
- Housing Repairs Briefing
- Conservation Areas Briefing

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and the five-year capital programme.

Scrutiny Committee Members included informal focused development sessions to their Forward Work Plan which helped them to gain a more informed understanding about the policies and some of the operational aspects of the main topic areas that are important and relevant to communities within Carmarthenshire.

A series of focussed development sessions took place on a specific subject directly following the scheduled formal scrutiny Committee meeting. Officers provided a presentation on the agreed topic, with the Cabinet Member present. This provided an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to ask questions and exchange ideas.

Members were provided with the following development sessions:-

- Local Environment Quality Strategy
- Flooding
- Highway Asset Management Plan & Update on WG Speed Limit Change in Legislation (20mph)
- Conservation and update on the managing land pilot scheme for Pollinators in Carmarthenshire
- Waste
- Update on the Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Strategy
- Substance Misuse

4. Challenges

The past year included challenges in respect of a change in committee members following the elections in May 2023 however the committee worked to overcome this by providing development sessions and scrutiny support.

In addition, September saw a change in scrutiny name, remits, and reporting processes which took both members and officers time to get accustomed to.

Unfortunately, circulating reports for scrutiny by e-mail did not have the same level of engagement and quality scrutiny as a formal meeting. Therefore, going forward Members will be reminded of their duty to undertake scrutiny even when receiving the reports under a different cover.

5. Committee's Future Work

The future work of the Committee will be considered regularly as part of the Forward Work Programme and will continue to be monitored during the course of the year.

As part of the development of the forward work programme, the Gateway Framework will aid Committee members to develop a Forward Work Programme to enable focused Scrutiny to take place ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of reports, that statutory responsibilities are focussed and are properly aligned with the council's strategic priorities.

The Committee will continue to seek topics for discussion from Town and Community Councils annually more information on how to submit a topic for consideration and ask questions at a Scrutiny meeting is available on our Scrutiny webpage:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny/#.Xp7Am6aQxMs>

6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department.

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- Providing support and constitutional advice to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and to members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actioned;
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to executive and non-executive members of the Council and its officers;
- Managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire through engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum, and the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Executive Board Forum;
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as guidance is published;
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny members;
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the operation of scrutiny task and finish groups, authoring reports in conjunction with the groups, and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews;
- Managing the Scrutiny member development programme;
- Despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting.

For more information on Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including forward work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at: www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

7. Committee Member Attendance

A total of 7 meetings were held by virtual means between October 2022 and May 2023. Attendance by members of the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 year is shown in the table below.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Karen Davies	7	100
Cllr. Arwel Davies	6	86
Cllr. Colin Evans	3	43
Cllr Neil Lewis	6	86
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	7	100
Cllr. Gareth Thomas	5	71
Cllr. Peter Cooper	4	57
Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles (joined the Committee 24/11/22)	3	43
Cllr. Tina Higgins	7	100
Cllr .John James	7	100
Cllr. Gary Jones	3	43
Cllr. Sue Allen	7	100
Cllr. Nysia Evans (left Committee after 4/10/22)	1	14

Substitutes	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	2
Cllr. Alex Evans	2
Cllr. Dot Jones	1
Cllr. Hefin Jones	1
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1

Cabinet Member	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Ann Davies	1
Cllr. Philip Hughes	1
Cllr. Alun Lenny	2
Cllr. Edward Thomas	6
Cllr. Aled Vaughan-Owen	7