Ceredigion County Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2017/18

Introduction

WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY?

Scrutiny Committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. As well as the establishment of a decision making executive, the Local Government Act 2000 requires the establishment of one or more scrutiny committees to hold the decision makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in assisting in policy development and review.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) advocates four key principles in support of effective Member scrutiny:

i. Provide 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers;
ii. Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard;
iii. Be carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process; and;
iv. Is evidence based and drives improvement in public services.

The *Statutory Guidance for County and County Borough Councils in Wales on Executive and Alternative Arrangements* (2006) sets out that Overview and Scrutiny committees are an essential and integral part of executive arrangements.

In January 2017, the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed. The White Paper sought views on proposals for mandatory regional working to deliver a range of services, address workforce issues and implement electoral reform. Welsh Government has since published a subsequent Green Paper explaining its ambitions and proposes a statement of intent for a stronger and more empowered local government in Wales. These proposals set out an approach for the future of local government "to deliver stronger, more resilient and sustainable public services with democratic accountability at its core".

The Wales Audit Office undertook a national review of scrutiny during 2017/2018 with fieldwork in all local authority areas.

Evidence gathering and fieldwork by the Wales Audit Office was completed in Ceredigion by the end of January 2018. The draft report on the Scrutiny review had not been received at the time of preparing this annual report.

CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

When a decision is made by the Cabinet, an individual member of Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet or under joint arrangements, the decision shall be published, including where possible by electronic means, and shall be available at the main offices of the Council normally within 2 working days of being made. Members will be sent copies of the records of all such decisions within 2 working days, by the person responsible for publishing the decision. That notice will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless any three members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee whose terms of reference relate to the Cabinet decision (as described in Article 6 of Part 2 of the Constitution) or six elected members of the Council and the Chair of that Committee, object to it and call it in. Further information in relation to the call-in process is available by referring to the Council's Constitution page 202. http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/your-council/about-the-council/the-councils-constitution/

Ceredigion County Council received 5 call-in of decisions during this reporting period:

- *Bodlondeb Residential Home*
- *Paddle Gates in New Quay*
- *Harbour Fees*
- *Meals at Home fees*
- *Tour Series Cycle Event*

Further information in relation to each individual call-in is available under each of the thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

COMMITTEES

There are 5 thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees, namely:

- Co-ordinating

- Thriving Communities

- Learning Communities

- Healthier Communities

- Corporate Resources

Under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, there are a given wide-ranging powers of review and scrutiny, and the ability to make reports and recommendations on any matters relevant to the area and its inhabitants. The guidance sets out the role of Councillors exercising overview and scrutiny as being:

i. to hold the executive to account for the efficient exercise of executive functions – especially the performance of the executive as measured against the standards, objectives and targets set out in the policies and plans which it is implementing;
ii. to assist in the improvement and development of the Council's policies by evaluating whether they are achieving their stated objectives, whether those policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local communities and by reporting and making recommendations to the executive or the full council;
iii. to review and make reports on issues which affect the authority's area or its residents; and
iv. to examine whether the systems the executive has in place to deliver its functions are robust and are being properly observed.

In addition, they can review the discharge of non-executive functions and report on matters of more general local concern. This could link with the authority's power under Part 1 of the Act to promote economic, social and environmental well being, by identifying areas which the executive could address using this power.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 sets out a clear role for an authority's scrutiny function in its improvement processes: as part of its role in holding local

decision makers and policy makers to account, and in its policy development role. This should extend to:

i. scrutiny of the processes that an authority has gone through in the discharge of the general duty to improve;
ii. scrutiny of the fitness of the organisation to discharge the general duty to improve;
iii. scrutiny of the processes that the authority has gone through in the selection of its improvement objectives, including a review of the level of engagement with stakeholders;
iv. scrutiny of the monitoring of the progress of the delivery of the authority's improvement objectives;
v. promoting innovation by challenging the status quo and encourage different ways of thinking and options for delivery.

Under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Local Authorities are required to ensure their Overview and Scrutiny Committees has the power to scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Public Services Board (PSB) for the Local Authority's area in the exercise of its functions.

During the previous reporting year, members of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny considered and discussed matters pertaining to the Scrutiny of the Ceredigion Public Service Board (PSB).

In order to comply with legislation and to ensure that effective Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are put in place for the Ceredigion PSB, it was agreed that Ceredigion County Council's Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee take responsibility for taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Board.

Each of the Boards sub-groups continued to report annually on progress to the Council's Scrutiny Committees, and included on the forward work programme, as follows:

PSB Executive Group (EG)	**CCC Scrutiny Committee (SC)**
Bilingual Future EG	Coordinating SC
Children and Young People EG	Learning Communities SC
Community Safety EG	Coordinating SC
Health, Social Care and Wellbeing EG	Healthier Communities SC
Sustainable Futures EG	Thriving Communities SC

The Ceredigion County Council Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the following approach for taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the PSB:

- Review or scrutinise the **decisions made or actions taken** by the Board by:
  - Acting as a formal consultee for the Assessment of Local

Well-being

- Acting as a formal consultee for the Local Well-being Plan
- Receiving the Annual Progress Report
- Receiving PSB minutes
- Receiving performance monitoring reports.

i. Review or scrutinise the Board's **governance arrangements** by:
   - Receiving the PSB Terms of Reference following each Mandatory Meeting of the Board (A 'mandatory meeting' of the Board must be held no later than 60 days after each subsequent ordinary election of councillors).
   - Inviting members of the Board to give evidence in respect of the exercise of joint functions, (but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a statutory member of the Board under the Well-being of Future Generations Act).

ii. Make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements.

iii. Refer matters to the relevant Thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider further, as appropriate.

iv. Present the recommendations from scrutiny to Cabinet, the PSB and the relevant sub-group.

Scrutiny Committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways:

i. Consider a topic during a formal meeting;

ii. Establish a Task and Finish Group to investigate a topic in more detail;

iii. Consider at a Work Stream (please see under Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny heading on page 45 below).

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been busy this year working on a broad range of issues affecting the Council, its services and local people. Whilst the bulk of this work has been planned for some time, an increasing amount has, been reactive as services in the County undergo a period of change and uncertainty.

The Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have worked hard to create a culture where transparency, involvement and accountability are welcomed and where challenge is seen as a vital and positive part of improving outcomes. It remains essential that Overview and Scrutiny continues to contribute positively to supporting the delivery of the Council's priorities through its critical friend role.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee met on seven occasions during the municipal year 2017/2018.

Standard items considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee includes an update on developments in the Scrutiny function, and an update by the Chairs on the work of their Committees. This provides a clear focus for the work of the themed Committees.

Key Issues considered

The role of the Co-ordinating Committee is to oversee all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes to ensure that they are relevant and reflect the corporate priorities and focus on key areas. The Committee also ensures that the Forward Work Programmes are coordinated to avoid duplication, ensuring they are realistic and manageable within the resources available, and that they will add value. Each Committee agree to consider their individual Forward Work Programmes.

The Committee considered the development of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes for 2017/18.

The approach adopted by Overview and Scrutiny for taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Public Service Board has been explained in detail on page 5 and 6 of this report.

The Future Generations and Public Services Board Manager, presented the Ceredigion Public Services Board's (PSB) Assessment of Local Well-being, Local Well-being Plan Guiding Principles & Well-being Aims. Members were reminded that they had previously received and considered the consultation draft of the Assessment of Local Well-being at the meeting of the 16th February 2017.

The outcome of the Consultation and Final Wellbeing Objectives were presented and following discussion, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:
• Receive and approve the Ceredigion PSB (Public Service Board) Assessment of

Local Well-being. Members praised Officers for the hard work involved in collating this information and for producing such a comprehensive assessment.

The Chairman, Councillor Paul Hinge advised fellow Committee Members that he attends the Public Services Board meetings to observe in his capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Mr Alun Williams reminded Members that the Public Service Board meetings are open for anyone to observe, and therefore, all Elected Members are welcome to attend. It was agreed that future Public Services Board meeting dates would be shared with Committee Members. The Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee also received copies of the PSB Board minutes on a regular basis as this keeps Committee Members informed of activity.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

As the designated Scrutiny Committee for taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Board, this arrangement seems to be working well in Ceredigion but it is too early to measure its outcome and/or impact. Members wished to note the importance of Officers re-iterating the rurality and agricultural obligations in Ceredigion to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. Members were reassured to hear that the Commissioner had included rurality and agriculture in her first year work plan.

The Improvement Plan was presented to Committee with the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:

- that the Public Service Board investigate the future status of the Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone. The Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone Board was set up to oversee the establishment of the Zone and advise the Minister on priorities to be taken forward. Action is currently on hold awaiting Minister Ken Skates' future directive;
- that Cabinet consider putting forward a robust case to Welsh Government to counter the increasing attention given to investment in jobs and growth in Cardiff and Swansea City Regions thereby ensuring that the needs and the priorities of Ceredigion and Mid Wales are not overlooked.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Mid Wales was recognised in the Parliamentary budget announcements in November 2017 and have now been invited to prepare a submission for a growth deal.

During this reporting period, Mr Elfed Hopkins, Corporate Lead Officer, Children's Services, presented the Local Operational Group safeguarding quarterly Reports namely CYSUR. Quarterly CYSUR reports are presented to the Coordinating Committee to ensure Members monitor activity and progress on a multi-agency basis of the actions taken to safeguard children within Ceredigion.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

It is extremely important that the CYSUR quarterly reports continue to be presented to the Coordinating Committee to ensure that Members monitor the levels of activity within the Local Authority and to further investigate any specific concerns raised. An

example of this is Members identified that Child Protection referral numbers seemed higher during the School Holiday periods and therefore further exploration gave explanations. Members should consider at all times what is in the best interests of the child. All Members had received the appropriate Child Protection training.

Committee Members received a report on an Assessment of a resettlement plan under the Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme requesting Members to recommend that Cabinet approve an application from Citizens UK and Aberaid to undertake Community Sponsorship of Syrian refugees in Aberystwyth.
Croeso Teifi also presented a similar report at a Committee meeting to resettle a refugee family in Cardigan. Committee Members were requested to recommend to Cabinet to consent to Croeso Teifi undertaking a Community Sponsorship Scheme in Ceredigion. The Scheme enables community groups to resettle Syrian refugees in the UK. Sponsoring organisations must have:
The status of either a registered charity or community interest company;
The consent of the local authority in which they wish to operate; and;
A comprehensive plan for resettlement in order to apply for the scheme.

Members expressed their support for such a scheme and agreed that it was a positive move for Ceredigion County Council to take.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
An update outcome report was received during May 2018. The Committee learnt that Ceredigion were on target to meet the pledge to resettle 50 individuals by 2020. Of the 27 refugees who resettled in Ceredigion under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), 5 individuals had moved on to other Local Authorities. All of those still in the county were registered with a GP. All school-age children were attending school and all adults attending English classes. One adult had passed his driving test 14 months after arriving in the UK with no English language ability, 2 adults were in employment. A further two families (10 individuals) were arriving soon. The adults in the group were asked within the first 12 months of their arrival, “To what extent do you agree or disagree that this local area is a place where people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds get on well together?” 63% of those asked responded that they “definitely agree” with this statement, 25% said they “tend to agree” 1 person (12%) did not respond. Under the Community Sponsorship scheme a family of 5 refugees had resettled in Cardigan, supported by Croeso Teifi, and a further family of 5 had resettled in Aberystwyth, supported by Aberaid. No further groups wishing to participate in these arrangements had approached the Authority in the Community Sponsorship scheme at this time.

Following the May Elections, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer produced an Overview and Scrutiny Handbook. The Handbook contains general information for Elected Members on the Overview and Scrutiny process in Ceredigion. It was agreed to approve the Handbook as shown for distribution to Members.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Members welcomed the handbook in particular newly Elected Members as an excellent guide for them in undertaking their role. Members had since the meeting

commented on how useful the handbook had been to them in successfully undertaking their role.

Ysgol Henry Richard, Tregaron, a £5m project received 50% grant funding through the Welsh Governments 21st Century Schools Programme. In order to monitor its progress, the Coordinating O&S Committee received quarterly scrutiny reviews. It was reported by the project management officer that work on site was progressing in a satisfactory manner. The Coordinating O&S Committee would continue to monitor and assess its progress and project management throughout its duration.

Whistleblowing Reports were provided to Committee by way of 6 months update on the developments and arrangements within the Council.
The areas identified for further development and scrutiny were:

- Additional training required with specific emphasis on how Managers should identify a Whistleblowing disclosure and deal with it;
- Mandatory training was in place. Further training for Managers, Staff and Members would be arranged as necessary.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Members suggested that the training module was adapted so that e-learners could make suggestions or comments for updating/ improving the module.

The draft budget report for 2018/2019 and the three year capital programme were presented at a January 2018 Committee meeting. Each of the thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees had an opportunity to consider the service budgets during the 1st and 2nd February 2018 meetings. Further information can be seen under each thematic Committee.

The Corporate Policy and procedure in relation to Monitoring of the Authority's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) was presented at the 16th February 2017 Committee meeting. Following detailed consideration of the papers provided to the Committee, it was agreed to support the recommendation to Cabinet, that the Corporate Policy and procedure be adopted.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Committee Members receive RIPA reports every 6 months so as to involve Members in its strategic oversight.

A Equality Monitoring Report and Workforce Equality Data Report were presented with a recommendation, that Cabinet requests Officers to investigate the possibility of the Nominated Child Protection and Child Protection Training Officer (Learning Services), who currently visits the County's Schools to develop better understanding of links between bullying and equalities, and to improve recording and monitoring of incidents at Schools; should also visit community groups so that the message about bullying concerns is relayed appropriately. In relation to incidents in the community, it was also highlighted that the Community Safety Partnership promotes the Hate Crime Campaign, which provides information and guidance on how to report incidents of hate crime or bullying in relation to equality issues within our communities.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
To ensure the Statutory Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011.

Members of the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Procurement Task and Finish Group which remains ongoing and its findings will be reported during the 2018/2019 reporting period.

The Task and Finish Group established the scope/aims of the review and it was agreed as follows:

- Explore Procurement in its entirety;
- Value for money;
- Performance;
- Customer focus;
- Local purchasing to support Small and Medium Enterprise;
- Facilitate and support Small Businesses to tender;
- Professional Management;
- Lessons learnt prior to and following procurement;
- To explore opportunities of increasing the value arising from spend in every £1.

Crime and Disorder matters
Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, together with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, came into force on the 1st October 2009.

They require the Council to have in place:

- A 'crime and disorder scrutiny committee' with the role of scrutinising the work of the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies (the Council, Dyfed Powys Police, the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel, the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the Mid and West Wales

Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Hywel Dda Health Board which are the responsible authorities) in respect of their community safety functions,

- A procedure for the overview and scrutiny committee and the partnership and its constituent bodies to deal with councillor calls for action (dealing with community safety matters) from Councillors.

The Council's existing Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee undertook the responsibilities for crime and disorder matters.

Crime and Disorder Matters and the work of the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership

In 1998, The Crime and Disorder Act placed a duty on Local Authorities and the Police to form a partnership to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. In furtherance of its statutory duties, the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership, comprising representatives from the County Council, Dyfed Powys Police, the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Public Health Service, Youth Justice and Preventions Service, and the Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse carries out an annual Assessment of Crime and Disorder related issues within the County.

Consideration was given to the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment 2017/18.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The purpose of the Assessment was to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems to inform and enable the Community Safety Partnership to:

1. understand the patterns, trends and shifts relating to Crime and Disorder and Substance Misuse;
2. set clear and robust priorities;
3. develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and meets the needs of the local community;
4. deploy resources effectively and present value for money;
5. undertake annual review and plan activity based on the clear understanding of the issues and priorities.

The Assessment is also utilised to provide the Partnership with a strong "Evidence based", intelligence led foundation to inform the Ceredigion Single Integrated Plan, the Regional Police and Crime Plan, and other related Plans and initiatives.

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on seven separate occasions during the municipal year 2017/2018.

Key Issues considered

Consideration was given at the beginning of the municipal year to the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/2018. The Forward Work Programme was monitored and updated at each Committee meeting as a standing agenda item.

At its meeting on 27th September, 2017, the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered six policies:

- Redeployment Policy
- Managing Sickness Absence
- Dignity at Work
- Grievance Policy and procedure
- Disciplinary Policy
- DBS/Safe Recruitment Policy.

The Head of Human Resources, presented a power point presentation, assisted by two Principal Human Resources Officers and a Project Manager. During the presentation it was emphasised that the purpose of reviewing all staff policies and procedures was to clearly set out the behaviour processes and procedures required of staff, to notify staff of how they can gain advice and support and where applicable the consequences of not adhering to the policy and/or procedure. The policies were explained in detail one by one and Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions in turn.

Members were asked to recommend that Cabinet approve all six policies, subject to consideration of the recommendations listed below.

1. advertisements for future posts within Ceredigion County Council should be advertised externally in the first instance wherever possible, to avoid having to re-advertise externally following the internal only advert, thereby reducing the post vacancy period;
2. that another Ceri training is made available to all Members;

3. the Human Resources Team act sensitively when considering night-time staff who are under a considerable amount of stress;
4. the Human Resources Team explore the possibility of creating a policy in conjunction with Health and Safety Officers that allows permission for random drug and alcohol tests in the workplace,
5. to ensure that all drivers declare any medical conditions prior to appointment;
6. the six policies are approved, subject to correcting minor grammatical errors and ensuring consistency within the policies.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Chairman and fellow Committee Members were pleased to receive encouraging information from the Human Resources team, and were delighted to learn that from the 1st October 2017 they would be offered new staff benefits. It is hoped that staff incentives would prove beneficial when advertising posts whilst also encouraging the retention of existing staff.

The Chairman was also pleased to learn that the Human Resources Team is currently exploring possibilities with a neighboring authority regarding possible sharing of Occupational Health resources. The Chairman also congratulated the Human Resources Team for their sincere efforts and hard work which was highly appreciated.

The Civil Registration Service, Customer Engagement Strategy was presented as part of the government's Customer Service Excellent (CSE), there is a requirement for all authorities to have a documented CSE in order to provide efficient, excellent, equitable and empowering services, with the citizen at the heart of service provision.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Civil Registration Service would evidence their commitment to CSE by way of annual reporting to the Registrar General (HM Passport Office).
The Strategy should seek to deliver two distinct outcomes:

1. Customers are able to influence key policies, strategies and service standards;
2. Customer feedback is integral to service improvement.

The Corporate Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft ICT & Digital Strategy 2018-22. Committee Members were requested to discuss and agree on the final version and make any recommendations deemed necessary to Cabinet. Follow consideration of the Strategy and the information provided, Committee Members agreed to make recommendations to approve the ICT & Digital Strategy to Cabinet, subject to consideration of some suggested amendments which Cabinet agreed to.

The Head of ICT and Customer Service gave a report in relation to the progress of the transformation of Corporate Customer Service. Members were pleased to note that 15 of the 20 Contact Centre Advisors roles and 2 supervisor roles had been recruited and the remainder would be considered for recruitment during further service transformation projects. Committee Members were advised that the contact

centre would be resourced to the necessary staffing levels by April 2018, when the public launch of the service would take place.

Members were also pleased to receive a demonstration of the CRM system that Ceredigion County Council produced.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Customer Service Centre (Clic) makes it easier for people to access information and advice about Council Services. The focus of which is to streamline and centralise the existing Customer Services provision by reducing the number of Call and Customer Service Centres throughout the county in order to ensure that the Council provides an efficient, effective and economical service.

Members had recommended at an earlier meeting that Cabinet reconsider whether there was a need for a Contact Centre Deputy Manager and a Customer Service Manager. Committee Members previously suggested that a Customer Service Manager should be sufficient. Cabinet agreed this recommendation which resulted in a saving of £39,677. This enabled Officers to increase Direct Contact Supervisor salary grade to 9 rather than grade 8, widening the gap between Contact Centre Advisers and their Supervisors.

An update was given on the future delivery option at Llandysul Library. A group of local campaigners had spoken at meetings in the past emphasising their wishes to keep the library open. Members also visited the Library and received a tour and also spoke to Library Users to obtain their wishes for the future delivery of the Library. The Corporate Resources O&S Committee made recommendations to Cabinet to request that Officers work with the local community to explore the possibility of volunteers running the Library. Cabinet accepted the recommendation.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The outcome is that the running of Llandysul library would be by volunteers in future alongside Ceredigion County Council Officers support, and that an agreement would be made with the Council. The Chairman conveyed the Committee Members' gratitude to the residents of Llandysul for their willingness to deliver a library volunteers service. He emphasised the importance of the Council working and assisting the volunteers in their work as professional support is crucial. The Chairman expressed his pleasure on receiving some positive news and stated the importance of promoting and supporting, wherever possible, opportunities that arise to retain services in our communities.

The Communications Team were invited to provide an overview of the service so that Members could better understand the work and since its restructure. The Communications Team is a corporate function sitting within the Policy Support Service. Since July 2014, the Team had developed to full capacity of three members

of staff, including one Senior Communications Officer, and two Communications Officers.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Team support all services to develop proactive communications for the Council's work. Ensuring this communication is developed means working effectively and closely with all service areas and ensuring they understand the importance of effective communication. The Communications Team's Business Plan objectives for 2017-18 is to be proactive and develop through timely communications, both internally and externally, develop campaigns with the aid of service areas, and develop videos for use on social media.

A meeting was held at the beginning of 2018 to consider the draft budget for 2018/2019. Committee Members were asked to consider the budgets, cost pressures and savings (including the assessed risk) proposals required for 2018/19 for those service areas that were within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In the event of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee not agreeing with the savings proposals (within its remit) for 2018/19, alternative savings proposals should be proposed for consideration by Cabinet. A feedback report was presented to Cabinet.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Budget implications were considered throughout the year.

The Chairman determined that following several reports published in the press, to request a report in relation to the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Scheme at Penweddig School, Aberystwyth. The Corporate Lead for Finance and Procurement presented a report.

Committee Members were told that the Council resolved to follow the PFI route for the much needed development of the replacement School for Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig which opened in December 2000. Pathfinder status was granted by the Welsh Office (WO), a Project Board was appointed and a Project Team established. Financial and Legal Advisors were appointed and outline planning consent granted for the proposed site and additional land was acquired. Information was shared in relation to the contract, Policy note – early termination, Lift Cycle Review, Performance Management, Benchmarking, Third Party Use, Expiry; and summary and conclusions. The Chairman thanked the Corporate Lead for Finance and Procurement for his report stating that he realised that he had investigated the scheme thoroughly and on behalf of Committee Members, he thanked him for undertaking this work.

Mr Gwenallt Llwyd Ifan, Penweddig Headmaster, and Mr Mark Rees, Chairman of Governors, were then given the opportunity to present their views adhering to the Ceredigion County Council Overview and Scrutiny Public Engagement Protocol. The Chairman thanked both for their valued contribution to the meeting.

Following a lengthy debate, Committee Members agreed to confirm that no further action was required with respect to the Councils PFI Scheme; subject to; consideration of:

- Exploring with the contractor opportunities for shared income with the school and greater flexibility in third party use;
- That the Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a future report with detailed information regarding the financial impact the PFI scheme has on Penweddig School in comparison with other Secondary Ceredigion County Council Schools.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Chairman thanked Mr Stephen Johnson again for providing an extremely comprehensive report; and; Mr Ifan and Mr Rees for their valued contribution to the meeting. The Chairman also took the opportunity of congratulating the School Governors/Teachers for retaining the building to an extremely high standard. Committee Members agreed that the scheme at Penweddig is an excellent example of a very well-run PFI Scheme. Scrutiny's recommendation to explore with the contractor opportunities for shared income with the school and greater flexibility in third party use should give Penweddig School some extra income.

The Committee received a report regarding the Bodlondeb Residential Care Home Site. Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

a) The sale of the land on the open market, using a matrix assessed approach that includes the following factors:
   1. Elderly Mentally Infirm Nursing Home
   2. Nursing home with Residential Care for Dementia
   3. Accommodation for young people in need of Social Housing
b) The dispersal of fixtures and fittings among other Local Authority Homes.

Following consideration, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet approve the recommendation, subject to the following:

- That any capital receipt received from the disposal of Bodlondeb Residential Home is ring-fenced for investment in the capital programme for the Council run residential homes.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Cabinet accepted the recommendation and agreed that the capital received would be ring-fenced for investment, which could produce financial benefits for the remaining residential homes. It was agreed that preference would be given to the following uses:

1. Elderly Mentally Infirm Nursing Home;
2. Nursing Home with Residential Care for Dementia;
3. Accommodation for young people in need of Social Housing.

Should the site not sell successfully for the above mentioned uses, then offers would be considered for the site unencumbered.

The Human Resources Service Team presented the Workforce Plan. In order to develop a plan for 2017-2020 it was determined that a workforce planning exercise should be undertaken that would incorporate the needs and actions required to ensure that the Council has the right people with the right skills in the right place, to undertake the objectives set by the Council. A Strategic Workforce Planning toolkit was developed in order to achieve this. The toolkit assisted in analysing the current workforce and then extending that analysis to identify future workforce requirements, skills and competencies which were needed to deliver new, different or improved services.

During periods of change it is particularly important to identify what people, knowledge, skills and behaviours there are, as well as what would be required in the future. Without this, even the most comprehensive finance and business plans would not deliver the changes required of the Council.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Without the right workforce, it is unlikely that even the most comprehensive finance and business plans will deliver the step change in performance being demanded of local government. The vast majority of an authority's improvement comes when the right people with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours are deployed appropriately throughout the structure. Workforce planning is about how to achieve that match, crucially, it can make the links between business strategies and people plans for recruitment and retention, staff development and training. It also provides the opportunity for longer term thinking about future service pressures and needs. Workforce planning has a central role to play in delivering improved services, and is important in maintaining long-term success.

A policy for the management of requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 was presented to Committee Members. Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet accept the reports subject to making some suggested amendments.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

To ensure the Council has robust and up to date policies in place so to meet statutory obligations of the legislation.

The Committee held one meeting at Aberystwyth Library, to consider the Welsh Language Standards and the Council's Translation Service.

At a Corporate Performance Board meeting in January 2018, as part of an update in relation to quarter 2, 2017/2018, translation was highlighted as an area where there were concerns regarding performance and the demand for the service. It was requested by the Committee Chairman, that a full report be presented to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition, specific concerns were raised during the budget setting process regarding the £70k funding required for the additional resources to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards from September 2018.

The Corporate Lead Officer and the Language and Equalities Policy Officer, presented information regarding the Welsh Language Standards. The Welsh Language Measure Wales (2011) established official status for the Welsh Language in Wales, as well as the general principle that Welsh should not be treated less favourably than the English Language in Wales. This measure introduced a new framework in order to promote the use of the Welsh Language, namely the Welsh Language Standards.

Background Information *- Following a long period of consultation and discussion, the Welsh Language Commissioner imposed a statutory compliance on Ceredigion County Council, with a first imposition day of 1 April 2016. In May 2016, the Compliance Notice was presented to Cabinet. In accordance with the 'Challenge and Appeals Procedure: Complaints Notices', the Authority submitted a challenge to the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to Standards 34 and Standards 40, which are as follows:*
Standard 34 – "If you display any written material at a meeting that you arrange which is open to the public, you must ensure that that material is displayed in Welsh, and you must not treat any Welsh language text less favourably than the English language text".
Standard 40 – "Any documents that you produce for public use must be produced in Welsh".

Both these Standards included providing all bilingual documents for all Committees; including Development Control, Licensing and Audit Committees (documents for all other Committees are already provided bilingually). The Council's challenge was based on the financial implications of translating the additional documents and the impact that this would specifically have on the performance of the Development Management Service and its ability to meet Welsh Government targets.

During the previous reporting period, a paper had been presented to Cabinet to consider the Welsh Language Commissioner's decision. In this paper it was outlined to Elected Members the additional resources that would be required to meet the standards, and included 3 options that were available to take forward.
The 3 options available to the Authority in light of the Welsh Language Commissioner's most recent Compliance Notice were:

1. *The Council may decide to accept the Welsh Language Commissioner's decision and to develop an Action Plan to meet the requirement by September 2017 and September 2018 respectively. It was stated that additional resources would be required if this option was agreed upon;*
2. *The Council can appeal to the Welsh Language Tribunal against the Commissioner's decision if it feels it is unreasonable or disproportionate. The Compliance Notice will come into effect 28 days from the date of the letter if no appeal has been submitted to the Welsh Language Tribunal.*
3. *The Council may decide to accept the Welsh Language Commissioner's decision in relation to the Licensing and Audit Committee and develop an Action Plan to meet the requirement by the implementation dates; however, it will appeal to the Welsh Language Tribunal against the decision regarding the Development Control Committee due to governance and financial obligations.*

The Cabinet decision was as follows:
C125 Welsh Language Commissioner's Compliance Notice (Welsh Language Standards imposed on Ceredigion County Council under the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

1. *To accept the Welsh Language Commissioner's decision and to develop an Action Plan to meet the requirement by September 2017 and September 2018 respectively. Additional resources will need to be made available in 2018/19 to enable this decision to be implemented.*

Reason for decision:-
To ensure compliance with the Statutory duty under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011.

Committee Members recognised that additional Members of Staff were required to assist with the Welsh Language Standards, and, that recruitment was underway.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Corporate Resources O&S Committee identified the risk involved in the event of the Council failing to conform with the requirements of the Compliance Notice, the Welsh Language Commissioner could instigate the statutory investigation procedure and a civil penalty of up to £5,000 could be placed on the Council.
Following consideration of the report, Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

- Remind and encourage Officers to write reports that are clear and concise by choosing their words deliberately, constructing sentences carefully, and using grammar properly. By writing clearly and concisely, Officers will get straight to the point in a way the audience can easily comprehend. This should result in shorter reports to translate.

Visit

Committee Members received a tour of Aberystwyth Town Library, Archives in Aberystwyth and the Ceredigion Museum. Members felt the visit was both extremely beneficial and very interesting.

Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on twelve separate occasions during 2017/2018.

Key Issues considered

Consideration was given at the beginning of the municipal year to the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/2018. The Forward Work Programme was monitored and updated at each Committee meeting as a standing agenda item.

Committee Members met in June 2017 to consider the future provision at Bodlondeb Residential Care Home, Aberystwyth. The Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members had been involved in this process from the beginning with regular reports presented to Committee. The Chairman, vice-Chairman along with Officers visited two Extra Housing Care Schemes in North Wales, one of which was Hafan Gwydir, Extra Housing Care Scheme in Llanrwst.

Background Information *- Ceredigion Social Services Strategy for Older People 2014 was approved by the County Council's Cabinet at the beginning of 2014. Housing Research Ltd was commissioned in July 2014 to carry out an independent review of Council run care home provision for older people in the County. Findings were considered on the 2 December 2014 which included the analysis of current care homes and specialised housing provision. It looked at the challenges of an ageing population and what future provision would be required. Cabinet approved the recommendation to consult on an agreed range of approaches and proposals for the future of Ceredigion's residential care provision. At the 2nd September 2015, Full Council meeting, it was agreed to endorse the Cabinet decision of 28th July 2015 "To transfer as an operating business to a private provider in order to meet nursing/dementia nursing need Option 1, and to approve Option 2 should Option 1*

prove unfeasible, which was to undertake a feasibility study into the creation of an Integrated Mental Health facility jointly run with Hywel Dda University Health Board, providing a collaborative care model to support people with Mental Health problems in adulthood and older age, which would include the provision of crisis support and longer term options for people with dementia". The service progressed with Option 1.

At the June 2017 meeting, Members were asked to consider and approve the following recommendations:

- To delegate authority to the Director for Care, Protection and Lifestyle Services to consult on the closure of Bodlondeb in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Housing;
- To agree to a maximum eight week consultation with residents, families and key stakeholders on the proposal and to return before Scrutiny for final recommendation, and Cabinet for final decision;
- To note that admissions would now cease at Bodlondeb with immediate effect;
- To commission Independent Advocates and Independent Mental Capacity Advocates to ensure that the voice and opinion of residents are heard throughout the process;
- To note that a full appraisal of the building and site will be commissioned to inform options for its disposal.

During discussion some Members disagreed with the length of the consultation and proposed a 12 week consultation rather than 8 weeks. It was agreed that the two local Members were continually updated. It was noted that the review stated that 90 rooms in one Care Home would be needed for a home to be viable. To refurbish Bodlondeb, a sum in excess of £3m would be required to create a 30 room home. A brand new building consisting of 50 rooms would be approximately the same amount if built on Council owned property.

Committee Members agreed it would be beneficial for them to undertake a site visit to Bodlondeb during the consultation period.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

When considering this report, there were only 13 residents at Bodlondeb, 11 permanent and 2 temporary. There were 26 beds of which were registered by Care Inspectorate Wales as the remainder did not comply with the current care standard requirement in respect of size. The home was running at a significant financial loss of approximately £395,460 per year. Per week 13 beds at £585 - £7,605.00. Bodlondeb could also provide day care for 4-5 people, 1 person attended twice a week.

Cabinet agreed to the Committee's recommendations and to extend the consultation period from 8 weeks to 12 weeks. Members then undertook a site visit to Bodlondeb during the consultation period. During the visit Members noted there appeared to

have been a lack of maintenance and felt that maybe this was a reason that the building had deteriorated significantly throughout the years. It was acknowledged that many of the rooms no longer met the minimum size prescribed by regulations and that Bodlondeb is vulnerable financially. Even if a major development of the building took place, it would not comply with the Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 standards due to its restricted location.

At the 19th October 2017 Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, Members were asked to consider the following recommendations in relation to the future provision at Bodlondeb Residential Care Home, following the twelve week consultation period and then to recommend to Cabinet accordingly:

- **To discontinue provision of residential care and all other services at Bodlondeb:**

a) With immediate effect;

or

b) By 31st March 2018.

Four members of the public who had requested to speak were given the opportunity to present their views adhering to the Overview and Scrutiny Public Engagement Protocol. The Strategic Director for Care Protection and Lifestyle then gave a detailed explanation into the reasons for the recommendation.

A Call-in was received and the Committee reconvened on the 20th November 2017. The reason for call-in was "that closure of Bodlondeb should not happen until and unless an appropriate facility for public residential care is available in the Aberystwyth area to ensure that there is continuing and unbroken provision of residential care in the Aberystwyth area as Bodlondeb has provided for over 50 years". The Members that called in the decision felt that it was such an important and far-reaching decision that all Members of the Full Council should have the opportunity to debate. Two Councillors proposed that the matter should be referred to Council. (Proposal 1). A proposal that Cabinet decision should be endorsed and therefore implemented which was seconded. (Proposal 2)

It was proposed and agreed that a recorded vote be taken in relation to the proposal that the matter should be referred to Council for consideration. For = 7, Against = 9 no abstentions. The Monitoring Officer declared that proposal 1 did not carry.

A recorded vote was then taken upon Proposal 2.
iv) To permanently discontinue provision of residential care and all other services at Bodlondeb by the 31st March 2018;
(v) No permanent admissions would be made to Bodlondeb from the date of final decision until discontinuation of the residential care provision.

9 For, 7 Against, no abstention. The Monitoring Officer declared that the proposal was carried and that Cabinet decision would be implemented with immediate effect, and that the Call in process was now concluded.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Members had asked why the Community Mental Health Resources Team option was no longer an option. Hywel Dda University Board had confirmed that they no longer were interested in using Bodlondeb for that purpose.

Ceredigion Public Service Board's Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Executive Group representatives attended to provide Members with detailed information on the progress/priorities identified within the Single Integrated Plan 'Ceredigion for All'. The potential future delivery work with regards to the implementation of the Wellbeing Plan, as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was also outlined.
Following consideration of the report, the following suggestions were made to Cabinet:

- that the emphasis in future is on preventative action being taken rather than being reactive to situations that arise;
- that a list is collated of all available grants for the services outlined in the report for distribution to Community and Town Councils;
- that Officers have a significant input into future LDP processes.
- the uncertainty around some external funding sources (such as that from Welsh Government and regional grant allocations) and the fact that many funding streams are operated on an annual basis, can have a detrimental impact on the stability and sustainability of programmes of work (e.g. recruitment and retention of staff, deliverability of target, effective evaluation, etc.). It would be desirable if grant and programme funding was set on a three year basis as opposed to annually.
- that members of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the on- going work involved in achieving an improvement in health, social care and wellbeing services and that these improvements are included within the Single Integrated Plan (SIP);
- To provide greater stability and resilience in service planning, whenever possible, grant and programme funding should be set on three year basis rather than on an annual budgetary basis. Bearing in mind the number and type of programmes supported by specific annual grant funding, Members consider it appropriate for this concern to be reflected within the Corporate Risk Register.

The Statutory Director of Social Services Protocol was presented to Committee for recommendation to Council for adoption and then inserted into the Council's Constitution. Committee Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that:

- The document refers to Head of Paid Service who is also known as the Chief Executive. Members therefore recommend that a reference is made to this in the document;
- Page 3 of the Protocol refers to the Director of Social Services' essential role in providing the strategic leadership required to deliver care and support services, including:
  1. The **need** to focus on people, giving them a voice in how services are designed and delivered and support them in achieving the outcomes that are important to them;

  Members suggest that the word '**must**' replaces the word '**need**'.

- Page 16 of the Protocol refers to the effective operation of the Protocol, wording as follows:
  "The effective operation of the Protocol must be considered **on a regular basis** in meetings between the Director of Social Services and the Head of Paid Service, and undertake a formal Review on an annual basis".
  Members felt that the wording "**on a regular basis**" was not robust enough, therefore recommend that the wording should be "**on a regular basis or as and when deemed necessary**";

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

To ensure the role and accountabilities of the Statutory Director of Social Services as set out in the Code of Practice were clarified. The suggested changes were agreed by Cabinet. It was agreed that the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would add to its Forward Work Plan, the request for an update report regarding any Resourcing and Budget implications be received from the Strategic Director, Care, Protection and Lifestyle Services as and when deemed necessary.

Several policies were considered by the Committee prior to being agreed by Cabinet and Full Council; namely;

- Film Classification;
- Policy on Scrap Metal Dealers;
- Corporate Enforcement Policy;
- Policy on adoption of bye-laws relating to Street Trading;
- Policy for the provision of sanitary facilities for use by members of the public;
- Policy on Street Collections and house to house collections as well as adoption of Local Regulations;
- Housing Strategy, setting out Ceredigion's vision and plans for housing in the county for the next 5 years.

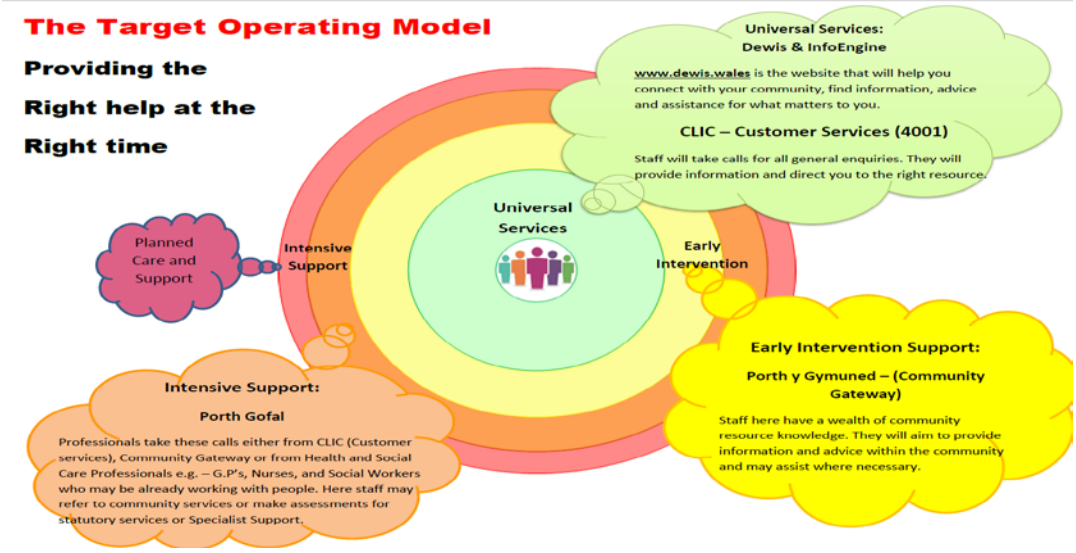
OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Policies provide clarity to the reader when dealing with accountability issues or activities that are of critical importance, such as, health and safety, legal liabilities, regulatory requirements or issues that have serious consequences.

Information on the Transformation of Social Care: Dewis and Porth y Gymuned was relayed to Committee Members. Social Care and its partners – most notably Health and Lifestyle Services had developed a plan for wider consultation. Its purpose was to explain how Social Care and in time the whole of Lifestyle Services would 'answer' the service requirements for Universal, Early Intervention and Intensive Support.
In line with that decision, the report highlighted the progress that had been made in the development of the processes and component parts of the new model. The five key areas of opportunity had been integrated into the work undertaken by the transformation team. The five areas of opportunity were:

1. 'Helping people to help themselves
2. Rationalising and refocusing assessments
3. Developing strategic relationships with key partners
4. Maximise the capacity of community services / resources

5. Focus on the 'enablers' that will help staff to deliver more for less, such as people capabilities, improved business processes and the need to optimise new systems.



OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Transforming Social Care had been a Corporate objective for a number of years. The impetus for the change stems from a number of drivers, not least the financial challenges facing both Social Care and wider Local Authority spend. The legislative direction of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (SSWBA) places a duty on Local Authorities to provide information, advice and assistance in a timely, accessible and targeted manner. Developing Porth y Gymuned would enable Social Care Services to become sustainable by managing demand through self-service and Third Sector services. Dewis would provide a sustainable, directory for all sectors Work and would require co-production with the third sector and collaboration with Hywel Dda University Health Board. Work would take place with Families First/ Flying Start/ Family Information Service/ Supporting People services and Carers Unit to ensure an integrated prevention service as well as a clearer customer focused journey. Dewis would allow services and stakeholders to know and be known to stakeholders and service users as a one-stop-shop for information, advice and assistance.

A Looked After Children Educational Outcome report was shared with Members so as to monitor the progress of Looked After Children.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Annual Educational Outcome reports were presented to the Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee as part of an ongoing examination of the topic to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its duties as the Corporate Parent. The report includes national and local standards and targets used to measure outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Ceredigion's performance of pupils during 2016/2017 remained

comparatively consistent with previous years. There were some areas of under-performance which were being addressed within the relevant service area. One area of concern that required monitoring was the pupils who arrive in the authority midyear.

Workshops had been held throughout the reporting period regarding Transforming Mental Health Services whereby Hywel Dda University Health Board Officers in conjunction with Local Authority Officers obtained Members views and opinions on options suggested for Transforming Mental Health Services. Following consultation, Officers returned to the Healthier Communities to update Members on the outcomes and recommendations following the consultation in relation to the Transformation across the Hywel Dda area.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Programme Group had been working together to consider the challenges and opportunities in meeting the mental health needs of the local population. The Transforming Mental Health Services programme had embraced co-production, involving people every step of the way. Engagement had taken place with a wide range of staff and stakeholders so as to understand people's experience of the current services, and this was clearly evidenced in the report. The service redesign had focused on delivering services earlier and in a timely way so reducing the need for higher level interventions and support. Supporting people locally and within their communities would enable families and carers to be involved in how care and support is provided.

Desired outcomes:

- Service would be accessible 24 hours a day so that a person who needs help or their supporters could walk into a mental health centre at any time and establish a safe relationship to discuss their needs and agree immediate support;
- No waiting lists – first appointment would take place within 24 hours, with planned meetings to follow that agree the support and treatment needed;
- Move away from hospital admission and treatment to hospitality and 'time out' so that the mental health centres can provide night hospitality form one night to several weeks in order to address crisis periods when there is a higher need for protection and/or to support the needs of the family, when hospital admission is not the best option;
- Day time out and opportunities to provide therapeutic day service options for the individual/s to access care and support that they need, for either a few hours or a whole day.

On the 2nd February 2018, a half day meeting was arranged to consider the draft budget for 2018/2019.

Committee Members were asked to consider the budgets, cost pressures and savings (including the assessed risk) proposals required for 2018/19 for those service areas that were within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In the event of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee not agreeing with the savings proposals (within its remit) for 2018/19, alternative savings proposals should be proposed for consideration by Cabinet. A feedback report was presented to Cabinet.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Budget setting was considered at the beginning of 2018. Budget implications are however considered throughout the year.

A Call-in was received in respect of Fees and Charges, Call-in C187 Fees and Charges - Charge for Meal at Home £7.00.

3 Members of the Committee called the decision in due the following reasons:

- To review the fee of Meals on Wheels in Ceredigion. Propose that the fee remains at £6.00 for year 2018-19. To review decision at Cabinet held 13.2.2018

  Reasons:

a) Elderly persons in need of 7 day Meals on Wheels cannot afford costings sice attendance allowance is £83 per week, Pension Credit (Means low savings) and may have lost DLA ad now PIP allowance
b) Medical opinion is that a hot meal daily is very effective in maintaining the level of health in the elderly and their wellbeing
c) Meals on Wheels will halve the costs of putting extra time for carers to produce a meal.

A recorded vote was taken: for the proposal 8 against 3. 2 abstained, therefore, Cabinet decision C187(i) h stood to be implemented immediately.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Numbers receiving meals at home had dropped significantly during the past few years and the service was not cost-effective. Concern was raised as to how the elderly may go without other food or turn down their heating in order to afford the price increase. It was noted that following the assessments of those who are referred to Social Services, their needs would be met but it may not include the provision of a Meals at Home service. If offered, some may decline the Meals at Home service and Social Services work with them so that their nutritional needs are met in other ways.

A Task and Finish Group was established to investigate Fly Tipping following reports of increased fly tipping in specific areas within the County. Members of the group met with Officers on two separate occasions. During those meetings, both Members

and Officers agreed that discussions had been useful, beneficial and most of all, very positive regarding future control of fly tipping. The group recognised that fly tipping in Ceredigion is a small scale problem in comparison with other authorities throughout Wales. Having said this, Members still felt that it was very important that the Council are proactive wherever possible.

Fly Tipping at Dyffryn Rheidol

Members made the following recommendations to Cabinet which were agreed and implemented upon.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Members of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting recommended:

- that key partners work together to develop relationships and maximise effectiveness in addressing the issue;
- that local communities are encouraged to get proactively and positively involved;
- that information relating to fly tipping be incorporated into the Caru Ceredigion project, so as to increase advertising and raise public awareness;
- to actively promote Caru Ceredigion and to encourage communities who would be interested to get involved in a Caru Ceredigion project;

- that the Authority contact the Town/Community Councils to advise them of the possibility of the Town/Community Councils teaming up to enhance the town's street scene. (Tregaron Town Council and Ceredigion County Council have teamed up – the Town Council has employed a person to undertake street cleaning and associated activities which support and complement the work undertake by the County Council. The County Council provide some equipment, consumables and training, as well as making arrangements for the collection of disposal of waste materials collected, as part of this pilot project);
- that posters are available for the public to print and display in each community, Council Offices, Libraries and Customer Service Centre. Posters could be made easily available to print through the Caru Ceredigion Website - http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/caru-ceredigion/ or by contacting Technical Services;
- that the possibility of involving schools be investigated, pupils could perhaps design a poster relating to fly tipping which would be used and displayed as mentioned above;
- when an incident of fly tipping is reported, that the Council's Press Office take photographs and run a story for the Council's Website, to demonstrate to the public that fly tipping is taken seriously. This may deter others from fly tipping;
- that closed circuit TV monitoring (CCTV) is installed at sights identified as hot spots, to record evidence of fly tipping so that the offender can be caught and prosecuted.

The above agreed recommendations will be monitored on a regular basis.

The Carers Unit report to Committee on an annual basis and at the same time representatives from Hywel Dda attend to present the Hywel Dda Regional Partnership Transition Plan for Carers annual report.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Ceredigion has a long history of being particularly focussed on supporting Carers.

The Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative Joint Scrutiny Group established continues to scrutinise the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative. Meetings were held on the afternoon following each meeting of the Board meetings. The Chair, County Director and Programme Manager, and Lead Directors attended those meetings.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

This provides an opportunity to examine various functions, 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. The Working Group met on four occasions during this reporting period.

Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on seven occasions during the municipal year 2017/2018 with the Chairman and Vice-chairman elected at the first meeting following the May elections.

Key issues considered

Consideration was given at the beginning of the municipal year to the report on the Development of Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Forward Work Programme was monitored and updated at each Committee meeting as a standing item on each agenda.

Charging Pupils £390 per annum for those benefitting from a spare seat
At the meeting held on 6th July 2017 the Strategic Director for Learning and Partnerships provided an update on the implementation of the amendment to the Home to School/College Transport Policy agreed by Cabinet in May 2016.
Between the 22 February 2016 and the 21 March 2016, a consultation was undertaken on the proposed introduction of a charge of £390.00 per annum for all post 16 students and pupils benefitting from spare seat provision. Following the consultation, Cabinet discarded the proposal to charge post 16 students but agreed the introduction of a £390.00 per annum fee for all pupils benefitting from a spare seat with an implementation date of 1 September 2017. Definition of a spare seat passenger is “pupils attending a school other than their nearest suitable school.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The Policy agreed by Cabinet was implemented from 1 September 2017 for new spare seat passengers and the following strategies were implemented: School Admission Forms were amended to reflect the qualifying criteria for school Transport; School Transport Application Forms being amended to reflect spare seat charge; Governing Bodies of each School adopted the Home to School Transport Policy during the Autumn term 2017.
The above mentioned strategies were undertaken to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and that Parents who in the future choose not to send their child/children to their nearest suitable school would be made aware of the charge for a spare seat from the outset.

During the period between 1st September 2017 and 20th July 2018, 10 pupils had been charged for spare seats, although not all were charged for the whole of the year, according to their circumstances, with an Income generated amount of £2,431.

An overview of the **Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 results and early information regarding the GCSE and A Level results for 2017** was presented in September 2017 by the Head of School Improvement and a subsequent report was presented to in November providing validated GCSE and A Level Results for 2017 in which the data had been benchmarked against similar Schools which was included in the presentation.
The standards in the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 continue to be consistent, but with a slight decrease in Key Stage 4 with the following points being raised:

- Data to be received on the Welsh Language provision within the English medium schools in the County in order to ascertain assurance that pupils were given opportunities to be bilingual;
- to note that boys were under achieving in writing on a local and national level and that there was a need to encourage them to do so etc. in an stimulating way, for example, by the use of information technology;
- to applaud the teachers in the county on the excellent Welsh results for pupils whereby Welsh was a second language;
- the need to work in partnership with schools/universities to nurture pupils who reside in the County to become teachers; and remain in the County once graduated;
- that teachers were now advised to follow the “work smarter” guidelines to alleviate their workload i.e. they only mark a specific piece of work to provide feedback on specific focus tasks in detail and ensure pupil response to feedback.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Ceredigion was second of all the Local Authorities in Wales with regards to the main GCSE indicator. However, there was room for further significant improvement in some individual Schools, in which officers were working in supporting those particular schools.

Committee received a report on the work undertaken at **Theatr Felinfach** which gave an opportunity for members to consider the impact of activities held at the Theatre in terms of providing community participation opportunities in the context of:
the Welsh Language Standards – Promotion of the Welsh Language (CCC Language Strategy), in giving more rights for people to use Welsh in their everyday lives as the Welsh Standards impose a greater duty on Local Authorities to plan for and increase the use of the Welsh language.

Committee were made aware that one of the challenges to the Theatr was the condition and quality of the building and resources. The heating system had recently broken and due to age of the system it was difficult to obtain replacement parts.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The problems with the heating system was likely to have a significant effect on the income generated by the Theatr as heating a facility is a major contributing factor to the experience of the public but members of staff are trying to alleviate the problem with alternative temporary heating.
Committee recommend to Cabinet that funding for a new heating system was a priority.

The work undertaken at Theatr Felinfach contributes to achieving the Promotion Standards, which focuses upon:
promoting the Welsh language in all aspects of the Theatr's business including external / partnership work; and looks specifically at education and skills, language transmission, children and young people, the community and a supporting infrastructure for the Welsh language;
Working towards the Arts Council of Wales Strategy for Creativity and the Arts;
The participatory programmes can contribute to achieving each one of the Well-being Goals contained in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
A Feasibility Study has been undertaken in regards to future options for the Development of Theatr Felinfach, with a progress report to be presented to Committee.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 was discussed twice by the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the first being in respect of approval from Committee that the consultation on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan would not be presented to Committee for consideration but would go directly to consultation as there were no major changes in the plan to the previous one adopted. Members were invited to submit their views during the formal consultation on the Plan. The second discussion took place within the report Ceredigion County Council's School Language Policy following the approval of Ceredigion's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 on 15 March 2018.

Committee agreed to recommend that Cabinet *adopts the policy as an overview of Ceredigion County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan*.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The policy's aim is to be clear on the authority's vision as a standalone policy together with the County's other official strategies and policies.

The Language Policy is a record of the local authority's objective to educate Ceredigion pupils so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school and to develop that ability during their time in Secondary education. It affirms, specifically, that which is approved in the WESP regarding linguistic progression expectations from the Welsh-medium primary sector to the secondary sector, making it completely clear to relevant stakeholders.

The Language Policy will further confirm the council's commitment towards Wales and its vibrant culture where the Welsh language is thriving and a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language. The policy's long-term objective is to contribute towards the success of the Welsh Government's

strategy ‘Cymraeg 2050 – a million Welsh speakers and secure bilingualism for Ceredigion pupils as they become a part of the wider bilingual community.

The Families First and Refugee Coordinator gave an update on the **work Families First report 2016/17 and forward work plan**. The report was presented to inform Members of the progress of the delivery of the Families First programme in Ceredigion which met the expectations of the new Families First guidance and was aligned to the legislative duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Families First are a Welsh Government programme aimed at developing early intervention and preventative support for families. The first funding round was provided from 2012 to 2017. These first five years have been described as the ‘developmental’ phase of Families First.

It was evident from statistics provided that further work was needed on supporting around finances, training and access to employment as Ceredigion Families First do not contribute well on these areas but delivered well on parenting and family resilience and services contributing to improved school attendance need further development.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Priorities in moving forward

- **Continue to develop support for young people, with Families First providing the support for parents of teenagers.**
  A group, including managers from TAF/Tîm Teulu, Youth Justice Preventions, Children and Family Assessment team, Families First, NEETS, Youth Service, Education Inclusion and ALN/Behaviour Support meet regularly to improve communication and reduce duplication of Service and to provide a more joined up preventions service for young people with Families First providing the parenting input.
- **Explore the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and how we respond to Public Health Wales’ research on ACE’s.**
  Successful multi-agency conferences have been held to raise ACE awareness as well as an event aimed at young people to explore the impact of ACE’s and gain feedback from on how best to support them to be resilient in the face of ACE’s. The focus going forward is helping adolescents to build healthy social connections to improve resilience.
- **Contribute to Social Care’s new Operating Model which is based on evaluation by PWC and legislative duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.**
  The Team around the Family process is an integral part of the new Operating Model, providing targeted support for families who require a bit more than a Universal service but are not at crisis point and requiring a statutory intervention.

- **Continue to work in partnership with Flying Start.**
  Families First and Flying Start have a number of jointly commissioned services. These are reviewed and re-negotiated annually. Performance measures for the contracts are jointly agreed between Flying Start and Families First to support the delivery of an aligned service and to ensure that they reflect Ceredigion's Wellbeing Plan and Improvement Objectives.

Consideration was given to the **Annual Report on the Ceredigion Integrated Children's Centres** to monitor whether the Integrated Children's centres in Ceredigion were fit for purpose and effective in providing early intervention and preventative services to families and children in the neediest areas. The report also monitors the progress and effectiveness of the Ceredigion County Council Family Information Services and to ensure that the Local Authority meets existing and new statutory duties

Integrated Children's Centres provide multi agency services that are effective, integrated, co-located and responsive to the local community's needs. In this way, it is hoped that every child has a flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development.
There are four aspects to integrated children's centres / campus:-
• Integrated Family support and health services
• Early years education and Quality childcare
• Open access play
• Community training and Learning

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Ceredigion's three Integrated Children's Centres or Campuses have been using an Outcome Measures Framework methodology to capture and monitor the work carried out across the centres and the impact this is having on key population indicators. This method assists in maintaining a high level of participation and engagement and demonstrates the contribution that is being made to improving outcomes for the children, families and community in the each area.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022 Action Plan was presented to Committee. A task and finish group had been formed to produce an action plan to address the areas of insufficiency. The action plan was required to utilise existing resources and grant funding to address the gaps highlighted in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in order to increase the sufficiency of childcare available.

The Committee emphasised the importance of the Council collectively working together to ensure the sustainability of current childcare providers, as well as increasing the amount of childcare places to ensure supply meets demand.
Committee agreed:-
(i) to recommend the approval of the CSA Action Plan to Cabinet; and
(ii) to refer the item to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee due to the cross cutting nature of the item.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
After the first year of the five year action plan Ceredigion has seen a slight increase in the number of registered childcare places available. The action plan was monitored by the CSA Task & Finish group. However, following Ceredigion's application to join the pilot for the Childcare Offer back in January 2018 there was the announcement in March that Ceredigion's application had been successful. As a result the work of the plan has somewhat changed in order to take on the new duties of the Childcare Offer. Further information about the success of this for Ceredigion can be seen below under Childcare Offer for Wales.

Committee received information on the proposed **Welsh Government Childcare offer** of 30 hours per week for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, for 48 weeks a year. Ceredigion had been invited to join the pilot by September 2018 as a Delivery Authority. The Authority would have full county roll out from the beginning and will be required to establish systems and deal with applications, payments etc. The Committee were informed that it is expected that if the following counties agree to work with us they would join as an engagement authority on a phased basis:
Carmarthenshire - January 2019; Powys - January 2019; Pembrokeshire - April 2019.

Following discussion, it was recommended to Cabinet:

(i) *that Ceredigion County Council enter into agreement with Welsh Government to deliver the Childcare offer in September 2018; and*
(ii) that Ceredigion become a 'Delivery Authority' for the Childcare Offer on behalf of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Powys County Councils to begin on a phased basis from January 2019.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
As a result of Scrutiny and Cabinet approval Ceredigion was able to enter into an agreement with the Welsh Government to become a delivery authority for the Childcare Offer. A great deal of work has taken place to ensure Ceredigion was to get the project off the ground in time for the launch in September 2018. The CSA Task & Finish Group increased membership which included representation from Legal, IT, Clic, Press and 21st Century School. It became a Project Steering Group for the Offer.

Significant work had been undertaken by the Web-development team to develop on-line systems which has enabled childcare providers to register as suppliers for the offer, parents have been able to apply for the offer on-line. Providers have an on-

line portal which they enter to make the monthly claims for payments and complete the monthly registers.
Being the delivery authority has brought employment opportunities to the Local Authority as the Childcare Unit has developed. One Childcare Business Support Officer and three Administrative Assistants have currently been employed. This is likely to increase again in the coming months. Not only has it brought employment to the authority but it has provided childcare staff the opportunity to increase hours. A number of Cylchoedd Meithrin have increased their opening hours to full-day care provision resulting in staff being able to increase their hours which means they now qualify to pay pension etc. which many were unable to do previously due to not working enough hours.

Ceredigion parents will make a saving on their childcare fees which means that families will be better off as they can use money they would have had to use to pay for childcare costs towards other things.

Work is on-going to develop an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) with Carmarthenshire, Powys and Pembrokeshire County Council. Welsh Government has announced that they wish to roll out the childcare offer faster than originally planned. This means that Carmarthenshire will be full roll out by January 2019, Powys full roll out by April 2019 and Pembrokeshire full roll out by April 2019. Ceredigion is leading on the project for all three neighbouring authorities.

During presentation of the **Ceredigion Play Action Plan Progress Report & Action Plan 2017-19** it was reported that Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 required Welsh Local Authorities to carry out a Play Sufficiency Assessment every 3 years and to develop an Action Plan to maintain the strengths and improve on the shortcomings identified in their Play Sufficiency Assessments.
Local Authorities were required to contribute the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments to their Single Integrated Plan or equivalent high level plan. Ceredigion's second Play Sufficiency Assessment was published in March 2016 and the report detailed progress made to date and actions to be carried forward to 2017/19.
The Committee considered the progress made to the 35 actions in the 2016/17 Action Plan accordingly.
Following discussion, it was AGREED to recommend to Cabinet *the approval of the progress of the Play Action Plan to date and sign off revisions to the Play Action plan 2017/19.*

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2017/18 from Welsh Government has been used to:

- support RAY Ceredigion's core costs so they could continue to offer quality play opportunities for children and young people in Ceredigion
- enhance 3 x community run play areas (in Drefach, Llanrhystud and Penrhyncoch)
- contribute to the development of a new community run play area in Awel yr Afon, Cardigan (purchase of an inclusive 'basket swing')

- purchase 4 x accessible picnic benches to be distributed to community play areas according to need
- develop natural play elements (grass mound and turf tunnels) at Netpool in Cardigan.

The next Play Sufficiency Assessment is due to be completed by March 2019 which will be presented to Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee before submission to Welsh Government.

Review of Primary Educational Provision in the Cardigan Area

Learning Services undertook a review of the educational provision in the Cardigan Area with the main focal points of the report being:

• To improve the sufficiency and suitability of school places in the Cardigan area

• To improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the education estate.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the background to the review, the school review policy, current federations, pupil numbers and spare capacity, projections, cost per pupil, finance, and six draft options which were open for consideration.

Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that option 6 would be the preferred option subject to the availability of capital funding as this option was not included in the approved 21st Century Schools Band B programme:

Option 6 – Disband the existing federation and close Beulah School, Cenarth School, Trewen School and also close Llechryd School and create a new area school on the most suitable of the 4 existing school sites or a new site.

Subsequently the Cabinet decision on the 28 November 2017 was for the School Review Panel to further investigate Option 2 which was to *'reduce the number of schools in the existing soft federation and close Beulah School'* and also *Option 4 which was to 'disband the existing soft federation and close both Beulah School and Trewen School'*. In addition, a further option was also approved which was to '*close three schools namely Cenarth, Trewen and Beulah and to open a new multisite school on the existing three sites'.*

In line with the School Review Policy the three schools were reviewed in the early part of the Spring Term and a further report was presented to Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 26th April where the Chairman of Governors for Trewen School was in attendance to address the meeting, in accordance with the protocol for addressing the Committee. The Local Member also addressed the Committee with his concerns regarding the proposals and requested that the School Review Panel explain the reasoning of the Panel's decision (which was to recommend the closure of Beulah and Trewen) and the panel replied in turn with the reasons stated in the report to recommend to Cabinet.

After consideration Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet supports the School Review Panel recommendation of *Option 4: Disband the existing soft federation and close both Beulah School and Trewen School.*

Cabinet on the 10th July approved the commencement of the consultation process for the future provision at Beulah and Trewen Primary Schools and maintain education provision at Cenarth School as recommended by the School Review panel.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

It is too soon to report on the outcome at present as the Statutory Consultation Process commenced on the 25th September until the 7th November, 2018 with further reports being presented to Cabinet by the end of 2018 with the conclusions of the Statutory Consultation in respect of Primary Educational Provision in the Cardigan Area. The final decision will be undertaken by Full Council.

Education Provision – Cilcennin Community Primary School

Committee was presented with a report for consideration which included data of pupil numbers (2013-18), surplus capacity, pupil number projections, cost per pupil, finance, and draft options for consideration. The projected pupil numbers at the School by September 2018 was 14. Following discussion, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet a review of Cilcennin Community Primary School be undertaken by the School Review Panel.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Cabinet agreed for the School Review Panel to undertake a review of Cilcennin Community Primary School with the School Review Panel commencing the Process during the Summer Term 2018 and a further report submitted to Scrutiny and Cabinet in July 2018 where both agreed for formal consultation to commence on the 25 September until the 7th November, 2018. The outcome of the formal Consultation and future of the School is yet to be finalised.

The purpose of the **Welsh Assembly Government – Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) 21st Century School Programme Band B Funding – April 2019-March 2024** report was to inform Members of the Strategic Outline Plan application that was presented to Welsh Government on the 31 July 2017, following Leadership Group approval.

The reported referred to the Actual Position of Funding under Band A and proposed projects Under Band B:

Band A

*The **Llandysul** all-through school (Ysgol Bro Teifi) was delivered in Band A at a cost of £29.7m and opened in September 2016 incorporating an educational provision that* provides pupils with continuity and progression under the same roof as well as incorporating community use.

A neutral site in **Drefach** was developed and a new school was built at a cost of £4.5m, and opened in September 2017 (Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn). The original plan was to site the area school at the location of one of the school sites which formed part of the proposal but it was felt that a new build at Drefach would provide better value for money, provide more opportunities for pupils and provide a new community facility;

Pupil numbers within the sixth form at **Tregaron** Secondary school declined, such that it was no longer viable to sustain a sixth form and a 3-16 school was established on the existing secondary school site bringing Tregaron Primary School, Llanddewi Brefi Primary School and Tregaron Secondary school together onto one site. The School opened on 3 separate sites in September 2014. A SOP request for change document was submitted to WG, in order to move the Tregaron Project from Band B to Band A (due to the decline in the condition of school buildings) and was subsequently approved. The project was changed from the original £29m new build all-through school to a refurbishment/extension project at a cost of £5m. WG funding was approved with the Primary element of the school opening Autumn Term 2018 and the Secondary element due to be completed by Easter 2019.

Two further small projects have been included within Band A funding – an extension to **Comins Coch Primary School** and extension to **Llanilar Primary School** in order to make both schools fit for purpose – a total cost of £803k

Band B
The Strategic Outline Plan for Band B Welsh Government programme was submitted on the 31 July 2017 outlining the schemes that have been identified and prioritized for delivery from April 2019 until March 2024.
The following projects were included within the plan however delivery is dependent on Welsh Government endorsement to match fund, political support, local support and the completion of statutory processes:

i **Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi** – refurbishment/ extension – Improvement to energy usage, new 2 story teaching block providing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) building and main hall extension to benefit the school and community;
ii **Dyffryn Aeron Area School** – 210 pupil new area school culminating in bringing 4 Primary schools within the Aeron Valley onto a single site and the introduction of nursery provision;
iii **Pontrhydfendigaid Primary School** – refurbishment/ extension – removal of demountable building;
iv **Cardigan Primary School** – refurbishment/ extension – 2 storey extension to remove demountable classroom and school hall extension to benefit the school and community Schedules and Management teams are in place to ensure that the Band B projects are deliverable.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Approval of the above projects will deliver buildings that are fit for purpose and be able to cater for pupil numbers, have new modern facilities to enhance pupils education, improvement on energy usage and also benefit community usage.

Budget pressures: At the beginning of February 2018 The Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider the report which provided background information on the budgets, cost pressures and savings (including the assessed risk) proposals required for 2018/19 for those service areas that were within the remit of the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A lengthy discussion emanated before proposals being put forward to Cabinet.

The Transformation agenda within Learning Services was also considered with the progress to date in achieving Transformation savings and outline plans for future savings being presented. Learning Services was leading a number of projects as part of the Transformation Agenda namely:

- School Reorganisation
- School Modernisation
- Central Staffing Restructures
- Relocation of Dysgu Bro
- Youth Service Review
- Behaviour Support Service
- Review of Educational Transport

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The Transformation projects have achieved a saving of £250,000 in 2017-18. The remaining £540,000 will be achieved over the next two financial years.

Members agreed on the contents of the report and also it was agreed that the Committee received six monthly reports on the progress of the transformation savings

Twice a year Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of each of the six Local Authorities within ERW meet to form an **ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group**. Councils take it in turns to host the meetings which are chaired by a scrutiny councillor from the host council. Following each biannual meeting a report is presented to Scrutiny for updated information.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

By having joint meetings ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group would help ensure the best educational outcomes for children in the ERW region by supporting effective scrutiny; there is consistency in scrutiny across the six councils within ERW and sharing scrutiny good practice and encouraging shared scrutiny approaches and avoid the duplication of scrutiny work. Critical and objective challenge to ERW on topics of interest is provided as well as contributing to the good and effective governance of ERW.

During discussions emanating from the report two councillors voiced concern about the number of children that were home schooled which had been previously raised by the Committee and it was agreed that Elective Home Education be placed on the Forward Work Plan. The Authority is reviewing its strategy within this field and a report is to be presented to Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee early in 2019.

ERW update: The Corporate Director addressed Committee giving an update of the Estyn monitoring visit to ERW during Autumn 2017. The purpose of ESTYN's visit was to evaluate progress against four recommendations it set in 2016. Progress was found to be slower than expected. Three recommendations were judged to have made satisfactory progress and one was judged to have made limited progress.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Committee agreed to note the report and acknowledged that ERW Joint Committee had requested a 'Review and Reform' of the current structure, practices and governance of ERW which is undertaken by a nominated group including the Lead Chief Executive and Lead Director.

The **Partnership Agreement between the Local Authority and Schools 2018-2021** was presented in order to proceed with ensuring the approval by each Governing Body was in place for 1 September 2018. The Head of Learning Services stated that Section 197 of the Education Act 2002 was a Wales only provision that empowers the Welsh Government ("WG") to require that local authorities form a partnership agreement with the governing body of all schools that are maintained by the authority.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The purpose of a Partnership Agreement is to enhance and sustain partnership working between the LA and schools. It was agreed to recommend the Partnership Agreement between the Local Authority and schools 2018-2021 for Cabinet approval.

All School Governing Bodies within the Authority have signed the Partnership Agreement between the Local Authority and Schools 2018-2021.

The conclusion of the **Headteacher Perception Survey** of the Support provided by Learning Services to Schools was discussed which was overall a positive feedback.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Some areas of concern were noted:

- the increased issue in relation to mental health support provision for pupils in the County - arrangements were made for staff to be trained to deal with low levels of mental health. However, there was no provision if a pupil displayed serious mental health problems and harm and did not meet the criteria of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). These issues had been raised with the Welsh Government to address urgently.
- the need for greater financial allocation in schools budgets for the Welsh Language was also a necessity if a Welsh Government proposal for growing the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050 was achievable; The Cabinet Secretary for Education as to be lobbied on the matter.
- Headteachers were concerned regarding the procurement framework for school repair contracts in that the good will of volunteers and parents to repair a lock or paint a wall was not possible due to the process.

During 2014 the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed and updated its **Workstream Groups** and identified four workstreams. At the 9th November 2017 Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Members had further reviewed the workstreams and resolved that the Modernising the Infrastrucutre workstream would be dissolved as the items could be considered by the main committee and that the members of that workstream divided into the other workstreams for 2018. The current workstreams are:

Safonau Mewn Ysgolion/

Standards and Schools

Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol, Cynhwysiant a Lles/

ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing

Ymgysylltu Ieuenctid ac Addysg Barhaus/

Youth Engagement & Continuing Education

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Workstreams meet regularly to raise awareness, training purposes and to identify aspects which require further scrutiny as part of the forward work programme planning process.

Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on twelve occasions during the municipal year 2017/2018, which included three call-in meetings and a Special Meeting for the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-chairman elected held on the 22nd March, 2018.

Key issues considered:

Consideration was given at the beginning of the municipal year to the report on the Development of Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Forward Work Programme was monitored and updated at each regular Committee meeting as a standing item on each agenda.

The adopted **Ceredigion Local Development Plan (LDP)** sets out the Council's priorities for the development and use of land in the County and its policies, to implement over the fifteen year plan period between 2007 and 2022. Following consideration of the report which identified a need for full review of the Plan, including Plan Strategy and sets out the extent of changes required to the LDP, Members recommended the following conclusions to Cabinet:

- *Young people want to live in their home villages, whilst the LDP is focused on service centres. There would be no young people living in our rural villages if the Committee always followed officer recommendations. This aspect of the LDP needs to be reconsidered to allow young people to stay or return to our rural communities.*
- *Do not want to see the increase in legislation placing a greater financial burden on young people being able to make an application with more surveys etc.*
- *Concerns were raised over section 7.37 Economy: Employment Land, Retail & Tourism, which identified the strategic importance of Aberystwyth and the regional local significance of Lampeter and Cardigan, but places less importance on the centres of Aberaeron, Llandysul and Tregaron for retail needs. The Council must not only focus everything on the 3 largest towns. Statements such as this can be damaging and prevent other organisations investing in these market towns.*
- *There is an issue with land banking within the County which needs to be addressed.*
- *Members questioned the population statistics and the statement that Ceredigion has the fourth largest projected population increase in Wales.*
- *Senior Officers should ensure that the LDP represents the needs of Ceredigion and are not dictated to by Welsh Government.*

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

In turn Cabinet decision was to commend the Review Report to Council; Commend the draft Delivery Agreement to Council; Recommend the arrangements proposed for publication / consultation and feedback thereon to Cabinet and Council; Recommend delegation for sign off of evidence and for minor changes to the Review Report to the Head of Performance and Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson.

This course of action ensured that the Review Report and Delivery Agreement are fully compliant with the legislative framework and WG Guidance for preparation of replacement plan(s); provided a foundation for preparation of a replacement Plan that is consistent with other plans, is appropriate to its locality and demonstrates deliverability.

Ceredigion Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2016-17: Section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to monitor the implementation of adopted Local Development Plans (LDPs) by preparing an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for submission to Welsh Government (WG) by the end of October each year. Both the AMR and the 31st October deadline for submission are statutory requirements.
This is the fourth AMR for the Ceredigion LDP. Ceredigion County Council formally adopted the LDP on the 25th April 2013. The plan runs from 2007 up to 2022. The AMR is for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The AMR provides an overview of the performance of the LDP during 2016/17 an understanding of which will aid the effective implementation of the LDP in 2017/18 and beyond.

Two reports were presented to Committee on the County's Car Parks. The first being Pentre Car Park Review and the second an update report on the Car Parks in the County.
Pendre Car Park, located on Pendre, Cardigan, is manged by Parking Services as a private 'permit holders only' car park. Whilst the car park has historically been utilised as a private permit holder only car park, the Authority has faced a number of challenges in relation to the management of the car park itself, especially in relation to the expectation of permit holders in recent years and in the view of Parking Services, it would be better utilised as a short stay pay and display car park.

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet:
that informal and formal consultation on the proposal is undertaken to change Pendre Car Park from a Permit Holder only car park to a Short Stay Pay and Display car park; following completion of the informal and formal consultation process that this matter is reported to Cabinet for decision on whether to go out to public consultation.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Informal and Formal consultation has taken place in relation to the proposals for Pendre. Car Park. The outcome of these processes will be reported to Cabinet in early 2019 for their consideration and decision as whether or not to proceed to public consultation.

The report on the **Ceredigion County Council Car Parks** highlighted recommendation updates from a 2016 report. A trial of using specific pay and display machines was completed and as a consequence the Authority has decided to purchase the trial units as it had been deemed a positive trial. Further to the trial a procurement exercise through an ESPO framework was conducted and the Authority has purchased a further 9 Parkeon cash, chip and pin and contactless machines.
A more flexible season ticket offering was introduced which included the addition of 3 and 9 month tickets to the existing 6 and 12 month options. Season Tickets are now also available to start on the 1st or 15th of the month at any time in the year and Day Tickets are valid for 24 hours.
Car park signage for South Beach car park, Aberaeron is placed on the main road, this is on-going – On-going.
Seasonal parking at various car parks in the County has been applied.
Caravans and Caravanettes are removed from being able to park at Rock Street, New Quay and North Road, Aberystwyth
An audit was carried out by Ceredigion Disability Forum and a prioritised list of works to address valid concerns has been drawn up. This work is being completed in line with available resources where work is anticipated to be completed by 2018-2019.

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet:

- *That free car parking is provided to those attending a place of worship on a Sunday ;*
- *A review of car parking fees at different locations in the County is undertaken to ensure that the charging regime is consistent;*
- *undertake a review of Disabled Parking spaces to ensure there is sufficient provision and that they are free or reduced charge.*
- *It was agreed that a further report would be presented to the Committee following exploration of the above if agreed by Cabinet.*

<u>OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT</u>

Actions taken in implementing recommendation in regards to the County's Car Parks support the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Wellbeing Goal of a prosperous Wales as well as having a positive impact on the vibrancy of the town centres and economy.

Usage of the new pay and display machines will be monitored to inform decision making in relation to future pay and display machine asset management. Further investment in new / replacement pay and display machines will be required on an on-going basis.

The new online application for season tickets was launched on the Ceredigion County Council website in April 2017. The application process allows payment by card and direct debit and can be found at https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/English/Resident/Travel-Roads-Parking/Parking-Civil-Parking-Enforcement/Pages/Season-Tickets.aspx

External Wall Insulation Systems: Following the Grenfell Fire in June 2017 an enquiry into the disaster had been set up to look at numerous aspects, including the cladding that was used on the exterior of the building. Responsibility for fire safety and Building Regulations in Wales were devolved to the Welsh Government and the report presented to Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave an overview of the position within Ceredigion. Whilst new Building Regulations are not retrospective in terms of existing buildings any new or refurbished buildings should generally comply with the 2010 Building Regulations (as amended).

Members were reassured that there were no buildings within Ceredigion that caused concern in regards to the cladding used on buildings.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Ceredigion County Council Building Control Service continues to monitor developments and work in conjunction with other agencies such as Mid & West Wales Fire Authority to advise and assist stakeholders to ensure the safety of the occupants of their buildings. Officers follow the Welsh Government guidance circular, The Building Regulation Circular WGC 014/2017 guidance to building owners when advising on the re-cladding of tall buildings. The checking of the cladding used in buildings within the County has a positive impact in that residents and building owners within Ceredigion have confidence in the knowledge that buildings have been inspected and comply with regulations.

The **Future Waste Collection Service** has been considered twice during the year. At the first meeting held on the 4th October, 2017 in which all County Councillors had been invited to attend, a four part presentation was provided to Committee.

Part One - Current cost, performance and data.
Part Two - Collection methodology
Part Three – Waste streams and Collection frequency
Part Four - Resources required for the delivery the waste collection service.

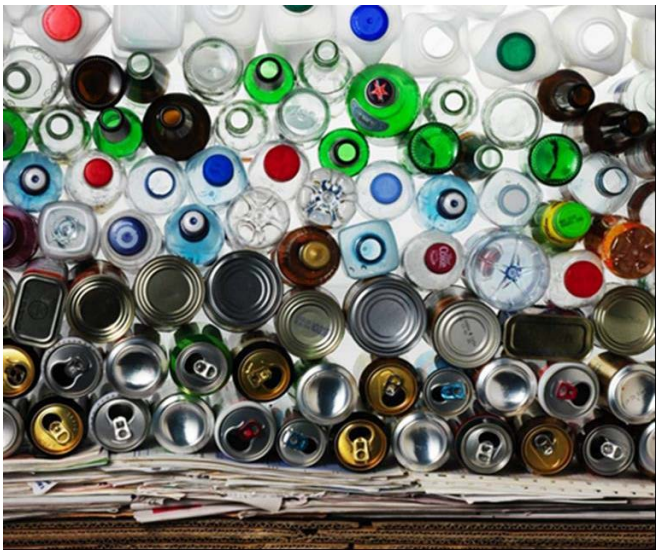
The focus being on moving the Service forward under budget restraints. Future Options were considered and the Committee Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that:

a. *A public consultation exercise is undertaken on the preferred method of waste collection, which remains a comingled operation as outlined in option 1c; that the waste streams will be:*
   - *Dry clear bag recycling*
   - *Food*
   - *Residual*
   - *Glass*
   - *Adult Hygiene Products.*

The collection frequency will be:

- *Weekly for dry clear bag recycling and food*
- *3-weekly for residual and glass*
- *Fortnightly for AHP.*

b. *To agree in principle to the preferred option 1c so that preparations can be made to procure new refuse vehicles and the necessary waste containers.*
c. *The Head of Technical Service to pursue further options to address waste issues in the conservation area of Aberystwyth.*
d. *A further report, following the public consultation, is presented to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny.*



OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Cabinet took into account the recommendations of the Committee and agreed in principle to the preferred Option 1c which has enabled the Council to move towards meeting the statutory targets set by Welsh Government and to enable the waste service to procure new vehicles in order to operate the chosen waste collection service.

Moving on from the above decision a second report on the Waste Collection Service was considered by Thriving Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 7th March, 2018 with officer recommendations considered emanating from the public consultation findings.

Reference was made that in addition to the efficiencies and savings that will need to be realised from the future Waste Collection Service other savings will need to be realised from the wider Waste Management Service such as Household Waste Sites.

Members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that:

a. *Cabinet agrees to the proposals contained in the report;*
b. *Cabinet delegates authority to the Group Manager, Local Environment Services to place an order for the required fleet;*

c. *Cabinet notes that further work is required in terms of the implementation plan and the trade waste service;*
d. *Further investigation is made into the fortnightly collection of nappies;*
e. *Retain the glass banks where appropriate during the first 12 months in addition to a kerbside service.*

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

An implementation Plan has been drafted and is due to be reported to Leadership Group in the first instance and then Cabinet. Savings in the region of £240k per annum are anticipated, subject to detailed rerouting and performance once rolled-out. The service is expected to be implemented during Q1 and Q2 2019/20, with some savings being realised from Q3 2019/20 onwards.

Focus has been on public relations in educating all residents in relation to recycling in order to achieve a successful outcome and to reach Welsh Government recycling targets. Welsh Government is considering enacting clause 46 of the Environmental Protection ACT this would allow for enforcement. The Recycling target is currently 58%, increasing to 64% in 2019/20 and 70% in 2024/25. The Welsh Government is likely to consult on an increase in targets to 80% by 2030. Last year Ceredigion County Council's performance was 63.70%.

Collaborative working – Ceredigion County Council is continuing to work with Powys and Pembs in relation to food waste treatment as well as a glass collection pilot in the Cardigan area.

As noted above the Waste Management Service looked at other services in response to budgetary pressures. A report with saving options in respect to Waste Management Contracts was presented to Cabinet on 17th April 2018 as minuted:

C256 Waste **C256 Waste Management Contracts**
DECISION

(i) *Not to extend or re-let the Waste Transfer Station contract at Beulah on expiry of the current contract on 30 June 2018;*
(ii) To extend the contract for Rhydeinon Household Waste Site for a period of 6 months until 30 November 2018 so that options can be considered for its future;
(iii) To agree to a public consultation in relation to Rhydeinon Household Waste Site; and
(iv) To report the results of the public consultation to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to Cabinet.

The above four points were called in by three Councillors for the following reasons:

- It takes away another important service in a rural area
- Probable increase in fly-tipping
- Increased costs to local residents depositing rubbish
- It also helps to keep the Beulah Waste Centre viable economically and keep the workforce – policy of County Council to help the local economy in South Ceredigion
- Task and Finish at the moment doing work on Fly Tipping. Need time for all reports

- Worth going out to tender to see what result in prices if going to consultation
- Thriving Scrutiny not consulted on prior to going to Cabinet. It would be an advantage to have the views of scrutiny to be placed in the consultation papers
- Local Member not contacted prior to Cabinet.

Following a lengthy debate at the Call-in Meeting on 3rd May 2018, Members of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

a) *Re-consider decision number 1, following receipt of breakdown of the savings figure stated in the Cabinet report of approximately £40,000 per annum, to ensure all Cabinet Members are satisfied with the projected savings figure;*
b) *Agree with recommendation number 2;*
c) *Re-consider decision number 3, the Committee recommend that Cabinet provide their permission for the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish a task and finish group to explore its future options.*

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Cabinet re-considered the report with the following decision:

(i) In relation to recommendation (a)above, Cabinet decision C256 (i)stands
(ii) Recommendation (b) above is accepted.
(iii) In relation to recommendation (c)above, Cabinet decisions C256(iii) and (iv) stand.

A public consultation held during August 2018 on the future of Rhydeinon Household Waste Site. The outcome of the consultation will be included in the 2018/19 Annual Report.

A Task and Finish Group was established to look at all the Household Waste Sites in the County. Two meetings of the Task and Finish Group were held as well as the Members visiting all four Household Waste Sites in the County namely Cilmaenllwyd near Cardigan, Glanyrafon Industrial Estate near Aberystwyth and Rhydeinon near Llanarth. The conclusion report of the Task and Finish Group will be reported within the 2018/19 Annual Report.

County Action /Place Plans: Officers explained that Welsh Government has ambitions for a new approach to community planning in Wales as there is recognition amongst politicians, practitioners and communities that the planning system in Wales needs to regain and enhance its community focus. Local Authorities are being encouraged to create Place/Action Plans. The intention is to adopt a collaborative approach in preparing these plans, with Community and Town Councils working alongside the Local Authorities.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Following approval to proceed from Cabinet a commencement of Town Council took place at the end of 2017 with a Wider Community Consultations between January and March 2018 with the conclusions being:

Whilst the towns will remain the most important centre within the three regions, it is the combination of towns and surrounding employment regions that provide important hubs for
economic, social and community activity between them for the wider geographic area.
The benefits to the community of having a Place/Action Plan are:

- Prioritised key actions to improve the vitality of the area and the well-being of the people who live there;
- Brings together information collected in previous consultations and reports;
- Develops a good understanding of community needs and wants including the levels of support for different issues and actions;
- Improved input in local planning decisions, including influencing future iterations of the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure they meet community needs;
- Enhance the collaborative working relationship between the community, the Town Council and other key decision makers such as the County Council;
- Improve the strength of future funding bids for community projects within the Place Plan by providing evidence of need and support amongst the wider community
- Improves community well-being and allows for the needs of minority groups or those with protected characteristics to be hear
- Place/Action Plans would recognise that different places and communities have their own particular character, needs and priorities.

The Place Plans are being progressed by the six Town Councils who are working with surrounding community councils. The Town Councils are being supported by officers from the County Council. Funding has also now been secured through Cynnal Y Cardi for external consultant support to assist the town and community councils in the consultation process and draft plan preparation.

The Committee considered the Three year Programme for Technical Services and the Re-design business cases, including:

- Office cleaning review
- Parks and gardens review
- Grounds maintenance review
- Street cleaning review
- Stores review
- Street lighting contract review
- Highways service review
- Public conveniences review
- Building maintenance review
- Waste and recycling review

These included the project description, project objective, links to PwC business case, project background, project scope, options considered (expected outcomes, resource requirements, time and cost estimates, conclusions), preferred option, recommendation and rationale, project delivery plan, benefits of recommended option, disbenefits of recommended option, benefits profile, project resource

requirement, risks and issues, constraints, dependencies, and assumptions. The committee noted the progress in relation to the base budget cuts required and the overall process of achieving the base budget reduction.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Savings of £969k would be confirmed by the end of the 17/18 financial year, with further business cases under review, giving a combined estimated saving of £1,679k. The Technical Services Re-design project needed to achieve savings of £2.4m and therefore a further £720k of savings would need to be finalised.

The progress made by the service towards the savings target was noted, as well as the processes behind their assessment and delivery, and that financial reductions of this magnitude would inevitably result in a reduction of resource and service delivery.

As part of the budget setting process the Fees & Charges for the respective services was presented to Committee and Cabinet which emanated in a Call-in in regards **Harbour related Fees & Charges** including:
(a) the 25% option in relation to Leisure (non-commercial) Mooring fees, and
(b) 50% option in relation to harbour garages and sheds

Cabinet decision C187 (ii) (a) had been called-in by 7 Members. The reasons for call-in were:

i. There were no supporting accounts for each of the three harbours presented with the budget papers to give a full picture of the running costs, including income and expenditure. There is therefore no context behind the figure of 250k stated in the papers.
ii. It is unclear under which harbour legislation the council as the Harbour Authority is raising the mooring fees.
iii. There was no consultation with the mooring holders regarding the proposed increase prior to making the decision.
iv. Further scrutiny is needed by the Thriving Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish:

a) What is the total breakdown of costs of providing moorings in each of our three harbours.
b) Whether the 250k running costs of the three harbours should be charged solely to mooring holders.
c) Scrutiny of each of the three harbour accounts.
d) Evidence of the Act of Parliament the council is referring to when raising the mooring fees.
e) That the scrutiny committee takes evidence from one representative from each of the three harbours on the impact on the 25% increase to mooring fees.
f) Officers should provide evidence of any economic impact assessment undertaken in arriving at this proposal; short term and long term.

During the call-in meeting, held on the 5th March 2018, as well as officers' presentation two members of the public were invited to address the committee, in accordance with the protocol for addressing the Committee, where they voiced their

concerns regarding the decision that there was a lack of consultation with mooring holders, no impact assessments; the costs for dredging when dredging has no impact on mooring holders; upkeep of harbours is a statutory duty whether there are boats in the harbour or not and the high cost of Technical Services recharges.

During call-in the Committee remained concerned and agreed to refer the matter back to Cabinet for consideration with the following recommendation:
1. That leisure boat mooring holders have a percentage increase in mooring charges in line with the commercial and fishing boats;
2. That parking permits are withdrawn from mooring holders in New Quay and Aberaeron for South Beach Car Park and Church Street Car Park;
3. That the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a task and finish group on the running of harbours and take evidence from mooring holders and others which the Committee deem relevant.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Cabinet further consider the item and took into account the recommendations of Scrutiny and further considered decision C206 (c) as noted
(a) That leisure boat mooring holders have a percentage increase of 21% following readjustment of the Estate recharges.
(b) That the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a task and finish group on the running of harbours and take evidence from mooring holders and others which the Committee deem relevant.

In their decision the Authority were complying with the Auditor General Guidance on Statutory Harbour undertakings from Wales Audit Office and relevant legislation relating to Aberystwyth, Aberaeron and New Quay Harbours which noted discretionary power to charge which is not limited.

A Task and Finish Group has been established and in the process of scrutinising and obtaining evidence.

The **Budget Allocation** for Technical Services was considered by the Committee in November 2017 in preparation for the scrutiny of the budgets that would take place in February 2018. The PWC review of Technical Services indicated savings of around £2.4 million which included outsourcing major services to achieve budget savings. These outsourcing options were not accepted and Technical Services were still required to reach a base budget reduction of £2.4m. The Technical Services Management Team formulated a plan covering a wide number of services within Technical Services and targeted budget savings. Project teams from within the service areas were then set up to work through scenarios and produce a comprehensive business case outlining the preferred option to find the budget cut. These base budget cuts were removed from the Technical Services current budget. At the beginning of this financial year the base budget was £20.0m which reduced to £19.5m after allowing for transfers between services. The base budget has been reduced down its current level of £18.9m at the end of October 2017. By the end of the calendar year the re-design plan would have produced base budget savings of around £970k (£814k will be achieved during 2017/18, £86k in 2018/19, £35k in

2019/20 and £35k in 2020/21). Giving a notional base budget projection of around £18.5m.

By the end of the financial year the Technical Services Re-design Plan delivered ~~a~~ further business cases which were under review with an anticipated savings of a further £710k making a combined saving of £1,680k in the financial year. This would see the base budget reduce notionally to £17.8m (allowing that some savings will be fully achieved during the following years).

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

The overall effect will be a base budget for Technical Services of around £17.1m (£17.8m less £0.7m) going into 2018/19. This will mean that the Council will need to understand its priorities as far as the front line services and its infrastructure is concerned. Further work will be required to be undertaken in quarter 4 (2017/18) and quarter 1 (2018/19) to understand what is the minimum level of staffing and resources required to deal with situations which occur throughout the natural annual cycles, and what core of staff is required to ensure adequate provision of resource during extreme weather and emergency response events.

Members welcomed the opportunity for discussion and raised the following points:
It was noted that the service will increasingly become a reactive service, whilst it is accepted that it is better to maintain something, the budget constraints mean that that the money has to go elsewhere, to something that is more urgent at that time.

Tour Series Cycle Event: Cabinet Minute C193 decision of the 13th February 2018 on the 2018 Tour Series Cycle Event emanated a call-in, decision which was:
To support the hosting of an Aberystwyth stage of the 2018 Tour Series Race and underwrite the contribution of up to £60,000 towards the cost of hosting the 2018 event and meet the operating costs of up to £15,000.
Three members called-in the decision, reasons given for the call in was:

(i) Organisations in Aberystwyth have been reluctant to support the event in the town and therefore we do not believe that it is an appropriate event to be supported by the limited funding available for Economic Development. Perhaps it would have been better to have asked for assistance through our Community Grant Scheme.
(ii) There is an imbalance with regards to the support allocated to economic development across the county.

The Chairman and the Members who had called in the decision outlined their reasons in turn:

- The Committee should be given an opportunity to scrutinise the decision. Whilst not being against financial support which would in turn boost the economy, it was felt that it would only be local businesses in Aberystwyth that would benefit from the cycle event whilst other smaller communities are not being given the same support. Residents in other communities feel that all support goes to Aberystwyth. The expenditure would be unfair while there is a need for road improvements in rural areas and there is a proposed increase for Meals at Home for the elderly population. There appears to be an imbalance in the county.
- The amount of money in question could greatly benefit the smaller towns of the county e.g. free parking in Llandysul and Cardigan.

- The Head of Performance and Economy provided further information in relation to the Cycle event. He noted Ceredigion's Corporate Strategy and the need to invest in tourism and provided a summary of events supported in the last few years along with a comparison to other counties. Further details were provided relating to the event costs and how the Council's contribution would be spent. Queries from a Member sent previous to the meeting were also addressed.

A Group Accountant present at the call-in decision meeting, held on 27th February, 2018 responded to queries and questions as they arose. Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that the following recommendation was presented to Cabinet:

1. *Negotiations are undertaken to seek suggested financial contributions from partners as follows:*
   Town Council - £8,000; Aberystwyth University - £5,000; Private Sector - £10,000 - £15,000; BID - £30,000; Ceredigion County Council - £15,000 - £20,000
   If the total contribution required is less than the total agreed contribution, it will be divided and paid back pro rata to the contributors.
2. *The Committee disagreed with the proposed payment profile and recommended that Financial Services review and advise on the payment terms to be agreed.*

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT

Cabinet considered the Feedback from the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Meeting in relation to a call-in of decision C193 in relation to the 2018 Tour Series Cycle Event and amended Decision C193 so as to read:
To support the hosting of an Aberystwyth stage of the 2018 Tour Series race, and
To contribute up to the sum of £30,000 to the Tour Series subject to BID also contributing £30,000. If contributions are also received from other sources within the county, the County Council and BID's contributions would be refunded pro rata.

Following the above BID had decided to refuse financial support to the Tour Series in Aberystwyth, therefore the event was held on a reduced scale with financial support from Ceredigion County Council (£15k), Cyclefest and the Town Council.

The Tour Series race was held on Saturday evening of the bank holiday weekend at the end of May 2018. The Tour Series professional races ended at a full day of competing on the streets of Aberystwyth as part of the Aberystwyth Cycling Festival.

The races were broadcast on ITV4 attracting 219,000 viewers (the highest audience but one of all locations along the tour) and on Eurosport.

Organizers' report, Sweetspot, shows that around 10,000 people watched the races on the streets of the Aberystwyth, 79% of them residing outside of Aberystwyth and 41% having stayed overnight in the town, thus boosting the economy. The event was estimated to bring an economy boost of £896,861 (gross) to Aberystwyth. In terms of visitor spending, each group of day visitors spent £120.25 and overnight visitors spending £263.75 per group. 69% were motivated to cycle more often which would

fit in well with well-being objective 2.3 Working in partnership to promote and foster healthy and active lifestyles . *(The research-based figures follow Her Majesty's Treasury Appraisal and Appraisal Green Book guidelines)*

Installation of Paddle Gates in the public conveniences in South John Street, New Quay: Cabinet, Minute C189 notes
Installation of Paddle Gates in the public conveniences in Market Street, Lampeter and South John Street, New Quay
DECISION
(i) To authorise the additional installations of the Paddle Gates at the public conveniences located at Market Street, Lampeter and South John Street, New Quay as a potential revenue income stream to contribute to the cost of delivering the public conveniences service.
Reason for decision:- New revenue income stream to support the demand of public conveniences services.

Ten Members called the above decision in, in regards to the Public Conveniences at New Quay, reasons being given for the call-in procedure as:
(i) Safety being number one as children would have to cross a busy road to find other toilets
(ii) Children would not be carrying 20p in their pockets
(iii) Not fair to place pressure on businesses as people would use more of their toilets
(iv) There was no consultation.

At the Call-in meeting held on 5th March 2018 an Officer presentation was received which referred that the installation of Paddle Gates at South John Street, New Quay would contribute towards resolving savings issues for the service which had seen its budget reduced significantly over the last few years. Taking into account footfall at the premises it is anticipated that the income generated would be £20,000. The Capital cost for the new paddle gates would be £3,000 from Healthmatic who would receive 50% of the revenue for the first year of use. After this any future revenue would be kept within the service.

Following scrutinising the discussion, the Committee remained concerned and agreed to refer the matter back to Cabinet for reconsideration and that Officers consult with New Quay Town Council in order to gain the Town Council's views on installation of the paddle gates, to see if they would contribute to the running costs of the public conveniences in South John Street, New Quay, or if they have alternative suggestions.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Following Call-in Cabinet re-considered the recommendation and it was decided to uphold decision C189. Consequently a Paddle Gate has been installed at the public conveniences in South John Street, New Quay, generating an income of £10,208.85 to date. There doesn't seem to have been a significant reduction in footfall or a negative effect on businesses within the Town or pressure on businesses that the public were using more of their toilets. This course of action complies with the

Ceredigion for all – Single Integrated Plan Community Engagement Policy and Corporate Priorities Investing in People's Futures; Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience.

No consultation was carried in regards to the installation of these Paddle Gates, however, following Scrutiny any future changes proposed will be identified to the local community for consultation prior to bringing a report forward to Scrutiny, before any decision is requested from Cabinet.

Section 87 of the *Public Health Act 1936, as amended* allows local authorities to make a fair and reasonable charge for public conveniences.

Ceredigion County Council Speed Limit Review: In order to comply with the Welsh Government 'Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales' (2009) guidance, that all highways authorities review speed limits on their A and B Class road network.
A report was presented to Members in regards to the first County-wide Speed Limit Review, highlighting the background, the current situation and the review and methodology going forward. 20mph limits outside schools may be installed if government funding is found and if it is justified. The County would work closely with Police and are fully consulted whenever a change to speed limits is proposed. The monitoring undertaken by the Go Safe Camera Safety Partnership has been monitoring speed limits which could be fed back into the next review. Temporary part time 20mph limits have been installed outside schools on trunk roads to assist in reducing the speed of traffic at drop off and pick up times.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
The reduction in speed across the County would see a reduction in the number of road traffic collisions and severity of personal injuries. Reduce incidences of disruption to the efficient movement of people and goods on the County's road network.
Reducing speed limits outside schools to 20mph would increase the number of children and parents walking or cycling to school.

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group consisting of members from different areas of the County. This to be placed on the Forward Work Programme for establishing during 2019 prior to the next speed limit review and matrix across the County.

Report on Highways Maintenance as identified in the Risk Register
The Group Manager-Highways Services presented the report on Highways Maintenance as identified in the Risk Register
Members were informed that the Service is close to achieving its targets on the A and B road network in Ceredigion. However, the county's C roads remain a major cause for concern and the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) target is unlikely to be achieved. Only sustained capital funding would resolve the issues faced by the Service.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Members were concerned about the state of the county's roads including potholes; the weight of farm machinery and large lorries damaging rural roads; the need for improved drainage before road improvements are carried out.
The revised HAMP will be presented differently to how it was historically and will be built up of a suite of 8 documents - a draft will be available later in the year.
Welsh Government has announced a further £1.191m capital funding for refurbishing road networks in Ceredigion to be spent during 18/19.

Highways Maintenance of Gullies and Culverts: A report was presented to Committee including information contained within the Risk Register which considers the progress made in improving roads in Ceredigion. The service, whose budget remains under pressure, has responsibilities which includes maintenance and improvement of bridges, street lighting, resurfacing, surface dressing, drainage, grass cutting and remedial earthworks and related highways assets. During the presentation plans for the future which includes the HAMP 2018-22, Symology/Insight system, data capture and the purchase of three new road sweepers.

The Service is continually striving to ensure that where resources allow, gullies and culverts are the subject of an ongoing cycle of planned cleaning/maintenance and reactive intervention, and where systems/locations are identified as needing improvement, that a programme of improvements are prioritised and addressed as and when budgets allow.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Members welcomed the opportunity for discussion and raised the following points:
i. Community Councils may be able to aid the Council in locating gullies unknown to them.
ii. Some of the County's drainage systems have been in place for centuries. Ensuring that there's sufficient capacity for water is a priority each time improvements are made to drainage systems.
iii. Roadside debris picked up by road sweepers is dealt with by contractors and recycled at a cost to the Council. At the time of procurement, contracting out was more cost efficient than the purchase of gully emptiers.
iv. Grass cuttings are taken away from verges during the first cut of the season. Grass is not picked up during further cuts. It was proposed that recycling grass cuttings may be explored.
v. It was proposed that the Committee's concerns in relation to the service's funding pressure are relayed to Cabinet with a recommendation presented to Cabinet:

To write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport to emphasise the need for an increased budget for Highway Maintenance in Ceredigion. As a County, Ceredigion relies heavily on tourism as an economic driver. Most visitors to Ceredigion will travel by road and their perception of the County will be influenced by the condition of the roads.

Highways Winter Maintenance Service
Members of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had asked officers to review/refine the assessment methodology used to score the routes to be included in the schedule of routes to receive pre-treatment in advance of forecasted ice and or snow, namely the effect of altitude on routes. The previous pre-treatment Assessment Matrix was approved in 2014.

Officers briefly outlined the legal position and the duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practical, to ensure the roads are free from ice and snow. The current level of service, in addition to maintaining the County road network, also provides a service to NMWTRA in relation to the trunk road.

The considerable amount of salt used on the county's roads illustrates the severity of the recent winter where twice the allocated budget was spent to finance road treatment. There is an onus on the service to maintain salt stock levels at 9500 tons. The budget has diminished by approximately 50% since 2006 due to budget cuts. Costs are affected by winter climate and, if required, corporate reserves are used to meet any overspend. £100k of extra funding was received from the Welsh Government towards the cost of last winter.

OUTCOME AND/OR IMPACT
Members of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend that Cabinet approves the proposed revision to the pre-treatment route assessment methodology/assessment matrix.

In turn the decision of the Cabinet (C70) was:
(i) To approve an increase in the winter maintenance service budget setting to facilitate the pre-treatment of all routes scoring +2 or above equating to an overall length of the county road network to be pre-treated of 463.1km. The routes have been analysed and it is considered that this increase in length is possible without adding an additional route (gritter) to the service. The additional funding required (based on average historical winter gritting data) is estimated to be £18k.

This action was taken to ensure that the Authority continues to meet its requirements in relation to the length of pre-treated winter maintenance routes following the inclusion of an altitude criteria.

Corporate Performance Management Panel

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees attend the Corporate Performance Management Panel.

This provides a forum where members of the CPM panel come together to:

- obtain a holistic view of the Council's performance;
- identify and explore high level cross-cutting issues that affect more than one service area e.g. the welfare reform;
- critically challenge areas of poor performance; and
- identify service improvement opportunities, risks to service delivery, and resource implications.

This allows the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be able to identify topics which require further attention by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and for its inclusion on the Forward Work Programme of the Committee.

Dwynwen Jones, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Lis Williams, Standards & Scrutiny Officer