

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO:	Scrutiny - Thriving Communities Committee
DATE:	1st October 2021
LOCATION:	Virtual
TITLE:	Safe Zones
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To provide more information to Members of the Committee on the Safe Zones.

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED

THE INFORMATION: **At the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 15th July Members requested a report on the future of Safe Zones.**

Background:

From the outset of the Covid pandemic the Council's priority has been to protect the county's population, help minimise who would contract the coronavirus and minimise the number of deaths from it.

Ceredigion County Council put in place a strategy that enabled the workforce to work as one team to actively try to suppress the virus. This, with a range of actions, along with the co-operation of the citizens of Ceredigion, has meant that the worst case scenarios were never realised.

Safe Zones are one of many actions, putting in place measures, to help it support communities throughout the pandemic. With the slow easing of the lockdown in the county and with social distancing requirements essential, it was necessary to make adjustments for public health reasons. Safe zones were implemented in Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Cardigan and New Quay in July 2020.

The Safe Zones have created safer environments, by reducing the level of traffic within the centres and creating more space for people to distance safely in areas usually defined by narrow footways and streets. These measures have complemented those within shops where measures were already in place to help people shop whilst maintain safer distances. They measures have also helped support the business trade outdoors where restrictions otherwise would have meant they were unable to open.

The combination of all Council interventions, as well as many other contributing factors, have played a part in supporting our residents in Ceredigion and contributed to reducing the risk of infection within the County.

Safe Zones – Further Information

Since the introduction of Safe Zones there have been a number of changes reflecting feedback received through engagement surveys, contact with the Council (through email, letter, phone), discussion with the Ceredigion Disability Forum and other organisations and discussion with Members.

A presentation will be provided to the Scrutiny Committee to explain how the Safe Zones evolved and how they have been adjusted.

This will include reference to:

- The Council's web pages on Safe Zones.
<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/coronavirus-covid-19/safe-zones/>
- The two engagement surveys that have been undertaken. The first between the 31st July and 10th August 2020, the second between 26th October and 21st December. Both were used to consider whether to continue with the Safe Zones and to consider adjustments to them. These are attached to the report for ease of reference as Appendix 1 and 2.
- Adjustments made to the Safe Zones as infection rates and alert levels have changed.
- To the Integrated Impact Assessment. There have been three IIAs. The latest is attached to the report for ease of reference as Appendix 3.
- The latest changes and next steps.

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

Summary: Yes, the latest version of the IIA is attached to the report.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Long term: See IIA

Integration: See IIA

Collaboration: See IIA

Involvement: See IIA

Prevention: See IIA

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That Members consider the report and presentation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To respond to the request for further information on the Safe Zones and their future.

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Date of Report: 13th September 2021