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Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,
Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA
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25 July 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 at the HYBRID - NEUADD CYNGOR CEREDIGION, PENMORFA, ABERAERON / REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE on Monday, 31 July 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. **Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Planning and phosphates discussion (Pages 3 - 6)**
4. **Winter Service Provision (Pages 7 - 10)**
5. **Proposal for 2 hours free parking before 11am at Council Operated Pay and Display Car Parks. (Pages 11 - 20)**
6. **To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes (Pages 21 - 28)**
7. **To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (Pages 29 - 32)**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 31st July 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,
Aberaeron/remotely via video conference

TITLE: Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Planning and
phosphates discussion

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To Introduce Officers from DCWW

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: Members requested that Officers from DCWW were invited to Scrutiny

BACKGROUND:

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) released interim planning advice regarding development within the catchments of riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales in January 2021 (updated May 2021 and June 2022). This advice was to ensure that following updated compliance monitoring of the river Teifi which was suffering from episodic failure of its Phosphate level monitoring, no further development would be allowed which could or potentially could increase phosphate levels in the riverine SAC.

High phosphate levels in surface water, leads to eutrophication of our rivers. Eutrophication adversely affects the quality of the water and ecology. Essentially it starves the river of oxygen harming the wildlife and plant life. The problem is complex with many contributing factors, one stretch of a given catchment is different to another stretch of river in another catchment – and the solutions are equally complex and multi-faceted.

Rivers are vital to our health, economy and wellbeing as well as the ecology and biodiversity of the county.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The size of the SAC catchment across Ceredigion is 806 km² equating to 44.6% of the total land area of the county. It impacts upon 3 of our 6 main settlements, representing the most sustainable locations for future growth namely Tregaron, Llandysul and Lampeter, (Newcastle Emlyn being located in Carmarthenshire) and partially constrains a 4th Ceredigion settlement; Cardigan. These settlements comprise one of only 2 regional growth areas in the county as defined in Future Wales The National Plan 2040 titled the 'Teifi Valley Growth Zone' and are now undevelopable for new developments that require waste water discharges.

As an authority we are leading with our regional partners on work streams facilitated by the Nutrient Management Board to deliver strategic solutions through the Nutrient Management Plan.

For DCWW to understand their contribution to the phosphorus load to the rivers, and to assess any improvements they may need to make to their WwTW discharges, they have updated and re-calibrated their water quality models using the regulator and industry standard tool known as SAGIS (Source Apportionment Geographical Information System). This was a joint exercise run in collaboration with their environmental regulator NRW.

The DCWW SAGIS modelling on the Teifi (published February 2023) shows that WwTW contribute 66% of the phosphorus in the SAC waterbody, with Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs) responsible for 3%. The remaining sources have been identified as rural land use and other sources that include private septic tanks and surface water run-off.

DCWW: [Our Manifesto for Rivers in Wales \(March 2023\)](#) notes that two schemes on the Teifi within the Asset Management Plan for the period 2025 -2030 (AMP8) have been brought forward to the AMP7 period (2020 - 2025):

- Lampeter Wastewater Treatment Works — AMP8 scheme brought forward
Objective: Reduce phosphorus discharged from works

Expected completion date: March 2025

Investment: £1.3m

- Llanybydder Wastewater Treatment Works — AMP8 scheme brought forward

Objective: Reduce phosphorus discharged from works

Expected completion date: March 2025

Investment: £TBC

For the AMP8 period and beyond DCWW have recently published a suite of information supporting their future phosphorus investment programme on [SAC Rivers: Source Apportionment Reports | Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water \(dwrcymru.com\)](#). They have also committed to adding a phosphorus permit condition to all but the smallest of their wastewater treatment works in Wales that discharge to a Special Area of Conservation within their [Manifesto for Rivers March 2023](#).

Officers from DCWW have been invited to Scrutiny to discuss their ongoing plans for nutrient mitigation for the Teifi SAC given their Section 6 duty through the Habitats Regulations under the 'polluter pays' principle.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why

No as this discussion is not producing or developing policy.

Summary:

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Long term:

Integration:

Collaboration:

Involvement:

Prevention:

RECOMMENDATION (S):

No formal recommendations, for information only.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

For Information Only

Contact Name: Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips

Designation: Planning Policy Service Manager

Date of Report: 10/07/2023

Acronyms: DCWW - Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

NRW – Natural Resources Wales

SAC - Special Area of Conservation

AMP - Asset Management Plan

WwTW – Waste Water Treatment Works

CSOs - Combined Storm Overflows

SAGIS - Source Apportionment Geographical Information System

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	31 July 2023
LOCATION:	Council Chamber, Penmorfa & Zoom
TITLE:	Winter Service Provision
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To provide information to members of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regards to the winter service policy and provision
REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION	The previous update/review was undertaken in 2018 and the intention of the Service is to undertake a further review in time for the 24/25 winter season

BACKGROUND

The statutory basis for Winter Service was revised by the Secretary of State for Transport in the Railways and Transport Safety Act (2003)

This legislation extended the statutory duty of highway authorities to maintain the highway by the insertion, after Section 41(1) of the Highways Act (1980), of:

'(1A) In particular, a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice'.

Given the scale of financial and other resources involved in delivering the Winter Service it is not deemed reasonable or realistic to:

Provide the service on all parts of the Network

or

Ensure that running surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the network.

The various Winter Service reviews over time, since circa 2006, have, in the main, concentrated on the assessment matrix which is used to score each route and ultimately determines which routes, given the budget available, receive pre-treatment in advance of forecasted ice and / or snow.

This is known as precautionary treatment and is pre-emptive.

Other routes not receiving a pre-emptive treatment are treated reactively after the precautionary routes have been treated and only when resources allow.

Under the 2014 assessment matrix, the length of network which was subject to pre-treatment was set at 437.0km, and therefore to maintain this pre-treatment length due to the constraints imposed by the size of the winter maintenance fleet and other ancillary plant and equipment the cut-off point for pre-treatment under the 2018 assessment matrix was to be set at +3, equating to pre-treatment of 427.9km.

The review undertaken in 2018 was in response to members of the committee requesting that officers review the assessment methodology used to score each route to allow consideration/recognition of the effect that altitude has on temperature and climate.

Due to investment in salt spreading technology and new vehicles since 2014, officers also undertook an assessment to ascertain whether there was scope to increase the length of network that could be pre-treated using the available fleet without requiring additional/increased capital investment.

This further assessment identified that there was capacity available within the existing fleet to increase the length of network that could be the subject of pre-treatment from the 2014 level by 26.1km, which would allow the pre-treatment to be set at +2.

This was undertaken and the changes made were approved by Scrutiny on 10th May 2018 and then ratified by Cabinet on 04th September 2018.

The proposed update in advance of the 24/25 Winter Season will need to align with the approved new *Code of Practice for Highway Safety Inspection and Defect Rectification Policy*.

It is not proposed to introduce any changes to the agreed assessment matrix, but a reassessment of the scores attributed to the individual routes will be undertaken.

It is also proposed to include a more accurate, data-led analysis of the risk criteria in relation to road hierarchy and accident statistics.

It is intended to undertake the review in the coming months, and to report the findings of this more comprehensive review to the Committee for consideration in early 2024.

The overall length of the network that is pre-treated will ultimately be determined by the budget made available to provide the service.

The 2024 review will therefore also scrutinise these budget pressures in order to determine what level of service can be delivered in the 2024/25 winter season, with three possible outcomes:

1. Maintaining the current level of winter service provision which may require additional budget to be identified
2. Increasing the level of winter service provision which will require additional budget to be identified
3. Reducing the level of winter service provision in order to remain within the current budget provided.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why

Not at this time
The report is for information only

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Summary:
Long term:
Integration:
Collaboration:
Involvement:
Prevention:

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that members of the *Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee* request officers to undertake a comprehensive review of the Winter Service in readiness for the 2024/25 Winter Season.

Reasons for decision: To enable a review of the Council's Winter Service provision to be undertaken.

Contact Name Phil Jones

Designation Corporate Manager – Highway Services,
Highways and Environmental Services

Date of Report: 22 June 2023

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 31 July 2023

LOCATION: Council Chamber, Penmorfa

TITLE: Proposal for 2 hours free parking before 11am at Council Operated Pay and Display Car Parks.

PURPOSE OF REPORT: For consideration

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:

At the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 February 2023 to consider the Fees and Charges for 2023/24, a proposal was put forward to give consideration to the option of allowing 2 hours free parking before 11am in all Ceredigion County Council Managed Pay and Display Car Parks.

BACKGROUND:

1.1 General Car Park information

The Council operates 21 Pay and Display Car Parks across Ceredigion at its main centres of Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul and Tregaron. These are a mix of dedicated short stay only, short and long stay and long stay only car parks, as well as a mix of all year-round car parks which charge from 8am – 6pm and seasonal car parks which charge 8am – 10pm from 1 March to 31 October annually.

The details of these are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

The use of the Council's Pay and Display Car Parks is discretionary, with members of the public being able to choose whether to use these or alternatives which includes free on street parking or free and paid for off street parking provided by others.

In general, fees and charges at the Council's Car Parks are comparable to other local authorities offerings. To provide a flavour, the costs of some 2 hour and 24-hour tickets at what can be considered to be comparable car parks are noted below:

2 hour tickets

- Cardigan / Aberaeron / Lampeter: £2.60
- Machynlleth: £2.50
- Aberystwyth and Ceredigion Seasonal (at New Quay and Aberaeron): £3.40
- Barmouth and Aberdyfi: £1.10 - £4.00
- Tenby: £2.00
- Llandudno: £1.70 - £2.70

24 hour tickets

- Cardigan / Aberaeron / Lampeter: £4.60
- Machynlleth: £4.00
- Aberystwyth and Ceredigion Seasonal (at New Quay and Aberaeron): £6.00
- Barmouth and Aberdyfi: £6.60 (winter) - £11.00 (summer)
- Tenby: £6.00
- Llandudno: £6.00 - £12.00

Whilst the cost of parking can often be cited by individuals or groups as a significant factor affecting footfall, with calls for free parking being made, the 2015 report commissioned by Welsh Government “Assessing the Impact of Car Parking Charges on Town Centre Footfall” (<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/150610-assessing-impact-car-parking-charges-town-centre-footfall-en.pdf>), concluded that:

- *“The literature review and primary research indicated that car parking charges are only one of a number of factors at play in influencing footfall and town centre vitality.*
(5.1.2, p.32)
- *Overall, this research has indicated that the following parking related factors are important determinants of people’s behaviour in relation to town centres.*
 - *Availability of spaces*
 - *Restrictions on parking (i.e. how long people can park for)*
 - *Proximity of parking to intended destination*
 - *Traffic flow*
 - *Signage*
 - *Overall retail offering*
 - *Out of town retail offering*
 - *Out of town parking charges*
 - *Price of car parking*
 - *Security of car park*
 - *Incentives for parking*(5.1.2, p.32)
- *These factors are subject to ongoing changes, making it difficult to determine the extent to which they are responsible for changes in behaviour. Our survey also indicated that, while people did agree that car parking charges affect their behaviour, convenience is also a critical factor. In addition, the accessibility of spaces, the number of spaces, and the proximity of parking to the town centre were all shown to be as important as cost.”*
(5.1.3, p.32)

1.2 Representative ticket sales related to vehicles under 3.5t (cars, vans and motorcycles) at CCC Operated Pay and Display Car Parks

A representative split of ticket sales across the car parks for a 12-month period is summarised in **Table 1** below. The table shows that the majority (61.39%) of all tickets sold are for periods of stay up to 2 hours with, a monetary value (net) at 2023/24 prices of £538,545 equating to 41.73% of the total income.

Ticket type	Number of Tickets sold	Percentage of all ticket sold	Monetary value (net) at 23/24 prices
1 hour	124,206	29.24%	£219,259
2 hour	136,607	32.15%	£319,287
3 hour	55,491	13.06%	£175,128
24 hour	104,398	24.57%	£517,133
Weekly	4,146	0.98%	£59,617
Total	424,848	100%	£1,290,423

Table 1. Ticket Sale breakdown (Data Period – 01/11/2021 – 31/10/22 - excluding Llandysul and Tregaron where no charges were levied during this period)

1.3 2023/24 Budget expectations

The budget expectation from Pay and Display car parks for 2023/24 is £1,581,000 (net). However, based on the historic representative ticket sales, it is very unlikely that the income expectation will be achieved, with a predicted income deficit in the region of almost £300,000. In 2022/23 the shortfall was £148,909 (net) based on a target income of £1,221,000 (net).

1.4 Current free parking offering in Pay and Display Car Parks

The Council already provides periods of free parking at its Pay and Display car parks and, whilst it could choose to do so, the Council does not currently charge:

- At all year-round car parks between 6pm and 8am
- At seasonal car parks:
 - Between 10pm and 8am
 - Between 1 November – 28/29 February each year
- For the 3 Saturdays preceding Christmas each year

As well as periods of free parking, various season tickets are available for use at the Pay and Display Car Parks.

These offer excellent value for those who wish to make regular use of these Car Parks.

The following provides an indication of the per rate cost when buying a 12 month season ticket to reflect usage on a 7 and 5 day a week basis.

Aberaeron / Cardigan / Lampeter
£402 / 365 = £1.10
£402 / 260 = £1.55

Aberystwyth
£436 / 365 = £1.19
£436 / 260 = £1.68

1.5 On Street Parking Provision

The Council currently provides free time limited as well as unrestricted parking opportunities on street at all locations where it operates Pay and Display Car Parks.

This provides free parking opportunities ranging from 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours and 4 hour limited waiting (operating generally from 8am – 6pm and which are unrestricted outside these time) to unlimited time during the day.

This is in addition to dedicated Blue Badge holder time limited bays.

1.6 Financial impact of providing 2 hours free parking before 11am

Table 2 below summarises the number of 1 hour and 2 hours tickets which were purchased before 11am across the Council's Pay and Display Car Parks during the representative period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023.

Should the proposal be implemented it could potentially result in an income loss of up to £130,000 (net) based on historic ticket sales.

However, this does not consider potential unintended impacts including:

- Those who currently make use of the car parks and pay for parking after 11am but who would alter their visiting habits so that they benefit from the free provision. This would result in additional loss of income outside of the proposed free parking periods.
- Loss of income from visitors who currently stay over 2 hours but under 4 hours who would alter their visiting habits so that they benefit from the free provision, and chose not to pay to extend their visiting times.
- Loss of income from visitors who currently stay over 2 hours but under 4 hours e.g. someone parking at 9am wanting to stay at Maesyrafon for 4 hours would currently pay for a 24 hour ticket at £6 however, under the revised proposal they would only have to purchase a 2 hour ticket (from 11am), resulting in a loss of £2.60 which would not be accounted for in the calculations
- Loss of income from visitors who currently stay over 4 hours who would alter their visiting habits so that they benefit from the free provision, and chose not to pay to extend their visiting times beyond the times noted above, resulting

in a loss of £2.60 which would not be accounted for a loss of income in the calculations in **Table 2**.

Therefore, the financial impact is expected to be even more significant.

Time	1 hour	Value (net)	2 hours	Value (net)	Total (net)
8am	3,396	£5,972.33	2,162	£4,929.00	£10,901.33
9am	11,140	£19,597.66	10,170	£23,091.67	£42,689.33
10am	18,037	£31,735.58	19,529	£45,005.50	£76,741.08
					£130,331.75

Table 2. Number of Tickets sold 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 at 23/24 prices (excluding Llandysul and Tregaron where no charges were levied during this period)

Should the proposal be recommended then it would be expected that the Committee identify how the proposal will be fully financed (It should be noted that if the current arrangements at Llandysul and Tregaron were to continue then a total of up to £170,000 (net) would potentially need to be identified).

This would either need to be through:

- identified reductions in expenditure budgets for functions provided by Highways and Environmental Services, which will result in a reduction in service levels provided and/or reduction in staffing levels
- identified reductions in expenditure budgets for functions provided by other Council Services areas together with a budget realignment, which will result in a reduction in service levels provided and/or reduction in staffing levels
- an additional uplift on Council Tax of 0.325% beyond the uplift which is proposed for 24/25 to achieve up to £130,000 (net) (for the 2 hour free proposal) and 0.425% to achieve up to £170,000 (net) should the Committee also recommend retaining the free provision at Llandysul and Tregaron beyond 23/24

More generally, in the current financial climate, with acute pressures on the delivery of a wide range of statutory and front-line services, coupled with the cost-of-living crisis which has seen a dramatic increase in numbers of families reliant on food banks in all areas of the county, consideration would need to be given to the appropriateness of the use of public money to subsidise a discretionary service where there are alternatives available.

1.7 Practical Considerations

In addition to the financial implications, there are some practical considerations, some of which would have financial impacts, including:

- That software for existing pay and display machines would have to be amended to facilitate the provision. There would be a cost related to this in the region of £5,000.

- Impacts on efficiencies related to enforcement of on-street and off-street parking restrictions – current patrols combine enforcement at both locations, if this proposal is implemented, visits to towns / locations before 11am would have to be repeated in the afternoon to monitor compliance of car parks resulting in:
 - Reductions in the number of monitoring instances at car parks with potential reductions in income from lower levels of compliance due to lower levels of enforcement.
 - Reductions in the number of visits to other locations without car parks.
 - Increased travel related costs to return to locations to monitor car parks.
- Depending on the detail of any proposal taken forward, it may require changes to the Off-Street Parking Order. If it is required then the process would include a formal consultation process, including public noticing and associated costs related to this. Changes to orders can take between 6 months – 18 months to introduce and can cost in the region of £5,000.
- Depending on the detail of any proposal taken forward, it may require changes to signage at the entrance to as well as within the car parks. There would be a cost associated with this which could be in the region of £15,000.

1.8 Other considerations

In addition to those noted already there are some other considerations in relation to the proposal which include:

Whether the proposal aligns with the Council's declaration of a Global Climate Emergency (Council declares global climate emergency http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/cpd/Democratic_Services_Meetings_Public/B_RHYBUDD%20GYNNIG%20-%20NOTICE%20OF%20MOTION%20-%20CYNGOR%20-%20COUNCIL%2005.03.20.pdf) as it could be seen as incentivising the use of private vehicles

- Current arrangements at Market Street Car Park, Lampeter provides that, patrons of Sainsbury's who spend over the qualifying amount, are refunded the cost of their parking by Sainsbury's. Any free provision provided at this car park would result in a financial saving to, and could be seen as subsidising income for a private business.

1.9 Potential alternative options

Other potential options which could be considered include changing the charging hours of Council Pay and Display Car Parks to commence at 9am or 10am which would effectively provide 1 or 2 hours free parking compared to the current charging arrangements. This alternative proposal would require between £11,000 (9am) and £53,500 (10am) to be identified to fund the proposal. This would be a simpler and clearer proposal to implement.

1.10 Conclusion

Parking can be an emotive and high-profile matter which is subject to ongoing comment and debate.

A populist view is that free parking is a positive and has benefits in generating footfall and economic prosperity.

However, it would appear that there is little tangible evidence to support this view in reality and reports (Welsh Government “*Assessing the Impact of Car Parking Charges on Town Centre Footfall*”) have shown that there will be a number of factors which influence where, why and how often people will visit a location.

While providing more free parking may be well received it is less clear what tangible benefits would be derived from doing so.

The income generated from the Pay and Display Car Parks provides a significant budget contribution to the ongoing maintenance and management of the car parks, as well as the delivery of front-line and other associated services.

The financial implications of offering 2 hours free parking before 11am at CCC’s Pay and Display Car Parks would be significant and would likely be in the region of £130,000 (net)per annum.

The Service is developing opportunities and options that could further optimise the Council’s portfolio of Pay and Display Car Parks and will look to bring and update on these to this Committee later in 2023/24.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why

This report is provided for consideration following the request by the Committee to consider a general proposal.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Summary: NA

Long term: NA

Integration: NA

Collaboration: NA

Involvement: NA

Prevention: NA

RECOMMENDATION (S): That Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S): NA

Contact Name: Gerwyn Jones
Katy Spain

Designation: Corporate Manager Environmental Services
Service Manager Transport Services

Appendix 1 – Ceredigion County Council - Pay and Display Car Park Summary

Location	Car Park Name	Type	Charging Period – days of operation	Charging Period - Hours
Aberaeron	North Beach	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	South Beach	Short and Long Stay	1 March – 31 October	8am – 10pm
	Regent Street	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
Aberystwyth	Lower Park Avenue	Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Maesyrafon	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	New Promenade	Short and Long Stay	1 March – 31 October	8am – 10pm
	North Road	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Park Avenue	Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
Cardigan	Bath House	Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Fairfield	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Greenfield Street	Short Stay (max 3 hours)	All days	8am – 6pm
	Mwldan	Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Quay Street	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Gloster Row / Red Lion	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
Lampeter	Cwmins	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
	Market Street	Short Stay (max 2 hours)	All days	8am – 6pm
	Rookery	Short and Long Stay	All days	8am – 6pm
Llandysul	Porth Terrace	Short and Long Stay	All days Note Currently not charging during 23/24	8am – 6pm
New Quay	Church Road	Short and Long Stay	1 March – 31 October	8am – 10pm
	Rock Street	Short and Long Stay	1 March – 31 October	8am – 10pm
Tregaron	Talbot Yard	Short and Long Stay	All days Note - Currently not charging during 23/24	8am – 6pm

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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 Thursday, 22 June 2023

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Wyn Evans, Hugh Hughes and Gareth Lloyd.

Cabinet Members present: Councillor Catrin M S. Davies, Gareth Davies and Keith Henson.

Officers from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in attendance: Gavin Bown, Head of Mid Wales Operations; Tim England, Operations Manager- Flood and Water Management; Julian Barnes, Land and Assets Operations Manager and Matthew Jenkins, Project Manager.

Officers in attendance: Russell Hughes Pickering, Corporate Lead Officer, Economy & Regeneration; Rhodri Llwyd, Corporate Lead Officer, Highways and Environmental Services; Phil Jones, Corporate Manager, Highways Services; Beverley Hodgett, Service Manager- Local Environment Services; Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer and Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer.

(10.00am- 1.11pm)

1 Apologies

- i. Councillors Gethin Davies, Sian Maehrlein and Clive Davies, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.
- ii. Councillor Maldwyn Lewis apologised for his inability to attend the meeting due to other Council commitments.

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 Gareth Davies and Hugh Hughes declared a personal interest under item 3.
- ii. Councillor Chris James declared a personal interest under item 6, during an update on Ceredigion's bus network.
- iii. Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer declared a personal interest under item 6, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees, during an update on Ceredigion's bus network.

3 Coastal Erosion, Flooding and Climate Change

The Chair welcomed and thanked Officers from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for attending the meeting.

Councillor Keith Henson (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services and Carbon Management) explained that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the development of Climate Change and Coastal Erosion/ Flooding. 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 were susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding, and some inland communities were at risk of fluvial flooding and loss of land from watercourses.

Phil Jones provided an overview of the report. He explained that the impacts of coastal erosion, flooding and climate change 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 WG targets for carbon management and biodiversity. Indirect impacts would include changes to the insects, pests and diseases which would colonise and affect our environment. As well as the immediate impacts of these, the impacts on staff time and other costs dealing with these would be significant. Loss of canopy cover from Ash Dieback already had consequences for local microclimates and would exacerbate climate change impacts as well as contribute to them.

It was recognised that we must lead by example and do all we could to reduce future climate change and address and mitigate the risks associated with it. Policy initiatives and strategies to include 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

A presentation was provided to the Committee outlining the following:

- Coastal Erosion and Flooding Responsibilities
 - Coastal erosion
 - Coast and Fluvial Flooding
 - Shoreline Management Plan 2
 - Beach Monitoring
- Schemes supported by the Welsh Government (WG) grants
- Latest updates- Coastal & Fluvial
- Flood & Coastal Erosion
- Carbon Management and Climate Change – Net Zero
- Net Zero Action Plan & Active Travel

Gavin Bown explained that NRW had responsibility for regulating Welsh Water, whilst Welsh Water operated and maintained water and sewerage

services. In terms of the issues raised in the presentation, he clarified that NRW were able to undertake coveted water coursework to reduce risk, but additional permission was required to carry out internal draining. In terms of the delay reported by NRW around the work required at Capel Bangor and Tal y Bont, the modelling work by WSP had not yet been received to progress the work.

NRW prioritised their work on a flood risk basis to communities at greatest risk of flooding, which along with other factors such as recent river and coastal flooding events to establish work programmes. Due to climate change, there was higher peak flow in rivers and flash flooding, which was more difficult to manage and respond to. In addition, it was a challenge to respond to the increase in sea levels and coastal erosion, which affected coastal areas and places of significant heritage and habitats. Approximately 1 in 8 properties in Wales were currently at risk of flooding. By 2120, an estimated 22,000 people would be at risk of flooding from rivers across Mid Wales, an increase of 6000 from current figures. In addition, around 4500 people would be at risk of flooding from the sea in 2120, an increase of 2000 people.

Evidence from the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment: Summary for Wales was used by NRW to steer work and to develop a climate change risk assessment. A key step in moving forward was to develop a climate change risk assessment through Ceredigion's PSB Board. In terms of controlling the risk of flooding, flood maps were developed to guide development and to aid responders and a flood warning service was available along with live flood warnings, river and sea levels. Information about preparing and protecting communities from flooding was available on NRW's website.

Matthew Jenkins provided an update on the Dyfi Flood Risk Appraisal. The following was outlined in a presentation:

- Dyfi flood risk appraisal- Ceredigion County Council update
- Locality
- Background and update (2010-2013 EAW & Updated OBC Work)
- Present day flood risk T1000, Breaches and Summary
- Evidence Baseline Study update
- Ongoing work, Stakeholder update and Stakeholders
- Tidal Dyfi OBC: Long Listing- Timeline

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officer in attendance and Councillor Keith Henson. The main points raised were as follows:

- Concerns were raised around whether grant funding would be lost due to the delay in NRW receiving the modelling work from WSP to progress the work. The grant was available for the financial year and there were discussions with WG to extend the report's submission date.
- If work was undertaken in one area, there were concerns that this would lead to unintended and unplanned consequences elsewhere. NRW took into consideration WG's Flood Risk Strategy which factored in climate change and was included in NRW's decision-making and plans.

- Concerns were raised with the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZs) regulations imposed by WG on the agriculture sector soon, and whether the county's estate farms would be able to meet the requirements. There would be a phased-in approach in terms of it coming into operation, and this would be reflected in how NRW regulated it.
- The quality of the water in the river Aeron in Aberaeron was raised. Both NRW and Ofwat have responsibility for the regulation of water companies and enforcement action was taken accordingly. There were yearly meetings with water companies at board levels, to recognise and drive improvements, to highlight concerns and to inform of future investment programmes. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) were a key part of the sewerage system to prevent flooding. Water companies had remote monitoring which enable them to monitor spilling and act as required.
- NRW was involved with the Wales Better River Quality Taskforce, to deliver the LIFE Programme worth over £9 million to improve 4 Welsh rivers including the river Teifi.
- Concerns were raised that there was a lack of strategic leadership with flooding and coastal erosion and a lack of action. Published reports on flooding were dealt with nationally, considered centrally and sent through to be applied locally. Due to the lack of funding, it had to be decided nationally, regionally and locally where the priorities should be.
- It was noted that the first two phases that had been designed and constructed at Borth were a time-limited solution, and there was always a risk as the beach was dynamic. Modelling and investigation work would be done to ensure any further work would not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
- Due to a delay in completion of a study in relation to drainage issues in Borth, reassurance was given that the OBC grant funding remained for the current financial year.
- Carbon Management and Climate Change was an ever-changing field and officers constantly reviewed plans and actions and met with National Grid to discuss issues with capacity. It was highlighted that the journey to Net Zero was a large funding requirement, and many difficult decisions would need to be taken.
- Given that major rivers hail from the uplands, working with landowners was key to ensuring preventative measures were in place to help slow the flow and improve the quality of the river.
- Concerns were raised that the completion of the protection and prevention works guaranteed by NRW in Llanbadarn Fawr within 6 months of the severe floods that affected areas in north Ceredigion in June 2012 had not yet been completed and was currently at a standstill. This delay caused significant mental health and well-being concerns to residents, especially during periods of poor weather. Reasons for this delay included issues with landowners, capacity to complete the work and level of risk. Dependent on several factors, there could be an opportunity for NRW to ask the local authority to complete the work at Llanbadarn Fawr.

Due to technical difficulties, Tim England was unable to share a presentation of the work in Cardigan. The presentation and information on the LIFE Programme would be forwarded to share with Members.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed 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.

4 Creation of a Waste Services Working Group

Rhodri Llwyd provided an overview of the background and the current situation related to Ceredigion's Waste Management Strategy. A new strategy was 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 proposal was 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 was 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 was given to an appropriate political balance and urban/rural split within the Group.

Following questions by the Committee Members, it was agreed to create a Waste Service Working Group.

The following names were agreed to represent the Committee on the Working Group:

1 Independent Member (Chair of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee- currently Councillor Gwyn Wigley Evans), 3 Plaid Cymru Members (Councillors Ann Bowen Morgan, Chris James and Carl Worrall) and 1 Liberal Democrats Member (John Roberts).

Members praised the Waste Collection Service for the improvements made following the Special Meeting held on 21 March 2023.

5 Development Management Service

Russell Hughes-Pickering provided members with an update on the planning and enforcement caseloads. In December 2022, a report was presented to the Committee on the Development Management Service. The report centred on a 2021 Audit Wales review of the Planning Service in Ceredigion and 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. 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. An update on the current position of the four main areas was provided.

A presentation was provided to the Committee outlining the following:

- Introduction
- Planning applications
 - Caseload- last 24 months
 - Number of cases determined
 - Speed of decision making
 - Current planning application caseload
 - Future targets
- Planning enforcement
 - Enforcement cases- new by year
 - Breakdown of caseload
 - Outstanding enforcement cases
 - Future targets
- Staff update

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Russell Hughes-Pickering. The main points raised were as follows:

- The utilization of Capita which had several branches will end soon once the backlog had been dealt with and the department had the capacity to deal with cases. Despite Capita being slightly cheaper, there were benefits of employing internal staff such as familiarization with the area and policies.
- The same decision-making process was used by internal staff and Capita.
- Advertising the success of the enforcement team was suggested to highlight that action was taken where required. Enforcement issues and the response to this varied case by case, and the process was lengthy.
- There was scope to look at how employees wished to work. With flexible hours. As there was an 8-week target to process cases in development management, it could be challenging to achieve this if working part-time.
- It was suggested that communication between officers and agencies could be improved. Given the workload of officers, there were time constraints but there was an aspiration to improve communication and the quality of applications.
- There were no issues between the local authority and CADW, however, decisions could take time. This was partly due to the local authority no longer having a speciality heritage officer but following the appointment of a Specialist Development Management Officer, this would hopefully improve, and delegated powers would be given.
- When the Council's Constitution changed, it was agreed that Members would be informed by e-mail when an application in their ward was received, which enabled them to be involved from the onset. The onus was on Members to keep updated with each application. Members and

officers were encouraged to discuss cases, particularly if the application was controversial to ensure all were aware of the situation.

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

6 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 5 April 2023.

Matters arising: In response to a query around Ceredigion's bus network, Councillor Keith Henson explained that Lee Waters MS, Deputy for Climate Change had published a £46 million Bus Transition Fund recently. In addition, a procurement process was currently underway within the local authority.

7 To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

It was agreed to note the contents of the Forward Work Programme presented.

8 Any other business

- i. The Chair stated he was pleased that Officers from NRW had accepted the invitation to attend today's meeting. Hopefully, representatives from Welsh Water would accept the invitation to attend the meeting arranged in July.
- ii. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the hybrid system, which led to missing parts of the discussion. It was noted that ICT Officers had been informed of the issues during the meeting.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 31 July 2023

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 31 July 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.

Contact Name:	Lisa Evans
Designation:	Scrutiny and Standards Officer
Date of Report:	21/07/2023
Acronyms:	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
Thriving Communities			
22 June 2023	Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding (from the risk register)	Phil Jones Invite NRW	Risk register
	Creation of Waste Service Working Group	Rhodri Llwyd	Review
	Development Management and Enforcement caseload update	Russell Hughes Pickering	Monitoring
31 July 2023	Report on the option of allowing 2 hours free parking before 11am (from the budget meeting)		Recommendation
	Winter Service		Review
	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Planning and phosphates discussion	Invite Welsh Water	Monitoring

23 October 2023	Review Harbours Management Policy	Gerwyn Jones	Policy
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>		