

Well-being Objective 3 – Prosperous Communities

Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous.



Overarching judgement

We want to enable our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous.

- *There are positive signs emerging from the local economy, but some challenges remain.*
- *Whilst we have significant Environmental challenges to address, significant early progress has been made and innovative work to develop carbon trajectories will assist us in targeting activity to meet the more challenging carbon reduction targets.*
- *We have made significant improvement to waste recycling as a result of service changes.*

Why this is important

Providing secure and well-paid jobs for local people is crucial and increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. This has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.

Carmarthenshire has a high economic inactivity rate. This is a significant barrier to growth for Carmarthenshire, as the economically inactive represent a significant source of labour supply which is a crucial element of a well-functioning labour market. This is also concerning given that being inactive for a long period of time can negatively impact a person's well-being, health and life-satisfaction.

A barrier to employment for many is a lack of qualifications or skills. This applies to those that have no qualifications at all and those that wish to re-skill or up-skill to better themselves and seek higher level or alternative employment. This is a pertinent issue for Carmarthenshire, as the County exhibits a higher-than-average number of people with no qualifications and a lower proportion than average of people with higher level qualifications.

Areas of the County are susceptible to the negative effects of the climate emergency, especially flooding. Just over 15,000 properties in the County are currently at some level of flood risk. Climate change will increase the number of properties, infrastructure and key services at risk of flooding. Places which do not currently flood will become at risk of flooding and those already known to be at risk will see the level of that risk become greater.

The County remains a key strategic stronghold for the future of the Welsh language and the social and economic benefits of bilingualism are widely recognised. Evidence gathered via the residents' survey indicates that overall respondents agreed that it is important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected.

Transportation & highways play a key role in supporting and sustaining our communities, it provides the vital infrastructure which connects people to one another, binds communities and enables businesses to grow and expand.



Useful links:


[Corporate Strategy 2022/27](#)




The key success measures we set ourselves for this overall objective

The table below shows the overall population indicators and performance measures which will be monitored for Well-being Objective 3.

Population Indicators in the main are publicly available data that have been identified to develop an understanding of trends and Carmarthenshire's position relative to the other local authorities in Wales. Through our well-being objectives the Council has an important role to play in making progress against these indicators, however, it should be noted that these are not solely indicative of the Council's performance and will be influenced by many external factors.

Performance Measures are inclusive of statutory returns, internal Council measures and consultation findings that we utilise to measure and monitor performance on a regular basis. These are the direct responsibility of the Council.

Population Indicators		
Indicator	Trend	Explaining the Data
Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI)		<p>Disposable Household Income is Rising but Levels Remain Below National Averages</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2016 to 2020 and shows a generally increasing trend.</i></p> <p>GDHI is an estimate of the amount of money that a household has available to spend on goods, services and saving.</p> <p>In 2020, gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head in the UK fell 0.2% when compared with 2019; England fell by 0.2% and Northern Ireland by 0.5%, while Wales and Scotland reported increases of 0.9% and 0.3%, respectively.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire saw growth of 1.1% over the same time period to £17,349 in 2020, which exceeds the growth rate for Wales and the other home nations. Whilst this is positive, this level remains below the Wales average of £17,592 and is significantly below the UK average of £21,440.</p> <p>Inflation is running at its highest level for many years with essential items like food and utilities seeing the most significant rises. This means that people are paying more for these items when in most cases their disposable income is not increasing at the same rate. This causes pressure for households and can ultimately result in a decline to living standards, impacting health, safety and prosperity.</p> <p>Whilst this is directly related to support mechanisms detailed in WBO 2, the Council also recognises the important role the local economy has to play in this respect, in providing local people with opportunities to access meaningful information or support to maximise their employability prospects.</p>

<p>Number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads</p>		<p>The Number of People Killed or Seriously Injured on the Roads has Increased Following the Height of the Pandemic</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2019 to 2022 and shows a fluctuating pattern characterised by the Covid pandemic.</i></p> <p>The most recent data for 2021 at a Wales level indicates that 5.3% of all deaths of those aged 5-19 and 3.9% of those aged 20-34 were due to land transport accidents.¹³</p> <p>As of 2022, Carmarthenshire saw the second highest number of people (83) killed or seriously injured on the road of all local authorities in Wales.</p> <p>The Council is committed to making the County’s roads safer through strengthened partnership working to raise awareness, educate and train all types of road users in order to improve skills and behaviour.</p>
<p>Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air</p>		<p>The Level of Nitrogen Dioxide in the Air is Decreasing</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2016 to 2020 and shows a generally decreasing trend.</i></p> <p>This measure provides an indication of air quality by providing an average concentration of pollutants in the air. Nitrogen dioxide is one of several major pollutants and is released into the air by the burning of fuel. These pollutants not only have serious detrimental impacts on human health but also exacerbate the climate and nature emergencies that we are facing.</p> <p>Positively, the level of Nitrogen Dioxide in the air in Carmarthenshire has been on a mainly downward trend, decreasing from 5.9 (µg/m3) in 2019 to 4.2 (µg/m3) in 2020.</p> <p>Whilst this compares positively with the Wales average of 6.5 (µg/m3) the county now has the 8th lowest level of all local authorities in Wales compared to 6th the previous year.</p>
<p>Crime rates</p>		<p>Despite Increasing Rates, Carmarthenshire Remains One of the Safest Places in the Country</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2018/19 to 2022/23 and shows an increasing trend, characterised by sharp increases between 2021 and 2022.</i></p> <p>Crime volumes have been generally increasing in Carmarthenshire over the last five years. The most recent data for financial year 2022/23 indicates that there were 16,381 incidents of recorded crime in the county which is an increase of 497 on the previous year.</p> <p>Whilst this is the case, the County remains one of the safest in the country as comparably rates are quite low. Community safety is a priority for the Council and through the proactive work of the Safer Communities Partnership it is possible to target the main crime and disorder problems in the County ensuring that people feel safe to live, work and visit the County.</p>

¹³ [Deaths registered in England and Wales: 2021 \(refreshed populations\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

Outcomes we set ourselves

Corporate Strategy Outcomes	Progress during 2022/23	Improved Yes/No?
Businesses supported and employment provided.	1,237 businesses supported and 1,350 direct jobs created via Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund, Property development Fund, Pendine attractor, Llandeilo Market Hall, Ammanford Regeneration development fund, CRF - Towns and Growth, Carmarthen Town Regeneration Activity, Ammanford Town Regeneration Activity, Parry Thomas centre, C4W+/C4w+ YPG, RLSP, Workways/STU, CRF - Iaith Gwaith, BREF, Transforming Towns, Progressive Procurement, Business growth & Start Up, targeted business Engagement, CRF Business Llanelli	Yes
People are supported to take advantage of local opportunities whether it be through starting a business, gaining qualifications or gaining meaningful employment.	14 individuals supported to establish a new business under the Business Start Up fund and 619 individuals have been helped into employment via C4W+ C4W YPG, Workways / STU and linked activity with Job Centre Plus. Through the employability programmes within Carmarthenshire 463 individuals have been supported into meaningful employment, with Workway+ working with people with multiple barriers.	Yes
Businesses are supported to take advantage of local supply chains and procurement opportunities.	303 businesses have received support under the Progressive Procurement Initiative. In addition, funding has been secured under the Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver a business engagement project to promote the Think Carmarthenshire First approach to encourage spend within County development of Carmarthenshire inter-trading – linking businesses to each other to support local supply chains. Progressive procurement initiative within Carmarthenshire to increase local spend. As part of Procurements engagement with suppliers for our tendering activity in 2022-23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 suppliers were met with on a 1-2-1 basis; • 4 Early Market Engagement Events were held with 151 attendees; • 6 Live Tender Workshops/Webinars were held with 125 attendees; • 9 Tender Briefing Sessions attendees 434; • 2 Getting Tender Ready Events, 67 attendees; • 3 Consortia/Joint Bidding Events, attendees 101. 	Yes
People feel empowered to lead active and healthy lives through access to fit for purpose services and provision	We have re-established public confidence in engaging in exercise, with attendances returning to pre-pandemic levels (over 100,000 pcm) by the end of the year. This included demonstrating exemplary health & safety standards by winning RoSPA's international 'Leisure Trophy' award. Over £300k of additional external funding leveraged to increase and broaden the activity programmes available, from free swim lessons for children living in deprivation and 61,000	Yes

	<p>participations in our ‘couch to 2km’ schools programme, to Actif legacy for youths, to walking sports and pre-diabetes activity for adults, to ‘curling and a cuppa’ for older adults to Beat the Street for the whole community of Llanelli that engaged almost 7,000 of the town’s population who actively travelled over 43,000 miles over 6 weeks and created a step-change in people’s activity levels.</p> <p>Particular improvements made to the welcome areas at Carmarthen and Amman Valley Leisure Centres, further digitalising access to enable customer service staff to have additional capacity to improve customer interaction.</p> <p>Digitalisation Across Actif Sport & Leisure also progressed in terms of functionality and popularity of Actif App, doubling the number of App downloads compared to 2021-22 (downloaded by 46,000 people) with an average of 230,000 module uses / 28,000 transactions per month (70% of all transactions). Average reach across all digital platforms (web/social media/app) of 406,000 per month.</p> <p>Enhancing sustainability/active travel by installing and activating car and e-bike parking and charging points at various leisure centres and taking activity to communities via our Actif van and establishing activity programmes in 3 community halls in Cwmaman, Kidwelly and Whitland.</p> <p>Amman Valley Leisure Centre/Ysgol Dyffryn Aman astroturf resurfaced, with brand new 3G pitch and synthetic track installation to commence imminently.</p>	
On track to meet the national recycling targets	<p>This year we have exceeded the statutory target with a performance of 65.25% which is currently being verified by NRW before official recycling rates are released for 2022/2023 nationally. Following the changes, the recycling performance in Q4 has significantly improved from last year from 2022 Q4 - 60.03% to 2023 Q4 - 67.69%.</p>	Yes
Continue to work towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030	<p>The Council demonstrates a strong organisational commitment to carbon reduction and was the first local authority in Wales to publish net zero action plan and has reported annually against the plan. In the absence of guidance on a cost model the plan and annual updates have not indicated the total cost of the plan to meet the Council’s net zero objective. In 2023 the council has developed methodology for estimating the cost of meeting the Council’s net zero target by 2030. The model requires further refinement to provide consistency of approach across local authorities in Wales. The authority is pressing the Welsh Government for guidance while working with partners in the SBCR to develop the model.</p>	Yes
Look to improve the availability and affordability of early years education and childcare settings across the county, to address one of the	<p>30 hours Childcare Offer National Digital Service - promotion and support has continued to ensure eligible parents and childcare providers are familiar with the process. 522 parent applications were received and processed between 1st January to 31st March 2023 and 149 childcare providers have</p>	Yes

<p>common barriers faced by individuals looking to return to or find employment.</p>	<p>completed their on-line registration. Just under £1.7M has been paid to local childcare providers in Carmarthenshire to eligible children during the year (1st April 2022 – 28th February 2023).</p> <p>Our most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27, which was submitted to Welsh Government in June 2022, did not indicate any quantitative or qualitative sufficiency pressures for Foundation Learning funded 3-year-old places within approved Childcare settings across Carmarthenshire. Several approved Childcare Providers reported having vacant places in Autumn 2021 which would suggest we had surplus places in certain locations throughout Carmarthenshire.</p>	
<p>Look to improve access to services through enhanced transportation networks and infrastructure.</p>	<p>The aspiration for modal shift has influenced our investment in infrastructure particularly around our major population centres where we have built new infrastructure to support more sustainable travel journeys</p>	Yes
<p>Improve current and explore new developments to limit the effects of flooding and other environmental threats which affect our residents and service users.</p>	<p>We have delivered 12 schemes within our capital works programme, 4 of these schemes are estimated to deliver flood reduction benefit to 112 residential and 13 business properties.</p> <p>We utilise telemetry at some of our assets, affording us live data on river levels at high-risk area. It is hoped that this will better inform our operational response, allowing us to target areas at greatest risk.</p> <p>We are in the process of developing our Flood Risk Management Plan 2024-2030 which will set out our FCERM# priorities over the next 7 years.</p> <p><small>#National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management</small></p>	Yes
<p>Sustain low crime rates whilst continuing effective partnership working to address increasing rates evident in some areas of the county.</p>	<p>Low crime rates have been sustained through effective partnership working. There has been a slight increase in the number of crimes reported in 2022/23 – 16,381 – which is 3% (497) higher than the previous year. However, the county remains one of the safest areas in the UK and Dyfed-Powys the safest Police Force area in England and Wales with the lowest crime rates.</p>	
<p>Increase in the number of Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>The latest Census data for 2021 indicates that Carmarthenshire is home to 72,838 Welsh speakers. This translates to 39.9% of the county's total population. This figure has decreased by 5,210 since the last Census in 2011, which translates to a percentage point decrease of 4.0. This is the largest percentage point decrease of all local authorities in Wales.</p>	No
<p>Increased confidence and use of Welsh as a thriving language.</p>	<p>The number of people able to speak, read and write Welsh in the county has decreased by 1.9 percentage points or 1,828 people. This is a considerably lower decrease than the figures for those only able to speak Welsh.</p>	No

As a Council we focus on the following thematic and service priorities

- WBO3a** **Thematic Priority: Economic Recovery and Growth**
- WBO3b** **Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation and Nature Emergency**
- WBO3c** **Thematic Priority: Welsh Language and Culture**
- WBO3d** **Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience, and Cohesion**
- WBO3e** **Service Priority: Leisure and Tourism**
- WBO3f** **Service Priority: Waste**
- WBO3g** **Service Priority: Highways and Transport**

Thematic Priority 3a - Economic Recovery and Growth

There are positive signs emerging from the local economy, but some challenges remain.

Building upon the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP), we have secured and are delivering the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in Carmarthenshire. The £38.68m fund will help to deliver against some of Carmarthenshire's key strategic objectives. The Shared Prosperity Fund will provide new opportunities for local communities, support the development and growth of local businesses as well as supporting the recovery of our town centres and is a mix of revenue and capital funding that can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances. We've also launched the second phase of the £11 million ARFOR Programme, which aims to deliver an economic boost and strengthen the Welsh language across counties Gwynedd, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey.

In addition, significant regeneration capital schemes have been delivered, most notably, the redevelopment of Llandeilo Market Hall and the Pendine Tourism Attractor Project. Both projects illustrate the Authorities ambition to invest in infrastructure which will stimulate and support the local economy.

Whilst positive, the County continues to face challenges:

- ! Positively, unemployment rates are falling, and employment rates are increasing. However, the County still exhibits a higher-than-average level of people (aged 16-64) who are economically inactive. This can restrict labour supply and stunt economic growth.
- ! Carmarthenshire continues to lag behind national averages with regards to the proportion qualified to level 4 or above. Developing skills and qualifications improves employability and career prospects and creates a well-skilled and able labour market.
- ! Continue to exhibit a significant and persistent productivity gap with the rest of the UK.
- ! Reliance on micro and small businesses, coupled with relatively high employment in the public sector which can make the economy more susceptible to threats.
- ! The cost-of-living crisis fuelled by the significant increase in inflation and energy prices is having an impact on businesses. As such business support grants through the Shared Prosperity Fund have been introduced to assist businesses and stimulate growth.

Why this is important?

- ⊙ The strength of our local economy is central to our communities' wider well-being and going forward we will focus our regeneration efforts on developing our businesses, people and places. In our future plans we will enable Carmarthenshire to become more productive whilst being more equal, greener and healthier and supporting business and community resilience and growth.
- ⊙ Providing secure and well-paid jobs is central to everything we are seeking to achieve.
- ⊙ Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty and the cost of living reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
- ⊙ We need to build a knowledge rich, creative economy by maximising employment and training places for local people through creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities, to have an ongoing skilled and competent workforce to face the future.






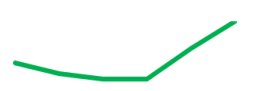
Measuring Success

The table below shows the overall population indicators and performance measures which will be monitored for the Economic Recovery and Growth thematic priority.

Population Indicators			
Measure	Trend		Explaining the Data
Employment & Unemployment	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	<p>Employment Rates are Rising and Unemployment Rates are Falling</p> <p><i>The trendlines adjacent cover the period 2017 to 2022.</i></p> <p>The employment rate in Carmarthenshire has seen fluctuation in recent years. There was some improvement between 2021 and 2022 from a rate of 68.7% to 72.3%, however this remains below averages for the UK and Wales.</p> <p>The unemployment¹⁴ rate has also seen fluctuation but is positively on a general downward trend, sitting at 2.2% as of 2022. This is lower than pre-pandemic levels which was 4.0%. This is consistent with trends seen at UK and Wales levels.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire exhibits a higher-than-average economic inactivity rate (22.6% compared with 20.75 at a Wales level), which means that the county is home to more people aged 16-64 who are not involved in the labour market, meaning they are neither working nor actively seeking employment. This restricts labour supply and can stunt economic growth.</p> <p>The Council recognises that to sustain sustainable growth the economy must be underpinned by a capable and available workforce. In line with this, regeneration assistance saw the creation of 1,350 direct jobs and 116 indirect jobs in 22/23.</p>

¹⁴ A person is unemployed if they are actively seeking or are available for work

<p>Highest Level of Qualification</p>	<p>No Qualifications</p> 	<p>Qualified to L4+</p> 	<p>Less People Have no Qualifications but the Numbers of People Living in Carmarthenshire with Higher Level Qualifications Remains Comparably Low</p> <p><i>The trendlines adjacent cover the period 2017 to 2022.</i></p> <p>The proportion of those aged 18-64 with no qualifications has been on a downward trend in recent years. The most recent data indicates a level of 7.0%, which compares positively with the average for Wales which sits at 8.3%.</p> <p>Conversely, Carmarthenshire continues to lag behind national averages with regards to the proportion qualified to level 4 or above. Improvements were seen between 2017 and 2019 where levels reached 41.4%, only to decrease to 37.6% by 2021. Levels have since began to rise again to a level of 40.0% in 2022.</p> <p>Developing skills and qualifications improves employability prospects, boosts career prospects and creates a well-skilled and able labour market. It also ensures that we have a workforce that is fit for the future.</p> <p>During 2022/23 residents attending Employment related courses within the Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus Programmes achieved 502 accredited qualifications.</p>
<p>% of people claiming unemployment related benefits for over 12 months</p>		<p>Less People are Long-Term Unemployed</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2017 to April 2023 and shows a steady trend characterised by a decline in recent years.</i></p> <p>The rate of people aged between 16-64 claiming unemployment related benefits for over 12 months has been on a downward trend from 2021. Levels remained consistent at 0.5% between 2017 and 2021. The most recent data for April 2023 indicates that the level is now 0.1% which is line with the Welsh average.</p> <p>This is positive and indicates that more people considered long-term unemployed have been reintegrated back into the labour market.</p> <p>The Council's employability support programmes have been working with both short and long-term unemployed individuals to support them into sustainable employment opportunities.</p>	

Business births & deaths	Births	Deaths	<p>Business Birth Rates are on the Rise but so are Business Deaths</p> <p><i>The trendlines adjacent cover the period 2016 to 2021.</i></p> <p>Following some stagnation between 2017 and 2019, business birth rates in the county are showing signs of improvement. This is positive as an improving start-up rate can be indicative of increased confidence and capacity within the economy. The most recent data for 2021 shows that 820 were opened/started, which is an increase of 100 on previous year. The largest uplift was seen in the Construction sector.</p> <p>There has been more fluctuation with regards to business deaths. The level was largely consistent between 2018 and 2020, however an increase between 2020 and 2021 is evident (+170). The main contributory factor to this was the loss of businesses within the Transport & Storage sector. This is likely related to the effects that lockdown restrictions had on the sector in terms of transportation i.e. rail, land transport, water transport and air transport industries.</p>
			

Performance Measures

Businesses are supported within the local area – Business Consultation	2022		<p>Businesses: A score of -0.88 represents overall disagreement. The Council has an important role in supporting businesses therefore whilst concerning it should be noted that this may be indicative of the wider challenges facing businesses at the time of survey and the increasingly difficult climate that businesses find themselves operating in given the cost of living crisis and post-COVID recovery.</p> <p>During 2022/23 1,237 business enquiries were supported through regeneration assistance.</p>
	-0.88		

Local people/ businesses are well supported to take advantage of local opportunities- Residents/Business Consultations	2022		<p>Businesses: The results show that in the main businesses who responded to the consultation (of which there were 36), do not feel supported to take advantage of local opportunities, with this statement scoring -0.76.</p> <p>Residents: A significant proportion of respondents indicated ‘neither’ when asked whether they feel local people are well supported to take advantage of local opportunities. Further views were mixed with slightly more people disagreeing than agreeing.</p>
	Business Consultation	Residents Consultation	
	-0.76	-0.05	

Progress in 2022/23

Through **Community Benefits** we have delivered/created the following during 2022/23:

43 jobs created

**1,628 weeks of training
recruitment delivered**

2,360 STEM pupil engagements
(Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

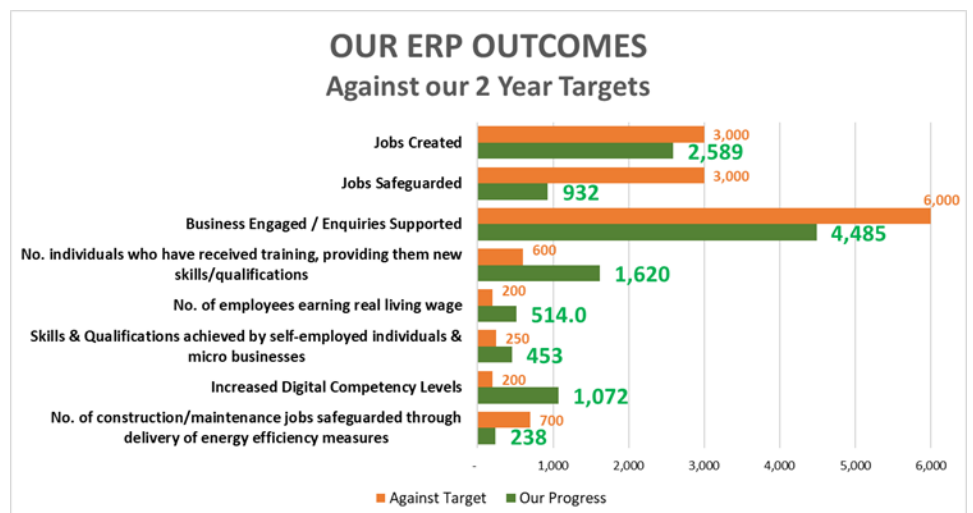
- ! We secured just under **£12m Private Sector Investment / external funding** during 2022/23, which is an excellent amount, but is only 60% of the investment and funding we were aiming for during the year. Significant funding of £38m has been secured in principle from UK government via the Shared Prosperity Fund, this will be drawn down over the next two years and reported in 2023/24 and 2024/25. In addition, Private Sector Investment anticipated on 3rd party grant schemes will also now be realised in 2023/24 as a result of delays to third party delivered projects due to procurement and supply chain issues.
- ! Delivering many of our large economic development projects depends on an efficient and effective planning service, there has been a vast improvement in performance of the service during 2022/23, with **72.4% of "major" applications determined within time periods** (just short of our 80% target) compared to 54.1% in 2021/22. The Planning Service are continuing to work through a number of planning applications which are out of time, but are identifying the backlog cases and prioritising the oldest cases in parallel to meeting the target time for new cases.
- ⊙ We continue to deliver our aims and objectives in line with the [South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan](#) which is the Council's over-arching economic regeneration policy. It builds on our distinctive strengths and opportunities to develop a more prosperous and resilient South-West Wales economy (Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire & Swansea) together with our local Recovery Plan we aim to achieve the vision and objectives contained in the policy.

Our Economic Recovery Plan (ERP)

Following our assessment in 2020 of the impact that COVID-19 had on Carmarthenshire businesses, and what was important to them in the short, medium and long-term, a business, economy and community recovery group was established to co-ordinate the development and delivery of the themed actions. Together with an overarching advisory group (that also comprised of key private sector industry leaders), an economic recovery and delivery plan was formally adopted in June 2021 after an independent review.

Key to the plan is ultra-reliable digital connectivity, actions that support the County's foundational economy and supporting local people to grow skills and talent in targeted areas so that there is a strong and resilient local workforce.

Our economy is made up by a large number of self-employed and micro sized enterprises together with significant employment within the [foundational economy](#) (business activities that we use every day and see all around us e.g. retail, care and food industries). So, our path to recovery has focused on: **Localism** - support within our local economies and increased local spend; and **Competitiveness** - increasing productivity and competitiveness.



With the support/intervention plan, Carmarthenshire's economy has started to recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before. We are not able to deliver everything, so working across all departments, with public sector partners, external organisations, including the private sector, ensures coordination of activity wherever possible to support our Plan for recovery and growth.

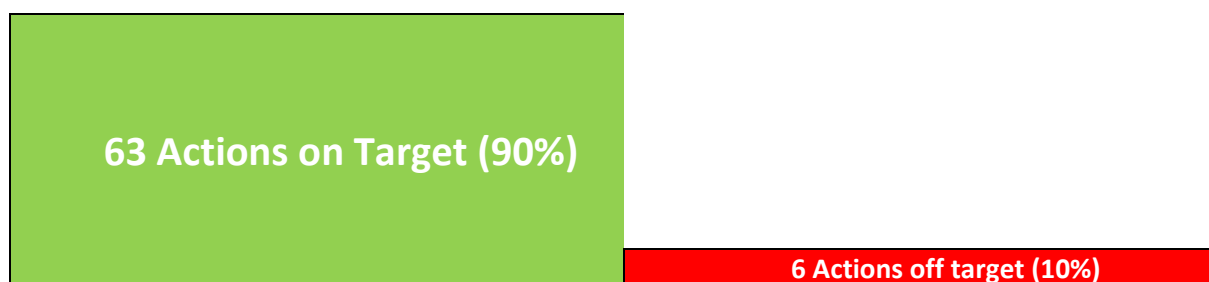
Explaining our ERP results

Of the eight Key Performance Indicators being monitored under the Economic Recovery Plan, four have now exceeded their target, these being “Skills and qualifications achieved by self-employed individuals and micro businesses”, “Training Delivered to Upskill Individuals”, “Number of employees earning real living wage” and “Increased digital competency levels”. These have been captured principally through the Regeneration Department’s employability schemes such as Workways, C4W+ the City Deal Skills & Talent Project, the LEADER Project as well as through Business Support Grants and work with Business Wales.


“Jobs Created” has seen a boost towards its target of 3,000, now reaching over 86% of this, mainly due to a consolidation of figures from the recently closed round of business support funds, Communities for Work Plus, targeted business engagement and partnership work with the Job Centre Plus and Business in Focus. Further collation of figures from projects such as Pentre Awel, which was profiled relatively highly towards this target, but which has only just started “on the ground”, will add to this over the coming quarters. “Business Enquiries Supported” has reached almost 75% of its target and with the newly launched Shared Prosperity Fund, should also be on profile to reach its target in the coming quarters.

Red flags are showing on “Jobs safeguarded” and “Number of construction/maintenance jobs safeguarded through delivery of energy efficiency measures” which both fall below 35% of their target. It is envisaged however that these figures will be boosted in the coming quarters from proposed and ongoing Housing and Education schemes, projects taking place within the Place and Infrastructure Department, through Shared Prosperity Fund Projects and Pentre Awel.

Progress on our Economic Recovery Plan – Action Plan



The Recovery Plan sets out our priorities for supporting Businesses, People and Place:

<p>Business</p>	<p>Over 90% of our nearly 8,000 businesses in Carmarthenshire are micro-businesses (i.e. with fewer than 10 employees), so we need to support these businesses to maintain, upscale and grow our economy. We also have more than 10,000 self-employed people who need support to survive and thrive in business. Therefore, safeguarding our existing businesses, supporting new start-ups and growing businesses in our foundational and growth sectors to become more productive and competitive is key</p> <p><u>Digital Economic Growth</u> The £55 million Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) Digital Infrastructure programme will benefit residents and businesses in all parts of the Region, which includes Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The programme is estimated to be worth £318m to the regional economy over the next 15 years.</p>
<p>People</p>	<p><u>Regional Learning & Skills Partnership (RLSP)</u> - Carmarthenshire is the Lead Body for the RLSP. The RLSP is leading on the delivery of the SBCD Regional Skills and Talent Programme over the next 5 years. The key aim of the programme is to deliver the skills needs of the 8 City Deal projects and to support the skills needs of the region.</p>
<p>Place</p>	<p><u>Urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire</u> - Throughout all the town centres, businesses are supported to make best use of digital communications to grow their market reach, turnover and footfall; with decarbonisation encouraged through low carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and sustainable developments; and Welsh language and culture supported and promoted to celebrate Carmarthenshire’s identity.</p> <p><u>Pentre Awel</u> part-funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal - brings together business, research, education, community healthcare and modern leisure facilities all at one prime location along the Llanelli coastline. It is the first development of its scope and size in Wales providing world-class medical research and health care delivery and supporting and encouraging people to lead active and healthy lives.</p> <p>As well as improving health and well-being, the project will create almost 2,000 jobs (750 to 950 in Zone 1), training/apprenticeship opportunities and is expected to boost the local economy by £467million over the next 15 years</p> <p><u>Rural Economy / Foundational Economy and Community Resilience</u></p> <p>The economic and policy context has changed considerably since 2013 at both Welsh and UK level, particularly in light of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union, the impact of the pandemic and changes regionally</p> 



BUSINESS:

- ⦿ We continued to support businesses to safeguard 143 jobs via Targeted Business engagement, Business Growth & Start Up fund, Community Bureau and Pendine Attractor Project.
- ⦿ We have secured over £4.5 million of Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) to deliver Business Anchor projects that will see over the next two years £4.5m of third-party grant funding being made available to Carmarthenshire Business via the Property Development Fund, Business Renewable Energy Fund and Business Growth and Start Up Fund
- ⦿ Funding has also been secured from SPF to deliver over the next two years to deliver the Sir Gâr Business Engagement Project that will see support provided to businesses to encourage inter trading, support local supply chains, support delivery of progressive procurement initiative and encouraging entrepreneurship.

- ⊙ Demand for our Business core funded Third Party Grants continues to exceed available funding. In 2022/23 both the Commercial Property Development Fund and Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund were fully committed in principle and over £400k of awards made under the Business Growth & start Up Fund
- ⊙ Conversely, EU funded services we currently provide will end this year (e.g. Workways+; Community for Work, Short Term Unemployed, Cynnydd, LEADER, etc.), but we have been awarded through SPF funding for employability / skills initiatives running up to March 2025.
- ⊙ Work was completed in March 2023 on the £4m redevelopment of Llandeilo Market Hall which will see an additional 20+ lettable commercial spaces becoming available for Carmarthenshire’s Rural businesses in 2023/24
- ! **Increasing Capital Costs / Supply Chain Issues:** Marked increases in the cost of delivering capital regeneration schemes have occurred over the past year. These increases are industry wide and are believed to have been triggered through several factors including Brexit, COVID-19 and more recently the conflict in Ukraine and resultant increases in inflation. These increases are putting pressure on what is achievable with budgets that were set at project outset. As such, the Council and third-party projects are having to be amended where possible to meet these increasing pressures. In addition, supply chain shortages are delaying programme delivery which in turn is adding further costs to already challenged schemes.
- ⊙ Throughout the pandemic we delivered *over £66 million COVID-19 Business Recovery Funds* on behalf of the Welsh Government, which provided a lifeline to businesses in what was a challenging time, enabling the businesses to safeguard jobs.

<i>Business Recovery Grants</i>	£586k	<i>Discretionary Grants</i>	£265k	<i>Non-Domestic Rates Business Grants</i>	£65.1m
---------------------------------	-------	-----------------------------	-------	---	--------

- ⊙ Through our Modernising Education and Housing and Highways programmes we awarded contracts to local businesses, providing skilled work opportunities in the local economy and safeguarding jobs.
- ⊙ Over 97% of the 342,000 invoices received by the Authority were paid within 30 days, retaining our best ever performance of last year despite a 15% increase in the number of invoices. Prompt payment is essential for businesses especially at a continued time of uncertainty.


Digital Economic Growth

- ⊙ **The Swansea Bay City Deal Digital Infrastructure Programme:** The Digital Programme Business Case, Board, and Governance of it was established; Access to City Deal funding for the Digital Programme together with additional public sector funding was secured across the region; A central team for the Digital Programme was also established.
- ⊙ **Our Digital Regeneration Programme:** There has been significant commercial investment in Gigabit fibre at Cross Hands, Llangennech, Burry Port, Llanelli, Carmarthen, and Llandovery; together with Superfast Cymru 2 investment has been secured to connect 3,300 of Carmarthenshire’s worst served rural premises.
- ⊙ We have trained and supported more than 330 people by improving their digital skills (one of the key areas of targeted intervention), in order they are well equipped with better employment prospects.
- ⊙ We have been working with all relevant partners and stakeholders to address issues of poor broadband connectivity and mobile coverage across the County, particularly in rural areas.
 - Of Carmarthenshire’s approximately 96,000 premises:
 - 91.2% now have access to Superfast broadband or better (above 30 megabits per second).
 - 52% now have access to Gigabit broadband (Speeds above 1000 megabits per second).
 - Carmarthenshire has also seen an increase in mobile coverage in 2021-22:
 - Coverage from all four Mobile Network Operators (MNOs): up to 65% (3% increase from 2020-21).
 - Coverage from at least one MNO: up to 95% (2% increase from 2020-21).

We are working closely with the UK Government and all 4 MNOs to ensure delivery of the Shared Rural Network (SRN) programme which could contribute approximately £11 million of investment in Carmarthenshire and improve mobile coverage from all four operators across rural Carmarthenshire by the end of 2027.

We continue to work with private sector, UK Government and Welsh Government to support existing ongoing fibre deployment and to secure additional future fibre investment.

- ⦿ We have continued to lead the £55 million investment in Digital Infrastructure across Carmarthenshire and the wider Swansea Bay City Region.
 - Operator engagement, lobbying and facilitation is ongoing on behalf of the region to ensure fibre and mobile deployment is accelerated and is as efficient as possible. Stakeholders within UK and Welsh Government are fully engaged, working closely with the programme team to ensure national, regional, and local connectivity projects are aligned. Telecoms providers have shown active interest in the programmes schemes and regional stakeholders remain fully committed to and engaged with the programme.
 - As a result of this work in 2021-22 the Digital Infrastructure programme secured the following significant investment to improve connectivity across the region:
 - £7.6 million public sector investment
 - £14.55 million private sector investment
 - Of this investment, Carmarthenshire has directly benefitted from:
 - £2.5 million public sector investment
 - £8.7 million private sector investment

	<p style="text-align: center;">Clear positive progress against all programme deliverables</p> <p>We engaged with external consultants (FarrPoint) to conduct a benefits realisation exercise to quantify the impact of the programme to date, and the report shows clear positive progress against all programme deliverables.</p> <p>We are re-engaging with FarrPoint to conduct another exercise to quantify further deployment of both fixed and mobile connectivity across Carmarthenshire and the region for 2022-23</p>
--	---

- ! However competing demands and growing pressures within the public sector mean that capacity to deliver at an organisational level is increasingly challenging.
 - Staffing resources for the central programme team have been in place for over a year. A Programme Coordinator has recently been recruited to strengthen that central team.
 - All 4 Next Generation Infrastructure Managers have now been recruited across the region's local authorities. These roles act as a single point of contact to the mobile and fibre industry, the UK Government and Welsh Government. They are responsible for delivering a programme of work to encourage and streamline fibre and mobile deployment across the region and exploring the use of public sector land and assets to accelerate mobile and fibre deployment.
 - 4 x Rural connectivity support and engagement officers are now also in post at each of the local authorities across the region (as recommended by both the UK Government's Barrier Busting Handbook for Local Authorities and Welsh Government's Barrier Busting Report). They are funded by the City Deal Digital Programme to support rural communities in obtaining adequate broadband. **These roles have proven to catalyse public sector investment across Carmarthenshire, having supported residents to access £243,000 worth of Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) vouchers (2021-22) to fund/part-fund equipment and installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses.**

- ⊙ We are funding a full fibre infrastructure build (FFIB) to approximately 100 regional public sector sites that do not currently have access to or plans to commercially build connectivity in the next three years.
- ⊙ A £6 million procurement of superfast broadband to rural and the hardest to reach premises across the region is currently being considered with plans being aligned to Welsh Government open market review data. This will ensure we avoid subsidising premises which the private sector intends to connect in the next 3 years. We are also awaiting details of intervention areas for UK Government’s £5 billion Project Gigabit which will fund connectivity to significant parts of rural Carmarthenshire and the Welsh Government’s future £70 million “Extending High Speed Broadband Reach in Wales” project which works to complement Project Gigabit. We are engaged with both Governments to ensure that our £6million funding for rural interventions is aligned to their proposals, working in coordination and collaboration to ensure public sector investment in Carmarthenshire has maximum impact.
- ⊙ A regional portfolio of opportunities has been developed to identify potential new interventions and investments in Digital technologies across key sectors. This will be presented to local and regional leadership in the latter part of 2023.


PEOPLE:

- ⊙ The Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething MS officially launched the Employment and Skills Plan 2022-25, acknowledging the collaboration and co-production that had taken place to bring together the ambitious plan for the region. The main goal of the plan is to identify employment and skills priorities over short, medium and long-term periods to develop the social and economic potential of the South West Wales regional economy and will now help inform Welsh Government decisions on funding for further education and work-based learning.
- ⊙ The Regional Learning and Skills Partnership’s Skills and Talent programme moved another step forward in helping thousands of local students prepare for upcoming job opportunities across the region. The RLSP has approved 12 pilot applications which will help future proof the regions workforce. Spread geographically across the Swansea Bay City Region the 12 newly approved pilot projects will hope to maximise prospects for many local people and create job security for future generations to come by ensuring they have the training requirements they need to match their aspirations.



- ⊙ The RLSP along with the private sector chairs worked together to launch new look specific sector Careers Guide booklet for learners. The booklet will support learners in getting their dream career or boosting their career plans. [A guide to careers Digital English - Flip PDF | FlipBuilder](#)
- ⊙ Our dedicated employability team have worked with both short term and long-term unemployed individuals in Carmarthenshire to support them into sustainable employment opportunities.
- ⊙ During the last year we have collaboratively, with the RLSP, successfully delivered *six job fairs* in each of the primary towns, to support sectors experiencing acute recruitment challenges.

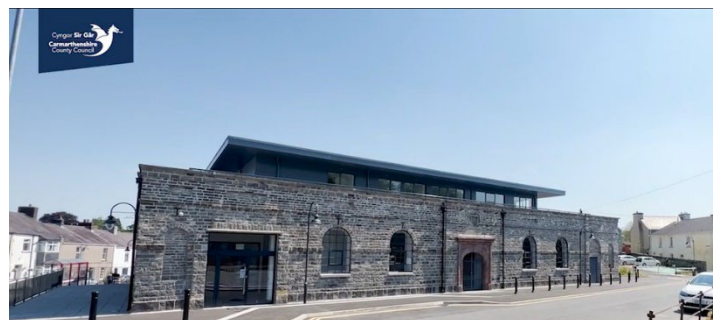
- ⦿ During 2022/23 we helped 759 people into volunteering (the year before it was 927). Post pandemic, the team has identified consistently across programmes that public attitudes to volunteering has changed and people are now more reluctant to volunteer their time. We are addressing this via a specific Volunteering project under the Shared Prosperity Fund and we are working closely with CAVS to increase numbers going forward.
- ⦿ The Skills and Talent programme moved another step forward with 12 pilot applications approved which will help thousands of local students prepare for upcoming job opportunities across the region. With 12 of the pilot projects now in delivery the Skills and Talent programme is working towards:
 - delivering at least 2,200 additional skills
 - supporting around 14,000 individuals with higher level (between 2-8) skills within 10 years.
 - create at least 3,000 new apprenticeship opportunities, to include level 3 to Degree apprenticeships

	<p><u>Audit Wales – A Missed Opportunity – Social Enterprise (December 2022)</u> This is a National Report</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have prepared a strategic action plan on how we as a County engage with Social Enterprises – we have consulted with Cwmpas and taken on board their recommendations. • Once Shared Prosperity Fund applications have been decided upon, we will have additional capacity to address the recommendations of the Audit Wales report 	

PLACE:

Urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire

- ⦿ Our Recovery Plans for our three primary towns (Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford) were bespoke to the town and set out the impact that COVID-19 had on the town centres in terms of loss of spending, increased vacancy rates and decline in footfall. In developing the Plans, we worked closely with key members of the town’s stakeholders. The Plans highlighted key issues and opportunities and provided a delivery framework of interventions specific to the individual town centres. These Plans continue to be the basis for which activity is shaped within the primary town centres. We have developed funding initiatives utilising UK Government and Welsh Government funding to take forward actions held within the Plans while also providing support for third party applicants.
- ⦿ Transforming Towns funding provided to the South West Wales Region is being utilised to directly deliver strategic redevelopment such as the former YMCA building and Market Street North. We have utilised Transforming Towns placemaking funding to deliver green infrastructure initiatives including the green wall at Llanelli Library and green and blue infrastructure at Carregamman Car Park. This support is also available to third party applicants to bring vacant commercial space back business use within the primary town centres.
- ⦿ Alongside the three main town centres, we delivered a programme of investment to support the growth of our 10 rural market towns. Bespoke plans were developed to benefit the town and surrounding areas of Cross Hands, Cwmaman, Kidwelly, Laugharne, Llandeilo, Llandovery, Llanybydder, Newcastle Emlyn, St Clears and Whitland.



- WIFI provision has been made available within most of our town centres. 16 businesses are being supported to pilot IOT technology to see how their businesses can benefit from data such as air quality monitoring, fridge sensors and footfall counters.
- We have secured over £3.5 million of Shared Prosperity Funding to deliver the Place Anchor projects which will include £2.6 million of directly delivered projects within the primary and secondary towns. £900,000 of funding will be made available to third parties through the Vacant Property Fund and Events Fund specifically aimed at the primary town centres.
- The Pendine attractor project has been completed which aims to maximise Pendine's heritage and its natural assets in order to drive forward the resort's future economic regeneration. The project received funding of £3m through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the Welsh Government's Tourism Attractor Destination Scheme; £1.5m from Visit Wales Targeted Match Funding from Welsh Government; £128,000 from the RDP Funded Tourism Amenity Investment Fund to fund the sand sport area, and £984,000 from the Welsh Government Capital Stimulus Fund. The balance is match funded by Carmarthenshire County Council. Pendine attractor comprises of three individual projects:

- Y Caban accommodation is a brand new 14 room, 43 bed accommodation that has been constructed using sustainable building technologies. Overlooking the beach, Y Caban facility also includes a restaurant and caters for the walking holiday and outdoor sports adventure market as well as those seeking a coastal experience. The accommodation has an overall rating of 9.6/10 from customers which is among the best in Wales.



- An Adventure playground with an events area, exhibition esplanade offering platforms to host events; a beach sand sports area; improved car parking facilities and the Dune Gardens providing seating and interpretation trails.
- Museum of Land Speed, opening end of May 2023, is an exhibition space displaying motor cars and associated land speed memorabilia. Interactive zones will be located throughout the museum allowing visitors to engage, listen and learn about stories of Pendine and land speed records.



- UK Levelling Up Funding is enabling us to deliver Carmarthen Hwb. We are progressing at pace with plans to deliver the £18.5m (additional £3.5m match funding from our Capital programme) project at the former Debenhams shop. It is being repurposed into a Hwb centre that will bring together a range of health, well-being, learning and cultural services. Our Customer Service Centre was also relocated to the Hwb.

Pentre Awel

Pentre Awel has taken a significant leap forward during the 2022/23 reporting period, reaching key procurement, design and construction milestones. Considerable resource and activity have been directed towards Zone 1 with works progressing at pace, whilst scoping and early concept design work is underway on Pentre Awel's other developable Zones.

- ⦿ **Zone 1** benefits from £96m of public sector investment to develop and co-locate new leisure, health, business, education and research facilities. An extensive pre-construction programme was undertaken during 2022/23 which encompassed key planning approvals; ground investigation work, ecology surveys, vegetation clearance and reptile translocation over the summer months; enabling works from October 2022 and market / supply chain engagement on over 40 work packages, from groundworks, steel frame to carpentry and flooring.
- ⦿ Following unanimous approval at Cabinet and Full Council in January 2023, the Council and Bouygues (BYUK) entered into a construction contract in February 2023. A ground-breaking event was held on 6th March 2023 to formally mark the start of works onsite, attended by the Secretary of State for Wales and local and regional partners/stakeholders.
- ⦿ Important socio-economic outputs are being realised during the pre-construction and construction stages through BYUK's community benefits programme, supporting local schools, organisations, businesses and labour pool:
 - Targeted Recruitment and Training - 4,680 person weeks of recruitment and training will be delivered with the aim of maximising local opportunities for apprenticeships, trainees/work experience and target groups including NEETS, economically inactive and long-term unemployed. Monthly 'Employment Hubs' have been established which allow local employability agencies to be able to refer potential candidates to the project.
 - Local supply chain - a range of local subcontractors and suppliers have been appointed or engaged on the project to date including Shufflebottom, Gavin Griffiths, Dyfed Steels, Dyfed Recycling, Owens and Oil4Wales. Further 'Meet the Contractor/Subcontractor' events will be arranged building on the successful Meet the Buyer event at Parc y Scarlets in 2022
 - Education - there has been extensive engagement with over 1,000 local primary and secondary school pupils via special assemblies, build challenges, construction careers sessions and student ambassador scheme. Over 30+ hours of STEM engagement have been achieved to date.
 - Community – c. 12 local residents will have the opportunity to participate in project's Community Ambassador Programme. In addition, a Meet the Contractor event held at Morfa Social Club to engage the local community with around 50 residents in attendance.
- ⦿ An 89-week construction programme is now underway. Sectional completion of the education facilities is targeted for September 2024 with full completion due October 2024.



- ⦿ Other key achievements and milestones for the Pentre Awel project in 2022/23 include:
 - Working with Hywel Dda University Health Board to secure c. £1.5m of charitable funding for the hydrotherapy pool at Pentre Awel.
 - Development of a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Action Plan which considers the use and promotion of Welsh language and culture across all elements of Pentre Awel – leisure, business, education, assisted living, communications and procurement. The draft was shared with the Welsh Language Strategic Forum in February 2023.
 - A range of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) institutions have been engaged in a workforce planning exercise to map out projected job roles at Pentre Awel against current education and training provision across the region. This will help identify any skills gaps and facilitate the planning and delivery of the education function.
 - Scoping and appraisal on **Zone 2** is underway looking at a nursing home and extra care facility.
 - Design development of **Zone 3** – initial concept designs for up to 144 units of assisted living accommodation have been produced comprising a mix of one and two bedded apartments and three bed bungalows.
- ! As with all similar projects a key challenge or risk will be to ensure that all tenanted areas of the facility are fully let in advance of or as soon as practicable after opening.

Rural Economy / Foundational Economy and Community Resilience

- ⦿ The Cabinet unanimously resolved that the County Farm Estate be retained and managed under the current policy whilst rationalising and considering development opportunities as they arise.
 - A new Rural Estate Plan will be drafted over the next 12 months to highlight the extent and performance of the current portfolio, together with the key issues and future strategy of the Estate to enable the Council to maximise the opportunities available to support its well-being objectives.
 - We will also continue to engage with the Climate Change & Nature Emergency Advisory Panel and the Rural Affairs Advisory Panel to consider their views in finalising the Rural Estate Plan.
- ⦿ We have delivered regeneration initiatives that focus on the development of the rural market towns in the County via projects and initiatives such as the 10 Towns capital fund, Rural Employment Space Joint Venture, Laugharne Car Park & Llandeilo Market Hall.
 - Construction has reached practical completion stage on the Llandeilo Market Hall project.
 - Ten Towns Growth plans have been completed for all the ten towns.
 - Growth plan teams continue to work on the submission of their detailed project applications for the £1m capital Recovery grants pot having submitted Expressions of Interest previously with the exception of Llandovery who have submitted their detailed application for consideration.
 - Joint venture agreement has been signed with Welsh Government to assist with the delivery of the rural employment space initiative and Welsh government have engaged design consultants to work up detailed designs for the first project at Beechwood 2.
- ⦿ Through our housing investment programmes we have invested over £20million into our communities developing over 100 new homes and investing in our existing stock. These programmes provide sustained periods of trade and benefit to local contractors and builders. They create more jobs and training opportunities in our communities directly supporting the actions in our Economic Recovery Plan.



100% Sir Gâr

100% Sir Gâr was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic as a virtual shop window on the council's Discover Carmarthenshire website, as a way of supporting local businesses to recover from a long period of lockdown and restrictions on retail.

Following on from the success of the 100% Sir Gâr platform, Economic Development Staff have facilitated seasonal Pop-Up shop events across the County's primary towns as well as opportunities to a space at the Urdd Eisteddfod which was hosted in Carmarthenshire.

The Pop-up shop events provided an opportunity for Carmarthenshire based businesses to showcase their produce and create a new marketplace for locally based businesses to gain new customers and increase income opportunities. It was also an opportunity to raise the visibility of the Welsh language on the high street by use of bilingual marketing.

To date over 200 businesses have registered on the digital platform with more than 40 business having attended a 100% Sir Gâr pop up event.



One of the businesses who have benefitted from the development of the 100% Sir Gar initiative is Cwyr Cain.

Cwyr Cain homemade candles and fragrance boutique came about following a complete career change for business partners Carys Mai Lewis a Rhian Angharad Davies-Belcher.

Following a training day on to how to make candles and homemade fragrance products, the idea came to venture into business as a partnership.

Through the support and assistance of 100% Sir Gâr, this new business has benefitted from opportunities to promote and sell their Welsh/bilingual products at nearby locations and learn how to improve and develop their business' shop window. Being part of the Sir Gâr platform has also ensured a wider audience reach which both have noted to be of benefit to their business.

What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

Regeneration Delivery Team (RDT) continues to coordinate development and delivery of actions aligned to our economic recovery and delivery plan (ERP) and an overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, continues to provide advisory support.

Three primary town centre task force / forum groups continue to oversee and take responsibility for the delivery of their respective Recovery Masterplans.

Ten growth plan teams continue to oversee and take responsibility for the delivery of their respective town growth plans.

3b - Thematic Priority - Decarbonisation and Nature Emergency

We have significant environmental challenges to address

We have a strong organisational commitment to carbon reduction and were the first local authority in Wales to declare a climate emergency, publish an action plan and report annually against progress made within the plan. Since 2016/17 to 2021/22 we have reduced our carbon emissions by nearly a third (-31.7%) (-8,418 tCO₂e). This is strong progress in the pathway to meeting our commitment to Welsh Government's ambition for net zero Welsh public sector by 2030 | Legal commitment to achieve a net zero Wales by 2050. We are also committed to playing our part in achieving the wider public sector obligation to become net zero by 2050 and our progress in achieving significant reductions to date in our own emissions plays an important part in achieving that wider obligation.

We are proactively working with national government, public, private and third sectors to mitigate against the impacts of climate change through for instance the WLGA Climate Change Strategy Panel and in leading the commercial and industrial workstream of the regional and local energy action plans. While significant early progress has been made, innovative work to develop carbon trajectories has been developed this year which will assist us in targeting activity to meet the more challenging circa 60% residual carbon savings. In 2022, we became one of a few authorities to declare a nature emergency and convene a cross party climate change and nature advisory panel (CCNEAP) recognising the close relationship between the two areas of work. Work to deliver actions and report on the delivery of the Environment Act plan is progressing well, of the 38 actions, 26 are progressing well, and 12 have been completed and we are moving to review the content of the plan with the advice of the CCNEP, to reflect the declaration of the nature emergency.

We are making a difference to many communities with our flood risk analysis and business case developments works, we have a better understanding of risks in many communities. All new developments must have sustainable drainage which is managing flooding for both new developments and the surrounding community.

Why this is important?

- ⦿ The Natural Environment is a core component of sustainable development. The Council has already declared its commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergencies and will continue on its route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 and addressing the issues that are driving a decline in our biodiversity and support nature recovery.
- ⦿ **Route Towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030**
- ⦿ A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – *tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy*. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- ⦿ The *conservation and enhancement of biodiversity* is vital in our response to climate change and key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination, clean air and water.



Success Measures / Explaining the Results

The table below shows the overall population indicators and performance measures which will be monitored for the Decarbonisation and Nature Emergency thematic priority.

Population Indicators in the main are publicly available data that have been identified to develop an understanding of trends and Carmarthenshire’s position relative to the other local authorities in Wales. Through our well-being objectives the Council has an important role to play in making progress against these indicators, however, it should be noted that these are not solely indicative of the Council’s performance and will be influenced by many external factors.

Performance Measures are inclusive of statutory returns, internal Council measures and consultation findings that we utilise to measure and monitor performance on a regular basis. These are the direct responsibility of the Council.

Population Indicators		
Indicator	Trend	Explaining the Data
Capacity of Renewable Energy Equipment Installed (MW)		<p>Capacity is Increasing as a Result of the Increasing Number of Projects in the County</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2016 to 2020 and shows an increasing trend.</i></p> <p>Carmarthenshire is one of the most proactive counties in Wales in terms of investment in low carbon energy projects. This is positive and substantiates the forward-thinking approach that the county adopts with regards to addressing the threats posed by the climate and nature emergencies.</p> <p>The most recent data for 2020 indicates that there were a total of 6,439 projects in Carmarthenshire generating 321MW of energy. This is the third highest level in Wales and is an increase on figures for 2019.</p>
No. of Properties (Homes & Businesses) at risk of flooding	N/A	<p>Over 15,000 Business and Homes are at Risk from either River, Tidal or Surface Water Flooding</p> <p><i>There is no trendline available as previous data collected in 2014 is not directly comparable with the most recent data for 2019.</i></p> <p>Flooding is always a concern in Carmarthenshire, and according to Natural Resources Wales (2019), over 5,500 of our properties are at risk of river flooding, over 2,600 at risk of tidal flooding and just under 7,000 at risk of surface water flooding.</p> <p>The increasing threat of the climate and nature emergencies places greater emphasis on the need for suitable and proportionate flood defences to protect those at greatest risk.</p> <p>Through the Council’s Flood & Water Management Act and Shoreline Management Plan a number of interventions have been completed, including the installation of new defences and upgrades made to existing defences.</p>

Performance Measure		
The Climate Emergency is Being Addressed Locally	2022	The largest proportion of respondents to a residents' consultation indicated 'neither' when asked whether the climate emergency is being addressed locally. Further analysis indicates that with the exception of those that answered 'neither', more people disagreed than agreed. This possibly suggests that people are unaware of any measures put in place to address what is one of the most pressing issues of our time.
	-0.1	



We generated
1,317,121 kWh of renewable energy during 2022/23

(increased from 1,106,902kWh in the previous year)

The Council's Total Energy Consumption (kWh) decreased



by **5.65%**

from 67,694,145kWh in 2021/22 to **63,869,172kWh** in 2022/23

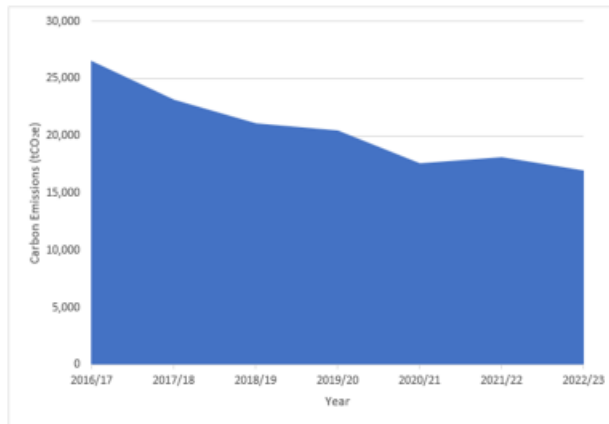
A breakdown of the Council's Energy Consumption							
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23 vs 2021/22		
					Progress	% change	Comment
Non-Domestic Buildings							
Consumption (kWh)	66,407,242	59,808,497	64,095,021	60,274,987	-3,819,637	-5.96%	Improved
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	14,443	12,581	13,026	11,846	-1,180	-9.06%	Improved
Street Lighting							
Consumption (kWh)	3,925,149	3,875,843	3,599,124	3,594,185	-4,939	-0.14%	Improved
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,088	981	832	809	-23	-2.76%	Improved
Fleet Mileage							
Mileage (Miles)	5,154,668	4,427,070	4,262,681	4,496,754	234,073	5.49%	Worsened
Diesel Used (litres)	1,419,336	1,267,437	1,320,551	1,327,545	6,994	0.53%	Worsened
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	3,814	3,407	3,573	3,584	11	0.31%	Worsened
Business Mileage							
Mileage (Miles)	3,971,513	2,251,986	2,511,091	2,775,432	264,341	10.53%	Worsened
Carbon Emissions (tCO2e)	1,132	621	693	745	52	7.50%	Worsened
TOTAL							
Consumption (kWh)	70,332,391	63,684,340	67,694,145	63,869,172	-3,824,576	-5.65%	Improved
Mileage (miles)	9,126,181	6,679,056	6,773,772	7,272,186	498,414	7.36%	Worsened
Carbon Footprint (tCO2e)	20,477	17,590	18,124	16,984	-1,140.14	-6.29%	Improved

Significant reductions were reported for 2020/21 which were largely attributable to COVID-19. Whilst year-on-year emissions increased in 2021/22, and further increased in 2022/23, these have not returned to pre COVID-19 levels.

Non-Domestic Buildings represent ~70% of our reported emissions.

Our track record of carbon emission reduction

Performance - Carbon Footprint



2016/17 – 2022/23
-36% tCO₂e

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Progress	Change
tCO ₂ e	26,542	23,143	21,087	20,477	17,590	18,124	16,984	2022/23 vs 2021/22	
								-1,140	-6.29%

Since 2016/17 to 2022/23 we have reduced our carbon emissions by over a third (-36%) (-9,558 tCO₂e).

Progress in 2022/23

Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Local Authority by 2030

- Climate and Nature Emergency Advisory Panel have hosted 4 meetings.
- We have established an Officer Decarbonisation Steering Group to enable Decarbonisation to be embedded across all services to be proposed in new Decarbonisation / Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan.
- We recognise the need for the focus to be authority wide in order to be make substantial progress towards achieving our goals for a Net Zero Authority.
- Transformation Steering Group: NZC is now to be brought under the umbrella of the new Transformation Programme and there will be a workstream dedicated to this key corporate priority. Quarterly progress updates are reported to Transformation Board.

Archwilio Cymru Audit Wales	Assurance and Risk Assessment Progress Update – Carbon Reduction (September 2022)
Overall finding <i>The Council demonstrates a strong organisational commitment to carbon reduction and has a published action plan, but this plan is not costed and does not identify the funding required to deliver all the activity within the plan.</i>	
<u>Audit Wales Recommendation</u>	<i>The Council's Action Plan Response</i>
<i>In order to meet its net zero ambition, the Council needs to fully cost its action plan and ensure that it is aligned with its Medium-Term Financial Plan</i>	<i>The Council proposes to fully cost its action plan and ensure that it is aligned with its Medium-Term Financial Plan by April 2023.</i>

Progress update

- This is the single Recommendation that the Council received from Audit Wales following publication of their report 'Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030' (July 2022).
- In the absence of an all Wales costing methodology the Council has draft costing ESTIMATES for its net zero plan working on a basis similar to another Local Authority in the SBCR [Swansea Bay City Region].
- That estimation is however recognised to be subject to a wide degree of tolerance and we are working to produce robust £ costings by adopting the following approach:
 1. Developing carbon reduction trajectories to produce various scenarios regarding our likely residual carbon emissions in 2030.
 2. To estimate the corresponding £ spend to deliver carbon reductions, seeking technical support from Local Partnerships (via Welsh Government Energy Service) to develop a consistent methodology for the four SW Wales local authorities, and potentially all Welsh public bodies.

The Council demonstrates a strong organisational commitment to carbon reduction and was the first local authority in Wales to publish net zero action plan and has reported annually against the plan. In the absence of guidance on a cost model the plan and annual updates have not indicated the total cost of the plan to meet the Council's net zero objective. In 2023 the council has developed methodology for estimating the cost of meeting the Council's net zero target by 2030. The model requires further refinement to provide consistency of approach across local authorities in Wales. The authority is pressing the Welsh Government for guidance while working with partners in the SBCR to develop the model.

The progress and approach as outlined above is to be commended but the scale of the spend required to achieve Net Zero Carbon is significant and an area of concern.

- ⦿ ['Walk the Global Walk'](#) is a three-year international project which focuses on mobilising young people in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are working in partnership with Dolen Cymru Lesotho, supporting 15 schools with a focus on climate action. Pupil ambassadors raise awareness of climate change, lead actions in their communities and then come together to share and celebrate their work with decision makers in the annual Global Walk.
- ⦿ We are leading in the public sector with our commitment to ensure Carmarthenshire plays its part in meeting climate change commitments. In order to meet our target of Net Zero Carbon by 2030, substantial reductions in energy consumption and renewables generation are needed across our estate. Following multiple detailed site visits, in-depth data analysis and discussions with occupants of the buildings in scope, we have implemented extensive Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) across our facilities.

“[Phase 1](#) has been completed and projected to save £315,726 and 675 tonnes of carbon equivalent (tCO₂e) each year – these savings being guaranteed by Ameresco under an Energy Performance Contract.

Working with Ameresco has allowed us to accelerate the roll-out of our energy efficiency programme in a more comprehensive manner and at a greater pace than could be achieved using limited in-house resources. We look forward to developing further phases to help us become a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.”
- ⦿ 'Smart' and Sub-metering technology:

Accurate and timely data is critical for planning, monitoring and reporting progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority. As our non-domestic buildings account for 70% of our reported carbon emissions, we are extending the coverage of 'smart' and sub-metering technology for electricity and gas (plus water) to ensure timely capture of consumption data. We are installing smart and sub metering technology for electricity, gas and water to ensure timely capture of consumption data.

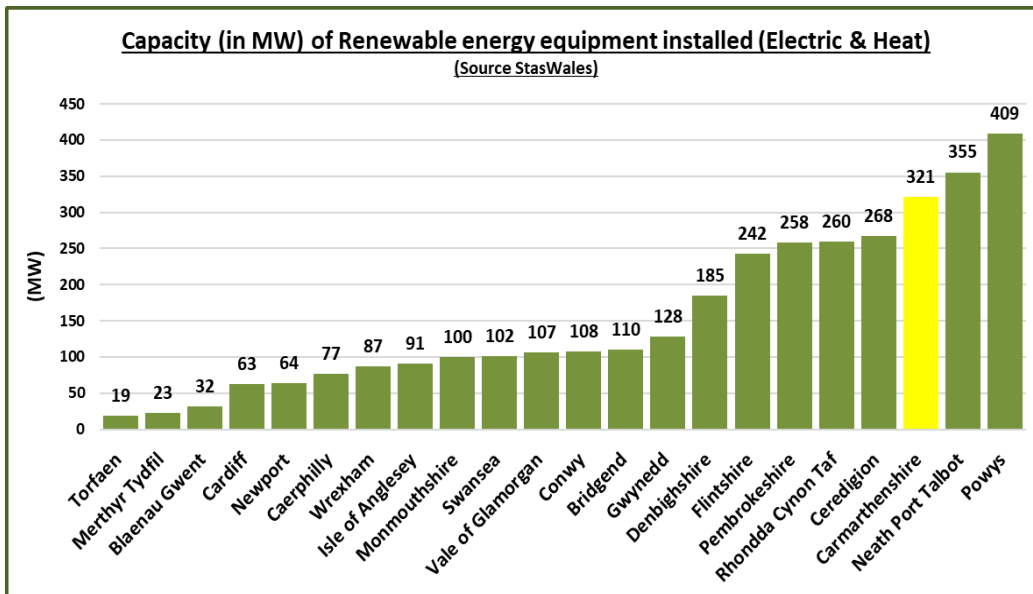
- Gas Metering: We have installed meters at all sites to be retained.
Day+1 Half Hourly (HH) data flowing from 209 meters including all the 197 supplies at sites to be retained.
 - Electricity Metering: We have installed meters at 55% of sites to be retained.
Day+1 HH data flowing from meters associated with 313 of 574 known supplies.
Works are progressing via a collaboration between our distribution network operator, National Grid (formerly Western Power Distribution) and our electricity supplier EDF Energy. Whilst progress had been delayed due to EDF staffing issues, a surge in electricity meter upgrades is now underway.
 - ! Water Metering: We have installed 1% of meters.
Day+1 Quarter Hourly (QH) data flowing from 4 of 336 known supplies.
Preliminary work is underway with Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water to confirm current meter location.
Staff capacity constraints are delaying our roll-out of water data loggers until the completion of the electricity meter upgrade programme.
- ⦿ Half Hourly and Quarter Hourly data flowing from these advanced meters are imported daily into our SystemsLink energy management software system to provide enhanced data accuracy that will enable us to better identify consumption and carbon saving opportunities in of our non-domestic buildings and street lighting infrastructure.
 - ⦿ Waste Services have implemented the first three electric 26t Refuse collection vehicles and are now part of our front-line refuse collection fleet. We are not on target to receive 33 ULEV vehicles by 2024, as it transpires through market engagement in readiness of the procurement process for the new vehicles required to roll out the second phase of the waste strategy known as the kerbside sort, it has come apparent there is a delay in the procurement lead times.
 - ⦿ We recognise the need for the focus to be authority wide in order to be make substantial progress towards achieving our goals for a Net Zero Authority.

Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed - National Well-being Indicator 12.



The recently Welsh Government published data shows that Carmarthenshire has the 3rd highest Capacity (in MW) of Renewable energy equipment installed (Electric & Heat) at 321 MW and 2nd highest number of projects at 6,439 (1st Powys - 7,384)

	Number of Projects	Electrical Capacity (MWe)	Heat Capacity (MWth)
Anaerobic Digestion	2	1	0
Biomass	508	0	45
Energy from Waste	0	0	0
Biomass Electricity and Combined Heat and Power	0	0	0
Heat Pump	1007	0	11
Hydropower	14	6	0
Landfill Gas	1	2	0
Nuclear	0	0	0
Offshore Wind	0	0	0
Onshore Wind	113	145	0
Sewage Gas	0	0	0
Solar PV	4491	110	0
Solar Thermal	303	0	1
Total	6439	264	57



Promoting affordable warmth and decarbonising our housing stock

- Our aim is to make all our homes energy efficient and achieve a minimum Band C energy performance rating as quickly as possible. Over 30% of our homes have already achieved this standard. Future investment in our existing homes will be based on using a Fabric First approach that improves the thermal performance of our homes and introducing non fossil fuel heating systems. This approach will promote affordable warmth for our tenants.
- Our new build Council homes embrace decarbonisation. Our homes are energy efficient, well insulated and have the latest innovative technologies and support the Council’s Net Zero Carbon principles. They help reduce our carbon emissions by on average 70% and create affordable warmth for tenants growing the green economy and creating sustainable communities.

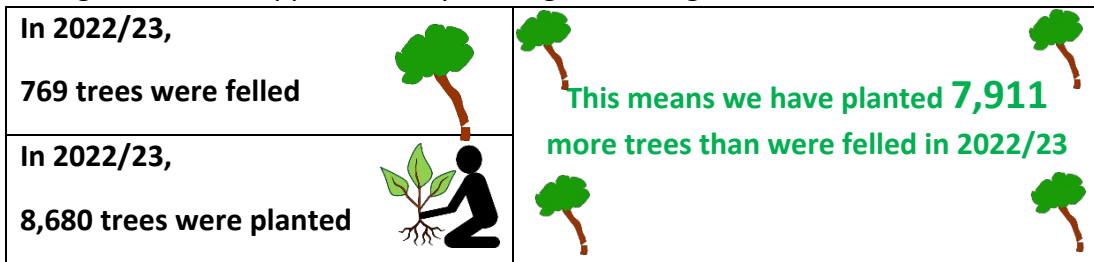
- Five potential priority sites have been identified for potential renewable energy development. We are working in collaboration with National Grid as part of the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan process with the aim of securing funding from Ofgem to enhance the local Grid.

Nature Emergency

- A nature emergency has been declared by Welsh Government and we have a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Advisory Panel to address this issue.

We are delivering several projects to ensure nature recovery:

- Adopted 21 sites on our estate to pilot a new way of Managing Land for Pollinators
- We have created a new wildlife garden areas at Trinity Saint David,
- Enhancement of a number of wildlife habitats in this area, ponds, grassland and woodland planting at Kidwelly Quay area
- We have been tree planting and creating a new access on our land at Tregib Sports field to enhance access to the woodland Trust Reserve
- We have a Service Level Agreement with National Botanic Garden of Wales. This enables us to work with a multi-disciplinary team at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and to benefit from their facilities for training and events. We have delivered our first event with Public Sector Bodies to encourage new LP4 N applications by hosting as training session.



- Tree Nursery Plans at our Day Centres - Plans have been put together by the Council’s Conservation team, with the help of the Botanic Gardens, for a Tree Nursery and wildlife friendly grounds to be developed in Johnstown Day Centre. With financial support from ‘Places for Nature’ funding scheme, the garden will include an accessible outdoor growing area and sensory garden, a woodland garden, a bog garden, meadow areas and an orchard. Although the project is taking place at the Johnstown centre, it will involve all day services through the collecting and planting of native seeds. There are also plans for a similar project to take place at Manor Road Day Centre. Not only will the garden improve the biodiversity of the area, but it will also provide a safe and accessible space for all to enjoy.

- Tree Planting - To help improve the County’s environment and increase biodiversity, the Council’s Rural Conservation Team and Property Department arranged the planting of over 8,000 native broadleaved trees to create 4.5 hectares of new woodland on Council owned land at Tregib (Llandeilo), Pendre (Kidwelly) and Maesdewi (Llandybie). Community planting days, including a day for pupils from Llandybie Primary School, were held at two of the locations.

As trees grow and photosynthesise, they will extract carbon emissions from the atmosphere. These new woodlands will provide new habitats for wildlife and thus contribute to addressing the nature emergency and become places where people can enjoy nature.

As a result of needing to re-position the active travel route which runs between Lower St Clears and St Clears, CCC purchased a 10-acre field. Active Travel have installed a new path, away from the river and the remaining land is now being managed for nature conservation. A scrape (shallow water body) has been created, 150 tree planting with ENRAW and Woodland Trust support, and we are re-introducing grazing of the flood plain meadow. In time we intend to propose to NRW that this area be designated as new Local Nature reserve.

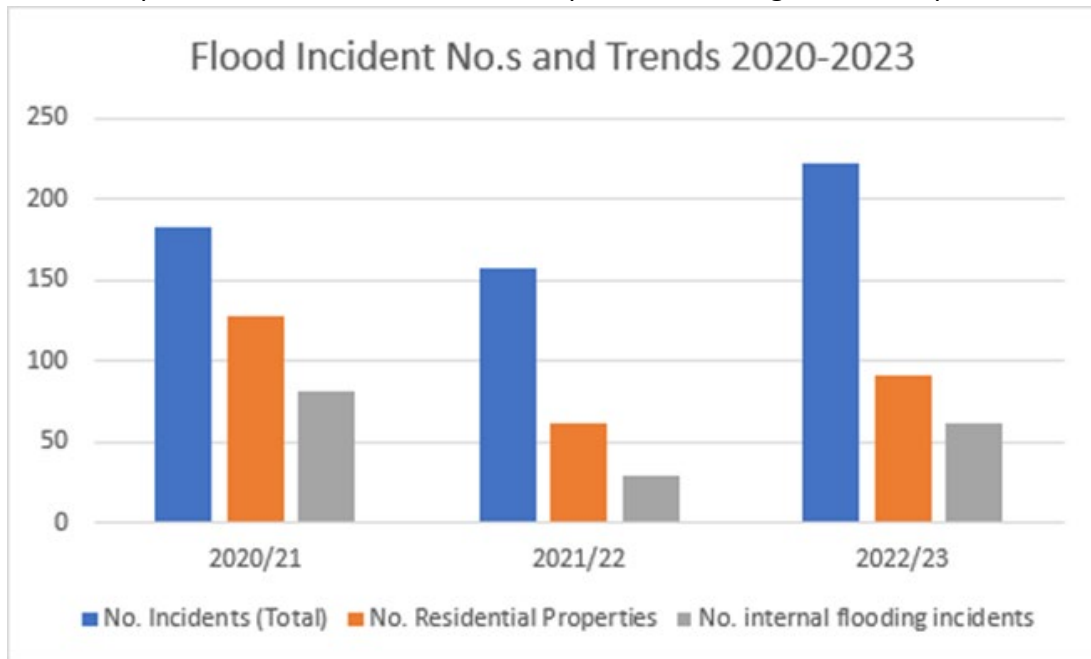


Tregib Sports Field and Grazing land - with Local Places for Nature, and some ENRAW grant aid we have planted individual and small groups of trees on the sports field, and we have used Glas Tir Woodland creation grant to plant 2.5ha woodland on land that was previously grazed. The more species rich grassland will be managed as a meadow. The new woodland planting links with the Woodland Trust’s Coed Tregib reserve, extending this woodland area, and with the grant aid we are providing an off-road path and a new foot bridge to improve access from Ffairfach to this reserve. Some of this path is suitable for mobility scooters, providing much needed access to the countryside for those with restricted mobility.

- ⦿ **Pollinators** - Over many years, across Britain, there has been a huge decline in insects which pollinate wildflowers and crops, also known as pollinators. The Council is currently looking at ways of managing grassland that will make it both richer in wildflowers and more attractive to pollinators. Simply by cutting less frequently, flowers that are already growing in the grass can flower and also support insects. There is no need to sow wildflower seed. Last summer, the Council experimented with this new approach, and it was well received by residents who enjoyed seeing the flower rich grasslands that appeared.

Flood risk management

- ⦿ While there have been no significant flooding events this year, we are getting better at collating data. As such numbers are up. In 2022/23 we received 223 reports of flooding incidents up from 158 in 2021/22.



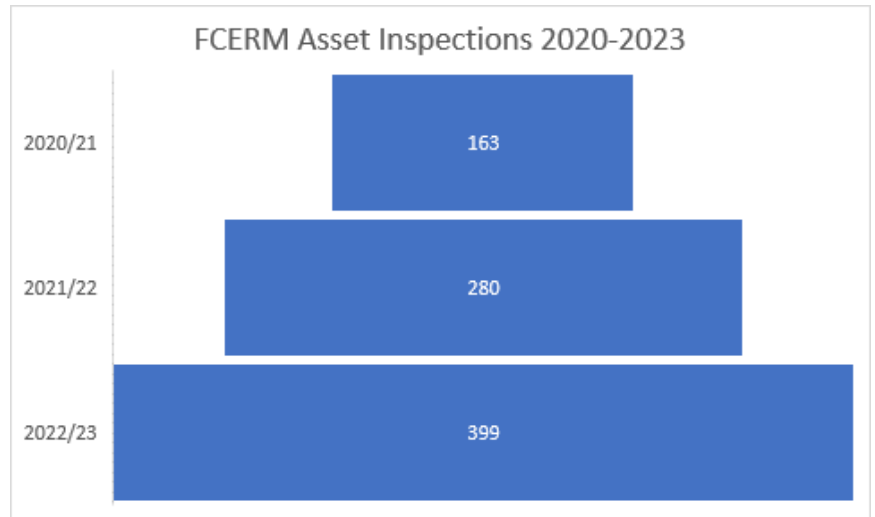
In 2022/23, we separated flooding incidents from enquiries and recorded 48 last year.

In October 2022 we completed and published our investigation report into the October 2021 floods in Kidwelly which is available online [here](#). This report included a 28-point action plan, over 70% of which have been delivered.

According to the 2022/23 [National Survey for Wales](#) results, 49% of Carmarthenshire respondents were concerned about flooding in their local area, and 16% with flooding in their own property.

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Asset Management

- We have completed 399 formal asset inspections, compared to the 280 the year before. We are focusing on ensuring that current assets are to standard and maintained accordingly.
- In 2023, we have continued our CCTV programme with seeks to map out sub terrain drainage in areas of flood risk; drainage which we hold no or inaccurate data on. In 2022/23 we surveyed over 8km of drainage which has been recorded on our National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management asset database.



Flood Capital Works

- In 2022/23 we secured Welsh Government funding for 12 [schemes](#) with a value of over £1million. We delivered 3 schemes namely.
 - ✓ Upgraded 1 key flood defence asset at Drefach, the trash screen.
 - ✓ Upgraded two key surface water outlets at Llansteffan Beach and Ferryside.
 - ✓ We also delivered a Natural Flood Risk Management Scheme at Margaret Street, Ammanford with £137k of Welsh Government funding.
- The above 4 schemes are estimated to deliver flood reduction benefit to 112 residential and 13 business properties.
- We have worked in collaboration with Ceredigion County Council and Natural Resources Wales to deliver a business case to Welsh Government for flood risk management funding for Llanybydder and Llandysul.
- We have completed the detailed design for a new culvert at Quarry Ffinant in Newcastle Emlyn.
- We have secured a further £1.35 million in grant funding to National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management business case development and capital construction works for 2023/24.

Proposals to reduce flooding in high impact areas

The communities of Llandysul and Pont-Tyweli, and Llanybydder have been subject to a number of devastating flood events, including Storm Callum in 2018 when numerous residential and commercial properties were impacted, and roads closed. Following this significant event, Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council and Natural Resources Wales have been working together to better understand the processes of flooding at these locations and assess different flood risk management options.

In August 2022 stakeholder engagement events were held at locations in both communities to collect local information on flooding history and processes and gather feedback on potential flood risk management options identified by the work to date.

Officers from Carmarthenshire's Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Team, working in partnership with Ceredigion County Council and NRW hosted the consultation events. Both events were well attended with a total of approximately 60 people contributing to the discussions, providing local knowledge on flooding history and processes, and commenting on potential solutions. This information has been used to validate and improve the flood models developed as part of the work, which has in turn been used to assess standards of protection provided by the proposed flood risk management options.

Stakeholder engagement and input has thus formed an integral part of these schemes' development and provided direction and motivation for the next stages.

This work is currently finalising 2 Outline Business Cases to be presented to Welsh Government to inform and direct the next stage of the work. Funding has been secured to progress both schemes (subject to approval of the OBCs) to the next stage, which is Detailed Design and Full Business Case.



Flood Risk Consultation with Llangennech Community

On the 19 April we held a public consultation event in Llangennech Community Centre. The Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Team have been working to develop a greater understanding of flood risk in Llangennech and to develop potential mitigation options. This event afforded us the opportunity to discuss local flooding issues with the community, and also table our initial options for the management of specific risks. The event was well attended with lots of useful discussion and debate. Attendees were asked to complete questionnaires relating to historical flooding events and provide feedback and ideas on potential flood risk management solutions. The collected data and information will be used to inform the next phase of the work.



Permitting and Consenting

	2021/22	2022/23
Full Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) applications	113	116
Pre applications 'Drainage Approval Body (SAB)'	0	59

- ⦿ We provided comments and advice on 621 planning consultations.
- ⦿ Delivered a programme of compliance checks where 222 developments have been checked to see if they are SAB compliant, there was a 99% compliance rate.
- ⦿ We have determined 100% of all Flood defence Consents within the statutory timeframe.

Coastal

- ⦿ We undertook pre and post storm checks of our coastal assets throughout the winter.
- ⦿ We formally inspected 100% of our coastal assets over the year.
- ⦿ We have repaired 8 Aids of navigation from Llansteffan to Llanelli.
- ⦿ We are working collaboratively with the Ministry of Defence to manage a private coastal defence in Pembrey.
- ⦿ We have worked collaboratively across Council services to manage the eroding coastal path.
- ⦿ We have worked collaboratively with Leisure and Engineering Design on the coastal erosion issues at Pembrey Country Park and Burry Port East.
- ⦿ We are procuring coastal surveys to monitor how our coastline is responding to climate change.

Reservoirs

- ⦿ We worked with framework contractors Griffiths to deliver significant upgrades to Trebeddrod Reservoir in Llanelli including repairs to the embankment and installation on a syphon.
- ⦿ Our own workforce has also key in helping deliver minor repairs at both Trebeddrod and Cwmoernant Reservoirs.
- ⦿ We have established Service Level Agreements with Grounds Maintenance to ensure all of our reservoirs are managed to the requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1949.
- ⦿ We have also established a programme of invasive species management at all sites.
- ⦿ We have overseen the annual inspections of our reservoirs by the Supervising Engineers and implemented their actions accordingly.

Carmarthen Learning Centre

Work has recently been completed at Carmarthen Learning Centre to make it more energy efficient and reduce its carbon emissions by 76%. Retrofit measures that include cavity wall insulation, double glazing, and roof improvements have been implemented to improve the heat retention of the building. The Learning Centre is no longer reliant on a gas supply as Solar Panels an Air Source Heat Pump provide energy and heat to the building. Energy efficient LED lighting have also been installed.

Not only has the upgrade works reduced the building's environment impact, but it has also improved the comfort and experience for those who work and learn in the building.

Leading the way on Phosphates



In early 2021 NRW published evidence of excessive phosphate levels in riverine special areas of conservation (SAC's). There were far reaching implications for competent authorities, developers and communities. The Council responded with new collaborative ways of working to this new challenge. Environmental legislation underpinning habitats conservation in SAC rivers requires a 'whole river' approach necessitating action plans transcending authority boundaries. In close collaboration with Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion councils, we created a new post of NMB Programme Manager to establish

Nutrient Management Boards (NMB's) and coordinate the cross boundary local authority activities in collaboration with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The Council has worked collaboratively and closely with NRW to improve clarity on guidelines, and worked closely with DCWW, NRW, sub-regional local authorities and external subject matter specialists to produce nutrient resources and are actively assisting in the preparation the first nutrient calculator for the whole of Wales. The Council fostered close sub-regional links to expand the Council's resources producing a West Wales nutrient calculator and supporting documents, West Wales catchment specific Mitigation Measures, and a regional Nutrient Trading Feasibility Study in collaboration with Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Neath Port-Talbot. We and the NMB Programme Manager collaborates closely with a range of stakeholders and provides LA input to WG on nutrient related Task and Finish and Action Groups.

What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of Corporate Governance, providing a source of assurance about the Authority's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial as well as non-financial performance.

Business Plans/ Delivery plans are developed and reported at Scrutiny Committee. Actions monitored through the PIMS by the department and by the Committee.

The Council's constitution provides delegated authority to the Head of Place and Sustainability for certain planning functions [part-32-revised-council-9th-feb-2022.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#). Officers are delegated to undertake key activities appropriate to their role by the Head of Place and Sustainability.

The Council is required to meet the Welsh Government's reporting requirements for carbon emissions net zero in accordance with [Public sector net zero reporting guide | GOV.WALES](#)

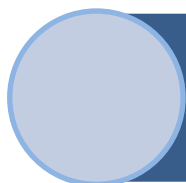
The Council prepares an annual report on progress in meeting its net zero action plan on an annual basis which is considered by the Climate Change and Nature Advisory panel, Cabinet, scrutiny committee and council.

The Council prepares an annual report on progress in meeting its section 6 Environment Act biodiversity obligation each year to the Welsh Government which is considered by Cabinet, the Climate Change and Nature Advisory panel, scrutiny committee, council.

The Department has its own live performance monitoring HWB, ARCUS which provides real time reporting on planning functions for local management purposes.

Performance management reviews are undertaken by line managers using KPIs.

Transformation Board reviews are conducted on areas of the function and reported to the Head of Service, recommendations resulting from reports are reported and progress monitored through the PIMS system.



3c - Thematic Priority - Welsh Language and Culture

The 2021 Census results published in December 2022 saw a further decline in the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire, down to 39.9% of the population, which is equivalent to 72,838 Welsh speakers. However, the Welsh Language County Strategî Forum is developing excellent co-operation approaches and has worked together to co-produce the new Welsh Language promotion Strategy. The Council is also developing its ethos and culture in terms of use of the Welsh language within the organisation and this will be further developed over the next few years.

Why is this important?


- Carmarthenshire is a stronghold for the Welsh language and is considered to be of high strategic importance in its future. Bilingualism is beneficial to both the economy and individuals through cognitive and social benefits. We will work towards increasing the number of Welsh speakers and supporting the regular use of the language across all aspects of our daily lives.
- Engaging in cultural activity has demonstrable positive impact on starting well, living well and ageing well. We want our future generations to be immersed in a strong, intriguing, wholly unique Carmarthenshire Culture, which reflects our past and shapes our future.





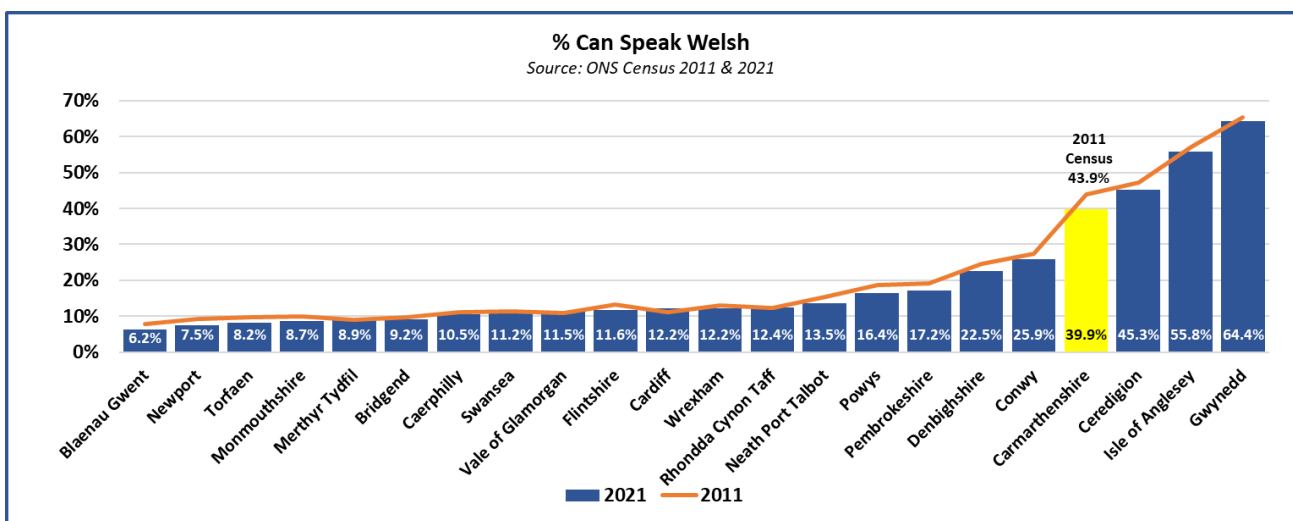
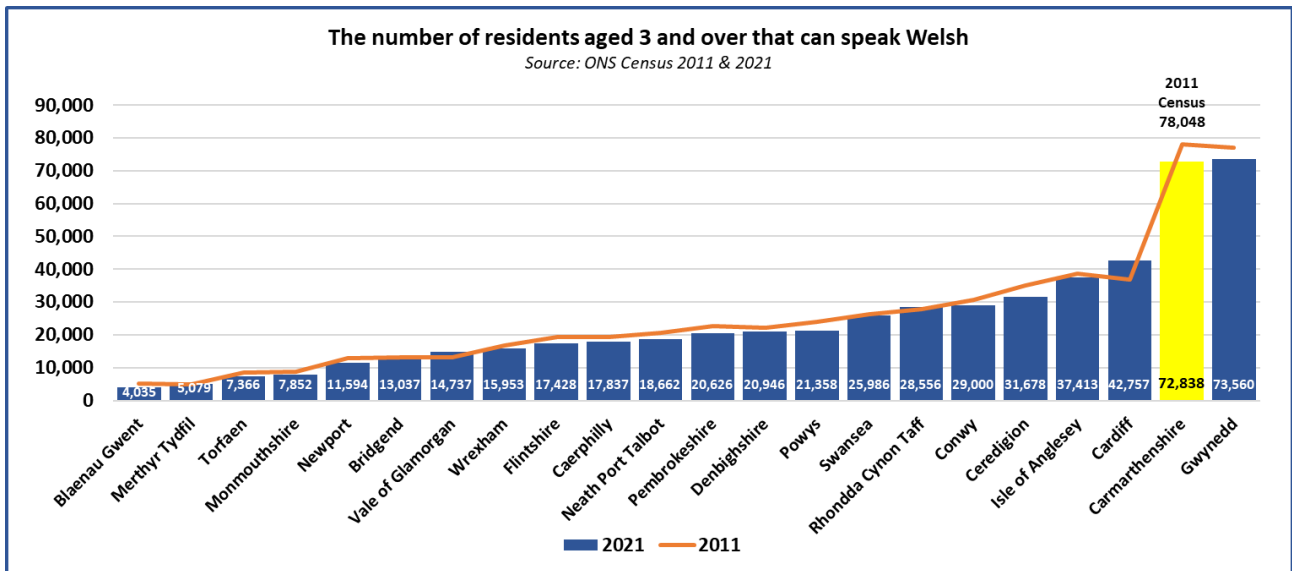
How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Measuring Progress

The table below shows the overall population indicators and performance measures monitored for the Welsh Language and Culture thematic priority.

Population Indicators		
Indicator	Trend	Explaining the Data
No. of People that Can Speak Welsh		<p>The Numbers of Welsh Speakers in the County have Declined</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period between the 2011 and 2021 Census and shows a decreasing trend.</i></p> <p>Carmarthenshire is home to 72,838 Welsh speakers. This translates to 39.9% of the County’s total population, this is a decrease of 5,210 since the last Census in 2011, equal to a percentage point decrease of 4.0%. This is the largest percentage point decrease of all local authorities in Wales.</p> <p>In 2001 and 2011, Carmarthenshire had the highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales, with 84,196 and 78,048 Welsh speakers respectively. These new figures mean that the county now has the second highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire remains the fourth highest in terms of the percentage of the population that are able to speak Welsh.</p>

<p>Number of those aged 3-15 that can speak Welsh</p>		<p>Less Significant Declines Amongst the Younger Age Group when Compared with other Age Groups</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period between the 2011 and 2021 Census and shows a decreasing trend.</i></p> <p>All local authorities saw a decrease in the percentage of children aged 3 to 15 reported as being able to speak Welsh between 2011 and 2021.</p> <p>At a national level it is thought that the decrease in both the number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh is mainly driven by a fall among children and young people who reported as being able to speak Welsh.</p> <p>In Carmarthenshire the numbers of those aged 3-15 able to speak Welsh has decreased by 510 people, this translates to a percentage point decrease of 2.6.</p> <p>Decreases were also visible within the 16-64 and 65+ age categories although at more significant levels than the younger age group. To expand, the decline in those aged over 65 able to speak to Welsh translates to a percentage point decrease of 8.7.</p>
<p>% of people (16+) attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times per year</p>		<p>Decreasing Attendance/Participation in Arts, Culture or Heritage Activities Likely as a Result of Covid Restrictions</p> <p><i>The trendline adjacent covers the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.</i></p> <p>Attending and/or participating in arts, culture or heritage events is linked to improved general health and well-being. Such events also underpin the creation of a sense of place and national identity.</p> <p>Whilst it is disappointing to see that attendance and participation levels have dropped in the county, it is important to note that data collection coincided with the pandemic and therefore attendance and participation may have been detrimentally affected by lockdown restrictions.</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p>		
<p>It's important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>0.69</p>	<p>In our 2022 residents survey the majority of respondents agreed that it is important to promote and protect the Welsh language with an average index score of 0.69.</p>



- There were almost **516,000 virtual or actual visits to our libraries (LCL/001)** during 2022/23, this equates to 2,710 per 1,000 population, this shows an improvement on last year (1,614 or 307,000 visits). Despite the improvement, this is 64% lower than pre-COVID (2019/20) with 1.4m visits. With a decrease of 85% in actual visits, but a 45% increase in virtual visits. Physical visitor figures are gradually increasing as COVID-19 restrictions ease, with various adult and children’s activities taking place during the year with various exhibitions, summer reading challenge, the launch of the Warm Winter Welcome Club, weekly local history talks, vocalists and author visits, Makerspace experience, children craft sessions, science and poetry workshops, keep fit classes, drama workshops, magic shows & music/ rhyme sessions, to name but a few. Customers also continue to utilise our free digital resources, with customers benefitting from our range of digital eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines & training apps.

Progress in 2022/23

Welsh Language

- On 7 December 2022, we took part in the national Welsh Language Rights Day, facilitated by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The focus of the day was the promotion of rights amongst young people; therefore, we promoted our career and workplace opportunities to young people in secondary schools and colleges across the county. We also worked closely with Cynllun Profi, to promote Welsh medium support and guidance for young people on their journey from school to the workplace.



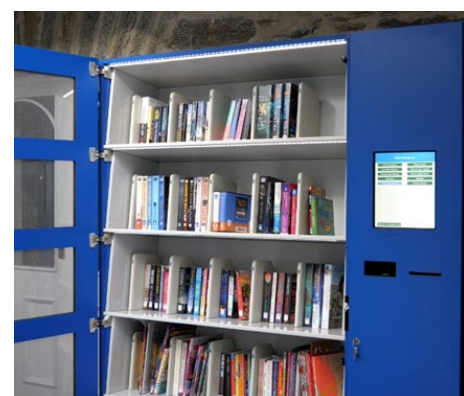
- ⦿ During 2022/23 we have submitted evidence to the Welsh Language Commissioner’s Office on Recruitment and how we consider the Welsh Language as part of our policies and procedures. This formed part of a national thematic review and we are awaiting further feedback during 2023/24.
- ⦿ The Welsh Language Strategic Forum has continued to meet regularly with a clear focus on evaluating our first Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and preparing a revised strategy for 2023/28. As part of the evaluation of the first strategy, members of the Strategic Forum took part in workshops to look at areas of success and improvement and to identify priority areas for 2023/28.
- ⦿ We continued with the 'laith ein Gwaith' project, which supports the Education and Children’s Services Department to move along the journey towards administering through the medium of Welsh. One element of the project is to work with Bangor University, through the ARFer programme, which supports staff to increase their use of the Language daily. Six groups from the department took part in a pilot project through ARFer and we will revisit these groups in September 2023. During the year, we have also been updating the language skills audit information we have available for the department, to establish a data baseline.
- ⦿ As part of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy, we worked closely with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli during the year to help with the vulnerable situation of the Welsh language in Llanelli. In partnership with the Menter, an action group was set up to discuss possibilities in Llanelli and the Council drew up a SNAP questionnaire for the Menter to administer, to find out more about opportunities and obstacles to using the Welsh language in Llanelli. A detailed report has been prepared by Catrin Llwyd to analyse the questionnaires and carry out further consultation work to draw up recommendations which would be the basis for priorities for the action group.
- ⦿ One of the projects under the UK Government's Community Regeneration Fund, is the 'laith Gwaith / Working Language' fund led by the County Council. 'laith Gwaith' provided grants of up to £3,000 to support businesses and community organisations to raise the profile of the Welsh language. These grants were in line with the Welsh Government's 'Helo Blod' provision, with the two officers in Carmarthenshire being encouraged to promote the grants as part of a wider package of support to provide bilingually. With 'Helo Blod' project ending, the laith Gwaith program is going to acquire a similar service, to ensure one to one sessions of further support for all those who are successful with an laith Gwaith grant.

Welsh Culture

- ⦿ Carmarthenshire Museum Service has benefited from capital investment in recent years. This year sees the completion of the most ambitious project of all, the new Museum of Land Speed in Pendine. Situated within a destination that offers high quality and accessible visitor facilities, the museum will transform from what was once a seasonal exhibition facility into one of only a handful modern purpose-built museums in Wales that meets the high standards of design, security, environmental sustainability, and visitor access. Also completed is the full external restoration scheme of Carmarthenshire Museum. The £1.2m investment was shared between Carmarthenshire Museum and the Tywi Gateway Trust. Parc Howard Museum has benefited from capital investment to make the iconic landmark building watertight and upgrade all electrical systems. The grade 2 listed building converted to museum use in 1912 has had a sensitive interior refurbishment to the main public areas and the museum stores.
- ⦿ A new £2.2M archive repository and information hub opened to the public in July 2022. It is home to an extensive collection of historic documents that date from the 13th Century to the present day. The council received funding of £120,000 from the Welsh Government's Transformation Capital Grant Scheme towards the new facility.
- ⦿ Our libraries hosted a wide range of events over the year. We held several exhibitions including Battle of Britain Exhibition, Bible Exhibition & Scarlets Rugby Exhibition.
- ⦿ Author visits were held in several libraries along with poetry workshops & craft sessions.
- ⦿ Makerspace sessions continue to be popular with customers attending 3D Printing workshops, Gaming sessions and Animation Workshops.
- ⦿ Throughout the winter months we held the 'Warm Winter Welcome Club' offering our customers a safe space to socialise, have a cuppa, keep warm and enjoy some of the free sessions we ran including, digital assistance sessions, book club, knitting group, music sessions & board games. Working partnerships with organisations continued - Actif Leisure resumed Actif Storytime sessions, Mudiad Meithrin held the Cymraeg i Blant sessions within our libraries.
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire have purchased additional collections of eBooks/ eAudio books to meet the increased demand and new membership.
- ⦿ A self-service library has been successful at the Foyer, Cawdor Hall, Newcastle Emlyn, following a successful bid to the Welsh Governments' Cultural Recovery Grant. Carmarthenshire Libraries have been working with [Lyngsoe LibCabinet](#), [D-Tech Lockers](#) and [Hublet](#) for the project. The Lyngsoe LibCabinets operate much like a vending machine, creating a mini self-service library. Our self-service reservation pick up lockers, accessed with your library card, allows customers to reserve items online from the extensive Carmarthenshire library catalogue. When an item is ready for collection simply pick it up from the locker in the library at a time that is convenient. Items can also be returned via the locker when they are due.



Author John Nicholl
(Carmarthen Murders and Tywi Estuary Killings)



- ⦿ Free online training courses are also available to our customers through our digital resources 'Universal Class', 'Artist Works' and 'Transparent Language'. Library members can learn music instruction for the most popular string and band instruments, discover how to cook healthy meals, take art classes, learn basic IT skills, gardening skills, parenting classes, learn a new language or even take a mock theory driving test. Family history resources like 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past' are also very popular. National, international newspapers and magazines, also available to download for free, visits to our 'Pressreader' newspaper app continued to rise during 2022/23.
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire libraries have a dedicated reserve book stock located at Burry Port library which gives us access to thousands of Welsh book materials. Over £20k was spent on Welsh Language materials in 2022/23.
- ⦿ During the year, Welsh language Storytime sessions 'Cymraeg i Blant' were held in our regional libraries, helping to ignite imagination and develop literacy skills. Carmarthenshire Libraries work in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin Cymru who provide these Welsh Language story time sessions for babies and young children at the three regional Libraries.
- ⦿ History drama presentations were held within our libraries to celebrate St. David's Day. 'Mewn Cymeriad' ran the sessions for primary school children who were invited to attend the events, the sessions helped inform and inspire the children to learn more about the history of Wales.
- ⦿ In August 2022, Theatrau Sir Gâr returned to **Pembrey Country Park** for another summer season of **outdoor theatre**. A jam-packed programme of entertainment was presented on a temporary outdoor stage over thirteen days, including live music, comedy, dance, and fun-filled family shows, attracting nearly 1,900 attendances.
- ⦿ In July 2022, The Ffwrnes partnered with Hijinx Theatre to bring **The Unity Festival** to Llanelli. The Unity festival is one of Europe's largest inclusive and disability arts festivals and the only one of its kind in Wales. Over the course of two days a programme of inclusive theatre, film, dance, and street theatre from around the world, was showcased at the Ffwrnes Llanelli (and online).



Is anyone better off?

The Theatres Service worked with **National Dance Company Wales** to create **PARTi**, an event to bring the whole community together to celebrate dance, which was held at Y Glowyr in Ammanford in November 2022. Local people from the community worked alongside professional dancers to co-create the event, which included a dance performance, cake, and a twmpath. Tickets were offered on a 'Pay What You Decide' basis to ensure that everyone could enjoy a great night out at the theatre.



What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

- ⦿ Welsh Language Members Advisory Panel - To advise the Executive Board Member with responsibility for the Welsh Language on the development and promotion of the language in the County.
- ⦿ Welsh In Education Forum - The WESP sets out a requirement for each Local Authority (LA) to establish a Welsh Education Forum In legislation the Forum is described as follows-
Welsh medium education forum” (“fforwm addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg”) means a body established by a LA for the purpose of improving the provision of Welsh medium education the members of which consist of LA officers and such other persons as the LA considers appropriate
- ⦿ Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language
- ⦿ Education, Young people and the Welsh Language Scrutiny.
- ⦿ Welsh Language Standards implementation in liaison with Welsh Language Commissioner’s Office.
- ⦿ Welsh language County Strategic Forum – this is a partnership between public sector bodies and organisations who work for the benefit of the Language.
- ⦿ Publish an annual report on the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards.

Culture Services are subject to business planning supported by structure meetings/appraisals and performance management sessions as well as Weekly / Fortnightly 1 to 1 meetings with service managers, Weekly Departmental meetings, Quarterly HoS / CMT meetings and Bi-monthly Scrutiny committees. We also have external assessment via customer/stakeholder engagement and feedback. Whilst not a statutory requirement Culture measures standards by the achievement of accreditation (a national standard) in the museums and archives services and achievement of the Welsh Public library Standards. The latter is annual whilst accreditation is granted and then reviewed on a three yearly basis.

3d - Thematic Priority - Community Safety, Resilience, and Cohesion

Despite a slight increase in crime rates, Carmarthenshire remains one of the safest places in the UK. Partnership working with Dyfed Powys Police and other agencies remains strong and continues to develop as new issues arise.

Why is this important?

- Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being.
- More people now appreciate the value of kindness and being part of a community. Supporting cohesive communities and ensuring those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in their neighbourhood, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values is central to having active and thriving communities.
- Community Resilience is also essential to enable communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. When communities work together to support each other it builds a sense of pride and belonging which is key for social well-being.

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

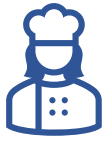
Measuring Progress

The table below shows the overall population indicators and performance measures monitored for the Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion thematic priority.

Performance Measure		
Indicator	Trend	Explaining the Data
I like living in Carmarthenshire – Residents Consultation	2022	Overall, there was strong agreement from respondents through a recent consultation that they like living in Carmarthenshire. Whilst many factors will have contributed to these sentiments, it should be noted that some of the main factors which make a good place are closely aligned to the work of the Council. Most notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good schools, ▪ Good leisure facilities, ▪ Pleasant surroundings, ▪ Good accessibility, ▪ Low crime rates.
	1.32	
I feel that I can live the life I want to live without the fear of judgment or prejudice - Residents Consultation	2022	Respondents largely agreed that they are able to live the life they want to live without the fear of judgment or prejudice. However, agreement to this statement was lower amongst members of the LGBTQ+ community and respondents who have disabilities. This is a luxury which is not afforded to everyone across the world, therefore, it is testament to the nature of Carmarthenshire as a place and its people that overall residents feel that they can be themselves. This is an integral part of feeling a sense of belonging and is one of the main contributors to overall happiness. Happier people live happier lives which in turn allows them to make positive contributions to their communities.
	0.71	

I feel safe in my community - Residents Consultation	2022	A positive score to this statement indicates that the majority of residents who responded to the consultation feel safe in their communities. The most recent National Survey for Wales results for Carmarthenshire suggests that we are slightly above the Welsh average for this measure and rank 11th lowest in Wales overall.
	0.78	

- ! Targeted intervention delivery on Food Business was revised during the course of the year on the basis of known identified risks from newly registered businesses. This meant that of the **879 Food Business establishments liable for a programmed inspection** as per the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Recovery Plan during 2022/23 (*PPN/002*), **553 were actually inspected**, this equates to 61% compared to 100% of the 407 establishments inspected the previous year. This deviation in approach was acknowledged by the Food Standards Agency and is also a component of their recovery plan, post COVID. Premises programmed for, but did not receive an intervention during 22/23, will default into the 23/24 risk based inspection programme. All premises due for inspection have been deemed broadly compliant by virtue of their current Food Hygiene Rating and having been subject to an Official Control Visit in previous years.
- ⊙ 99% (2,128/2,148) of food establishments in Carmarthenshire meet food hygiene standards (*PAM/023*).
 - ⊙ 100% (211/211) of Trading Standards high risk businesses in Carmarthenshire that were liable to a programmed inspection, were inspected during 2022/23.
 - ⊙ Unfortunately, we were unable to complete two **Animal Health high risk programmed inspections** by 31st March 2023, giving a result of **99% (162/164)** both inspections were completed in April 2023.



Progress in 2022/23

Community Safety

- ⊙ We have ensured the Council fulfils its duties relating to the current Contest Strategy (counter terrorism). There have been ongoing discussions at the Carmarthenshire Contest Board and the Regional Contest Board to progress the production of key documents to ensure the Council and partner organisations are fulfilling their duties as outlined in the Contest Strategy. Consideration has been given to how the Counter Terrorism Local Profile could inform the development of a situational risk assessment for the region to identify key challenges and the local context around those. This assessment would then be utilised to develop corporate risk assessments, including one for the Council to assess how the Council is delivering against the requirements of the Prevent Duty.
- ⊙ Partnership working in the Tyisha ward led by the Council's 'Transforming Tyisha' team has continued to deliver successes over the past year. These have included the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch groups, days of action with police led operations to target specific concerns and thousands of households supplied with security marking kits and crime prevention equipment, community engagement via 'Meet the Street' and using the outreach van, targeted waste and anti-social behaviour patrols, the development of a CCTV implementation action plan and closure orders of premises causing anti-social behaviour problems. Reductions have been seen in 2021 in the number of a range of types of crime compared to the previous year. Following a review by the Crime and Disorder workstream in January 2023 of their work to date, current policing issues are areas of priority, a new action plan for 2023/24 has been developed. This focuses on increasing visibility and presence, engagement and partnership, enforcement and specific operations.
- ⊙ The Council showed its support again for the 'White Ribbon Campaign' to end male violence against women and girls on the annual White Ribbon Day on Friday, November 25 and the 16 Days of Action which follow. Activities supported were on an even larger scale than previous years, with the White Ribbon flags flown at County Hall and town halls in Llanelli and Ammanford and County Hall lit up in purple, screensavers on council laptops encouraged staff to make the promise "to never commit, excuse or remain silent about

male violence against women” and directed staff to support available on the intranet. This includes the Council’s ‘Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence’ policy which was revised in July 2022. Posters were put up in our buildings with digital messages in our bus stations and video messages on the screens in libraries and leisure centres and awareness raised amongst our local sports clubs. An e-chat for staff was led by a local domestic abuse service provider, Calan DVS and special events held including a Walking Football session at Amman Valley Leisure Centre, at a Carmarthen Town AFC home game with the support of Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Service and former Welsh international rugby union star, Sam Warburton, supported the campaign at his event at the Lyric on White Ribbon Day.

- ⦿ The Council has been working closely with our partner agencies to respond to the new ‘Serious Violence Duty’ which requires a strategy to prevent people from becoming involved in, and reduce instances of, serious violence in the area. Such violence includes domestic and sexual violence, knife and gun crime, loss of life and violence against young people. A Strategic Needs Assessment, to be produced and led by Dyfed Powys Police, will include data from the Council and all partner agencies to inform the regional Strategy.
- ⦿ Officers have been working with Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys local authorities, police, UWTSD and Coleg Sir Gâr to develop a film for students to address and challenge extremist views to prevent young people being drawn into terrorism. Funding for the project was received from the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation Grant and local young people were involved in the development and making of the film. The film will be launched in Universities and Colleges across the region in the summer of 2023 with a further roll out in schools being planned.
- ⦿ The Road Safety Unit delivered kerb craft initiatives to 969 pupils to promote road safety training and campaigns to encourage safe active travel.
- ⦿ 808 pupils received National Standards for cycling training.
- ⦿ The innovative Seraphim Telephone Fraud Prevention programme notifies authority officers and triggers local authority intervention when trueCall users experience a high volume of calls from suspected fraudsters. In 2022/23, 400 high level alerts were generated (an increase of 306 from the previous year). These alerts have led to welfare calls and officer intervention, such as blocking incoming calls from identified, high-risk telephone numbers, to prevent vulnerable residents engaging with telephone fraud approaches.

For the period 2022/23 the programme has

- blocked 24,860 calls
- blocked 5,370 calls from scam callers (calls blocked from nationally reported scam numbers)
- saved service users approximately £146,693 by preventing engagement with telephone fraud
- saved Social Care, NHS and the police and estimated £86,875 in intervention/support costs


Community Cohesion

- ⦿ The Mid and South West Wales Community Cohesion team are one of 8 regions funded by Welsh Government to achieve a consistent approach to cohesion across the country. The team works across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and Powys. The Community Cohesion team raise awareness of Hate Crime and how to report it, ensuring people understand what constitutes a hate crime and working with organisations like Victim Support to develop campaigns, training and projects. During 2022-23, the cohesion team led projects throughout the year including:
 - facilitating an Online hate session looking at the impacts of online hate/harms on both individuals and communities, highlighting cases in Wales
 - two information sessions for organisations to find out more about Hate Crime Awareness Week and how they can get involved.
 - Coordinated a LGBTQ+ Training with Victim Support and CETMA, aimed at professionals. Over 200 people attended.
 - organised a Wales wide webinar as part of Victim Supports, Countering Hateful Extremism Wales meeting. Raising Awareness and Understanding of Extremism and Toxic Masculinity - a webinar for Professionals working with young people. Over 150 people attended.
 - presented at the national forum 'The View from the Ground': Asylum, Cohesion and Extremism Challenges, organised by SIGCE on experiences of managing tensions in communities housing refugees and asylum seekers.

- ⦿ The Community Cohesion team promote a number of awareness calendar events that support inclusivity and equality including Holocaust Memorial Day; Transgender Day of Visibility; Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, Refugee Week, Hate Crime Awareness Week and Interfaith Week. Social Media posts are shared and for some key dates, flags are flown, and public buildings turned relevant colours as a mark of respect. The team led on a number of training and capacity building projects:
 - Delivery of a Cohesion in our Communities session, aimed at community groups, showcasing good practice from 3 small grants funded projects.
 - Completion of the short film, "What is Community Cohesion" film.
 - Supported a Friends and Neighbours (FAN) group involving Ukrainians living in Llanelli and joined the Wales FAN steering group.
 - The team had three articles to the Public Health Network Cymru E-bulletin on Cohesive Communities. All of which were included.
 - In collaboration with Travelling Ahead, facilitated 2 GRT Awareness Raising sessions looking at the culture and traditions and policy relating to these groups. Nearly 70 people attended from Local Authorities, Police, Health and third sector.
 - The cohesion teamwork with local authorities and partners around the Ukraine schemes and have linked in with regard to Tension Monitoring and supporting resettlement of Ukrainians across the region. Also, working to monitor and support on the role out of Asylum Dispersal across the region.


- ⦿ The team ran a Small Grants fund across the region to encourage community groups and organisations to apply for funding. A number of successful projects ran across Carmarthenshire including:
 - ***Cymuned Cymraeg by Heart of Wales LGBTQ+*** - this project facilitated fortnightly conversation groups with the aim to bring Welsh learners and fluent Welsh speakers together and practice their Welsh together. The project involved the LGBTQ+ community promoting the use of their individual pronouns in Welsh.
 - ***Winter Pride and Hate Crime Awareness Virtual Coffee Morning run by CETMA*** - This project ran a series of online and in person events aimed at members of the LGBTQ+ community to raise awareness of hate crime, ways to report it and where to seek help and support. A Winter Pride event was held in December for the first time in the County.

Community Resilience

	Audit Wales National Report: Together We Can – Community resilience and self-reliance (January 2023)
<p>This National report notes that local authorities find it difficult to empower people and communities to be more self-reliant and less dependent on services, but with less resource now available they need communities and people to do more for themselves. The report made two recommendations.</p>	
<p>In response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s new Corporate Strategy (adopted 1 March 2023) includes a Well-being Objective to enable our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous. One of the Thematic Priorities within this objective focuses on Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion. As part of our response to this priority we will use the evaluation tool (promoted in the report) to self-evaluate our current approach and develop an action plan in response. We will do this across all Council services and engage with PSB partners as community resilience also features in the new Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan. By December 2023. • Once the action plan is in place governance arrangements will be established to ensure implementation and monitoring of progress within the Council and across PSB activity. By March 2024. 	

Is anyone better off?

Using a Small Grant fund through the Community Cohesion Team, Foothold Cymru and Llanelli Multi Cultural Society hosted a celebration event - Christmas Around the World. The event brought together a host of different nationalities who live and work in Llanelli.

Over 500 people attended the event which increased social cohesion within the town, attendees had the opportunity to sample food from around the globe and information was shared on how to minimise food waste and produce healthy, nutritious food on a budget and shared learning and ideas from one another.

What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce, Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny
 The Community Cohesion Team reports to Welsh Government on a quarterly basis and are part of and provide updates to Safer Communities Partnership, CONTEST, Serious Violence and Organised Crime and Strategic Equalities in all four counties.

3e - Service Priority - Leisure and Tourism

Leisure Attendance Almost Back to Pre-Covid Levels

Attendances have recovered across the year as more people are engaged in physical activity opportunities across the county, with figures almost back to pre-Covid levels. Our key challenges over the past 12 months have been around managing post pandemic participation and income recovery, along with the cost of living and energy price crises.

Why is this important?

- ⦿ Sport and leisure, culture and outdoor recreation are the heartbeat of our communities. These services provide a range of health and well-being activities, facilities, and programmes in order to support our residents and communities to lead healthy, safe and prosperous lives.
- ⦿ In a similar way the promotion of our County as an attractive and commercially viable place to visit and invest in is a key economic and well-being factor.
- ⦿ We will continue to develop these services in response to the need of our residents, businesses and visitors.

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

- ⦿ There were over **1.3m visits to our leisure centres during 2022/23 (PAM/017)**, this equates to 7,017 per 1,000 population, this shows a 52% growth on last year (4,598 or 874,000 visits). Attendances have recovered across the year as more people are engaged in physical activity opportunities across the county with figures almost back to pre-COVID levels.
- ⦿ Over 800,000 people visited Pembrey Country Park, Facebook followers have increased to over 29,000, over 10,000 people visited the Christmas festivities including the light trail.



Progress in 2022/23

- ⦿ We have secured £219k for a 5-year maintenance and development programme at Ynys Dawela nature reserve.
- ⦿ Our Leisure Services achieved a Gold Award from The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). Which is a highly sought after award for health & safety.
- ⦿ Pembrey Country Park again secured the prestigious Blue Flag Status, making it the most awarded Blue Flag Site in Wales since 1988. The Blue Flag award is only given to beaches, marinas and harbours that have the highest quality of water, environmental education and management, safety and services. It was also awarded the Green Flag award for its inspiring green space and secured the VAQAS accreditation from Visit Wales.
- ⦿ In addition, Llyn Llech Owain Country Park was awarded a Green Flag for the first time.

- Two playgrounds within Pembrey Country Park were refurbished, which now includes easily accessible equipment, a disabled swing a sensory tunnel and is fully accessible for wheelchairs.
- A new Bear Trail for 2023 & Foot Golf offering in Pembrey Country Park.
- Theatres in the Park.
- 700 Individuals donated 2,910 hours of volunteering across Outdoor Recreation Sites.
- Y Caban opened its doors on 31st March 2023.
- Over £160k was spent in Grants in both Llyn Llech Owain and Mynydd Mawr Country Park to restore boardwalks, heathland and accessibility.



Actif Sport and Leisure

- Upgrades to changing facilities at Ammanford Leisure Centre facilities have been completed with improvements to parking and external sports facilities scheduled.
- 'Beat the Street' - An exciting project delivered by Actif Sport & Leisure saw the town of Llanelli transformed into a giant physical activity game. 6,679 participants engaged (13% of the population) across a 6-week period resulting in increased levels of physical activity and enhanced well-being.



During the 6-week programme a total of 43,844 miles were travelled, a staggering 36% of the less active children became more active, 45% of inactive adults became active and 12.04 tonnes of CO2 emissions were saved.

Registration data was collected on 5,408 people at the start of the game, providing audience insight into who was taking part: their age, gender, ethnicity and postcodes. A further 4,071 people completed an optional survey on their physical activity levels, long term conditions, disability and mental well-being. By comparing the registration data to local data, we can conclude that Beat the Street was able to reach those under-represented

communities who are more likely to experience health inequalities. For adults living in areas of higher deprivation (within the 20% most deprived areas according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, WIMD) the proportion reporting being inactive fell by 11% following Beat the Street (to 35% from 46% at registration). Following the game phase, participants were invited to complete another health survey containing additional questions which has allowed us to measure the behaviour change and impact that Beat the Street has had on individuals. Matched data analysis shows that 45% of inactive adults became more active and 36% of less active children became more active.

- The delivery and completion of the Actif Van allowed it to make its debut appearance and subsequent attendances at various events. Purchased through a Welsh Government grant its main aim is to increase opportunities for children and young people to be active, with a particular focus on those who live in rural isolation and/or areas of deprivation.

- ⦿ The Actif '60+' continues to engage the older population of the county in community and facility activity. 2022-23 saw over 2,300 participations in the community as a result of the Welsh Government Funding administer through Sport Wales.
- ⦿ Community 'Health Prevention' Initiatives that target those who suffer from loneliness and isolation and mental health illnesses saw extremely positive participation throughout 2022/23. With 7387 participating in 'Curling and Cuppa' sessions and in Mental Health running groups across the county. Averaging around 155 participating per week of the year.
- ⦿ This year Actif lead on the Carmarthenshire West Wales Walking for Well-being initiative in partnership with Pembrokeshire National Park. Since taking over the project the Actif Adults Officers have doubled the number of weekly walks to 8 countywide and see an average of 180 weekly regular walkers.
- ⦿ Community Walking Sports continues to go from strength to strength and 2022/23 saw over 2,300 participations in Walking Football, Rugby and Netball.



Tourism and Marketing

- ⦿ Proactive marketing of the County as an attractive winter short break destination encompassed public relations, digital advertising and organic posting on social media and web sites with thematic campaigns including the Cwtch Crawl and Larder Trail used to drive UK media interest with several visits arranged for journalists - in one week alone in March, over £130,000 of advertising was gained for the County in publications including Women's Own and The Sunday Times. The "Larder Trail" guide included over 70 local businesses. With food and drink a key experience to the UK tourist audience in the Autumn period, paid for promotional partnerships were delivered with the UK's top selling foodie magazine delivering pan UK awareness.
- ⦿ Supporting all areas of the County to benefit from the visitor sector, promotion actions focused on promotional video adverts showcasing the Market Towns of Carmarthenshire, targeting visitors within a 2.5hr drive time via Facebook advertising. This reached 1.8million. The Discover Carmarthenshire Facebook pages now has 20,971 followers with a reach of 447,070. The Discover Carmarthenshire website had 79,699 users, 103,985 sessions and 264,562 page views during this financial year.
- ⦿ This year 86 different TV, Film and Static advert productions have been processed through the corporate online film request system - allowing applicants to just make the one contact with the Council instead of seeking various departments. Examples include:
 - The major Disney production "Willow" filmed at Pendine and the S4C joint production with Channel 4 "Y Golau / The Light in the Hall" that was filmed in numerous locations including Llandovery.
 - A production for Visit Britain, the organisation set up to promote Great Britain as a tourist attraction around the globe. After providing them with local areas and contacts, Pendine Sands was the chosen Welsh destination in the promotional campaign in the USA, with paid for adverts being on TV and through British Airways.

Events

- ⦿ The Council has worked with all interested partners in the tourism sector & local communities to develop, support & promote a programme of year-round local events/festivals across the County - including creating & promoting a digital support "toolkit" for local community event organisers.
- ⦿ Proactive advice, guidance and templates have been provided to over 35 event organisers through the event safety advisory group (ESAG) and direct communications through a new populated database. One to one guidance has been offered via TEAMS or face to face, and this has proved to be an effective method in explaining key Council services that can support a successful event.

Is anyone better off?

Actif Legacy is a project that is delivered by Leisure's Actif Adult Officers. The project is aimed at 16-24 years olds who are not currently in education or employment and are wanting to gain valuable skills and experience through sport and additional opportunities over a 10 week-period.

On its third intake of participants, the Actif Legacy programme continues to go from strength to strength. In partnership with the Communities for Work+, The Legacy Fund and Scarlets in the Community, 6 participants have gained employment as a result of the confidence and qualifications they'd gained through the programme.



What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

Leisure Services are subject to business planning supported by structure meetings/appraisals and performance management sessions as well as Weekly / Fortnightly 1 to 1 meetings with service managers, Weekly Departmental meetings, Quarterly HoS / CMT meetings and Bi-monthly Scrutiny committees. We also have external assessment via customer/stakeholder engagement and feedback.

3f - Service Priority - Waste

Recycling Change Brings Improved Performance

We undertake waste and recycling kerbside collections to 91,000 households with over 8.5m interactions per annum. During this year we made significant changes to our suite of waste services, implementing a move to weekly food and dry recycling, reducing the frequency of our residual waste collections and rolling out new separate kerbside glass and nappy recycling collections. Any change in waste service delivery is difficult and bring its own challenges, however, the strategic success of the service change has led to a significant improvement in our recycling performance, and we have exceeded the Welsh Government Statutory Recycling target with a performance of 65.25%.

Why is this important?

We recognise the importance to a shift towards a truly circular economy, where waste is eliminated, and resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

As well as being good for the environment, a fully circular economy could create employment.

In our county, more people recycle every day.

If recyclable items end up in landfill their value is lost forever.

Recycling also reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying, and logging), refining and processing raw (or 'virgin') materials, all of which create substantial air and water pollution.

This helps to save energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to tackle climate change.

Whilst recycled materials are valuable commodities in the worldwide market and are financially important, recycling is good for the environment too. It makes best use of our limited natural resources. We need to remember how we act now will have an impact on future generations.

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? [Sources of evidence](#)

Success Measures / Explaining the Results



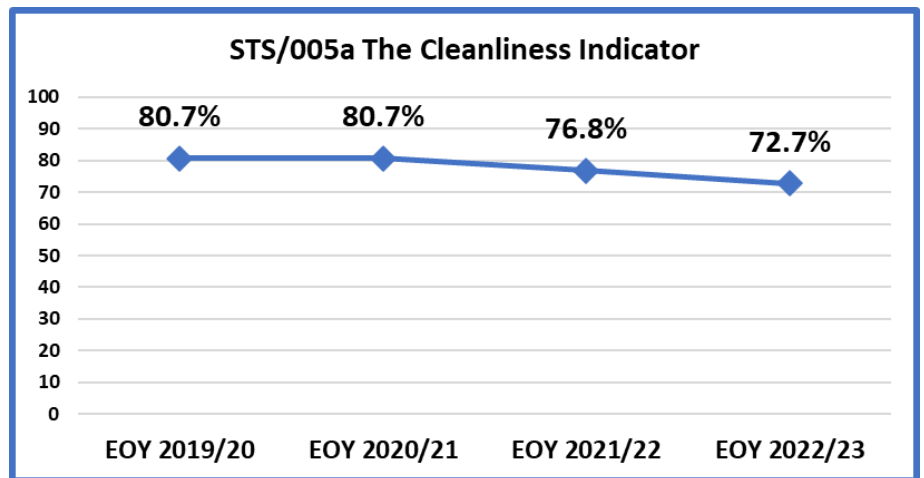
Our 2022/23 recycle rate is **65.25%**
(This is an increase on the previous year's figure of 61.68%).

- Comparative recycling for 2021/22 shows Carmarthenshire with the 4th lowest figures in Wales with a result of 61.68% recycled, the Welsh Average was 65.16%. Hopefully with the improved figure of 65.25% for 2022/23, our comparative position will also improve in 2022/23 when they are published in December 2023.
- The kilograms of local authority municipal waste that Carmarthenshire residents **do not reuse, recycle or composted per year (PAM/043)** is gradually reducing in Carmarthenshire, with currently the equivalent of 144kg per person not being recycled etc. during 2022/23 compared to 154kg per person in 2021/22. We hope that Carmarthenshire residents will continue to recycle more and more of their rubbish, we are doing far better than the 2021/22 Welsh average of 178kg.

- There's been a significant reduction in the amount of our municipal waste sent to landfill (*WMT/004*), which is now down to **4.89% for 2022/23** which is almost back down to levels before the fire at CWM's Nantycaws materials recovery facility (3.11% in 2020/21), which significantly disrupted to our normal waste sorting, treatment and disposal arrangements for a period of time.

Local Environmental Quality

- Street cleanliness (*STS/005a*) in Carmarthenshire improved slightly during the year but still shows a decline compared to previous years. Smoking related litter continues to be the most common litter type on the streets of Carmarthenshire, with a notable increase of confectionary litter and a decrease in the levels of Drink and fast-food litter. Litter from pedestrians



remains the highest source of littering in the county, this was recorded on 82.4% of the streets.

- A new litter source has become prominent within Carmarthenshire, with an increase of single use Vapes being discarded in the county. We continue to raise awareness of issues that blight the county, conduct a targeted campaign working with stakeholders in tackling litter issues which includes working with Fast Food Outlets.
- Increasing volunteering participation in conducting litter picking activities across the county. Data from the audits are shared with the relevant stakeholders including the enforcement team in identifying the current trends of adverse local environmental quality issues.

- On average, it takes the council **2.8 working days to clear reported fly-tipping incidents** in the County (*PAM/035*), with just over 1,600 incidents recorded and cleared during 2022/23, the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded has reduced by 22% from 2,073 in 2021/22.



- According to our resident's survey of 2022, the **majority tend to agree that their local environment is pleasant and well looked after** (Average Index Score of 0.14), there is also a relatively high proportion which disagree, these comments were in relation to street cleansing, waste, litter and verge/hedgerow maintenance as possible contributing factors. The importance of our natural and built landscapes in creating a sense of place and pride for local people cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, access to pleasant open spaces has an important role to play in improving the health and well-being of our residents. This is especially pertinent for marginalised groups, of which Carmarthenshire has an above average level.

Progress in 2022/23

- We have implemented new collection methodology to our waste collection service in order to ensure high quality recycling and improving our performance against statutory recycling targets. We have delivered the first phase of the waste strategy by introducing three weekly glass collection at kerbside, a move to three weekly residual waste collection and a weekly collection of dry mixed recycling and food waste in January 2023. In addition, the service has provided a Nappy collection service for those residents that have young children in nappies which are treated and recycled at a facility in the County.

As part of the move to Zonal collection methodology, residents also received a change to their waste and recycling collection days to ensure that the maximum number of properties received the same collection day for recycling, black and glass collections. By doing this piece of work 45% of households receive all their waste and recycling collections on the same day. To reduce the impact on residents and minimise missed collections to those residents who have different collection days for black/glass and their blue & food we introduced an email and SMS reminder service to those residents.

- This change of the new collection methodology has been rolled to the 91,000 households within the County with 12.5 million interactions per year on waste, this includes refuse, recycling, garden waste and nappy and hygiene collections.
 - Since the changes have come into force on the 23rd January 2023 we have received 503 complaints. This equates to 1.16% of domestic waste collections during service change.
 - As part of the new fleet to roll out the service change, we procured 23 new vehicles to undertake refuse and glass collections. As part of this procurement:
 - we have commissioned three electric RCV’s which are being used in our frontline service in our challenging Carmarthenshire topography. This is the commencement of our commitment and drive to becoming a Net Zero Carbon Authority by 2030 and reaching our target of a 50% ULEV compliant fleet by April 2024.
 - We have commissioned a new depot at Cross Hands and recruited 47 new members of staff to roll out the first phase of the waste strategy.
 - To promote the Circular Economy, we have been developing partnership opportunities and supporting community networks, with a view to building capacity for new or expanded Circular Economy projects. Furthermore, we have implemented the following projects:
 - Canolfan Eto in June 22 at Nantycaws Recycling Facility
 - Commercial waste recycling centre in October 22 at Nantycaws Recycling Facility
 - We have steadily increased our customer base for Nappy Collection throughout implementation of the service this year. We currently have 7,140 customers and have diverted 779 tonnes of hygiene waste from black bags.
 - We have implemented an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) Collection & Nappy Service collection service which has attracted 7,500 Customers.
 - We have increased our customer base for our seasonal Garden Waste collection by 20%, whilst retaining 96% of our existing customer base. 94% Achieved from 94.5% Target
- ⦿ According to the 2022/23 [National Survey for Wales](#) results, 82% of Carmarthenshire respondents were satisfied with the recycling service in the county, this is an improvement on 82% in the last survey of 2018/19. Also, 74% of respondents agreed that they felt informed of the council’s recycling service, 6th best in Wales, this is an improvement on the previous result of 61% and 21st position in Wales.

<p>Task & Finish Group: Environmental Enforcement</p>	<p>“The Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has been working across various divisions to review the strategic approach to Fly-tipping in Carmarthenshire. This group is due to conclude and make recommendations and strategic plan to Cabinet in June 2023. In addition to this we have commenced a pilot of CCTV enforcement activity with hot spot locations identified and will report back in 2023/24”</p>
--	--

Environment hero helps to keep Carmarthenshire clean

A young volunteer has been praised by Carmarthenshire County Council for his environmental work in the Whitland area.

10-year-old Leon litter picks his local area every day, helping to keep the area clean and tidy.

As a reward for his fantastic work Leon was invited on a behind the scenes tour of Nantycaws recycling centre and Canolfan Eto.

During the visit, Leon saw the different processes that Carmarthenshire's household recycling goes through as well as seeing the transformation of items at Canolfan Eto re-use project.

Businesses can also support their local environment by becoming a custodian of a '2 minute clean' board. These A-frame boards are equipped with everything needed to clean the area including litter pickers and bags.



Behaviour Change for the Future

We have been working closely with the pupils and teachers of Ysgol Dyffryn Ammanford and Ammanford Lions in conducting an anti-litter intervention, we have trailed a bottled recycling facility at 2 schools to improve waste management. Other schools have already removed the option of purchasing drinks in plastic bottles in an effort to reduce waste.

In addition the school and local community group have undertaken a number of community litter picks during the campaign, from these events discussions were formed on how best to highlight the issue of litter in the community, it was agreed to construct a sculpture using the materials collected from the litter picking event, it was agreed by all partners the theme of the sculpture would be a globe to represent planet earth, which is filled up with all the plastic and litter collected.

Workshops were created so the children from Ysgol Dyffryn Amman and Canolfan Amanwy department were fully involved with the design and creation of the litter globe. The Sculpture is currently at Ysgol Y Bedol, Ammanford, and evaluate a more prominent position within the town of Ammanford to show that the sculpture has been made from litter collected in the community. This provides education and awareness to our young generation in the County to encourage behaviour change for the future.



What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

Compliance and governance are a priority. We ensure we create and adhere to good governance frameworks identified in the below structures and support tools below:

- Scrutiny
- BMT with Agenda
- PowerBI dashboard
- Risk and H&R & HR & IT as members of monthly BMT
- Corporate level we are members of the Regen Forum, 10 towns project and regional development team (RDT)
- Air Quality Monitoring Group
- Annual Report
- Involving wider service board members in the development of services (PSB)
- Waste Changes Programme Board & Governance Structure
- Toolbox Talks
- Financial meetings
- Media and Marketing monthly meetings
- NZC Governance
- Fleet monthly meetings
- Self-Assessments
- DMT

We monitor this through our divisional delivery plan and performance measures. Also working with internal audit to improve the governance of our service delivery.

3g - Service Priority - Highways and Transport

Delivering key services & projects through strategic challenges

The aspiration for modal shift within the Wales Transport Strategy has influenced our investment in infrastructure particularly around our major population centres where we have built new infrastructure to support more sustainable travel journeys. The Division has continued to work through the strategic challenges influenced by macro influences that include the economy, resulting in reductions in income, both revenue and capital funding, the development of the Corporate Joint Committee with specific responsibility for transport planning, changes to the default speed limit in September 2023, the Wales Transport Strategy and climate change. The service has been proactive in delivering change however the constant reduction in resource levels, rising public expectation, supply chain pressures and deteriorating asset condition is leading to a difficult operating environment for services.

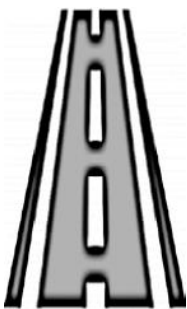
Why is this important?

- ⦿ The Transportation and Highway system role has never been more important than today when society continues to recover from worldwide events and addresses the key challenges of decarbonisation, inequality, developing housing and sustainable communities, education, health, well-being and the local economy.
- ⦿ Our highway and transportation networks underpin the economic prosperity of Carmarthenshire, facilitating access to employment and learning opportunities, social connections, health, leisure, active travel and delivering services that touch every home every day. Connectivity and accessibility are central to facilitating economic and social well-being and we will continue to develop and enhance our local infrastructure in order to support our communities.

How well are we doing (and how do we know)? ⓘ Sources of evidence

Success Measures / Explaining the Results

⦿ Roads that are in poor condition 2022/23:



3.1% of our A Class - Improved
on 3.6% in 2021/22

2.4% of our B Class - Improved
on 2.8% in 21/22

10.1% of our C Class - Improved
on 11.7% in 21/22


The improvement evidence targeted investment using a risk-based evidence led prioritisation model.

- ⦿ The majority of respondents to our 2022 residents survey either **strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement 'there are good transportation links around me'**, with an overall average index score of **-0.41**)











Poor transportation links can limit a person’s independence and their ability to go about their normal day to day routines, including being able to travel to work. This can exacerbate feelings of isolation and limit a person’s ability to better themselves and access opportunities to improve their health and well-being.

Progress in 2022/23

- ⦿ Maintaining the highway network is important to ensure residents have access to services, it is also important to ensure more vulnerable residents received care and support, particularly during the winter months. Strategic highway routes are treated with salt, as part of our winter maintenance plan to ensure vital services and supplies can be sustained. Over the course of the 22/23 winter season the service has spread 8,951 Tonnes of salt and operated on 116 occasions. Activity this winter has grown by 46% over the previous year with 4,030 more Tonnes of salt used.

<p>Internal Audit</p> 	<p>Highway Maintenance/Road Safety (Final Report issued: 23rd August 2022) Assurance Rating: High Objective of the Audit: The objective of the review was to provide assurance that the allocation listed on the Authority’s Capital Programme for Road Safety Grants is spent appropriately</p>	<p>Assurance Rating:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>High</td></tr> <tr><td>Acceptable</td></tr> <tr><td>Low</td></tr> </table>	High	Acceptable	Low
High					
Acceptable					
Low					

- ⦿ We have completed the decarbonisation on our street lighting sector, our LED investment programme has reduced our energy consumption by 62 percent.
- ⦿ Active Travel - construction of a shared use bridge and active travel route linking north and south Llanelli in accordance with our Active Travel Masterplan for the town. Progress has also been made on the design for other schemes in Carmarthen, St Clears, Ammanford, Cross Hands and Burry Port.
- ⦿ Schools Streets – two school streets initiatives were introduced, one at Glan y Mor school Burry Port the other at Morfa, Llanelli.
- ⦿ Behavioural Change – work has commenced with schools in Llanelli to encourage young people to walk and cycle to school. This is more challenging and will take time to achieve.
- ⦿ Road Safety Education has played a key role in keeping young people safe this along with cycle training supports or work to achieve the well-being objective for young people to have the best start in life. Over the year 969 pupils received training against a target of 950, 620 pupils received cycle training against a target of 600. Eighteen initiatives were undertaken outside schools to improve road safety just short of the target figure of 20.
- ⦿ Weather stations:

				
<p>We Installed 3 additional weather stations for increased domain forecasting accuracy to optimise effectiveness of Winter Highways at Porthyrhyd, Llangadog and Meidrim. Winter treatment route reviews will be undertaken ahead of the 2023/24 season</p>				
				

- ⦿ The Cross Hands link road was opened in October 2022, this major piece of new infrastructure has stimulated economic development and supported the development of the strategic employment site at Cross Hands. The 2.1Km Cross Hands Link Road delivers a cost benefit ratio of over 4.5 with £65.9M of economic benefit for the communities of Carmarthenshire.
- ⦿ We have developed our Regional Framework Civil Engineering construction contracts to provide opportunities for SMEs to bid for work and grow.
- ⦿ Strategic connectivity is important to support economic growth, we therefore have continued to work collaboratively with regional partners on the long-term plans for a Southwest Wales Metro transport system that aligns with the Wales Transport aspirations. During 2022/23 we supported the Grand Union Trains bid for an “Open Access Agreement” to run new strategic rail services from Carmarthen to London to improve connectivity and reduced journey times by rail for cities
- ⦿ We have continued to work in collaboration with the Wales Government to lever in investment to assist with the delivery of programmes of work that help achieve the Well Being objectives. In 2022/23, £8.7 million was levered in to help enable us deliver infrastructure investment aligned to the Wales Transport Strategy
- ⦿ In addition to Wales Government funding, work has continued on the Towy Valley Path, our bid to the UK government for levelling up funding was successful providing £16.7million of UK Government investment. Progress has concentrated on Planning, land and design. A Compulsory Purchase Order has been published to sustain momentum on the project. It is a challenging project that we continue to manage through a Project Board for proactive management of risk.
- ⦿ Supported economic development through timely response to highway authority consultations on planning applications and highway searches. 82.4% of planning consultations were responded within 21days compared to national average of 60%. 94% of searches enquires were responded to within the statutory timescale.
- ⦿ Empowering communities – the Council has worked collaboratively with the Dyfed Powys Police, Go Safe and the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service to improve road safety. We were one of eight areas to introduce 20 mph speed limits, we have worked with partners on speed watch outside schools, the introduction of average speed cameras on high-risk roads and continue support education to stimulate behavioural change.

Is anyone better off?

New all-electric TrawsCymru T1 buses launched



Supporting core public transport routes across the county core service and where possible decarbonising the public transport sector. The T1 Carmarthen to Aberystwyth bus route is now served by eight electric buses with supporting infrastructure constructed for the service operation. The T1 project was a delivered by Carmarthenshire for and in collaboration with the Wales Government and Transport for Wales.

Electric Vehicle infrastructure network continues to grow

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure has been installed at key operational depots this year and new electric refuse collection vehicles procured.

The County Council has introduced electric charging points at 52 locations across the county (45 fast, 6 rapid and 1 ultra rapid).

Across our fast-charging network (41 sites – soon to be 43) during 2022 there were 4230 sessions, and 58,490 kWh were delivered.

The average dwell time per session was just over 2 ½ hours.

Earlier in 2022 we opened the Cross Hand rapid charging hub for public use.

Since opening 5,589 charging sessions delivering 131,075 kWh of energy drawn. This equates to 384,050 EV miles/74.1 tonnes of Co2 savings. We have installed 52 charge points in total.

We have also worked in partnership with Transport for Wales to install 2 x 50kW chargers at: Llanybydder (completed), Llandovery (completed), Ammanford and Newcastle Emlyn.

What and how we can do better

See our delivery plan to achieve this objective in Appendix 7

Governance Arrangements

There are formal structures in place to manage business performance and strategic projects performance aligned to corporate management structure, Cabinet Council and Scrutiny Committees.

Performance and delivery are managed through Divisional Business and Strategic Project Management Team with reviews at the Departmental Management and Corporate Management teams. We continue to develop our risk-based approach to understand developing areas of concern.

In managing risk consideration is given to nature of work, the level of ambition and level of strategic change aligned to national and local strategy relative to the role of highway and transport system. The corporate risks are reviewed every two months to CMT. Risks are captured in the Departmental Business Plan.

Project Boards with cross authority senior officer representation are set up for major projects to support governance. In 2022/23 specific project boards were in place for the Towy Valley Path, T1 electric bus and 20MPH default speed limit changes.

Revenue and Capital Budgets are reported quarterly to Scrutiny Committee Departmental Business Plans are produced and reviewed every year. They are submitted to various scrutiny committees.

The Corporate Joint Committee with responsibility for Regional Transport Planning and a regional Scrutiny Committee and Regional Transport Directors Group will manage the development of the Regional Transport Plan when guidance on Regional Transport Plan is issued in 2023.