

# Public Document Pack



Cyngor Sir  
**CEREDIGION**  
County Council

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,  
Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA  
[ceredigion.gov.uk](http://ceredigion.gov.uk)

16 June 2023

Lisa Evans

01545574177

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held HYBRID - NEUADD CYNGOR CEREDIGION, PENMORFA, ABERAERON / REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE on Thursday, 22 June 2023 at 10.00 am for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)**  
**Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.**
3. **Coastal Erosion, Flooding and Climate Change (Pages 3 - 20)**
4. **Creation of a Waste Services Working Group (Pages 21 - 30)**
5. **Development Management Service (Pages 31 - 34)**
6. **To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes (Pages 35 - 40)**
7. **To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (Pages 41 - 44)**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register

A Translation Services will be provided at this meeting and those present are welcome to speak in Welsh or English at the meeting.

Yours faithfully



**Miss Lowri Edwards**  
**Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services**

**To: Chairman and Members of Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The remaining Members of the Council for information only.

## CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	22 June 2023
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Council Chamber, Penmorfa & Zoom
<b>TITLE:</b>	Coastal Erosion, Flooding and Climate Change
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	To provide an update on the development of Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding
<b>REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION</b>	Monitoring of progress being made

### **Background:**

Climate change means we may face more frequent or severe weather events like flooding, droughts, and storms. These events bring 'physical risks' that directly impact communities and have the potential to affect the economy.

Parts of Ceredigion's coastline are susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding, and some inland communities are at risk of fluvial flooding and loss of land from watercourses.

The impacts could be far reaching, with stakeholders facing life-threatening or life changing consequences, and the effects impacting on large sectors of the County/Council. In addition, failure to reduce the effects of climate change could have reputational, financial, and environmental consequences for the Council including in the form of financial penalties for failing to meet Welsh Government targets for carbon management and for biodiversity. Indirect impacts will include changes to the insects, pests and diseases which will colonise and affect our environment. As well as immediate impacts of these, the impacts on staff time and other costs dealing with these will be significant. Loss of canopy cover from Ash Dieback already has consequences for local microclimates and will exacerbate climate change impacts as well as contribute to them.

It is recognised that we must lead by example and do all we can to reduce future climate change and address and mitigate the risks associated with it. Policy initiatives and strategies to include for ecosystem resilience, biodiversity enhancements and flood reduction schemes must be developed and implemented if we are to succeed in reducing our carbon footprint and reducing the risk to our major infrastructure, assets, residents and communities and landscape.

## **Coastal Erosion and Flooding Responsibilities**

### **Coastal erosion**

Ceredigion County Council is a Coast Protection Authority under the Coast Protection Act 1949, and under that Act has permissive powers to order or carry out Coast Protection Works for the protection of land as it deems necessary.

The Flood and Coastal Management Act 2010 defines the roles and responsibilities of 'Risk Management Authorities'. In Wales these are NRW, all 22 Welsh local authorities (who act as Lead Local Flood Authorities), highway authorities and water and sewerage companies. There are other bodies that have a non-statutory role in FCERM, including private landowners and owners of infrastructure assets such as Network Rail and the National Trust.

National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales, <https://www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales>

Under the Act, Welsh Ministers must develop, maintain, and apply a strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales.

### **Coast and Fluvial Flooding**

Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) are required to identify and map hazards and risks associated with flooding. The Act also places a responsibility upon LLFAs to develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management.

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/coast-countryside/coastal-flood-risk-management/local-flood-risk-management>

The unitary local authorities in Wales have powers to manage local flood risk as Lead Local Flood Authorities, according to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are responsible for managing flood risk from main rivers and the sea. NRW can also undertake certain activities on ordinary watercourses to reduce risk, such as altering water levels and existing works. NRW also have a strategic oversight and general supervision role.

### **Shoreline Management Plan 2**

In order to quantify the risk to our coastal communities, Ceredigion County Council, working alongside other Local Authorities developed the West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) <http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/coast-countryside/coastal-flood-risk-management/shoreline-management-plan-smp/>

SMP2 was completed in 2012 and it provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes that result in both erosion and flooding and

presents a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environment in a sustainable manner into the 22nd century.

SMPs were first produced nationwide in the early 2000s and the first review completed in 2012, which considered:

- Existing concerns
- The new risks associated with sea level rise
- What benefits defences provide against future flooding
- Whether we can continue to maintain defences
- How management of the coast and estuaries affect other interests

The risk of flooding and erosion is a significant threat affecting the coastline and communities along the Ceredigion coast, and SMP2 has identified integrated solutions which will achieve sustainable management of the coast into the future.

SMPs contribute to the greater understanding of the UK shoreline so as to develop a long-term policy framework for coastal management and management of coastal defences in a sustainable manner. Initially introduced to manage risk, the revised SMPs adopted a more holistic view and set out a vision for management of the coastline over the next 100 years

The West of Wales coastline was divided into twenty policy development zones, with 6 of these zones covering the Ceredigion coastline:

- PDZ5 – The Teifi Estuary
- PDZ6 – Aberporth to New Quay
- PDZ7 – New Quay to Ffos-y-ffin
- PDZ8 – Ffos-y-ffin to Llanrhystud
- PDZ9 – Llanrhystud to Sarn Cynfelin
- PDZ10 – Sarn Cynfelin to Tonfannau

An 'Intent of Management' was proposed for each section of coastline, and although SMP2 is a non-statutory document, it provides the framework which underpins the development within the coastal zone.

An example of the integrated and sustainable approach to coastal defence is at Borth, where the first two phases of the coastal defence scheme that have been constructed represent an adaptive approach to the defence of the village.

One of the outputs from SMP2 was the development of an 'Action Plan', which Ceredigion has very recently reported to WG on progress against, and an abridged version of the spreadsheet which was submitted is included as Appendix A.

## **Beach Monitoring**

One of the main 'actions' from SMP2, and which is recorded in the Action Plan in relation to the Ceredigion coastline is that of coastal monitoring.

Ceredigion County Council (and before it Ceredigion District Council) has been collating some beach monitoring data since 1995. At that time, the beach profiles were collated by topographical survey, but since 2006 the information has been collated by means of LIDAR.

LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an airplane mounted system and surveying method that measures distances to a target by illuminating the target with a pulsed laser light and then measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor. Differences in laser return times and wavelengths can then be used to produce digital surveys of the land.

Survey data was historically used to inform an annual monitoring programme which summarised the changes in beach profile over a 12-month period. Since 2015, due to funding pressures, the annual report has not been commissioned, but the information collated remains invaluable in developing coastal defence schemes.

2017 was the twenty-second year that beach surveys have been undertaken along the coast, and as a result there is now a long time period over which data has been collated, and this has enabled the Council to identify long term trends of beach accretion and erosion when schemes are developed.

The 15 locations along the coastline at which Ceredigion County Council undertook monitoring at in 2017, are:

- Pen Yr Ergyd/Teifi Estuary
- Aberporth
- Tresaith
- Llangrannog
- New Quay Bay
- Llanina
- Aberaeron South Beach
- Aberaeron North Beach
- Aberarth
- Llansantffraed
- Llanrhystud
- Tan-y-Bwlch
- South Marine Terrace (Aberystwyth South)
- Victoria and Marine Terrace (Aberystwyth North)
- Borth to Ynyslas

The objective of the monitoring is to inform local coastal management practices and decisions. As each year of new data is added to the monitoring programme, long-term change and trends can be identified. As a result of this data, not only can the decision to intervene be better informed, but the question of how best to intervene can also be considered.

The designs of the coastal defence schemes at Aberaeron North Beach and Borth (Phases 1 and 2) were informed by data collated during the ongoing monitoring programme, and the data is now being used to assist with the design of coastal defence schemes at Aberystwyth and Aberaeron Harbour/South Beach.

The analysis of historical data during the development of SMP2, was used in developing the monitoring programme, so that an overall picture of beach evolution can be developed.

Following the establishment of the Wales Monitoring Coastal Centre (WCMC) in 2018, the responsibility (and therefore WG funding) for collating coastal monitoring information has fallen to the WCMC, and Ceredigion County Council is no longer able to apply for grant funding from Welsh Government towards the collation of LIDAR information to support its coastal monitoring programme.

The Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre (WCMC) continue to survey the defended coastline on behalf of CCC, and their use of technology is increasing the volume and accuracy of data than can be captured. WCMC is also looking to work in partnership with the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering – University of Bath, who are looking to install a permanent laser scanner at Borth for a 12 month period as part of a submission for the recently announced £3m Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Highlight Topic on Gravel Beaches which will assist with monitoring the movement of the gravel beach as part of the Borth Coastal Defence to establish a future operational and maintenance programme.

The following schemes are supported by Welsh Government grants aiming at managing flood risk within identified communities with historical property flooding incidents. All WG FCERM Grant funded schemes are reported to WG Flooding and Coastal Risk Team on a Quarterly basis with progress updates and financial claims

### **Llandre Village Flood Alleviation**

Total Grant Value awarded - £55k  
Grant Expiry Date – 30/06/2023

Atkins were appointed consultants [date] to undertake an Outline Business Case assessment of the flooding issues that have been reported to the north of the village. The discharge path from the catchment flows into two brick-built attenuation ponds that release surface water through a siphon underneath the Cambrian Railway line in into the watercourse.

Atkins to date have modelled the flows of surface water and are awaiting survey data from Network Rail to be able to complete the OBC work.

**Risks** – information from NR will not be received in time to be able to complete the assessment. WG have been updated on progress through Quarterly Reports and Variation Forms are available for scheme that will need additional time/funds to complete.

**Mitigation** – Additional Variation request to WG to allow consultant to complete the OBC

**Expected Outcomes** – Understanding of flood flow mechanisms and size of attenuation required to manage flows to prevent property flooding. FBC to construct any infrastructure to manage excessive flood risk

## **Borth Leat**

Total Grant Value awarded - £50k

Grant Expiry Date – 31/03/2024

Amey Ltd were appointed in September 2022 to undertake an Outline Business case to assess the drainage and flooding mechanisms of the various drainage leats that manage surface water from catchments that flow from Upper Borth. A start up meeting and scope agreement has been undertaken with Amey Ltd, however, progress has not been forthcoming despite Officer requests for updates and a decision to terminate the contract has been made and reported to WG. The poor performance of Amey will be reported to procurement using the Framework Contract KPI procedure. A grant variation has been approved by WG to continue the OBC project into 2024 with an alternative consultant. Any work carried out by Amey Ltd will be retrieved and passed to the new consultant once appointed.

**Risks** – Delay in appointment to enable delivery prior to the grant deadline.

**Mitigation** – Additional Variation request to WG to allow consultant to complete the OBC

**Expected Outcomes** – Understanding of flood flow mechanisms in Borth and where the leats have been constructed over, any collapsed sections and the impacts that these may have on flooding to the lower part of Borth from the land (not sea)

## **Capel Bangor**

Total Grant Value awarded - £80k

Grant Expiry Date – 30/06/2023

WSP have been appointed to undertake a review of the Preliminary Assessment Report that was undertaken in 2015 following the 2012 floods to bring it in line with revised WG project assessment requirements and update the data. The OBC that is being carried out has completed the modelling and requires NRW to review and appraise the modelling before design solutions can be progressed for recommendation. The model has been with NRW since Q3 22-23, and no further progress can be made until this has been reviewed.

**Risks** – Continued delay from NRW.

**Mitigation** – Additional Variation request to WG to allow consultant to complete the OBC

**Expected Outcomes** – Revised solutions including a Natural Flood Risk Management scheme are expected to take forward to FBC.

## **Tal y Bont**

Total Grant Value awarded - £80k

Grant Expiry Date – 30/06/2023



WSP have been appointed to undertake a review of the Preliminary Assessment Report that was undertaken in 2015 following the 2012 floods to bring it in line with revised WG project assessment requirements and update the data. The OBC that is being carried out has completed the modelling and requires NRW to review and appraise the modelling before design solutions can be progressed for recommendation. The model has been with NRW since Q3 22-23, and no further progress can be made until this has been reviewed.

**Risks** – Continued delay from NRW.

**Mitigation** – Additional Variation request to WG to allow consultant to complete the OBC

**Expected Outcomes** – Revised solutions including a Natural Flood Risk Management scheme are expected to take forward to FBC.

The Marine Licence has been received in relation to the Aberaeron CDS and planning permission and contractor appointment are expected in mid-2023. Business cases are being developed for the potential schemes at Aberystwyth, Borth and Llangrannog.

## **Latest updates - Coastal**

### **Aberaeron Coastal defence Scheme**

- Planning permission approved.
- Tender assessment process complete
- Continue to update FBC report.
- Finalising construction documents and drawings.
- Otter survey complete
- NRW FRAP consents received.
- SUDS consent received.

### **Aberystwyth Coastal Defence Scheme**

- Ecological Assessment (desk-based study) – 100% complete.
- Geomorphology (desk-based study) - 50% complete.
- Breakwater optioneering – 50% complete.
- Geotechnical (desk-based study) – 80% complete.
- Landscape Assessment – 60% complete.
- Numerical modelling of shortlisted breakwaters – 25% complete.

### **Borth Coastal Defence Scheme – Phase 1 & 2**

A coastal performance review and the preparation of a potential on-going Management Plan of the area at the southern end of the Phase 2 works are necessary. In the design, it was recognised that there might be a need for some ongoing management of sediment, with the potential for local recycling of sediment to adjust the level of protection in response to natural coastal processes.

Overall, the scheme is performing as designed/expected, but there are individual locations of concern that warrant further investigation and consideration as part of the monitoring programme.

Consultants involved with the SMP 1 and the design of Borth Phase 1 and 2 designs, supplied with all necessary data via the West Wales Coastal Group and the Welsh Monitoring Centre, are commissioned to undertake the following work as part of the on-ongoing management plan,

- Review of management criteria
- Beach Behaviour
- Protection Review
- Management Review

### **Borth Coastal Defence Scheme – Phase 3**

- NRW are currently working on their own OBC for the Dyfi and the Leri.
- As a result of the above CCC have suspended their own OBC until NRW have caught up.
- CCC officers continue to attend progress meetings with officers from NRW and their consultants.
- It has become evident following meetings with the NRW and their consultants that their own OBC on the Dyfi and Leri will not be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and may continue into 2024. CCC are pursuing NRW to accelerate the completion.
- CCC will continue working closely with both the NRW and their consultants regarding both OBC's.
- **RISK.** The programme is being dictated by NRW's progress on their OBC.

### **Llangrannog Coastal Defence Scheme**

- Discussions with CCC's consultant in regard to the public consultation have been concluded.
- Work has begun on planning for the public consultation June'23

### **Project Management:**

A Project Manager was appointed on 1 January 2019 for the duration of the development and construction of both schemes, and his role is to coordinate the daily activities to ensure that the overall project requirements for both schemes are met.

The Project Manager reports directly to the Corporate Manager Highways Services and will lead a Project Team which will comprise of the consultant for each scheme together with the Corporate Lead Officer and will meet monthly.

As the projects move towards engagement and consultation with local communities and stakeholders, further groups of sub-teams may need to be established to progress individual elements of the schemes, which will need to be approved by a Project Board.

The appointment of a replacement Project Manager is imminent due to retirement of the current postholder with the recruitment process ongoing.

## **Latest Updates – Fluvial**

### **Highmead Terrace / Llanybydder & Llandysul / Pont Tyweli**

Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, as lead authority, have been, and continue to develop the OBC and FBC with WG grant funding required for specialist consultancy work. Both Authorities have worked with and on behalf of NRW on this development. NRW are responsible for managing flood risk from main rivers and the sea.

WG have now confirmed that they will provide further grant fund for the FBC stage. With regards to timelines, it is advised that the FBC will be completed by the end of March 2024.

**RISK.** The FBC does not automatically translate to construction and that NRW will be the lead authority following this stage.

## **Flood & Coastal Erosion**

Coastal Erosion and Flood Incidents have been identified on the Corporate Risk Register as one of the major risks facing our residents, communities, and major infrastructure in the face of climate change and the predicted increase in storm events.

Ceredigion County Council is a Coast Protection Authority under the Coast Protection Act 1949, and under that Act has permissive powers to order or carry out Coast Protection Works for the protection of land as it deems necessary.

As a Coast Protection Authority, the Council manages and maintains over 12km of artificial coastal defences (sea walls, breakwaters, groynes, rock revetments etc.) that protect many of our coastal communities and Council-owned infrastructure. This includes structures such as the promenade at Aberystwyth, the Piers at New Quay and Aberaeron, and various sea walls along the Ceredigion coast.

The remaining 84km of coastline is privately owned, and private landowners are responsible for protecting their own property from erosion and flooding. The Council has no responsibility for the Coastal Defence of private property.

Ceredigion County Council works with the Welsh Government to reduce the risk to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion, and has in recent years undertaken major coastal defence schemes at Aberaeron North Beach and Borth

The Council is also currently developing further coastal defence schemes for the Aberystwyth frontage, the Harbour/South Beach area at Aberaeron, Borth/Ynyslas (Phase 3) and Llangrannog.

### **Carbon Management and Climate Change – Net Zero**

The Regional Energy Strategy Action Plan is now complete and awaiting sign-off through the relevant political process (GMW Board and Cabinet). ESC (Energy Systems Catapult) has been appointed to deliver the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) for Ceredigion and Powys and the first stakeholder engagement workshop for the Ceredigion LAEP will be held in January.

A Regional Energy Officer has been appointed to help deliver on the LAEP process and will also be able to provide some support for Ceredigion in delivering some schemes that will contribute to our Net-Zero ambition.

The ULEV Strategy adopted and published on Council website under 'Strategies and Plans' on the Council's website.

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/media/12211/ulev-strategy-and-action-plan-2022.pdf>

Delivery of Phase 2 of public EV chargepoint programme is complete. The new charge-points form part of the <https://www.dragoncharging.co.uk/>

Depot charging (£300k - WLGA), we have applied for and received quotations for the Depot grid connections, and we are also awaiting a report from APSE to investigate the depot layouts, to ensure that they meet our future requirements in terms of EV charging infrastructure.

Additional resources will be required going forward to further develop an inclusive strategy for fleet replacement with the aim of replacing the existing fleet with a ULEV fleet whether it be electric, hydrogen or a combination. The move will also require significant infrastructure amendments/improvements to the facilities required for this transition, including training.

Grant applications prepared and submitted for funding of Phase 3 public EV charging programme in FY2023/24 - Welsh Government ULEVTF (£350k) and UK Government OZEV for ORCS grant (£60k). Currently awaiting outcome of applications.

Grant award letter received from WG (18/05/23) outlines funding made available, key headline facts are as follows.

- 2023-24 Application (£350k) reduced, award is £297,500 (15% reduction)
- 2024-25 new grant funding awarded, £370k
- No match funding towards the proposed ORCS funding application as per previous years
- CCC will be required to supplement the OZEV ORCS grant funding to supplement the WG ULEVTF then CCC may need to be asked to provide

match funding – an application for the OZEV ORCS grant funding may therefore require a financial commitment of £40k based on the intended application value

- Elements of CCC's intended programme/ items of expenditure for 2023-24 have been removed and placed it in the 2024-24 funding instead, e.g., commissioning of consultancy support and employment of a Project Manager. CCC will actively engage WG on this matter

## **Net Zero Action Plan**

The Net Zero Action Plan update was submitted to Scrutiny Committee in October 2022 and presented to Cabinet in early January 2023.

<https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=148&MId=291&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Operational emissions, as outlined in the Carbon Management Plan have been calculated and equate to a cumulative 20.48% reduction against a 15% target (2017/18 to 2021/22). This is despite an increase of 11% in 2021/22, when compared with the previous year – this was the expected trend as things get back to 'normal' following the pandemic.

WG Emission reporting, was completed in September. This calculated the Council's overall emissions footprint and includes a much wider scope of emissions, which include waste, transport, and procurement emissions, not included within the scope of the Carbon management Plan. When we consider this wider scope of emissions, our footprint increases to 45,723t T/CO2 per annum – procurement emissions and waste account for 76% of these emissions.

Energy costs have risen significantly with electricity up by about 70% and Gas approximately 300% which is going to have a budgetary pressure across all service areas.

## **Active travel**

Approved Active Travel Network Maps (ATNMs) published on County Council website. Delivery of Active Travel Fund programme in FY2022/23 for scheme development and minor works (£500k) and scheme development for Llanrhystud safe community link funded from Welsh Government SRIC grant (£40k).

Applications prepared and submitted for Welsh government grant funding in FY2023/24 including ATF Core Grant (£0.5M); Plas Gogerddan to Waunfawr Phase 1 (£1.5M); £50k SRICS for continued scheme development in Llanrhystud. Notification of grant award of £50k for Llanrhystud SRICS but currently awaiting notice of outcome of other grant applications.

As previously reported, application to UK Government for 'Cylch y Cardi Trail' (Ystwyth Trail - (Aberystwyth to Tregaron) and Aeron Trail - (Aberaeron to Felinfach) upgrade and new sections was unfortunately unsuccessful. Successful delivery of first two phases of Ceredigion public and depots EV charging project in FY2022/24 (Welsh and UK Government and WLGA grant funding) and currently awaiting outcome of grant applications for FY2023/24.

The Conservation Team have brought £1.6M of funding into the County since 2019, with an additional £50k recently secured, which includes CCC run projects and projects run by third parties.

The post of Asset Development Service Manager to lead on the management and development of Ceredigion County Council’s natural and commercial assets has just been advertised, and the role is expected to include looking at the assets to minimise CCC’s contribution to climate change, climate change induced biodiversity impacts and direct biodiversity impacts as well as CCC’s contribution to mitigation of impacts and biodiversity enhancement.

	<p><b>Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why</b></p>	<p>Project specific Report is to provide update on scheme development</p>
	<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	
	<p><b>Long term:</b></p>	<p>The work seeks to secure the long-term viability of our coastal communities</p>
	<p><b>Integration:</b></p>	<p>The schemes will seek to improve the economic activity and development opportunities, which will enhance and maintain the environment for residents and visitors.</p>
<p><b>Wellbeing of Future Generations:</b></p>	<p><b>Collaboration:</b></p>	<p>Working with others including other local authorities, the private sector, and Welsh Government to achieve aims, objectives and targets.</p>
	<p><b>Involvement:</b></p>	<p>Engaging with, and informing, the public in positive behaviours and attitudes. Full consultation will be undertaken at the appropriate development stages of the schemes.</p>
	<p><b>Prevention:</b></p>	<p>Working to reduce coastal erosion and flood damage to our coastal communities.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation(s):</b></p>	<p>To note the progress being made in relation to the development of Fluvial and Coastal Defence Schemes, and mitigation to address the risks posed by Climate Change.</p>	
<p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	

**Contact Name** Phil Jones

**Designation** Manager – Highway Services,  
Highways and Environmental Services

**Date of Report:** 22 May 2023

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Policy Unit ID	Policy Unit Name (Location)	Current Policy 0-20 yrs Short	Current Policy 20-50 yrs Medium	Current Policy 50-100 yrs Long	Action Reference	Action Description	Key Partners	Epoch for Action Delivery
5.11	Pen y Bal to Pencribach (Teifi)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCI/100	Develop plan for land use at Cardigan	NRW	0-20 yrs Short
5.12		HTL	HTL	HTL				
5.6	Pen y Bal to Pencribach (Teifi)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/100	Continue monitoring of the Teifi Estuary	Afon Teifi Fairways Committee NRW Pembs CC	0-20 yrs Short
5.7		HTL	HTL	MR				
5.8		HTL	HTL	HTL				
5.9		NAI	NAI	NAI				
5.12	Pen y Bal to Pencribach (Teifi)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/120	Realignment of Defences Upstream of Road Bridge	NRW	0-20 yrs Short
5.13		MR	MR	MR				
5.15	Pen y Bal to Pencribach (Teifi)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/130	Mwnt Monitoring and development of future management plan	NRW	0-20 yrs Short
6.1	Pencribach to New Quay Head (Llangrannog)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/140	Monitoring of coastline at Aberporth, Tresaith, Llangrannog and Cwmttydu	Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre	0-20 yrs Short
6.2		HTL	HTL	HTL				
6.3		NAI	NAI	NAI				
6.4		HTL	MR	MR				
6.5		NAI	NAI	NAI				
6.6		HTL	MR	MR				
6.7		NAI	NAI	NAI				
6.8		HTL	HTL	HTL				
6.4	Pencribach to New Quay Head (Llangrannog)	HTL	MR	MR	CerCP/142	Initiate discussion relating to realignment at Tresaith	NRW Tresaith CC	0-20 yrs Short
6.6	Pencribach to New Quay Head (Llangrannog)	HTL	MR	MR	CerCP/145	Support discussion around adaptation and realignment at Llangrannog	NRW Llangrannog Welfare Committee	0-20 yrs Short
6.6	Pencribach to New Quay Head (Llangrannog)	HTL	MR	MR	CerCP/146	Develop approach to maintenance of beach and road defence at Llangrannog	NRW Llangrannog Welfare Committee	0-20 yrs Short
6.8	Pencribach to New Quay Head (Llangrannog)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/149	Discuss and review SMP policy with respect to heritage and road at Cwmttydu	CADW	0-20 yrs Short
7.1	New Quay Head to Gilfach yr Halen (New Quay)	MR	MR	NAI	CerCP/160	Monitor beach profiles and cliff stability at New Quay and Cei Bach	Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre WG	0-20 yrs Short
7.2		HTL	HTL	HTL				
7.3		MR	MR	MR				
7.4		MR	MR	MR				
7.5		HTL	HTL	MR				

7.3	New Quay Head to Gilfach yr Halen (New Quay)	MR	MR	MR	CerCP/165	Future planning of New Quay Bay to include development control and management of coastal structures	NRW New Quay CC	0-20 yrs Short
7.4		MR	MR	MR				
7.1	New Quay Head to Gilfach yr Halen (New Quay)	MR	MR	NAI	CerCP166	Provide advice to residents on Rock Street, New Quay regarding adaptation	New Quay CC	0-20 yrs Short
7.5	New Quay Head to Gilfach yr Halen (New Quay)	HTL	HTL	MR	CerCP/170	Advice in relation to risk to property and private defences at Cei Bach	New Quay CC	0-20 yrs Short
8.1	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/180	Monitoring of coastline between Aberaeron and Llanrhystud	Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre WG	0-20 yrs Short
8.2		HTL	HTL	MR				
8.3		HTL	HTL	HTL				
8.4		HTL	HTL	HTL				
8.5		NAI	NAI	NAI				
8.6		HTL	MR	MR				
8.7		NAI	NAI	NAI				
8.8		MR	MR	MR				
8.9		MR	MR	MR				
8.10		NAI	NAI	NAI				
8.2	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	HTL	HTL	MR	CerCP/190	Discuss longer term management of defences	CADW NRW WG	0-20 yrs Short
8.3		HTL	HTL	HTL				
8.4		HTL	HTL	HTL				
8.3	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/191	WFD mitigation of potential impacts	NRW	0-20 yrs Short
8.2	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	HTL	HTL	MR	CerCP/195	Develop strategic approach to management of South Beach, Aberaeron	WG	0-20 yrs Short
8.3	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/200	Develop strategy for flood defence management around Aberaeron Harbour	CADW NRW WG	0-20 yrs Short
8.6	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	HTL	MR	MR	CerCP/205	Develop strategy for management/adaptation of defences at Aberarth	NRW Landowners	0-20 yrs Short
8.7	Gilfach yr Halen to Carreg Ti-pw (Aberaeron)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/210	Provide advice on future management of coastline from Aberarth to Llanrhystud	CADW NRW	0-20 yrs Short
8.8		MR	MR	MR				
8.9		MR	MR	MR				
8.10		NAI	NAI	NAI				
9.3	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/220	Monitoring of coastline along Aberystwyth frontage	Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre	0-20 yrs Short
9.4		HTL	HTL	MR				

9.7	(Aberystwyth)	HTL	HTL	HTL		Aberystwyth frontage	WG	
9.8		HTL	HTL	HTL				
9.9		HTL	HTL	ATL				
9.2	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn (Aberystwyth)	MR	MR	NAI	CerCP/225	Develop adaptation strategy and management proposals for Tanyblwch	NRW Landowners National Farmers Union Cymru	0-20 yrs Short
9.7	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn (Aberystwyth)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/230	Discuss future long term planning and management/funding of coastal defences	WG	0-20 yrs Short
9.8		HTL	HTL	HTL				
9.9		HTL	HTL	ATL				
9.3	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn (Aberystwyth)	HTL	HTL	HTL	CerCP/231	Discuss long term planning for Aberystwyth Harbour and Trefechan	WG	0-20 yrs Short
9.4		HTL	HTL	MR				
9.10	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn (Aberystwyth)	NAI	NAI	NAI	CerCP/240	Monitoring of Clarach frontage	NRW	0-20 yrs Short
9.11		MR	MR	MR				
9.12		NAI	NAI	NAI				
9.13		NAI	NAI	NAI				
9.11	Ti-pw to Sarn Gynfelyn (Aberystwyth)	MR	MR	MR	CerCP/250	Develop adaptation strategy for Clarach	NRW Landowners	0-20 yrs Short

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## Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

**REPORT TO:** Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 22 June 2023

**LOCATION:** Hybrid

**TITLE:** Creation of a Waste Services Working Group

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To propose the creation of a Waste Services Working Group to oversee the development of the Ceredigion Waste Strategy

**REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:** N/A

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Council's latest waste management strategy covered the period 2014-18 and has underpinned the direction of the waste management service since.

A new waste management strategy is now required to set out the future direction of the service, with specific regard to the county's household waste sites, next kerbside collection model and waste transfer station arrangements.

The work involved in considering future waste management options is complex and the waste management service is therefore in the process of procuring consultancy support to lead on the broad service review.

The waste service is seen as being one of the most important and high-profile Council services to many stakeholders, and any changes have the potential to be challenging and contentious. It is considered important therefore to agree at the outset how the service review would be managed and communicated within the organisation, to ensure a smooth decision-making process.

The proposed scope of the service review was discussed at a meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 July 2022. At the meeting it was agreed that the waste service would work closely with the Committee throughout the service review process.

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Procurement of the consultancy services has commenced, and officers will shortly be in a position to award the contract. It is considered appropriate therefore to now seek a mechanism for the Member's involvement in the project to receive regular updates from officers in relation to options being investigated and proposals considered.

It is therefore proposed to create a Waste Services Working Group to oversee the development of the Ceredigion Waste Strategy, which would report back to the

Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at appropriate intervals, and the Committee's approval is therefore sought to:

- (i) create a Waste Service Working Group, to assist with bringing reasonable options into the democratic system
- (ii) request that the Thriving Communities Overviews and Scrutiny Committee nominate 5 Members to represent the Committee on the Working Group and that consideration is given to an appropriate political balance and urban/rural split within the Group

<b>WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:</b>	<b>Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why</b> <b>Summary:</b> <b>Long term:</b> <b>Integration:</b> <b>Collaboration:</b> <b>Involvement:</b> <b>Prevention:</b>
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**RECOMMENDATION (S):** To create a Waste Service Working Group

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** To create a Waste Services Working Group to oversee the development of the Ceredigion Waste Strategy

<b>Contact Name:</b>	<b>Gerwyn Jones / Beverley Hodgett</b>
<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Corporate Manager Environment Services / Local Environment Service Manager</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>22 June 2023</b>
<b>Acronyms:</b>	



Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru  
Welsh Local Government Association

Waste Improvement Programme

## **Waste Finance Project 2021-22**

# **DRAFT Household Waste Services Summary Report - Ceredigion**

## Notes

**Individual waste finance summary reports demonstrate a councils own expenditure and position relative to other councils in household waste service areas.**

**Points to note:**

- All 22 Welsh councils are represented in this report; however it is important to note that Wrexham council figures for 2021-22 have been estimated.
- Post collection costs include Transfer, Treatment and Disposal costs.
- Figures in this report include additional expenditure where relevant in relation to councils' response to the COVID -19 pandemic.

A small number of councils were unable to include COVID-19 related expenditure in their WasteDataFlow (WDF) finance return. These include Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion and Wrexham. It is important to consider this when reading the report as these councils may exhibit lower expenditure than the true service cost.

More information on the WLGA Waste Finance Project can be found here: [Waste Finance Project - WLGA](#)



## Overview - Household Waste Services

£6.1M - Total net service cost

£172.70 - Total net service cost per household

£3.32 - Average net service cost per household per week

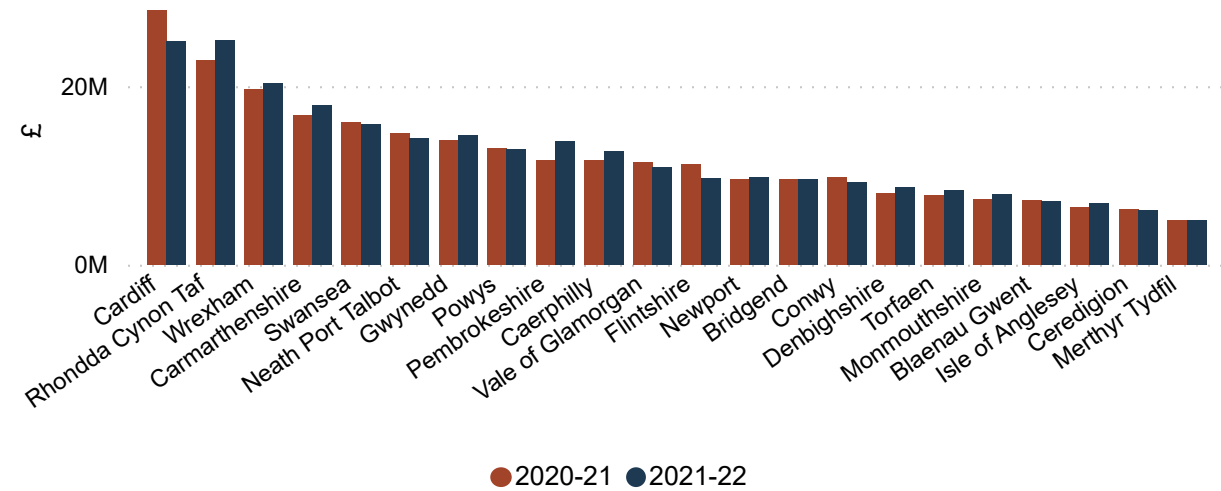
Net expenditure

2020-21	↘	2021-22
£6.2M		£6.1M
-1.2%		

Net cost per household

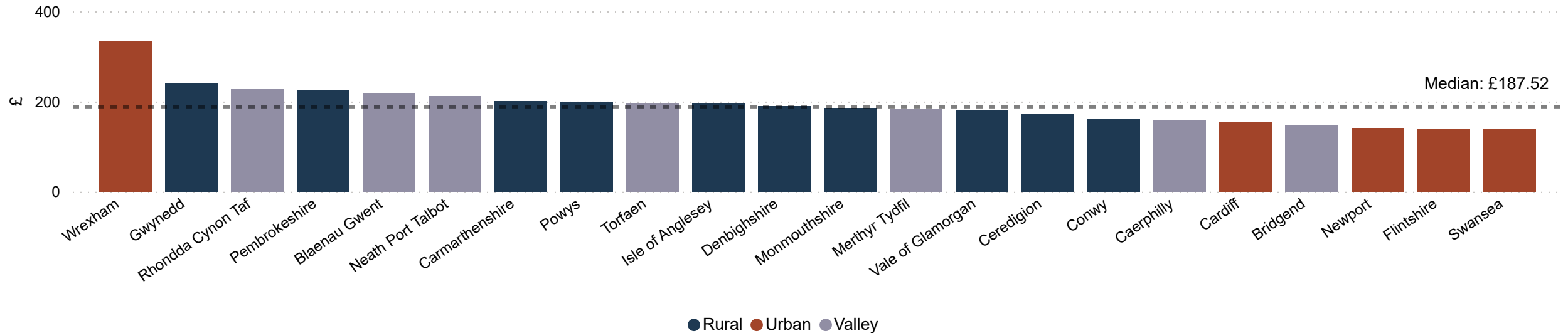
8th lowest cost out of 22 councils  
 2nd lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
 1st lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Total net expenditure on household waste services between, 2020-21 and 2021-22



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Total net expenditure per household on household waste services, 2021-22



## Dry Recycling - Total Service, Collection and Post Collection Cost

**£45.35** - Total net service cost per household

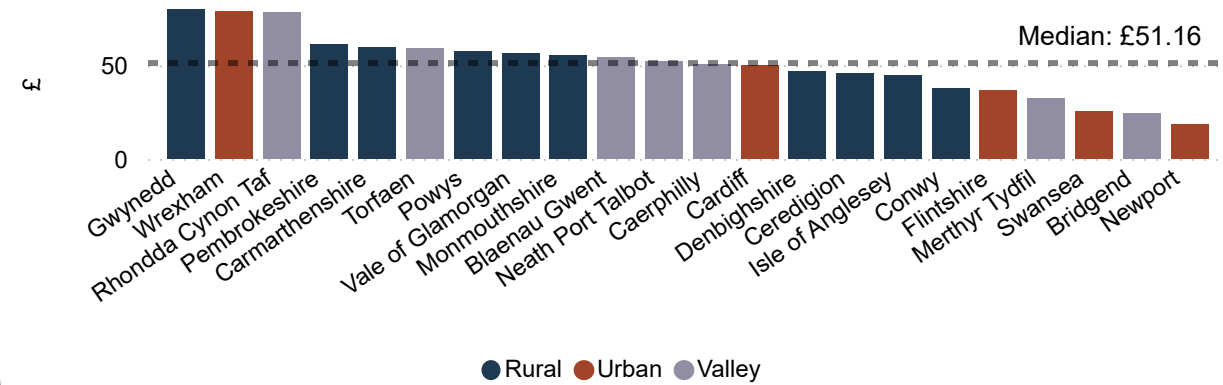
Net cost per household

2020-21	↘	2021-22
£50.58		£45.35
		-10.3%

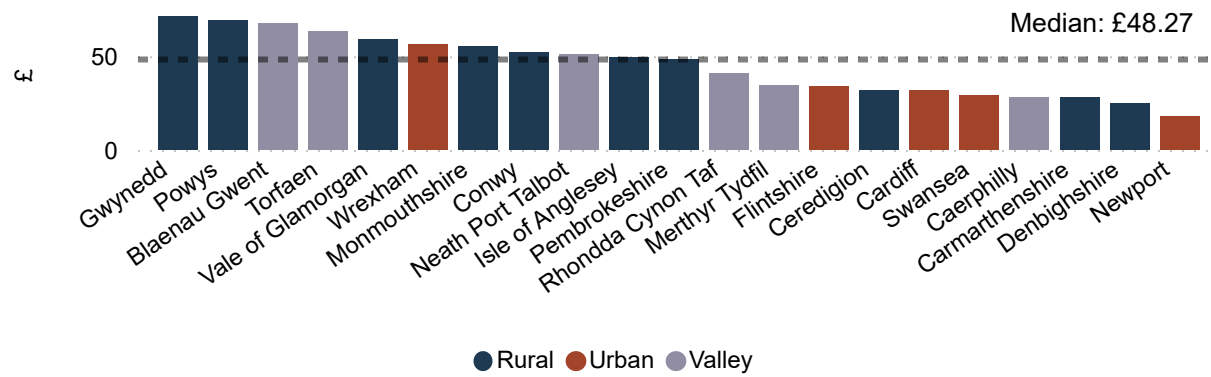
Net cost per household

**8th** lowest cost out of 22 councils  
**3rd** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
**1st** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Net expenditure on dry recycling services per household, 2021-22



Dry recycling collection costs per household, 2021-22



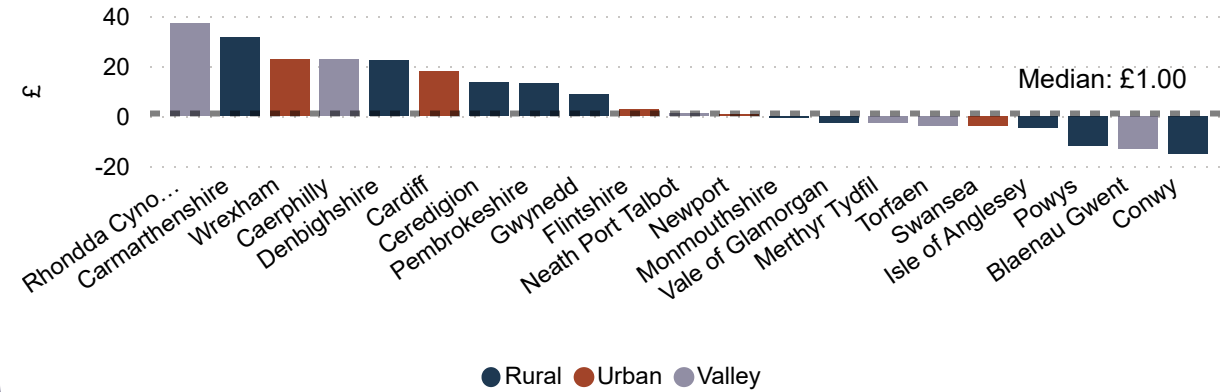
Net collection cost per household

2020-21	↘	2021-22
£33.92		£31.80
		-6.3%

Net collection cost per household

**7th** lowest cost out of 21 councils  
**3rd** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
**1st** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Dry recycling post collection costs per household, 2021-22



Net post collection cost per household

2020-21	↘	2021-22
£16.66		£13.55
		-18.6%

Net post collection cost per household

**15th** lowest cost out of 21 councils  
**8th** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
**2nd** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

One council was unable to breakdown dry recycling service costs and therefore, 21 councils are represented in collection and post collection charts.

## Food Waste - Total Service Cost and Tonnages

**£24.28** - Total net service cost per household

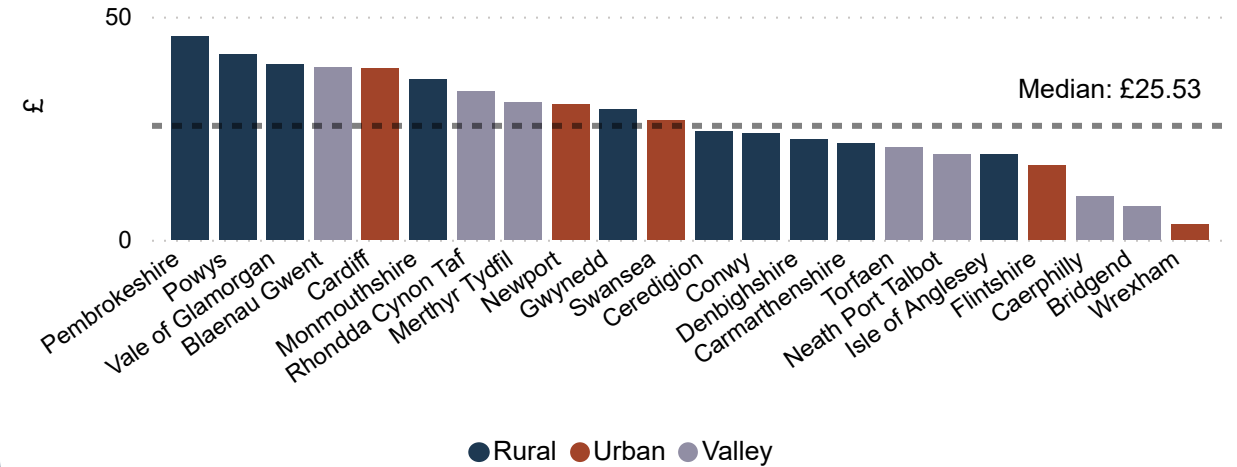
Net cost per household

2020-21	↘	2021-22
£25.60		£24.28
-5.1%		

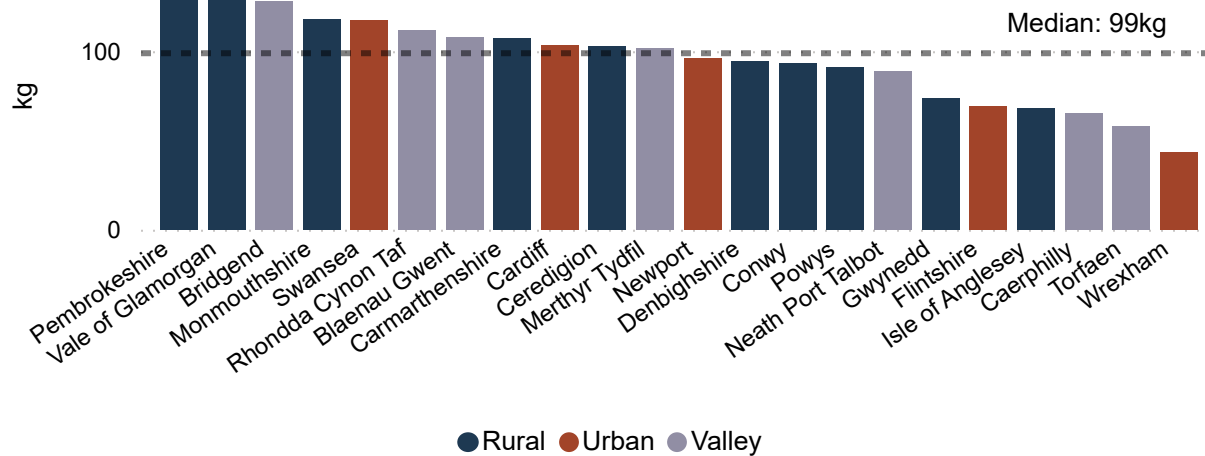
Net cost per household

**11th** lowest cost out of 22 councils  
**5th** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
**1st** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Net expenditure on food waste services per household, 2021-22



Food waste collected per household, 2021-22



**3,651** - Tonnes collected at kerbside per annum

kg collected per household

2020-21	↘	2021-22
103kg		103kg
-0.3%		

kg collected per household

**10th** highest yeild out of 22 councils  
**5th** highest yeild out of 10 Rural councils  
**1st** highest yeild out of 2 Mid councils

## Food Waste - Collection and Post Collection Costs

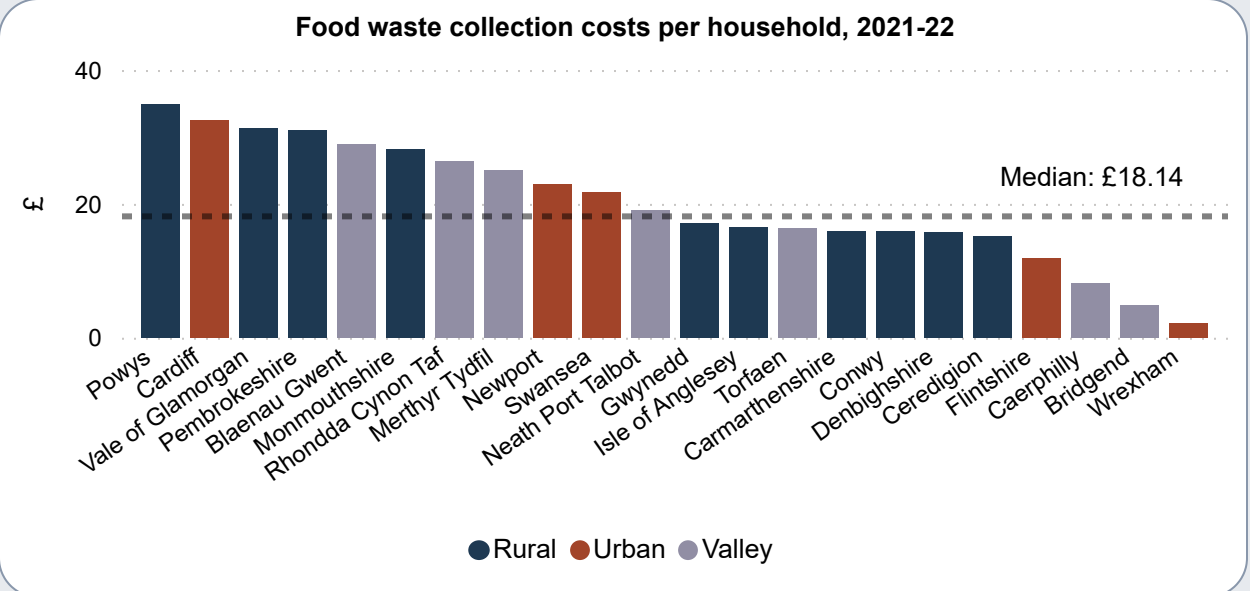
Net collection cost per household

2020-21	2021-22
£16.14	£15.18

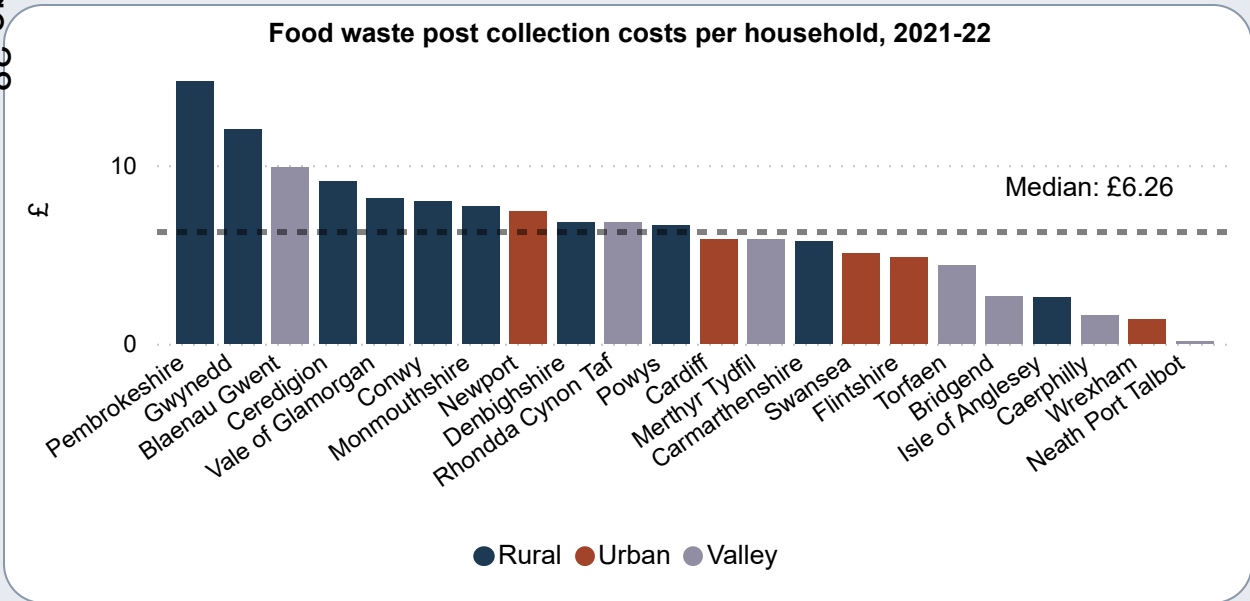
-6.0%

Net collection cost per household

- 5th lowest cost out of 22 councils
- 1st lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils
- 1st lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils



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Net post collection cost per household

2020-21	2021-22
£9.46	£9.10

-3.7%

Net post collection cost per household

- 19th lowest cost out of 22 councils
- 8th lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils
- 2nd lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

## Residual Waste - Total Service, Collection and Post Collection Costs

**£54.42** - Total net service cost per household

Net cost per household

2020-21  
£54.73

↓

2021-22  
£54.42

-0.6%

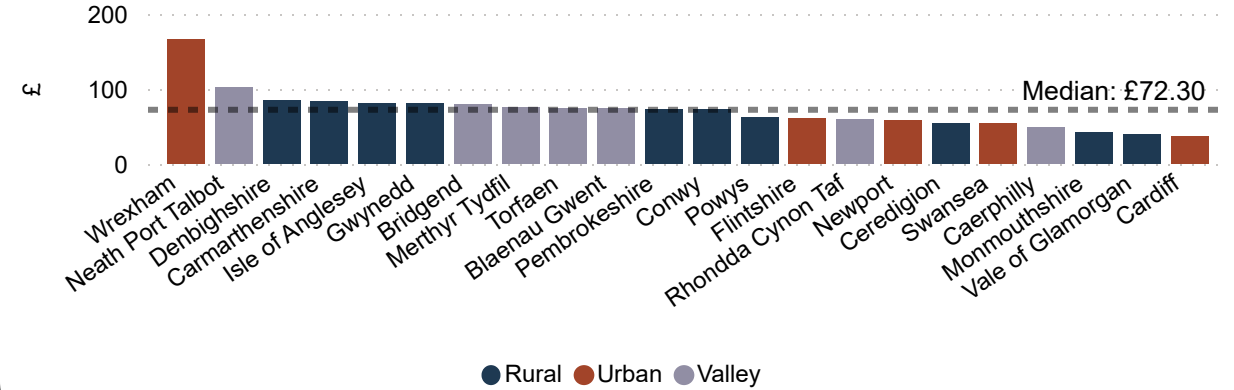
Net cost per household

**6th** lowest cost out of 22 councils

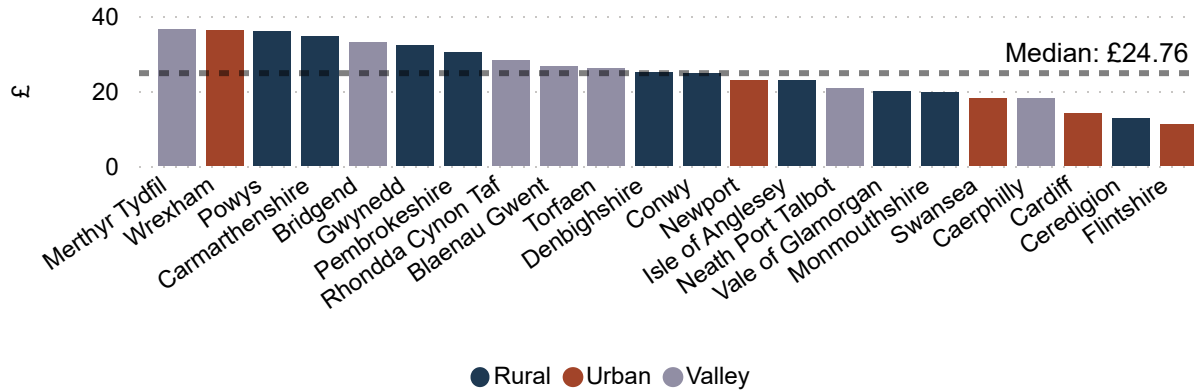
**3rd** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils

**1st** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Net expenditure on residual waste services per household, 2021-22



Residual waste collection costs per household, 2021-22



Net collection cost per household

2020-21  
£13.40

↓

2021-22  
£12.68

-5.3%

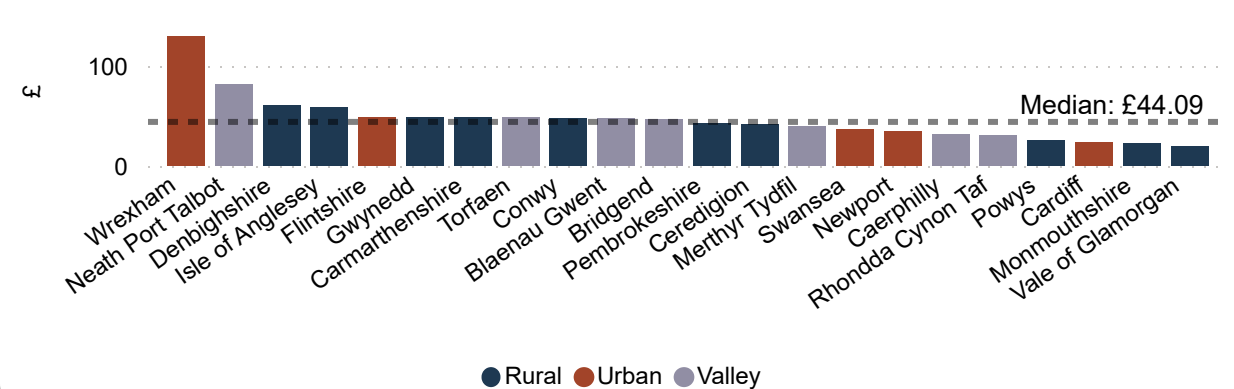
Net collection cost per household

**2nd** lowest cost out of 22 councils

**1st** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils

**1st** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Residual waste post collection costs per household, 2021-22



Net post collection cost per household

2020-21  
£41.33

↑

2021-22  
£41.74

1.0%

Net post collection cost per household

**10th** lowest cost out of 22 councils

**4th** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils

**2nd** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

## Household Waste Recycling Centre - Total Service Cost and Tonnages

**£41.85** - Total net service cost per household

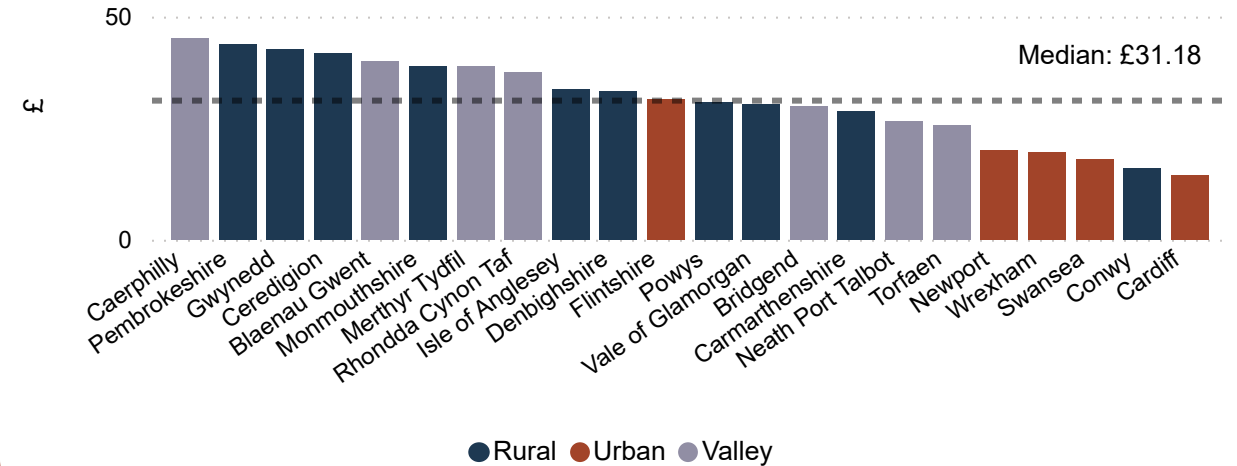
Net cost per household

<u>2020-21</u>	↗	<u>2021-22</u>
£37.49		£41.85
11.6%		

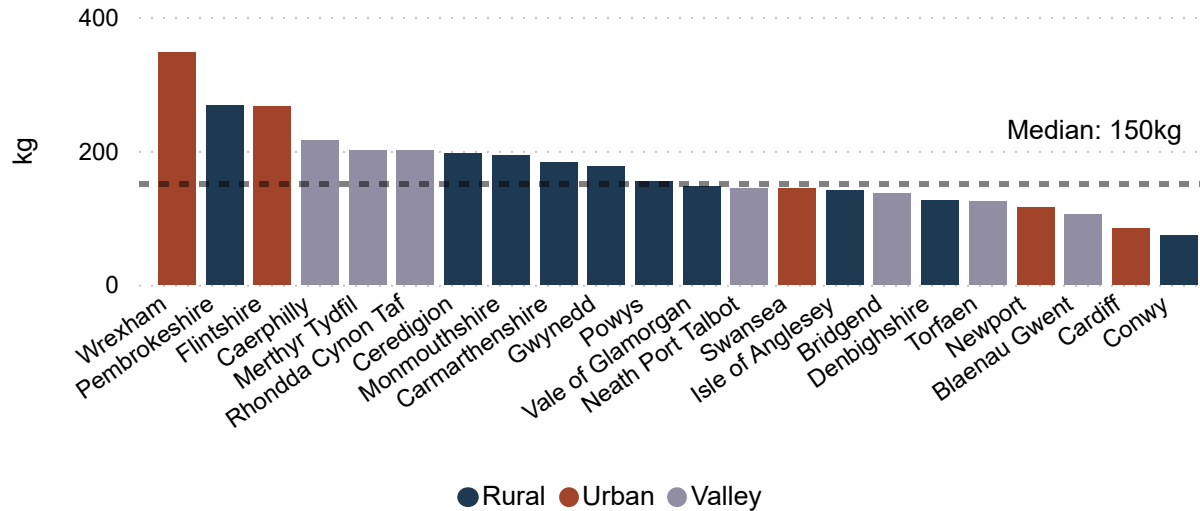
Net cost per household

**19th** lowest cost out of 22 councils  
**8th** lowest cost out of 10 Rural councils  
**2nd** lowest cost out of 2 Mid councils

Net expenditure on household waste recycling centre services per household, 2021-22



Household waste recycling centre throughput per household, 2021-22



**6,969** - Tonnage throughput per annum

**5,274** - Tonnes recycled per annum

**75.7%** - Diversion rate

kg throughput per household

<u>2020-21</u>	↗	<u>2021-22</u>
134kg		196kg
45.9%		

kg throughput per household

**7th** highest yield out of 22 councils  
**2nd** highest yield out of 10 Rural councils  
**1st** highest yield out of 2 Mid councils

## Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

**REPORT TO:** Thriving Communities Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 22 June 2023

**LOCATION:** Chamber / Hybrid

**TITLE:** Development Management Service

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To provide an update on the planning and enforcement caseloads

**REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:** Members requested that officers provide an update on the planning and enforcement caseloads

### **BACKGROUND:**

In December 2022, a report was presented to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Development Management Service. The report centred on a 2021 Audit Wales review of the Planning Service in Ceredigion.

The review set out 10 recommendations relating to governance arrangements and to improving service capacity.

In response to those recommendations relating to governance arrangements, it was reported that significant changes to the Constitution had been agreed including new Terms of Reference, Operational Procedures, Codes of Practice and Delegated Powers. It was explained that training had provided to all Members after the elections in May and these changes have now been embedded with procedures and practices being adopted well.

In response to performance issues, it was necessary to look at tackling issues in four main areas of the development management process – validation, consultee delays, phosphates and staff capacity to deal with cases.

### **CURRENT POSITION**

#### Validation

Validation refers to the stage where cases are checked to see whether the appropriate plans, supporting documents and fees have been provided to register an application. Ideally, cases should be registered within a week of submission. At the worse point in 2022, this stage of the process was running 8 weeks late, so cases were often reaching officers at a point where decisions should normally be issued. By the end of December 2022, additional resources and training had turned this issue around so that most applications within a day or two of being submitted. This position has been

sustained with 100% of valid applications being registered within 7 days of receipt between December 2022 and the end of May 2023.

A significant number of applications however remain invalid. Staff therefore spend time chasing additional information or returning applications.

### Consultee Responses & Phosphates

It was reported that capacity issues within the ecology section and the difficulties faced by the phosphate issue had contributed to some delays in processing cases. To address capacity, extra support has been provided by secondments from the Planning Policy Team and an agreement with Powys County Council who also provide support.

Phosphates remains a difficult issue. New guidance has led to some cases being cleared where there is no mitigation. In other cases, a proforma is being used to collect additional information to judge the phosphate impact of a proposal. It remains a technical and time-consuming process.

### Staff Capacity and Use of Consultants

Due to the inability to recruit, consultants (Capita) were engaged and started to support the team processing planning applications and enforcement cases in September 2022.

At the highest point in 2022 the number of outstanding planning applications was 511 and there were 550 enforcement cases. The planning caseload at the end of March 2023 was 382 cases with the enforcement caseload remaining static at the 550 cases. Targets for 2023/24 are that the planning application caseload is reduced to 300 cases and the enforcement caseload to 450 by the end of March 2024.

A short presentation will be provided at the meeting to provide Members with further information on caseloads, recruitment and internal Development Management Standards.

	<b>Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why</b>	No as this discussion and is not producing or developing policy
<b>WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:</b>	<b>Summary:</b> <b>Long term:</b> <b>Integration:</b> <b>Collaboration:</b> <b>Involvement:</b> <b>Prevention:</b>	
<b>RECOMMENDATION (S):</b>		



**No formal recommendations, discussion for information only.**

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):**

**To provide Members with an update.**

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Russell Hughes-Pickering
<b>Designation:</b>	Corporate Lead Officer – Economy and Regeneration
<b>Date of Report:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b>Acronyms:</b>	

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on Wednesday, 5 April 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans (Chairman), Councillors Marc Davies (Vice-Chair), Gethin Davies, Meirion Davies, Rhodri Evans, Chris James, Maldwyn Lewis, Sian Maehrlein, Ann Bowen Morgan, John Roberts and Carl Worrall.

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Keith Henson (Cabinet Member), Hugh Hughes, Gareth Lloyd, Wyn Thomas (Cabinet Member) and Professor Stuart Cole CBE.

**Officers in attendance:** Phil Jones, Corporate Manager, Highways Services; Gerwyn Jones, Corporate Manager, Environmental Services; Chris Wilson, Traffic, Safety and Development Manager; Katy Spain, Service Manager- Transport Services; Nia Barker, Transport Officer; Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services; Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer; Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer and Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

(10.00am- 12.54pm)

**1 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2 Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations) Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.**

- i. Councillor Chris James declared a personal interest under item 4.
- ii. Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to item 4, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

**3 Active travel update April 2023 and use of former railway lines for cycling / walking**

Councillor Keith Henson (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services and Carbon Management) explained that the purpose of the report was to give an update on the developments since the previous report/discussion. A meeting had been held with Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 to provide an overview of Active Travel in Ceredigion. At present, there were only three Welsh Government-designated Active Travel Settlements in Ceredigion under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (namely Aberystwyth, Cardigan and Lampeter) and therefore, there was an aspiration to expand on this. Thanks were extended to the service for progressing with the work to improve the accessibility of Active Travel and safety for the county.

Phil Jones, Corporate Manager: Highways Services explained that The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty on local authorities to plan for, improve, and promote routes for walking and cycling for everyday journeys. The authority was grateful to WG for the funding to improve the Active Travel network but having an improved plan for the next 3-5 years would be beneficial for all. An overview of the background as included in the report was provided. Given the aspirations to improve the railway links from Carmarthen to Aberystwyth, assurance was given by Elin Jones MS and Ben Lake MP in a recent meeting that these proposals would not be developed for a significant number of years, therefore essentially, it was possible to proceed with expanding Active Travel on those lines.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers, Professor Stuart Cole CBE and Councillor Keith Henson. The main points raised were as follows:

- Professor Stuart Cole CBE clarified that although WG had not confirmed whether they planned to develop the railway from Carmarthen to Aberystwyth which would cost approximately £800million, there was insufficient funding and not enough population to run the railway, hence why the T1 TrawsCymru was in place. In his opinion, it was very unlikely the railway would be developed in the next 30-40 years.
- Raising concerns with WG/ UK Government around the lack of or uncertainty with funding streams was important. In addition, further relaxation of the restrictions would benefit the whole county, not only the 3 towns named as Active Travel Settlements and it would also enable local authorities to plan resources better and deliver locally.
- Support was given to the utilisation of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers, which may be required to acquire land for walking and cycling routes. Although it was considered a complex and lengthy process, the use of CPO in conjunction with discussions was considered important for delivering plans in the county. Work was done in the background to progress this including with Rhiw Goch Hill, Aberaeron.
- It was noted that not all routes would attract Active Travel Fund (ATF) and so other funding streams were being explored. Feedback following an unsuccessful grant application for *Cylch y Cardi* Trail Phase 1 Levelling Up Fund 2 (LUF2) (Transport) had not yet been received.
- An ATF application has been submitted for 100% funding for the first phase of the proposed IBERS to Waun Fawr active travel path. Work was ongoing to secure land for the preferred route.
- As no plans appeared to be in place to improve the route from Newcastle Emlyn to Llechryd, officers noted they would provide an update to the local member in due course.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to note the report.

#### 4 Ceredigion Bus Network

Councillor Keith Henson explained that WG managed a large proportion of the transport system in Wales and at present, the transport industry faced a challenging time. An overview of the contents of the report was provided including the local and wider context.

Gerwyn Jones, Corporate Manager: Environmental Services stated that the report was presented to Cabinet on 14 February 2023. A presentation was provided to the Committee outlining the following:

- Background
- Ceredigion's Current Network / Pre Covid-Network
- Strengths / Weaknesses
- Opportunities / Threats
- Short/ Mid/ Long Term
- Ceredigion's Future Network?
- Considerations
- TrawsCymru/ BwcaBus Branding
- Transport Information
- ULEV Transition

Professor Stuart Cole CBE noted that the situation was similar in many places, and although the solution was different for each local authority, it was similar for rural areas such as Ceredigion and neighbouring authorities. It was reported that Covid-19 had a significant impact on the number of people travelling on public transport, including the TrawsCymru. Following the introduction of BwcaBus in 2008, research had been undertaken on public transport in rural areas, and as a result, TrawsCymru was introduced in 2012, with BwcaBus and local buses feeding into the network. 2.6million passengers had travelled on TrawsCymru in 2019, which was a significant increase from numbers prior to 2012, however, passengers had not yet returned to pre-covid numbers, including the T1 route (Carmarthen-Aberystwyth) which had only returned to 60%. The reliability, frequency and precept of services were deemed key to attracting more passengers, along with accessibility, such as information signs and timetables.

It was reported that although Lee Waters MS, Deputy minister for Climate Change was eager for more people to travel on public transport, there were very clear differences in the availability of services in urban and rural areas. The subsidy for transporting Concessionary Travel Card holders was very small compared to the price of a ticket, but hopefully, WG would not end this arrangement.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers, Professor Stuart Cole CBE and Councillor Keith Henson. The main points raised were as follows:

- A procurement process would commence shortly for the routes Ceredigion County Council held responsibility for, with the aim of new contracts being in place by September 2023. Officers warned that the situation would possibly worsen again before any improvements were seen and that there was a challenging time ahead.

- It was noted that the Megabus service which had run from Aberystwyth to London prior to Covid-19 was run by Stagecoach, a commercial company and so there was no requirement on the company to restore the service post Covid-19. Commercial companies ran services based on whether routes made a profit but if there was a demand for the service, it may be worth discussing with the company.
- Concerns were raised with the changes to the 585 service (Aberystwyth- Tregaron- Lampeter) given that the two buses removed from the timetable were suitable for the elderly who depended on the service. Officers explained that although the service was not ideal, had it not been for discussions with the operator of this route, there would currently be no service in place.
- Public transport should be accessible for all, and it was important to ensure the disabled and elderly could access buses without any difficulty.
- Despite WG's vision of increasing the use of public transport, concerns were raised about the lack of funding to achieve this, especially in rural areas, therefore this needed to be raised with WG.
- At present, local authorities undertook the commissioning work for TrawsCymru, but Transport for Wales (TfW) would gradually take on this role. The level of service would depend on WG funding.
- Discussions around ULEV/ hydrogen were ongoing, and consideration was given to the role of electricity and the grid's lack of capacity. Last week, 8 electric buses operated on the T1 TrawsCymru route (Aberystwyth-Carmarthen) with charging facilities located in Carmarthen. Aberystwyth had been identified as a hub by TrawsCymru, and so WG and TfW were exploring options for the future. Although no date had been set by TfW to convert their fleet to ULEV, it was vital to ensure the correct infrastructure was in place. In addition, work was ongoing to hopefully create a transport interchange at Synod Inn, which will possibly include an option to charge vehicles.
- It was highlighted that the environmental argument for using public transport could diminish if all cars were converted to electric or hydrogen. Given this, it was noted that the overall aim environmentally was to reduce the need to travel, which had reduced significantly with Covid-19.
- A motion to discuss Ceredigion's bus network had been put forward for Full Council on 20 April 2023.

Councillor Keith Henson extended his thanks to the Officers present for their work and stated that there were clearly many challenges within the county and further afield. Thanks were also extended to Professor Stuart Cole CBE for his input from a National perspective. Funding and a shift in the public's view to understanding the benefits of travelling on Public Transport regionally was vital but being able to travel locally was also very important. Feedback had been positive since the launch of the T1 TrawsCymru electric buses last week, and in moving forward, WG needed to have discussions with suppliers due to the long order lead times of vehicles. In addition, concerns regarding

the grid's capacity were being raised with National Grid and WG, and very recently, the Significant Code Review had come into force.

The Chair also extended his thanks to all involved and explained that the meeting had been beneficial to gain an understanding of the full picture.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to note:

1. The acute and numerous pressures and challenges the transport industry as a whole is experiencing which is exacerbated locally.
2. The subsequent pressure arising on the Council and the Service in seeking to manage the situation, which includes stakeholder expectations and the timelines associated with decisions and actions being implemented.
3. The action taken by the Service to manage the situation and reduce what will still be a significant in-year over-spend in 2022/23.
4. The approach being adopted with a view of delivering services within the budget allocation.

**5 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes**

It was agreed to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023.

Matters arising: None.

**6 To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme**

It was agreed to note the contents of the Forward Work Programme presented subject to the following:

- Report on tourism in Ceredigion
- Due to no response from National Resources Wales regarding their availability for 22 June 2023, it was suggested that the Officer contact them again.

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2023**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

**REPORT TO:** Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 22 June 2023

**LOCATION:** Hybrid

**TITLE:** Draft Forward Work Programme 2023/24

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** Review the current work programme of the Committee

**REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:** The forward work programme of the Committee is reviewed and updated at each meeting

### **BACKGROUND:**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees oversee the work of the Council to make sure that it delivers services in the best way and for the benefit of the local community.

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to look at the services and issues that affect people in Ceredigion. The process provides the opportunity for Councillors to examine the various functions of the council, to ask questions on how decisions have been made, to consider whether service improvements can be put in place and to make recommendations to this effect.

Scrutiny plays an essential role in promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's decision making process and the way in which it delivers services.

The main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

- Holding the cabinet and officers as decision-makers to account
- Being a 'critical friend', through questioning how decisions have been made to provide a 'check and balance' to decision makers, adding legitimacy to the decision making process
- Undertaking reviews of council services and policy
- Undertaking reviews to develop council services and policies
- Considering any other matter that affects the county
- Ensuring that Ceredigion is performing to the best of its ability and delivering high quality services to its citizens
- Assessing the impact of the Council's policies on local communities and recommending improvement
- Engaging with the public to develop citizen centred policies and services

Effective Overview and Scrutiny can lead to:

- Better decision making
- Improved Service Delivery and Performance
- Robust Policy Development arising from public consultation and input of independent expertise
- Enhanced Democracy, Inclusiveness, Community Leadership and Engagement
- Adds a clear dimension of transparency and accountability to the political workings of the Council
- Provides an opportunity for all Members to develop specialist skills and knowledge that can benefit future policy making and performance monitoring processes
- Creates a culture of evidence based self-challenge

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

### **Questions to consider when choosing topics**

- Is there a clear objective for examining this topic?
- Are you likely to achieve a desired outcome?
- What are the likely benefits to the Council and the citizens of Ceredigion?
- Is the issue significant?
- Are there links to the Corporate Strategy
- Is it a key issue to the public?
- Have the issues been raised by external audit?
- Is it a poor performing service?

### **Choosing topics**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should consider information from the Corporate Strategy, Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, Service Plans, the Corporate Risk Register, budget savings – proposals and impact, Quarterly Corporate Performance Management panel meetings and departmental input in choosing topics and designing their Forward Work Programmes, as well as any continuing work.

## **RECOMMENDATION (S):**

To review and update the current Forward Work Programme.

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Lisa Evans
<b>Designation:</b>	Scrutiny and Standards Officer
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30/03/2023
<b>Acronyms:</b>	FWP – Forward Work Programme

Overview and Scrutiny Draft Forward Work Programme 2023/24

Committee	Item (description/title)	Invited Speakers	Purpose i.e. monitoring, policy, recommendation
<b>Thriving Communities</b>			
22 June 2023	Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding (from the risk register)  Creation of Waste Service Working Group  Development Management and Enforcement caseload update	Phil Jones Invite NRW  Rhodri Llwyd  Russell Hughes Pickering	
31 July 2023	Report on the option of allowing 2 hours free parking before 11am (from the budget meeting)  Winter Service  Welsh Water Dwr Cymru	Invite Welsh Water	
23 October 2023	Review Harbours Management Policy	Gerwyn Jones	

18 December 2023			
23 February 2024	Budget		
18 March 2024			
Future meetings	<p><u>Suggestions:</u> Impact of grant funded schemes – what’s the impact, how well drawing down funds</p> <p>Use of space – how do we make it more vibrant, increase income</p> <p>LDP</p> <p>Review of public toilet strategy</p>		