

Cyngor Gwledig LLANELLI Rural Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor
Mark Galbraith A.C.I.S.
Clerk to the Council

Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA15 3BD
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Fy nghyf:
My ref:

Eich cyf:
Your ref:

Gofynnwch am:
Please ask for:

6 Mai, 2026

Annwyl Gynghorydd

Gelwir arnoch i gymryd rhan mewn Cyfarfod o'r **CYNGOR** a gynhelir yn Siambr y Cyngor, Adeiladau Vauxhall, Llanelli, a thrwy bresenoldeb o bell ar Ddydd Mawrth, 12 Mai, 2026, ar ddiwedd y Cyfarfod Blynyddol.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

CLERC y CYNGOR

AGENDA

1. Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
2. Derbyn Datganiadau o Fudd Personol gan Aelodau o ran y materion sydd i'w trafod.
3. Cyfranogiad y Cyhoedd – cyfle i aelodau'r cyhoedd ofyn cwestiynau a chyflwyno sylwadau am unrhyw eitem o fusnes sydd i'w thrafod yn ystod cyfarfod heddiw ac sy'n agored i drafodaeth gyhoeddus. Mae eitemau busnes cyfrinachol wedi'u heithrio.
4. (1) Cadarnhau ac arwyddo'r Cofnodion canlynol fel cofnod cywir o'r cyfarfod:-

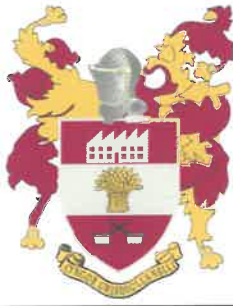
Y Cyngor	14 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 222 - 227
Y Pwyllgor Dinesig a Sereoniol	15 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 228
Y Pwyllgor Polisi ac Adnoddau	15 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 229 - 230
Y Pwyllgor Lles a Hamdden	21 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 231 - 234
Y Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Chyswllt	27 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 235 - 237
Y Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Datblygiad A Dysg	30 Ebrill, 2026	Tud. Rhif: 238 - 239



Mae Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg
Llanelli Rural Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English



- (2) Ystyried unrhyw faterion sy'n codi o'r Cofnodion er gwybodaeth yn unig.
5. Y Cyngor – Adroddiad Blynyddol 2025/26 - cymeradwyo Adroddiad Blynyddol y cyngor sy'n manylu ar weithgareddau a chyflawniadau allweddol dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn ogystal â nodi'r cynnydd a wnaed o ran hyrwyddo a gwella bioamrywiaeth leol ac ar ben hynny sut mae'r cyngor wedi cyfrannu at yr amcanion a gynhwysir yng nghynllun lles lleol Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Sir Gaerfyrddin.
 6. Cynllun Gwasanaeth Clinigol – Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda – ymhellach i Gofnod Rhif 383, i dderbyn gohebiaeth gan Brif Weithredwr, Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda a Thîm Busnes y Llywodraeth, Llywodraeth Cymru mewn ymateb i lythyrau'r Clerc dyddiedig 4 Mawrth, 2026, ynghylch Cynllun Gwasanaethau Clinigol y Bwrdd Iechyd ac i gytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
 7. Nodi, er gwybodaeth, llythyr o ddiolch a dderbyniwyd gan Pum Heol W. I.



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6 May, 2026

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to participate in a **COUNCIL** Meeting to be hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 12 May, 2026 at the conclusion of the Council Annual Meeting.

Yours sincerely

CLERK to the COUNCIL

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted.
3. Public Participation – an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and make representations about any item of business to be transacted during today's meeting and which is open for public discussion. Confidential items of business are excluded.
4. (1) To confirm and sign the following Minutes as a true record of proceedings:-

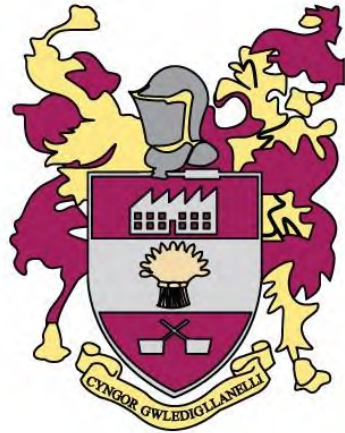
Council	14 April, 2026	Page Nos: 222 - 227
Civic and Ceremonial Committee	15 April, 2026	Page No: 228
Policy and Resources Committee	15 April, 2026	Page Nos: 229 - 230
Recreation and Welfare Committee	21 April, 2026	Page Nos: 231 - 234
Planning and Liaison Committee	27 April, 2026	Page Nos: 235 - 237
Learning and Development Consultative Committee	30 April, 2026	Page Nos: 238 - 239



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- (2) To consider any matters arising from the Minutes for information purposes only.
5. Council Annual Report 2025/26 – to approve the council’s Annual Report detailing key activities and achievements over the last year as well as noting the progress made with promoting and enhancing local biodiversity and moreover how the council has contributed towards the objectives contained in the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board’s local well-being plan.
6. Hywel Dda University Health Board – Clinical Services Plan (CSP) consultation – further to Minute No. 383, to receive correspondence from the Chief Executive, Hywel Dda University Health Board and the Government Business Team, Welsh Government in response to the Clerk’s letters dated 4 March, 2026, regarding the Health Board’s Clinical Services Plan and to agree the council’s response.
7. To note for information, letter of appreciation received from Five Roads W. I.



**Cyngor Gwledig
LLANELLI
Rural Council**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

WELL-BEING | BIODIVERSITY | PRIORITIES | ACTIVITIES | ACHIEVEMENTS

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

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LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

INTRODUCTION

The council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish two public annual reports and also a biodiversity action plan report once every three years to satisfy the following legislative requirements:

Section 40 of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the council to publish a report annually on the progress made in meeting the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's local well-being objectives. The report must be published as soon as reasonably practicable following the end of the financial year (31 March) to which the report relates.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the council to prepare and publish a plan report once every three years setting out what it proposes to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. The council's next plan report must be published no later than 31 December 2028.

Section 52 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the council, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year (31 March), to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

There are a number of over-lapping elements associated with the production of these reports. For reasons of practicality and to avoid duplication the council has decided to prepare a single composite annual report to satisfy its legislative reporting duties. The council is permitted to do this in preference to producing three individual reports.

The composite annual report structure has been designed to reflect the chronological order of the enactment of the legislative reporting requirements based on when the reporting duties were first introduced to the local council sector and comprises three parts:

- PART 1 – The council's contribution to supporting the local well-being objectives for the area (the Section 40 reporting duty (Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015));
- PART 2 – The council's contribution to supporting and promoting local biodiversity (the Section 6 reporting duty (Environment (Wales) Act 2016)); and
- PART 3 – A review of the council's key tasks and activities performed over the previous year (the Section 52 reporting duty (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)).

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the ordinary local government elections in May 2022, eleven new councillors were elected to serve on the council together with ten re-elected councillors. All seven of the council's electoral wards were contested with a total of 53 candidates contesting 21 seats. Since the formation of the new council, there have been two casual vacancies on the council. Cllr B. M. Williams (Hengoed Ward) resigned and subsequently Cllr J. Lovell was elected on 20 February 2025. Cllr N. A. Stephens (Dafen Ward) sadly passed away and subsequently Cllr K. Morgan was elected on 28 March 2025.

The council has continued at pace with its capital programme of works to provide new community facilities throughout its administrative area. In the last year, the council has continued with several environmental enhancements, recruited more staff that manages facilities and has transformed a former part time branch library into a new community hub, named Canolfan Llwynhendy, in the Pemberton Ward.

The council continues to conduct its formal business and decision-making arrangements by facilitating multi-location council and committee meetings using Microsoft Teams software to accommodate councillors, the press and public participating remotely if they so wish. Llanelli District Cemetery, council parks, playgrounds and community halls continue to flourish and so does the floodlit AstroTurf pitch in Dafen Park. The adoption of Lower Lliedi Reservoir in Swiss Valley is progressing well under the council's stewardship. Phased fish stocking continued, which will both improve the angling offer whilst also improve the health of the water ecosystem at the reservoir.

This year, the Training Department has delivered strong performance against its strategic aims, maintaining financial stability while improving outcomes across all programmes.

Recruitment and occupancy have been effectively managed, with 83 apprentices in learning and 71 new starts, ensuring contract targets were met. Performance has been particularly strong within Jobs Growth Wales+, where 75.5% of learners progressed into employment or further learning, exceeding targets and marking a record achievement. Qualification success rates have significantly improved, with 95% attainment in employability qualifications and apprenticeship framework completion rates increasing to 86–88%. The Personal Learning Account (PLA) programme has also performed exceptionally well, achieving a 93% completion rate and expanding delivery beyond initial targets to meet high demand for vocational licence training, supporting regional workforce needs. Learner success has been recognised externally, with a Jobs Growth Wales+ learner winning at the ITEC Awards and a Foundation Apprentice receiving recognition at the Skills Academy Wales Awards, reflecting the high quality of provision. Curriculum development has progressed, with the successful embedding of the Achieve qualification and 37 learners completing at Entry Level and Level 1. Strong partnership working and alignment with Welsh Government priorities — including bilingual delivery, wellbeing, and inclusion — remain central to delivery.

Overall, the service demonstrates a clear commitment to continuous improvement, high-quality training, and positive learner outcomes, positioning it well for future growth.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S DUTIES



Pictured is a sample of the Chairman's duties during the past year. On the left, Council Chairman Cllr Sue Lewis presents the LRC Training-sponsored Employer Award to the Makefast Group. On the right, Cllr Lewis is pictured alongside fellow judges from Carmarthenshire County Council, Llanelli Town Council, Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Ymlaen Llanelli, selecting the winner of the annual "Design a Christmas Light" competition. The competition invites local schoolchildren to take part, with the winning design manufactured and displayed in the town centre during the festive period.

Canolfan Llwynhendy

Cyngor Gwledig
LLANELLI
Rural Council

Wedi'i agor swyddogol gan
Y Cymg. Susan N. Lewis
Cadeirydd Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli ar 4 Chwefror 2026

Officially opened by
Cllr. Susan N. Lewis
Chairman of Llanelli Rural Council on 4 February 2026

Actiwyddu Canolfan
Llwynhendy

Arhwyddu y prosiect hwn gan
Llywodraeth Cymru, Cyngor
Gwledig Llanelli, Llanelli Rural
Council, a Chyngor Sir Gâr

Arlosgi, yn Ffyniant gan
Llywodraeth Cymru
a'r Ffyniant Cymru
a'r Ffyniant Cymru

Cyngor Gwledig
LLANELLI
Rural Council

Canolfan Llwynhendy
Refurbishment

This project was funded by the
Welsh Government, Llanelli Rural
Council, Gŵyl Llwynhendy a'r
Llanelli/Herby County Council

Funded by
UK Shared Prosperity
Fund

Mae'r prosiect hwn wedi'i gefnogi
gan Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin y DU

This project has been supported by
UK Shared Prosperity Fund



CANOLFAN LLWYNHENDY OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

Picture on left:

Cllr Michelle Donoghue, Vice-Chairman of Llanelli Rural Council, unveiling the project funders plaques at the official opening of Canolfan Llwynhendy

Pictured above, outside Canolfan Llwynhendy, from left to right:

Cllr Andrew Stephens, Pemberton Ward, Llanelli Rural Council.

Cllr Sue Lewis, Chairman of Llanelli Rural Council

Cllr Deryk Cundy, Chairman of Recreation and Welfare Committee at Llanelli Rural Council

VOLUNTEERS HELPING WITH THE REMOVAL OF HIMALAYAN BALSAM AT SWISS VALLEY RESERVOIR



Before



After

TRADITIONAL WELSH STYLE HEDGE LAYING AT SWISS VALLEY



LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the last 12 months the council has achieved:

- Canolfan Llwynhendy opened its doors following a major renovation, transforming it from a part-time branch library into a full-time community hub with an integrated library service. This development is the result of several years of planning, consultation, and collaboration.
- Biodiversity initiatives undertaken: Tree planting in the cemetery grounds and at amenity areas in several parks, recreation grounds, growing space and the reservoir. Re-wilding areas, habitats, nest boxes created to attract pollinators, and improving biodiversity.
- Establishing the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir volunteer group and creating opportunities to take part in meaningful, hands-on work at the reservoir.
- Work has been undertaken in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Places for Nature Officer, at Swiss Valley Reservoir for environmental improvement.
- Successful delivery of a UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund grant via Carmarthenshire County Council to purchase furniture and equipment for Canolfan Llwynhendy.
- Coordination of a Litter Pick Hub that has allowed 35 litter picks carried out by 91 volunteers.
- The council secured reaccreditation for Investors in People which recognises the council's commitment to quality people management and employee wellbeing.
- More staff was recruited to help manage the council's community assets and facilities.
- Modifications carried out at Phil Bennett Community Resource Centre to provide public toilets for match day use at Felinfoel Recreation Ground
- Strong performance and outcomes across all programmes, exceeding key targets with 75.5% JGW+ progression into employment or further learning, 93% PLA completion rates, and improved apprenticeship framework success rates of up to 88%.
- Sustained growth and quality improvement, with robust financial management, expansion of PLA delivery to meet high demand, successful embedding of employability qualifications, strengthened internal quality assurance capacity, and increased bilingual provision across learning programmes.



Learners taking part in a problem-solving team building exercise at Llanelli Fire Station



Day trip for learners to St Fagans National Museum of History



Showcasing the HGV Driving Simulator at an Apprenticeships Event in The Senedd

Annual Report – Part 1

Report for Carmarthenshire Public Services Board - Llanelli Rural Council Annual Report - 2025-26

Outline of Council

One of nine community councils in the Llanelli district area, the council, formed during Local Government re-organisation in April 1974, is made up of 21 elected members, advised by the Clerk to the Council.

The council's geographic area is approximately 26.78 square miles, with a population of 22,018 and surrounds the urban centre of Llanelli. Its boundaries extend from Loughor Estuary in the east to Burry Port in the west and skirts the Gwendraeth Valley in the north. The area is made up of the villages and districts of Bynea, Cwmbach, Cynheidre, Dafen, Felinfoel, Five Roads, Furnace, Llwynhendy, Ponthenri, Pontyates (south of the railway line), Pwll, Sandy and Swiss Valley.

Chairman: Councillor Susan Lewis

Leader of the Council: Councillor Susan Lewis. Cllr Susan Lewis stood down and was replaced by Cllr. Rob Evans on 10/02/2026.

Clerk to the Council: Mark Galbraith ACIS

The Council's 21 elected members represent seven wards and it meets on the second Tuesday at 6.00 pm each month except for August.

Councillors by ward are:

Bynea: Cllrs D M Cundy, T M Donoghue and S M T Ford.

Dafen: Cllrs R E Evans, S N Lewis, K Morgan and A J Rogers.

Felinfoel: Cllrs E M Evans and N Evans.

Glyn: Cllrs A Evans and O Williams.

Hengoes: Cllrs M V Davies, J Lovell, J S Phillips and W E Skinner.

Pemberton: Cllrs S L Davies, J P Hart, S K Nurse and A G Stephens.

Swiss Valley: Cllrs S R Bowen and A G Morgan.

The council's precept for 2025/2026 was £1,568,545 equivalent to £181.69 per band D property. Since the council's inception, it has built and maintained nine community halls, sports changing rooms and a community resource centre incorporating community and changing facilities. In November 2020, the council signed a five-year community adoption agreement with Welsh Water to provide upgrades and routine maintenance for the Lower Lledi Reservoir at Swiss Valley. The agreement is the first of its kind in Wales. The council has agreed to renew this arrangement with Welsh Water, who have expressed its satisfaction with how it has been managed and is keen to agree a new ten-year term, reflecting the success of the initial five-year agreement. The council also maintains seven parks where rugby, football, bowls and cricket are regularly played and has provided and maintains 18 children's play areas. It grant aids voluntary and charitable organisations. Through its Training Department the council provides work-based learning training and job opportunities. The council manages and maintains Llanelli District Cemetery which is jointly owned with Llanelli Town Council. The council also provides a grounds maintenance service to the town council to maintain its parks and open spaces under a service level agreement.

What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?

The council is committed to working for and with the local community to help improve general well-being while acting as a local voice to safeguard key services.

The council has the following ambitions:

- To be recognised as an excellent organisation;
- To be an organisation that people are proud to work for and be associated with.

The council aims to be:

- Caring and supportive;
- Fair and equitable;
- Inclusive;
- Developmental and Innovative;
- Empowering, Enthusiastic and Encouraging.

The council's general vision is outlined in its Strategic Plan but following the enactment of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGAct) it elected to employ a full time Community Development Officer (CDO) and commissioned a 15 year plan that focuses on well-being called the Llanelli Rural Area Whole Place Plan – 2015 to 2030. This plan details the background, approach and methods of delivering well-being for its area. Both its Strategic Plan and Well Being Plan integrate the seven National Wellbeing Goals and five ways of working brought about by the Act.

OUR SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR 2026/27

How is the Council funded?

The council is funded entirely from the council taxpayer and other sources of income collected from charges etc.

Where does your money go?

The council has agreed a budget of £2,227,891 to spend on the provision of services in 2026/27. For the council tax payer, the Band D tax levied will be £196.26 per dwelling which represents an 8% increase on 2025/26.

The Council has budgeted to spend on:

2025/26		2026/27
£		£
823,896	Halls	458,150
644,659	Parks/open spaces	633,526
100,606	Roads and footpaths	122,836
100,000	Cemetery	100,000
156,103	Arts and tourism	179,508
121,740	Community development	138,380
8,040	Training	12,360
23,250	Grants	23,250
284,310	Play areas	409,407
73,503	Asset Transfer	83,675
<u>95,727</u>	Other services	<u>66,799</u>
<u>2,431,834</u>		<u>2,227,891</u>

To be financed by:	£
Council Tax payers	1,689,500
Charges, grants etc	401,251
Reserves	137,140

Financial Reserves

Balances are necessary to provide for the levelling out of normal peaks and troughs of a year's financial activities. It is estimated that these working balances will stand at around £382,671 on 31 March, 2026.

Continuing Services

- the maintenance of its community halls, parks, play areas, footpaths and open spaces
- the maintenance of Llanelli District Cemetery in partnership with Llanelli Town Council
- providing a grounds maintenance service to Llanelli Town Council
- funding of the Christmas Carnival and Lights switch on with Carmarthenshire County Council and Llanelli Town Council
- projects under the Whole Place Plan
- to deliver Work Based Learning Programmes: Jobs Growth Wales+ and Apprenticeships
- provide litter picking equipment for hire to groups, schools, businesses and individuals
- provide varied community volunteering opportunities to its residents
- the operation of Dwyfor Growing space

Our Plans

- to continue the development of new facilities at Swiss Valley Reservoir
- to continue with the lease transfer of assets from Carmarthenshire County Council
- to negotiate Section 106 funding for play and recreational facilities
- to upgrade play equipment at Berwick, Dafen Park and Five Roads play areas
- to establish Canolfan Llwynhendy as a community hub
- to enhance facilities at Swiss Valley and Furnace Community Halls
- to improve customer experience in accessing public facing service

Progress against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objectives

Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objective 1: Ensuring a sustainable economy and fair employment

Steps taken by Llanelli Rural Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
Learner Wellbeing	The wellbeing of learners is a priority within Work Based Learning Provision (WBL). Estyn inspections and self-evaluations of training provision will focus on the 'Wellbeing and Safeguarding' of learners along with the 'Care, Support and Guidance' offered to them. This is alongside their progress in learning. In Skills Academy Wales the Training Department is represented on the Health, Safety and Wellbeing group which oversees the support given to apprentices in programme. In JGW+ provision wellbeing and safeguarding issues are reported and monitored through the 'My Concern' platform provided by ITEC Skills or 'Be Safe' provided by Coleg Sir Gar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales
Work based learning provision for 16-19 year olds	LRC Training's Jobs Growth Wales + programme is available on a roll-on, roll-off basis, ensuring that young people who often face many difficult barriers to learning can access provision when they need to. Inductions are held at least monthly and often more frequently, each learner will have an Individual Learning Plan drawn up which will include targets which are SMART and achievable. Progress against these targets are reviewed monthly. Learners will access training opportunities which are appropriate and timely for them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • More equal Wales
Apprenticeship opportunities and Personal Learning Accounts (PLA)	Apprenticeship opportunities are available at any time. LRC Training will work with employers who have apprenticeship vacancies to help them fill vacancies. The availability of apprenticeship places is promoted to employers in the relevant sectors, particularly in logistics where employers are currently experiencing a shortage in operatives and LGV Drivers. Learning follows pre agreed apprenticeship frameworks but there is flexibility in the method of delivery, a mix of on and off the job training and an opportunity to complete the framework over a longer or shorter time span. PLA funding has been directed at priority sectors such as logistics and passenger transport. The training department is using this funding to deliver training to those not already employed in the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • More equal Wales

<p>Networking in Training and Education</p>	<p>LRC Training is recognised as a quality Work Based Learning provider in Wales. Membership of Neath Port Talbot College Group and Skills Academy Wales allows the department to participate and contribute to all consultations, training and guidance relevant to WBL provision. LRC Training is also involved in sector specific networks, notably with the National Logistics Academy which offers apprenticeship opportunities across the UK.</p> <p>LRC Training is now working with ITEC Skills Ltd and Coleg Sir Gar to deliver the Jobs Growth Wales + programme in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Locally, officers network well with referral agencies such as Careers Wales, The Youth Service and JobCentre Plus. There are good communications with other local providers and support agencies such as Choices and Iechyd Da who are involved with young learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
<p>Opportunities for Learning</p>	<p>LRC Training has developed unique training provision.</p> <p>The Jobs Growth Wales + programme exhibits a high level of learner support and pastoral care with dedicated provision for additional learning needs and skills development.</p> <p>LRC Training is unique in its provision of apprenticeship opportunities in Logistics and Transport throughout Wales, offering Driving Goods Vehicles, Warehousing and Storage, Logistics Operations, Passenger Carrying Vehicle, Supply Chain Management and apprenticeships in Customer Service and Business Administration, one of very few providers in Wales offering Level 4 apprenticeships in Business Administration.</p> <p>LRC Training is working with Neath Port Talbot College (NPTC) Group to deliver training in Logistics and Road Passenger Transport licences through Personal Learning Accounts across South Wales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More equal Wales • Resilient Wales
<p>Investors in People Accreditation</p>	<p>The council is putting people first as an Investors in People organisation, which is a standard wherein the employer engages with employees to discuss welfare, wellbeing training and employment needs. It maintains open dialogue and evaluates the council's values whilst seeking to improve the leadership and management capability of the organisation. The council achieved reaccreditation in 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • More equal Wales

Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objective 2: Improving well-being and reducing health inequalities

Steps taken by Llanelli Rural Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
<p>Community adoption plan with Welsh Water for Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Swiss Valley</p>	<p>The community adoption plan was agreed in November 2020, and is the first of its kind in Wales. Its purpose is designed to open up the Lower Lliedi Reservoir local beauty spot to members of the public. The intention is to enable recreation, public access for all and create a high quality visitor experience that balances recreation with conservation and biodiversity. The agreement allows regulated water access for paddle sports and anglers. The space will be promoted as a place where schools and other outdoor education providers can visit. Volunteering opportunities have been created since the adoption. The toilet block has been restored and the car parks have been reopened. The eastern footpath has been resurfaced whilst improvements have also been made where necessary on parts of the western footpath. The adoption has prompted the council to establish a volunteer led angling club. The agreement also allows for opportunities for angling and canoe competitions and mobile traders at the site. This in turn will have a positive effect on the local economy and tourism industry. The council installed visitor counters at entrance points at the site and between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 they recorded 118,253 visitors to the reservoir.</p> <p>The council has improved the visitor experience by way of a woodland management plan and installation of signage, seating/picnic areas, accessibility, footpath repair and improvements to existing woodland trails. Habitat boxes have been installed to help monitor and aid biodiversity in the woodland.</p> <p>The council continues to work with a number of public sector partners to deliver its site management plan. Staff are assigned with site monitoring which ensures the area is maintained for the purposes it is intended for. Based on the recommendations of stakeholders, an appropriate fish stocking programme is now underway. Working relationships for the ongoing use of the reservoir have been established with Carmarthenshire County Council leisure, biodiversity, rights of way and outdoor education officers. Relationships have been established with local anglers, paddlers, volunteers and community groups to ensure the site is inclusive of their needs. This approach has embraced the five ways of working sustainably by collaborating with partners and involving user groups in the discussions. The ongoing dialogue with the different stakeholders and the public have helped frame the long term plans for the site by overcoming or flagging up any potential problems and putting well-being at the fore front of our plans for the reservoir.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales

	<p>LiveFree Adventures Ltd. (LFA) holds an operator licence to provide water sports and outward bound activities at the reservoir. There are various land and water based activities on offer through LFA at the reservoir. You can book in advance or turn up and pay to book a self-launch permit or hire a stand up paddleboard (SUP), kayak or row boat. LFA also provide "Sauna y Coed", an outdoor sauna and cold plunge experience set in the woodland at the reservoir.</p> <p>Anglers can reserve a session at the reservoir in advance on our online booking system. Members of Swiss Valley Angling Association receive discounted rates. The association is managed by volunteers and helps by acting as a voice for its members when matters require raising for the council or Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to act on. The Association also helps the management of the fishing offer by volunteering to carry out activities such as clean ups of fishing pegs, bailiff duties, hosting events and assist with stocking of new fish.</p>	
Maintaining the footpath network within the Council's boundaries	The council has an agreement in place with Carmarthenshire County Council to maintain public rights of way within its area on an agency basis for the county council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
Provision of seven playing fields used for recreation and sports such as bowls, cricket, football and rugby teams from junior to adult age groups.	These facilities allow for sports teams to participate in leisure and recreation throughout the council's administrative area. The council has a positive relationship with these groups, and the council maintains facilities to a satisfactory level at no cost to the user. The council's grounds maintenance team has good communication links with local clubs. This proactive approach helps to deal with issues at an early intervention therefore preventing problems while safeguarding long term needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
Provision of funding to voluntary groups and community hall committees	Local volunteer led organisations and charities are encouraged to approach the council for small donations that help them deliver on their aims and objectives. Organisations that are doing good things for the Llanelli Rural area and are looking for assistance with running costs, can approach the council for financial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
Phil Bennett OBE Community Resource Centre	This building has additional facilities compared to other council owned community halls. It is a two storey building with a depot for the council's grounds maintenance team, office space and changing rooms for the sporting organisations that use Felinfoel Recreation Ground. The management committee is set up as a charity and company limited by guarantee which is supported by the council's Community Development Officer. The office space has housed Carmarthenshire County Council staff in the past and now hosts Hywel Dda University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities

	Health Board Primary Care team. The community hall sits on the first floor and hosts a varied programme of classes and clubs for the community and is a popular venue with training providers.	
Provision of a community growing space in Llwynhendy	The council has acquired the former allotments at Dwyfor, Llwynhendy via a Community Asset Transfer from Carmarthenshire County Council. The funds received as part of the transfer and via a Welsh Government Allotment grant has enabled the council to transform the space into more manageable growing space. The previous issue of waterlogging has been alleviated, and the space is suitable once more to grow food. Raised beds are available to individuals, community groups, charities and local primary schools. At the rear of the growing space is a wild and biodiversity-rich area, which is a space that has potential for the development of an outdoors classroom. In 2026, the council will be entering its fourth year of renting out raised beds at Dwyfor to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities

Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objective 3: Responding to the climate and nature emergencies

Steps taken by Llanelli Rural Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
Working with Keep Wales Tidy in the provision of a Litter Pick Hub	The council's offices acts as a litter pick hub for Keep Wales Tidy. This enables individuals and groups to loan litter picking equipment free for one off clean ups. Measures are in place to financially support newly formed litter picking groups. The council is also represented at Pride In Your Patch and Llanelli Litter Taskforce. The litter pick hub opened in 2021. Between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, the hub supported 35 litter picks. 91 volunteers recorded 313 hours of litter picking and 91 bags of litter collected at venues in and around Llanelli.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales
Working group dealing with climate change and the promotion of biodiversity in place to further support the principle of sustainable development	<p>The working group undertook a review of the council's position in relation to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C global temperature rise.</p> <p>The aim of the review: To review the council's position in relation to IPCC and recommend how the Council can contribute towards this target in the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>The working group will consider the potential changes and impacts of global warming across the Council's administrative area. The review will involve gathering information from its own activities in providing local services and consult with other resources such as government advisory bodies, websites, partner organisations, agencies and individuals. Identify the key areas where the council can impact on the IPCC target whilst carrying out its service delivery functions (direct and indirect) and how the Council can also encourage residents to make an impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing carbon emissions; • Use energy more efficiently; • Switch to low carbon fuels; • Prepare for climate change. <p>The recommendations of the group are reported to the council's Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. Stemming from this an Environment and Climate change policy, strategy and action plan will be formulated and reported for further consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Globally Responsible Wales

	<p>The work identified by the working group helped convince the Council to acquire new IT equipment for the Council chamber providing for more sustainable practices associated with remote attendance at council and committee meetings.</p> <p>The printing of meeting papers for Council members has reduced. This is due to council members opting in to receive their meeting papers digitally instead of having paper copies delivered.</p> <p>Reduced energy consumption and improved energy efficiency across council buildings and assets by introducing smart controls and upgrading heating and lighting systems into low energy consumption models where possible.</p> <p>Reduced grass cutting practices to allow for the benefit of pollinators have been introduced. The biodiversity areas the council have identified has been increased. In Pwll we have doubled the area that has been left to grow naturally, thus increasing the potential for wildflower and pollinators. The council's grass collection machine arisings are collected from wild flower meadows, which prevents the build-up of dead vegetation, which can smother delicate plants. There is more exposed ground to allow seeds to grow. The soil fertility is reduced, therefore slowing down the growth of nutrient-loving coarse grasses that choke wild flowers.</p>	
Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir	<p>The council has been offering volunteering opportunities at the reservoir through its "Friends of the Reservoir" group, which began in January 2025.</p> <p>The programme started with three litter-picking sessions in February and March. In May and June, volunteers took part in several sessions to clear the Invasive Non Native Species plant, Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the reservoir. During these sessions, volunteers learned about the issue and how to remove the plant by pulling it up at the roots and leaving it on site to decompose naturally.</p> <p>Additional activities included dormouse monitoring, delivered by a consultant ecologist working with three volunteers. The work has also involved collaboration with organisations such as Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Keep Wales Tidy, and Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Places for Nature officer, including a traditional hedgerow laying project in December.</p> <p>In total, 12 volunteering sessions were held during 2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales

<p>Fish stocking at Swiss Valley Reservoir to help control the spread of Topmouth gudgeon, a non-native invasive species of fish.</p>	<p>Previous monitoring suggests that there is a population of topmouth gudgeon in both Upper and Lower Lliedi reservoirs at Swiss Valley. Preventing the spread of it is an important action that benefits all stakeholders. The reason that topmouth gudgeon control is crucial in UK freshwaters because this invasive fish species, native to Asia, poses significant threats to native ecosystems. It competes with native fish for food and can carry diseases and parasites that can harm native species. Additionally, topmouth gudgeon can disrupt the ecosystem by consuming invertebrates and fish eggs. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the council and Swiss Valley Angling Association have worked collectively to introduce a biological control method, which uses natural predators to manage pest populations. This is a natural control measure which restores an ecosystem balance and initial indicators show that this method appears to be working. Four phased stocking events have taken place between 2023 -2025 to introduce predatory species, specifically pike and perch. Three stocking phases were funded by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and one by NRW. A significant number of fish of varying maturity were introduced in each stocking event. NRW are undertaking an extensive monitoring programme. The initial signs are encouraging and indicating a reduction in the prevalence of the topmouth gudgeon at the Lower Lliedi. Furthermore, a joint venture between DWR Cymru Welsh Water and LRC will introduce a second equipment wash down station at the reservoir to support the cleaning of equipment to avoid transference of invasive species to and from other waterways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Wales • Globally Responsible Wales
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Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objective 4: Tackling poverty and its impacts

Steps taken by Llanelli Rural Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
Canolfan Llwynhendy	<p>In October 2025, Canolfan Llwynhendy reopened following a major renovation, transforming it from a part-time branch library into a full-time community hub with an integrated library service. This development is the result of several years of planning, consultation, and collaboration.</p> <p>The building is the first community facility provided by Llanelli Rural Council in the Pemberton (Llwynhendy) ward. Its transformation, along with improvements to the surrounding grounds, has created a central space for the community to access services and come together. The project has also enabled the council to establish a new role—Community Buildings Manager—based at the Canolfan. The manager is responsible for ensuring the venue is sustainable and delivers a regular programme of activities and services for local residents. Having a dedicated space like this will help raise awareness of the support available within the area.</p> <p>The library service has been retained, alongside new face-to-face housing support from the local authority’s housing department, which has offered weekly sessions since February. The building also provides space for employment support, training opportunities, and youth provision for people aged 11 to 25.</p> <p>The project has been delivered through a collaborative approach. It was initially led by council members and officers, who established a steering group comprising representatives from housing, leisure, community regeneration, and library services within Carmarthenshire County Council, as well as local members and community volunteers.</p> <p>According to the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation, the Llwynhendy ward is among the most deprived areas in Wales. The area has a higher-than-average proportion of young families, with many residents living in social housing or experiencing housing deprivation. Overall health outcomes in the community are also below the national average. The five ways of sustainable working highlighted in the act and how Canolfan Llwynhendy meets them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take account of the long term - Securing an underutilised building on a 99-year lease and transforming it into a multi-use facility for the community to access for many years to come. Employing a coordinator to establish the hub and making it self-sustaining. 2. Help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse – Safeguarding a community facility by investing in it to ensure more use and instilling community pride by brightening up the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

	<p>3. Take an integrated approach – The facilities available within the hub link well with the 7 wellbeing goals that will also be considered whilst establishing a regular programme of events.</p> <p>4. Take a collaborative approach – Add to the partnerships already established with the council library service, housing service and local community groups by working with third sector organisations and health services to benefit the community.</p> <p>5. Consider and involve people of all ages and diversity – provide an inclusive environment and put on services for people of all ages and backgrounds.</p>	
Time Credits programme	Working in partnership with Tempo to deliver volunteering opportunities to address local priorities in return for time credits. The time credit currency can be used to access both local and nationwide amenities in return for the volunteer's time. The time credits model from Tempo has changed to digital and the initiative is supported at the council via its Community Development Officer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities
Supporting the local economy by being included on Carmarthenshire County Council's procurement framework	The council works on a sustainable footing and strives to ensure best value in all of its spending decisions and where appropriate it looks to support the local economy. Participating in the county council procurement framework supports this general aim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • More equal Wales • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objective 5: Helping to create bilingual, safe and diverse communities

Steps taken by Llanelli Rural Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	How have the 5 Ways of Working been used to shape your activity? (Summary in Appendix A)	Which national Well-being Goals does this work support? (Summary in Appendix B)
<p>Provision of meeting spaces: nine community halls / centres</p>	<p>These facilities were in place long before the WFGAct and the way they are run embody the five ways of working. The halls / centres are run by local volunteers and provide a range of uses that impact positively on the well-being of people. The halls host services, classes and clubs such as keep fit, martial arts, knitting groups, historical societies, post offices, yoga, cafes, cylch meithrin, weight loss, birthday parties, NHS staff and more. The council supports the voluntary effort of running the buildings by carrying out essential maintenance, annual grants and covers the cost of insurance and rates. This model enables each hall committee to make a surplus which it can reinvest in the hall.</p> <p>To assist the community run Swiss Valley Community Centre, the council has worked with a new cohort of volunteers to trial a new hall management model. In doing so, a new hall events committee has been established, with their own constitution, to manage the booking diary and community events at the hall that reflects the needs of the community. The council's role is to carry out all back office functions, such as paying utility bills, charging hall patrons and maintaining the hall.</p> <p>The council's halls are well used and relied upon by our communities. These versatile community spaces host a variety of classes that give residents the opportunity to improve their well-being. The council recognises that not every community has a hall, and it can work with residents to explore options for new facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
<p>Community Development Officer (CDO) support</p>	<p>There is CDO support available for our communities. The support follows the principles set out in the five ways of working as well as the well-being objectives set out in the Council's Well-Being (Whole Place) Plan. The CDO also provides support to the Llanelli Rural community on matters that positively affect Carmarthenshire's well-being objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales

Whole Place Plan delivery	<p>The Whole Place Plan was developed in 2015. The Whole Place Plan is a 15 year well-being plan for the council. It was the Council's initial response to comply with the provisions of the WFGAct. The 5 ways of working and national well-being goals are referred to throughout the document. Future updates will link in with the PSB's Well-being Objectives for Carmarthenshire. 14 interventions are mentioned in the plan with many already actioned. The plan's delivery is now into its tenth year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • Globally Responsible Wales
Safe Routes in Communities	<p>The Council has a strong recent track record of supporting its communities in order to benefit from Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities funding. It has played an important role in recent years with successful bids for Hengoed, Pemberton, Swiss Valley and Glyn Wards. The process involves a collaborative approach between the community, local schools and the local authority. The council's Community Development Officer is available to facilitate meetings at the early stages and arrange community consultation exercises. The aims of the Safe Routes in Communities is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and increase walking/cycling connections to schools and within the wider community. • Reduce car use by providing residents with viable alternatives. • Increase physical activity and fitness levels to improve health. • Improve road awareness, confidence and independence of young people on the school journey coupled with reducing congestion around schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier Wales • Wales of Cohesive Communities • Globally Responsible Wales

Reflection and Looking Forward

An opportunity to reflect on how things are going and outline future priorities.

<p>What has worked well for the Council?</p>	<p>Since opening in October 2025, Canolfan Llwynhendy has quickly established itself as a welcoming and well-used venue for training and meetings. Its flexible spaces have enabled local groups to meet regularly, leading to a growing number of volunteer-led community events at the centre. The project has also created a valuable base for Carmarthenshire County Council's Housing and Library services, improving access to support within Llwynhendy. Investment through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund Sustainable Communities programme (August 2025 – March 2026) has enhanced the building with new furniture, fittings and equipment. Further support from Carmarthenshire County Council's Targeted Finance Fund enabled the appointment of a Community Buildings Manager, who is playing a key role in developing the centre as a sustainable community asset. Thanks to this work, usage has increased steadily month on month, alongside growth in social media engagement and mailing list subscriptions. The centre's adaptable design and its location next to the new play area have been particularly well received. Overall, it is encouraging to see the positive progress being made following several years of planning and community consultation in Llwynhendy.</p> <p>Biodiversity initiatives undertaken: Tree planting in the cemetery grounds and at amenity areas in several parks, recreation grounds, growing space and the reservoir. Re-wilding areas, habitats, nest boxes created to attract pollinators, and improving biodiversity. Revised grounds maintenance regimes and amended working patterns reducing journeys, fuel consumption etc. and reducing carbon footprint.</p> <p>There has been a strong and encouraging response to the Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir group, which completed its first year of volunteering activity in 2025. A dedicated core of volunteers has emerged, all committed to helping maintain and improve the reservoir's surroundings. Volunteers value the opportunity to take part in meaningful, hands-on work in a unique outdoor environment, surrounded by woodland, water and wildlife.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken in partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Places for Nature Officer, who has identified key areas of Swiss Valley Reservoir for environmental improvement. One notable activity has been the restoration of traditional Welsh hedgerows through hedge laying, delivered with the support of</p>
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	<p>enthusiastic volunteers under the guidance of professional hedge layer Malcolm Edwards. Interest in the activity was high, and while it was not possible to accommodate everyone who expressed a desire to take part, this strong level of engagement highlights the community’s enthusiasm for hands-on environmental work.</p> <p>Apprenticeship recruitment has been consistent, promotion events throughout the year have ensured profiles are met and in some cases, exceeded monthly targets. Apprenticeship Framework Success rates achieved for 2024/2025 were good with Foundation Apprenticeships 86% and Apprenticeship 88%. reflecting both learner commitment and effective programme delivery.</p> <p>There continues to be high demand from individuals seeking a change of career by accessing Personal Learning Accounts (PLA) training to upskill as large vehicle or bus drivers. From August 2025 to March 2026 the number of learners recruited is 50. From August 2025 to March 2026, 93% have successfully passed their LGV/PCV licence. This highlights the programme’s responsiveness to labour market needs and its role in supporting career transitions.</p> <p>The Jobs Growth Wales + programme has demonstrated significant improvement, achieving a 75.5 % overall progression rate into employment and further education. This is a significant improvement since the start of the delivery of JGW+. In addition, qualification success rates stand at an excellent 97.5%, indication strong learner outcomes and effective support mechanisms.</p>
<p>What have been the barriers for the Council?</p>	<p>Slow turnaround of asset transfers.</p> <p>Available revenue grant funding to pay for staff. Whereas grant funding for capital works and environmental enhancements has been accessed in the last 12 months, the community and town council sector would benefit from funding to cover staffing costs to ensure these improvements meet their full potential.</p> <p>Commercial quality battery equipment to replace petrol and diesel machinery and equipment not sturdy enough yet.</p> <p>The restructuring of the Training Department resulted in new and increased duties for our now cross-sector Apprenticeship Team. As a result, the team has been required to assume additional responsibilities and re-establish</p>

	<p>key functions in order to maintain service continuity and provide cover for staff who have transitioned into other council roles. This transition period has been challenging and has required significant flexibility and resilience from the team.</p> <p>Medr (Welsh Government body established to oversee all post-16 education in Wales) have set a strict Zero-tolerance threshold on Apprenticeship providers to utilise their contract value in line with their projected profile, contract funding is retracted if financial profiles are not met. In turn, Skills Academy Wales are strictly monitoring partners' profiles on a monthly basis. Early leavers meant that in February 2026, Skills Academy Wales applied a reduction to our annual contract value that aligned to our financial profile at that time.</p> <p>On the Jobs Growth Wales+ programme, learner-related barriers have become more complex. There has been a significant rise in participants presenting with additional learning needs and mental health challenges. These factors can impact attendance, engagement, and progression outcomes. Consequently, staff are required to provide higher levels of pastoral support and frequently liaise with external agencies to ensure learners receive appropriate interventions. This has increased workload pressures and highlights the need for more integrated support systems.</p>
<p>Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?</p>	<p>To continue to take a pro-active interest in the work of the council and where appropriate to offer advice and sign posting to support council activities.</p>
<p>What are the Council's main priorities looking forward to 2026-27?</p>	<p>The council's plans for this year includes these specific plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to continue the development of new facilities at Swiss Valley Reservoir • to continue with the lease transfer of assets from Carmarthenshire County Council • to negotiate Section 106 funding for play and recreational facilities • to upgrade play equipment at Berwick, Dafen Park and Five Roads play areas • to establish Canolfan Llwynhendy as a community hub • to enhance facilities at Swiss Valley and Furnace Community Halls • to improve customer experience in accessing public facing service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to secure contracts with prime contractors through the 2026 tendering process for the Employability Support Programme, commencing April 2027 to March 2032. • to secure contracts with prime contractors through the 2026 tendering process for the Apprenticeship Programme, commencing August 2027 to July 2032.
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Appendix A: 5 Ways of Working

<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>
<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>
<p>Integration Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>
<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</p>
<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>

Appendix B: National Well-being Goals

National Goal
A Prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.
A Healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood
A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances
A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: Where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh
A Globally Responsible Wales: Where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World

Annual Report – Part 2

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025/26

Introduction and Context:

Llanelli Rural Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.

The council provides thirteen community buildings providing community halls and sports changing facilities. It provides and maintains seven recreational parks where a range of sports such as rugby, football, bowls and cricket are regularly played.

The council also provides and maintains eighteen children's play areas and jointly owns a large cemetery facility – Llanelli District Cemetery.

The council has transferred a large community growing space from Carmarthenshire County Council and has entered a five-year adoption agreement with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water for Swiss Valley Reservoir. The community adoption agreement is the first of its kind in Wales

The council maintains over fifty miles of public footpaths across its geographical area. The use of which reduces reliance of vehicles for essential journeys such as school runs and pedestrian access to shopping areas. The network of footpaths also provides access for recreational walks in rural areas.

The council provides community support via its dedicated Community Development Officer and awards grants for community projects in the council's area.

The council promotes principles of sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

The council has engaged with Carmarthenshire County Council and formed a partnership with Llanelli Town Council embarking on a community asset transfer programme to protect, secure and maintain sporting, leisure and children's play areas.

The council has declared a Climate Emergency and subsequently set up an Environment and Climate Emergency Steering Group as a response to the declaration. The terms of reference of the group are annotated below.

A review of the council's position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C global temperature rise.

The aim of the review:

To review the council's position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and recommend how the council can contribute towards this target in the short, medium and long term.

The Group will consider the potential changes and impacts of global warming across the council's administrative area.

The review will involve gathering information from its own activities in providing local services and consult with other resources such as government advisory bodies, websites, partner organisations, agencies and individuals.

Identify the key areas where the council can impact on the IPCC target whilst carrying out its service delivery functions (direct and indirect) and how the council can also encourage residents to make an impact on:

- a. Reducing carbon emissions
- b. Use energy more efficiently
- c. Switch to low carbon fuels
- d. Prepare for climate change

The recommendations of the group are reported to the council's Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Stemming from this, an Environment and Climate change policy, strategy and action plan has been formulated and reported for further consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Review of S6 duty

What has worked well?

The creation of wildflower areas and tree and hedgerow planting across the council's facilities continues to be implemented. The initiative continues to work well, and it increasingly proves popular with the public in addition to raising public awareness of the importance of assisting biodiversity, for example, the "No Mow May" initiative. Several volunteer groups assist in the tending of these areas. In addition, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing, i.e. less consumables, fuel, travelling, equipment maintenance etc.

The continued use of a natural burial area amongst mature pine trees has proved popular. Native species tree planting continues, and new native species hedgerows have been established.

Changes to grass cutting regimes in the cemetery has resulted in the emergence of an abundance of wild primroses that have been recognised as possibly one of the largest concentrations in Carmarthenshire.



Also noted are the appearance of swathes of wild daisy and pilosella.

A drastic reduction in the widespread use of herbicides has resulted in the re-establishment of grassed and native wildflower areas and has halted damaging ground erosion.



A previously unused area of land at the cemetery that was overwhelmed with bramble is now managed to encourage the establishment of a broader variety of habitats for plants, trees and wildlife.

The Council's memorial tree planting scheme has proved popular over the past 12 months, with approximately 20 trees planted, predominantly cherry blossom. Species such as Prunus are particularly beneficial as they provide an early source of nectar and pollen for pollinators, supporting biodiversity at a key time of year.

In addition to their ecological value, cherry blossoms offer strong visual and seasonal interest, enhancing the landscape and creating a reflective environment appropriate for memorial settings. This approach contributes to both community wellbeing and the Council's biodiversity and ecosystem resilience objectives.

Tree Planting and Habitat Enhancement

The tree planting scheme previously undertaken in partnership with a local school continues to demonstrate positive outcomes. The trees are now well established, contributing to improved habitat structure and biodiversity value within the site. This area has also been identified as a potential future natural burial ground in collaboration with Llanelli District Cemetery. The dual use of this land supports both ecological enhancement and sensitive land management, promoting long-term ecosystem resilience. Photographic evidence demonstrates the successful establishment and growth of the trees and the developing habitat.





In addition, the Council successfully applied for tree packs through the National Trust. These trees have been planted within the cemetery grounds in a structured row and are being managed as part of a developing tree 'nursery'. This approach allows young trees to be established and maintained until they are suitable for transplantation to other locations across the Llanelli Rural area.

This initiative supports the Council's wider biodiversity objectives by increasing tree cover, enhancing habitat connectivity, and enabling sustainable planting across multiple sites. Photographic evidence below illustrates the nursery area and early-stage tree development



Hedgerow planting delivers a range of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience benefits in line with the Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Hedgerows provide valuable habitat, shelter and foraging opportunities for a wide range of species, including birds, pollinators and small mammals, thereby increasing local biodiversity. They also act as important wildlife corridors, improving habitat connectivity across the landscape and reducing fragmentation. In addition, hedgerows contribute to ecosystem resilience by enhancing structural diversity, supporting soil stability, reducing erosion and aiding water management through slowing surface runoff. Their role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation further supports long-term environmental sustainability, making them a key feature in strengthening the resilience of local ecosystems.



Pictures left and right are of the hedgerow planting at Ponthenri Recreation Ground established for two years. This was funded by the Local Places for Nature project.

The pictures on the next page are another Local Places for Nature project enabled initiative at Lower Lliedi Reservoir, Swiss Valley utilising traditional Welsh style hedge laying.



Organised through Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Places for Nature programme, the project at Swiss Valley has restored 200 metres of existing hedgerow and added a further 90 metres of newly planted hedge. These improvements will offer significant benefits for local wildlife, providing shelter and protection for hedgehogs, birds, insects, and small mammals while supporting the long-term health of the hedgerow.





Selective herbicides are only used where necessary and the creation of wildlife areas in the grounds of council properties has proved very popular. New signage has been installed in many areas that provides information regarding how the areas are managed and the advantages for wildlife.

The work at the community gardens is complete and provides areas to support the growing of food, fruit trees, wildflowers. A small pond is planned to attract amphibians, insects and pollinators. The growing space is available for a small annual charge and is now into its fourth year of occupancy by the public, schools and community groups. Available are 16 raised beds and 3 accessible planters. The space utilises rainwater harvesting and small solar power lights, encouraging sustainability and biodiversity.

The project will provide education and awareness opportunities for ecology and biodiversity and encouraging people to grow fruit and vegetables.



The adoption project at the Lower Lleidi Reservoir has provided an abundance of opportunities to improve the ecology of the reservoir and its environs by developing and enhancing a broad range of biodiverse habitats. Surveys to examine the bat, dormouse and otter populations have been undertaken and a range of habitat boxes and shelters have been installed around the site. The dormice boxes are being monitored by registered ecologists who recently recorded the presence of dormice onsite.





A suite of education and interpretation panels are installed around the site to provide visitors with information in regard to the variety of wildlife that can be seen.

Woodland and waterside habitats have been enhanced. The reed-bed areas of the reservoir are now protected by the introduction of an exclusion zone for watercraft that provides much needed protection for insects, amphibians and spawning fish. Biosecurity measures have been introduced to manage the spread of invasive species in the reservoir.

Education and awareness regarding the importance of protecting the ecology is paramount to the relationship between the reservoir users and the council.



A new angling booking system and access to water service provider have been established at the reservoir.

A woodland management plan has been created, and areas of woodland have been made more accessible to the public. Links to the cycle path network have been improved and new cycle racks installed, along with new benches and picnic tables made from recycled materials. Extensive repairs and improvements to footpaths have been undertaken across the site to encourage people to visit by foot and reduce vehicle use. The council is also awaiting the outcome of an application for the reservoir's woodlands to gain National Forest for Wales status.



Following recent storm damage, log piles created from felled trees and branches have created havens for insects, bees, mosses and fungi to thrive.

Furthermore, educational seated areas have been created for outdoor learning and well-being initiatives.



During June and July, efforts were made to tackle the invasive non-native species Himalayan Balsam at Swiss Valley. The Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir, with support from Llanelli Rural Council staff held four sessions which helped clear an area populated by the invasive plant. This practice will be carried out over the next few years to stop the spread and eventually nullify its presence.

Himalayan balsam is harmful to biodiversity because it spreads rapidly and outcompetes native plants to grow up to seven feet tall, reducing the variety of species that can survive in an area. Its shallow root system also leaves riverbanks vulnerable to erosion when it dies back in winter, which can damage habitats for insects, birds, and aquatic life.



Following on from the installed new energy efficient shower water heating systems at its sports changing facilities in Dafen and Pwll, the council's facility in Felinfoel is under review for a similar refurbishment

The council has collaborated with Carmarthenshire County Council to convert all 290 of its footpath lighting columns to energy efficient LED lamps.

Whenever possible, across all council facilities the fluorescent, halogen and sodium lamps are replaced with energy efficient LED versions.

An electrical car was chosen to replace the chairman's previous car which is used regularly when the council chairman attends official functions and community events. The new plug in hybrid model can travel up to 32 miles on electric power alone. The electric motor also works intelligently with the petrol engine when needed to provide improved fuel economy and reduced CO2 emissions.

The biodiversity areas the council have identified has been increased. In Pwll we have doubled the area that has been left to grow naturally, thus increasing the potential for wild flower and pollinators. Through grant funding we have purchased a grass collection machine. By collecting the arisings from wild flower meadows prevents the build up of dead vegetation, which can smother delicate plants. There is more exposed ground to allow seeds to grow. The soil fertility is reduced, therefore slowing down the growth of nutrient-loving coarse grasses that choke wild flowers. This scheme has been extended over the past 12-18 months to cover other sites, including Pontyates, Ponthenri, Tir Eynon and Furnace.





What have the barriers been?

Schedules and other council commitments.

Technology for battery powered tools and equipment is not yet sturdy enough for commercial environments. The range of equipment purported to be commercial is limited. The costs of replacing fossil fuel vehicles and equipment with electric versions is high. The council presently operates a significant fleet of vehicles and machinery that uses diesel and petrol fuels.

The public wish to see amenity areas “tidy”. An ‘educate and inform’ programme would help explain what the council’s initiatives are when introducing new maintenance regimes to reduce emissions or reduce the use of herbicides and when creating ‘pollinator’ areas, when the grasses are left to grow longer at certain times of the year, or when certain areas are purposely not cut.

What will you change?

Seek to work more closely with Carmarthenshire County Council’s biodiversity officers and other agency partners to seek advice and guidance, benchmarking, attending seminars etc. Undertake more interaction with the public and provide more information on the council’s initiatives.

Identify more grassed areas where we can reduce cuts through the summer months to encourage pollinators and biodiversity. i.e. an initial cut in March/April and a second cut in September. Areas will be 'framed' with mowing patterns so it is clear that the longer grass is intentional and biodiversity information for the area will be displayed.

Increase the natural burial area offering in the cemetery. Publicise that ‘greener options’ are also available in the traditional areas also where the carbon footprint can be reduced.

Seek to increase native tree and hedgerow planting. Create wildlife corridors for small mammals and invertebrates.

Consider and reinforce the importance of climate change in everything we do.

Continue to seek to replace vehicles and equipment to consider battery or hybrid technologies wherever practical.

Consider more solar or wind energy. Seek to review utility energy suppliers to consider more sustainable alternatives.



How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored through the council's Environment and Climate Emergency Steering Group, that will report to the council on the success, or otherwise, of the actions taken through the usual management and statutory council reporting protocols.

The S6 plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the council. At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next six months.

Annual Report - Part 3

Council Priorities, Activities and Achievements 2025-26

Section 52 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, requires the council, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

The council has adopted a Strategic Plan which sets out the council's strategic aims based on a clear statement of purpose and its core values. The Strategic Plan provides an overall framework to focus the council's activities, investment and spending priorities. These are set out in more detail in annual Service Plans, incorporating service objectives, key tasks, performance measures, and related targets.

Service Plans provide the basis for on-going performance review, to ensure the provision of high quality services, which meet the needs of local citizens and help focus the activities of members and officers on clear organisational goals and outputs.

The formulation of the Service Plans, play an integral part in the council's annual budget process.

The council's service plans and results for the financial year 2025-26 are presented below and set out the key tasks, objectives and service delivery achieved during the year.

SERVICE PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES 2025-26

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

The Council's aims and objectives and a clear statement of our purpose and core values are set out in the Strategic Plan. In this context the aims of the service are: -

- To assist Council Managers to meet their strategic aims and objectives by providing administrative services to the Council.
- To enable the Council to respond and react to legislation introduced.
- To provide an effective reception point for the general public and other visitors to the Council's offices.
- To oversee and organise all matters which relate to the civic and ceremonial side of the Authority, such as the Chairman's events and other civic occasions.
- To inform the public of the Council's services and activities and to promote the corporate identity of the Council.
- To provide a range of support services to Councillors and Officers in order to assist in the decision making process.
- To provide and maintain suitable office accommodation, meeting and function rooms to meet the needs of the Council.
- To provide depots, vehicles, stores to the Council's DLO.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

The provision of wide ranging administrative and clerical support including word processing.

The provision of a photocopying service.

The provision and maintenance of the Council's telecommunication service.

The organisation of all civic events which include the Annual Meeting, Civic Service and other functions throughout the year.

The organisation of all the Chairman's events and engagements and the provision of secretarial, attendants and chauffeur services for the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The promotion of the corporate image of the Council.

The servicing of the Council and its Committees by preparing agendas, minutes, reports and providing a comprehensive timetable of meetings.

The provision of advice to Members on Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, pecuniary interests and other matters.

The production and provision to all Members of a year book and diary.

To ensure the Council's main office building is kept in a reasonable state of repair.

To provide the heating, lighting, cleaning and security of the building.

To manage on behalf of the DLO the Council's two depots, vehicle fleet and stores operation.

To maintain an efficient accounting system including preparation and monitoring of annual budgets.

To maintain an efficient and effective creditor payments service by maintaining financial records and reconciling accounts.

To maintain a debtors accounting system and process payments promptly and accurately.

To maintain accurate VAT, PAYE and payroll records and to administer the Council's payroll system by processing salaries and wages payments for Council employees.

To manage the investments, loans portfolio and cash flows of the Council so as to maximise interest receipts and minimise interest payments and bank charges.

To control, monitor and update the Council's website.

To manage the service level agreement with Llanelli Town Council for the maintenance of its open spaces.

KEY TASKS/SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
People Management AS/1/25		Investors in People Phased delivery of action plan	Investors in People Award successfully achieved February 2026. Action plan ongoing.
Land Registration AS/2/25	10,000	Register unregistered and incorrectly registered land and property with the Land Registry.	Felinfoel Recreation Ground and Ponthenri Recreation Ground - Delays with Land Registry. Five Roads Recreation ground, Parc Elin Mair - with Council solicitor.
Administrative Building AS/3/25	5,400	Replace internal fire doors.	Not completed. Original quotes exceeded budget. Additional funds provided in 2026/27 budget.
Civic Capital AS/4/25	2,000	Refurbish Past Chairman's Honours Board.	Completed November 2025.
Governance AS/5/25		Employment law and health and safety digital platforms. On-board all employees and utilise system as standard repository and management tool for personnel, training, health & safety, incident reporting. Review of Council Policies. Staff resource, capacity and business continuity.	New digital platforms in use. Further staff training and resource required. New digital platforms in use. Further staff training and resource required. File management policy required. Initial review undertaken. Policy updates ongoing. Partial resource provided.

PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR MEASURE	TARGET 2025/26	RESULTS 2025/26
The number of staff working days lost to sickness absence.	260	535 (268 short term< 28 days) (267 long term> 28days) Total employees 46 No. employees taking sick leave 28 No. employees with more than one occurrence of sickness 19 No. of employees taking long term sick leave 4
Percentage of Councillors at full Council meetings.	80%	76%
Percentage of Councillors attending at Standing Committees/ Working Group Meetings.	80%	79%
Percentage of Agendas sent out within three clear working days of meetings.	100%	100%
Number of members of the public attending Council/Committee meetings.	3	0

Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days or within creditor terms.	97%	99%
Number of recommended corrections/improvements made by external auditors.	0	5

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET
General Administration	58,645
Administrative Building	100,995
Depots	21,675
Civic Activities	71,133
Vehicles and Machinery	72,910
Personnel	777,166
Capital Equipment	37,249
TOTAL	1,139,773

SERVICE PLAN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES 2025-26

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

The Council's aims and objectives and a clear statement of our purpose and core values are set out in the Strategic Plan. In this context the aims of the service are: -

- To promote the use of community facilities by community groups and members of the public.
- To assist the alleviation of poverty and disadvantage and otherwise assist with the development of the local community.
- To encourage health and well-being amongst the community and support in community activities and events.
- To provide financial assistance to local organisations to help further the Council's aims.
- To promote local government and the Council's civic role in the local community by working closely with schools and colleges.
- The promotion of civic pride throughout the community.
- To encourage joint partnership agreements with local authorities, the private sector and voluntary organisations.
- To act as a local voice for the community served by the Council and to diligently perform our consultative role with both the public and private sectors.
- To facilitate on behalf of the community the delivery of the Llanelli Rural Area Whole Place Plan 2015-2030.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

The provision of nine community halls for a wide range of community events and activities. Hall management committees have been established to run the day to day management and administration of the halls on a voluntary basis. The Council's halls are located throughout the administrative area.

Provision of a growing space for horticultural activities.

Assistance is given to school work placements for pupils interested in local government administration.

To co-ordinate (in partnership with Tempo) a Time Credits Programme in order to generate new community activities.

The Council maintains two War Memorials within its administrative area.

The Council administers the burial service provided at Llanelli District Cemetery.

To consider all matters requiring consultation with the Council through its committee system.

Providing grants to community halls and to organisations that use the buildings, e.g. Brownies, martial arts, senior citizens groups etc.

Surveys undertaken of community facilities during annual inspections.

In addition to the above, the Council makes grants to local groups and charitable organisations to help further their aims and to support community development.

KEY TASKS/SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
Community Development CS/1/25	Nil	Produce an updated version of the Whole Place Plan. Preparation, artwork & print.	On-going. This has not been possible and has been included as one of the key tasks for 2026/27
Community Development CS/2/25	Nil	<p>Canolfan Llwynhendy</p> <p>1. Support the running of the building by completing existing capital grant funded projects linked with the running of the building.</p> <p>2. Support the running of the building by completing existing revenue grant funded projects linked with the running of the building.</p>	<p>1. Grants have been claimed in full and the Canolfan building is open for public use.</p> <p>2. Project is underway and runs from July 2025 – July 2026</p>
Community Development CS/3/25	250	<p>Dwyfor Growing Space.</p> <p>1. Support the growing space users establish a constituted group to further develop the growing space.</p> <p>2. Work with constituted group to improve site conditions and develop wild area for wider community use.</p>	<p>1. Group not yet constituted</p> <p>2. Group working much better as a team than in previous years to improve the overall aesthetic of the growing and wild areas</p>
Community Development CS/4/25	1,000	Coordinate a Keep Wales Tidy Litter Pick Hub. Make litter picking kits available free to hire for the community to carry out their own clean ups.	<p>1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026:</p> <p>35 community litter picks supported. 91 bags of litter collected. 91 individuals volunteered on the litter picks.</p>

Community Development CS/5/25	Nil	Swiss Valley Reservoir. Continue to develop and support the “Friends of Swiss Valley Reservoir” group in order to improve well-being, create volunteering opportunities and tackle issues / actions highlighted in the site management plan.	7 x volunteer led activities tackling litter and Invasive Non-Native Species. A monitoring session for dormice was successfully conducted. Traditional hedge laying project with CCC Local Places for Nature worker has engaged with a further 16 volunteers and improved 200 meters of existing hedgerow and added an extra 90 meters.
Community Development CS/6/25	3,250	Modernising the management structures of Llanelli Rural Community halls. 1. Support Recreation and Welfare Subcommittee to enact recommendations set out in the Deputy Clerk’s report. 2. Follow up on the charitable legal advice and establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) legal structure for existing management of Felinfoel, Furnace and Ponthenri halls. 3. Explore expanding the CIO model to any halls where volunteer management committees decide to hand back the running of the halls to the council, starting with Swiss Valley Hall.	1. Day-to-day management of Furnace Hall changed from voluntary to in-house in January 2026. 2. Initial discussions are underway with legal advisors on reframing these existing charities 3. The process has not yet advanced to these stages.
Community Development CS/7/25	Nil	Update the council’s website to ensure all information is up to date and add all newly developed community facilities.	Completed.

PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR MEASURE	TARGET 2025/26	RESULTS 2025/26
Percentage of planning applications considered within the 21 day consultation period set by Carmarthenshire County Council	100%	100%
Number of individuals into volunteering	250	172
Number of volunteer hours	750	527

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET
Financial Assistance	13,000
Community Halls	163,742
Community Development	10,000
Capital Scheme – community halls	449,803
Local initiatives	10,250
Burial Services	100,000
TOTAL	746,795

SERVICE PLAN FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES 2025-26

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

The Council's aims and objectives and a clear statement of our purpose and core values are set out in the Strategic Plan. In this context the aims of the service are: -

- To promote recreational and leisure facilities in the community.
- To encourage health and well being and generally improve the quality of life of members of the public by encouraging people to develop their participation in recreational activities and events.
- To encourage social inclusion by ensuring that play equipment is accessible to all.
- To involve the community in the development of the Council's recreational facilities.
- To preserve and protect public rights of way.
- To sustain the level of provision of street furniture throughout the Council's area, such as bus shelters, wayside seats and footway lighting.
- The marketing and promotion of Llanelli and district.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

The provision and maintenance of recreation grounds at Dafen, Felinfoel, Five Roads, Ponthenri, Pwll and Trallwm. In addition, ground maintenance is also provided to the playing fields at Pontyates which is not Council owned.

The provision and maintenance of a number of play areas throughout the Council's area.

Maintenance and improvement to the public rights of way network.

Maintenance and improvements to Swiss Valley Reservoir.

The funding and promotion of the Christmas lights and Christmas carnival in Llanelli.

The provision of footway lighting, bus shelters and wayside seats.

The annual inspection of equipment within children's play areas to British Standards BSEN 1176-2008, BS 8409 2009.

The maintenance of Llanelli Town Council's open spaces under a service level agreement.

KEY TASKS/SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
Safeguarding Sporting and Children's Play Facilities RL/1/25		Legal process for lease transfer of assets from Carmarthenshire County Council. 1. Yspitty play area 2. Dafen Park 3. Pwll Park 4. Trallwm Football pitch 5. Trallwm play area	1,2,3: Lease transfers still with Carmarthenshire County Council. 4,5: Asset transfer documents with Council's solicitor.
Community Facilities RL/2/25		Swiss Valley Reservoir – deliver objectives included in the Site Management Plan, e.g. provision of toilet and changing facilities, pontoon, water sports, managed fishery, fish stocking, improve car parks, visitor facility, footpaths, improve biodiversity, access to woodland, etc.	Works to improve access for anglers, biodiversity, footpaths and access to woodland continuing.
Community Facilities RL/3/25	29,330	Furnace Community Hall – replace terrace balustrade, repair/replace terrace decking and structure.	Project initially completed March 2025. Issues have emerged regarding decking board colour mismatch. The manufacture has committed to replace. Awaiting start date from contractor to replace the decking boards.
Community Facilities RL/4/25	200,000	Llwynhendy, Gwili Fields 1. Community Hub	Construction completed. The building is now occupied and operational. Café license: operator applications under review.

		2. Play areas and landscaping project	Phase 2 contract for external ground works completed November 2025. Re-turfing to complete. Completion of the Zip Wire installation at the junior play area on hold while ground conditions improve.
Community Facilities RL/5/25	8,750	Refurbish solar thermal systems at Felinfoel and Furnace Community Halls.	Completed August 2025
Community Facilities RL/6/25	6,500	Clos y Gelli Children's Play Area – replace multiplay unit.	Completed October 2025
Community Facilities RL/7/25	15,000	Phil Bennett OBE Community Resource Centre Replace boiler and refurbish controls and valve systems in boiler room. Establish greater efficiency for heating and hot water systems.	Engineer's detailed work scope submission received. Tender documents in preparation.
Community Facilities RL/8/25	15,050	Phil Bennett OBE Community Resource Centre Establish a new toilet facility on the ground floor.	Completed March 2026
Community Facilities RL/9/25	100,000	Sandy/Stradey Play Area. Secure land suitable for the development of a new play area.	Maintaining engagement with The Stradey Estate. Exploring alternative location adjacent to Llanelli Cricket Club for a new children's play area and community gardens.

PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR MEASURE	TARGET 2025/26	RESULTS 2025/26
Number of cuts to public footpaths.	286	264
Net revenue expenditure per head of parks and play areas.	£11.27	£11.12
Number of facilities identified as high risk within ROSPA report.	0	0
Number of play areas providing facilities for all age groups.	18	18

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET
Recreation Grounds	93,884
Play Areas	31,644
Rights of Way	100
Capital Scheme – footway lighting	0
Swiss Valley Reservoir	34,197
Tourism & Cultural Activities	13,150
Open Spaces (Bynea & Swiss Valley)	2,949

Capital Schemes – Play Areas	100,000
Asset transfer – legal fees	5,500
Grounds Maintenance – Service Level Agreement	98,269
Capital Schemes – Recreation Grounds	89,353
TOTAL	379,443

SERVICE PLAN FOR TRAINING SERVICES 2025-26

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

The Council's aims and objectives and a clear statement of our purpose and core values are set out in the Strategic Plan. In this context the aims of the service are: -

- To secure and deliver Welsh Government funded 'Work Based Learning' contracts as part of the Skills Academy Wales Consortium, achieving good to excellent results in relation to compliance, performance and quality benchmarks.
- To contribute towards the management and development of Skills Academy Wales consortia
- To secure a viable subcontract with prime providers delivering the Job's Growth Wales + programme.
- To meet all the programme requirements and key performance indicators as stipulated by the JGW+ specification.
- To respond positively to Welsh Government priorities for Post 16 Education and Training in Wales. Currently these include Carbon Literacy, Welsh Language and Culture, Literacy & Numeracy, Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Data Security and Equality, Inclusion and Diversity.
- To deliver high quality teaching, training and assessment and provide a range of appropriate, relevant and motivating learning programmes.
- To undertake a rigorous, Self-Evaluation process annually, and to continually plan for improvement. To use a variety of methods to capture the opinion of our learners, employers and partners.
- To involve the department wherever possible in partnership working within Skills Academy Wales, Local Initiatives, 14-19 Network delivery, Regional Learning Partnerships, Skills Sector Councils, Community Learning, DWP Delivery etc.
- To maintain an independent financially viable status for the Training Department.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

To provide Training Services within Welsh Government funded programmes.

The Training Department is a partner within the Skills Academy Wales (SAW) consortia led by Neath Port Talbot College Group.

LRC Training is partner/subcontractor to ITEC Skills and Training Ltd and delivery partner to Coleg Sir Gar.

LRC Training delivers the following Work Based Learning Programmes:

APPRENTICESHIPS	Employed	All ages
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JOBS GROWTH WALES +	Unemployed	16-18 years
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To respond to all Welsh Government priorities for post 16 education and training in Wales.

To liaise on a daily/weekly basis with Referral Agencies e.g. Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales

To initially assess learners' needs and produce a suitable Individual Learning Plan.

To undertake basic skills assessments of all clients on Work Based Learning programmes.

To create and maintain an electronic Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) for every learner.

To collate evidence to support monthly Claims Procedure prepared by SAW.

To prepare monthly financial information for Council.

To risk assess the suitability of employers for involvement in learning activities.

To assist companies with recruitment of qualified employees.

To produce an annual Self Evaluation Report (SER) and Quality Improvement Plan (QUIP)

To undertake annual audits of all procedures and meet WG compliance guidance in relation to funded programmes.

To ensure all activities fulfil WG and lead organisation priorities in relation to the Quality agenda.

To be represented on all Management Groups and focus groups established by lead providers.

KEY TASKS/SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2025-26

ACTIVITY	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
To deliver a sustainable and financially viable budget to increase department reserves and safeguard future provision.	£0	Increase occupancy levels and meet recruitment targets across programmes to meet maximum contract values. Continue to deliver best value programmes and maintain control on expenditure.	Training Dept. management team meeting bi-monthly. Monitoring of income, contract profiles and expenditure is robustly controlled. JGW+ occupancy levels have decreased due to high number of leavers with record number of learners entering employment and college courses achieving 75.5%. Since the summer, learner numbers have been increasing to regain levels ending the year on 71 learners on JGW+ programme. Apprenticeship recruitment is consistently strong to maintain high occupancy levels reaching 83 apprentices at the end of March 2026. PLA recruitment is consistent to ensure that all training provisions are consistently performing well.
To increase recruitment and occupancy of Coleg Sir Gar learners on JGW+ to achieve maximum contract value.	£0	Start and occupancy levels monitored monthly in line with profiles. Maintain ITEC occupancy and increase Coleg Sir Gar numbers to achieve viable learner occupancy. Work closely with Working Wales/Careers to ensure referrals are signposted to both contracts.	CSG recruitment affected by ITEC contract, direct referrals in addition to Careers Wales referrals will need to be targeted by marketing and promotion events and campaigns to attract interest in the Not in Employment, Education or Training

			<p>(NEET) group to fill spaces on the CSG contract. Plans are underway for events early in 2026/27 to target direct referrals and increase CSG cohort in learning.</p> <p>CSG numbers have remained consistent and an increase in learners with additional learning needs (ALN) has resulted in more support funding claims which has translated into an increase in CSG income being drawn down.</p>
To meet Apprenticeship recruitment targets.	£0	Monthly meetings with SAW to manage profiles to achieve viable contract. Strict profile management required to meet Welsh Government thresholds.	<p>71 apprentices recruited from April 2025 to March 2026. Targets are monitored robustly to achieve contract value. Monitoring meetings are held monthly with SAW to ensure recruitment and financial profile are met. Financial profile is increasing and being met as of 31 March 2026.</p> <p>Apprenticeship recruitment has been consistent, promotion events throughout the year have ensured profiles are met and in some cases exceeded monthly targets. Apprenticeship week event at the Senedd generated a lot of interest and promoted LRC's logistics and transport frameworks demonstrating a strong profile across the training sector and network translating to additional interest in the employer network.</p>
To deliver ESW qualifications on JGW+	£100	Develop essential skills workshops for learners at Entry level and Level 1 to improve literacy and numeracy skills and learner attainment.	Resources have been concentrated on delivering the Achieve employability qualification. Essential Skills delivery will be developed for a pilot group in 2026/27.

<p>Meet key performance indicators in all programmes and routes.</p>	<p>£0</p>	<p>Monthly review of all performance to be undertaken through review with lead organisations.</p>	<p>Programme performance indicators for ITEC are 75.5% of leavers progressing into employment or further learning. CSG performance is affected by very low number of leavers in the year, with only 1 learner progressing out of 5 leavers 20% is lower than the previous year. Activity success rates for CSG are 80%, ITEC learners have achieved 95% in qualification outcomes, this is a significant improvement on the previous year as qualification delivery was previously low, the majority of learners now undertake a recognised employability skills qualification during the programme.</p> <p>Apprenticeship Framework Success rates have increased, achieving higher performance on the previous year. Foundation Apprenticeships 86%, Apprenticeship 88%.</p>
<p>Timely progression opportunities for JGW+ learners.</p>	<p>£0</p>	<p>Develop progression opportunities to employment, apprenticeships and higher learning.</p>	<p>Staff have worked incredibly hard to source suitable opportunities for the learners whilst considering their personal situations and supporting them to overcome barriers to employment. JGW+ staff are working closer with the apprenticeship team to identify foundation apprenticeship opportunities with employers in the logistics sector. JGW+ progression rates are at a record high of 75.5% due to learners entering employment or college courses. Work to identify apprenticeship opportunities with employers is an ongoing priority.</p>

Develop Achieve qualifications at all levels	£800	Achieve to be delivered at Entry level to Engagement learners providing structure and qualification achievement in first period of learning. Level 1 Achieve to be delivered for Advancement learners.	Since the pilot delivery, the Achieve qualification has been embedded into the main part of the curriculum for youth learners. 32 learners have successfully achieved the qualification at Entry 3, with 5 learners achieving Level 1.
Develop qualifications for JGW+ Advancement learners.	£0	Develop level 1 qualifications to deliver to the Advancement learners on JGW+. Customer Service qualifications be reviewed to roll out pilot delivery in 2026.	Staff participate in regular standardisation meetings for the King's Trust Achieve qualification. Staff use these meetings to identify new units to develop for delivery. Following successful implementation of a number of generic employability units, staff are focusing on the customer service unit to develop practical occupational skills for Advancement learners at Level 1.
To develop IQA staff resource to undertake internal quality assurance for qualifications. The IQA's re-appointment to Compliance Manager creates a gap in provision, IQA duties to be redistributed.	£0	<p>Apprenticeship team have qualified IQAs to undertake vocational qualifications. Identify competent person for the ESW Tutor's assessment decisions.</p> <p>Identify a competent person to perform IQA role for JGW+ qualifications.</p>	<p>There are 4 qualified Vocational Assessors on the Apprenticeship team after 3 assessors successfully achieved the IQA qualifications during the year. IQA work for logistics and transport is shared amongst the team as well as the addition of Business Administration, Customer Service and ESW qualifications. ESW Tutor has developed in IQA role for other tutors delivering ESW on apprenticeships.</p> <p>A competent person has been identified on the JGW+ to undertake IQA for employability and essential skills qualifications, IQA training has been arranged to enhance the in house training and support received during the handover period in March.</p>

To secure PLA funding from August 2025.	£0	To secure funding for the academic year August 2025 – July 2026 for LGV and PCV licences.	An initial contract in August for 35 drivers, this contract is under monthly review due to demand for licences. The college have stated “they will not refuse any learners interested in the licence courses”. From August to March the number of learners recruited is 48. Recruitment is continuing to the end of the academic year, at 6 learners per month, providing a total of 72 learners annually.
Increase use of Welsh Language and Resources across programmes	£0	Develop practitioner use of translation tools and resources. Increase use of bilingual commentary during review, assessment, and feedback.	Welsh application forms and a Welsh-medium induction have been developed for the Customer Services Apprenticeship framework. Practitioners are now routinely using translation tools to provide bilingual comments in learner reviews and feedback. Learners are actively encouraged to use the Welsh language in classroom activities and assessments, supporting the standardisation of bilingual practice and contributing to the aim of increasing the use of Welsh in everyday life and within education and training settings.

PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR MEASURE	PER 100 LEAVERS	
	YEAR TARGET	YEAR ACTUAL
	MARCH 2026	MARCH 2026
Recruit JGW+ Learners	67	79
JGW+ Progressions	70%	75.5%
PLA Completion	90%	93%
Recruit Apprentices	62	71
Apprenticeship Framework Completions	80%*	86%

* Apprenticeship completion rates are to the academic year-end - July

Ein cyf/Our ref: CEO/19863/26
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Corporate Team
Rhif Ffôn /Telephone: 01267 239730
Dyddiad/Date: 7 April 2026

Ail Llawr, Bloc C,
Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth, Teras Picton,
Caerfyrddin, SA31 3BT

Second Floor, Block C
Government Buildings, Picton Terrace,
Carmarthen, SA31 3BT

Mark Galbraith
Clerk to the Council
Llanelli Rural Council
Vauxhall Buildings
Vauxhall
Llanelli
SA15 3BD

By email: enquiries@llanelli-rural.gov.uk

Dear Mark

LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
DATE	08 APR 2026
FILE REF.	
PASSED TO	CL

Re: Invitation to attend Llanelli Rural Council – Clinical Services Plan, Transport Safeguards and local risk in Llanelli

Thank you for your letter of 4 March 2026 and your invitation to meet with Llanelli Rural Council members to discuss our Clinical Services Plan (CSP). We welcome your correspondence and the support you have expressed and are happy to continue engaging with you through this process.

Furthermore, in your correspondence you have raised a number of queries around the implementation of our CSP. Below, I have set out my response to each of the points raised.

- **Transport and Travel readiness as a pre-condition for change**

In regard to transport and accessibility, we understand that there will be concerns about the transfer of patients who are unwell and we know that people value accessing care locally and being close to loved ones when receiving treatment. These views have been shared as part of the CSP consultation process.

As part of the CSP consultation, we developed a document called Patient and Travel Insights, detailing what we believe the impact would be of moving patients between sites; this can be found on page 5 onwards [here](#). To support patient transfers between sites, we would be looking at an enhanced transfer service, with dedicated staff, ensuring that community ambulance provision is not affected. We have already considered an indicative proposal for how this could be operated, based on existing transfer services, such as those for critical care transfer. We are working with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and Adult Critical Care Transfer Services to explore these solutions.

- **Safeguarding Llanelli Patients – loss of specialist ICU at PPH and reliance on transfers**

For clarity, the critical care unit at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) has been operating under a different model for some time since 2022, following an urgent service change. This has meant the sickest patients are already being transferred to Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Carmarthen for treatment.

The future service model for critical care for the Health Board for medium term, when implemented, will bring together specialist critical care services on fewer hospital sites. This aims to help address long-standing staffing pressures and improve the safety and quality of care for the most seriously ill patients.

As indicated, patients at PPH who need specialist critical care are already being transferred to GGH. The establishment of an Enhanced Care Unit at PPH is intended to provide a sustainable and safe way to provide support to services on the PPH hospital site, providing care locally for less sick patients.

Emergency General Surgery is not a service provided at PPH and therefore, we do not expect any change for Llanelli residents, who will continue to access this service at GGH.

- **Programme interdependencies and sequencing**

Following the extraordinary Board meeting held in February 2026, work is underway to plan for implementation. As stated, this is a medium-term plan, and implementation is expected to take some time. Different services are at various points and face different challenges, so it is likely that implementation will occur through a phased approach.

Developing the plans for implementation will likely take a number of months and therefore, not all of what you have requested will be available for a meeting. However, we have a considerable amount of information available on our website, including detailed information around assessments of transport, the workforce position, finance, capital investment schemes and equality health impact assessments.

You can find out more about our CSP on our [website](#): If you would like to watch the meeting of the Board at which service decisions were made, you can do so via [this link](#) and you can also view our [press release](#) that sets out the Health Board's decisions on the future model of care for the CSP.

- **Funding and workforce assurance**

The aim of our CSP is primarily to support our fragile health services. Through the CSP, we considered how services can be delivered in ways that provide the best possible outcomes for patients, while also being safe and sustainable for the future. As a rural Health Board covering a large geographical area, we face particular challenges around workforce availability, transport and access, and the condition of our hospital estate. These challenges mean that change is necessary to ensure services continue to meet modern clinical standards, and while we fully acknowledge and appreciate the concerns raised regarding changes, some of our services as they stand remain unsustainable and potentially unsafe.


The Health Board must therefore take action to seek to improve those services that most need it and our proposed changes have been clinically led, not cost-led, and are based upon evidence and national standards. It is important we aspire to the highest standards of care for our population and utilise the expertise of our clinicians alongside the views of our communities when considering the future of services and how these are best delivered.

To support the clinically led approach, full business cases will be developed, which will consider the financial and workforce requirements needed to support service change.

We would be more than happy to meet with Llanelli Rural Council to discuss the next steps in our CSP journey. If you can provide us with some dates when you are due to meet over the coming months, I will then be able to ask relevant colleagues for their availability.

Finally, I trust this information provides you with some assurances around the work that is being progressed and that our focus as a Health Board remains on raising standards, improving patient outcomes and ensuring that services are sustainable for the communities we serve, both now and in the future.

Yours sincerely


R Professor Phil Kloer
Chief Executive



Cyngor Gwledig LLANELLI Rural Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor
Mark Galbraith A.C.I.S.
Clerk to the Council

Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA15 3BD
Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 3BD
Ffon / Tel.: 01554 774103
E.bost / E.mail: enquiries@llanelli-rural.gov.uk

Fy nghyf:
My ref: C/KPH

Eich cyf:
Your ref:

Gofynnwch am:
Please ask for:

4 March 2026

Professor Philip Kloer, Chief Executive Officer, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Corporate Offices
Ystwyth Building
Hafen Derwen
St David's Park
Jobswell Road
Carmarthen SA31 3BB

Dear Professor Kloer

INVITATION TO ATTEND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL - CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN, TRANSPORT SAFEGUARDS, AND LOCAL RISK IN LLANELLI

Llanelli Rural Council recognises the difficult position the Health Board is in and the diligence of your teams in setting out a strategically coherent and clinically defensible case for change. The council also welcomes your intention to invest in Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) as a centre for certain planned care services, which offers clear potential to improve waiting times and patient experience. At the same time, the council remains concerned that localised risks in Llanelli are not fully addressed beyond the strategic case - particularly funding uncertainty, workforce shortages that both justify and constrain change, rural geography and increased travel times for emergencies, and the complex interdependencies across nine services that complicate sequencing. If one strand fails or slips, the council is keen to understand what happens to the other inter-dependent services and how programme risk will reflect this possibility. The council also notes the risk to public trust and likely opposition where local emergency capacity is reduced.

The council notes the Board's decisions and next steps confirmed at your extraordinary meeting on 19 February 2026 and the stated intent to phase implementation over a few years, with several elements subject to business cases and further engagement. Of particular relevance to Llanelli are the proposals that establish an Enhanced Care Unit at PPH with transfers for specialist critical care to Glangwili, and the consolidation of emergency general surgical operations at Bronglais and Glangwili, which together increase reliance on inter-hospital transfers for Llanelli patients.



Mae Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg
Llanelli Rural Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English



Against this backdrop, the council invites you and/or appropriate senior officers to attend a future meeting of Llanelli Rural Council to discuss the issues below and to agree practical safeguards prior to any reconfiguration.

1. Transport & travel readiness as a pre-condition for change

The council's position is that robust transport and travel arrangements must be fully designed, resourced, and tested before reconfiguration is contemplated. The council would expect to see a Transport Impact Assessment that:

- is co-produced with Transport for Wales (TfW), relevant community transport providers, and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST);
- maps end-to-end patient and family travel pathways for urgent, emergency, elective, and follow-up care, including protected ambulance capacity, escorting clinical teams, hand-off standards, winter surge plans and retrieval medicine;
- sets tested time standards for critical transfers (e.g., PPH to Glangwili) and demonstrates how these will be met reliably at peak demand;
- identifies gaps (service hours, fleet, crews, escorting clinicians, community transport coverage, cross-border flows) and specifies how these gaps will be filled, with timelines and named accountability.

2. Safeguarding Llanelli patients—loss of specialist ICU at PPH and reliance on transfers

Given the plan to provide Enhanced Care at PPH while transferring patients who require specialist ICU to Glangwili, alongside the consolidation of emergency general surgical operations away from PPH, the council requests assurance that time-critical transfers will meet tested standards consistently. This includes double-running of capacity (beds, theatres, retrieval), bridging workforce, and clear clinical governance for on-transfer care.

3. Programme inter-dependencies and sequencing

The council asks for clarity on the inter-service dependencies across the nine reconfigurations and the approach to sequencing, including go/no-go criteria for each phase, contingency if a strand fails or slips, and how patient safety and access will be safeguarded without degrading other pathways.

4. Funding and workforce assurance

The council seeks the practical plan to secure time-limited transition funding and workforce resilience necessary to keep services safe during change; and how the Board intends to work with Welsh Government to underwrite critical transitional mitigations.

Materials requested ahead of the meeting

- Draft Transport Impact Assessment as above, with TfW, community transport and WAST input, identifying gaps and proposed solutions;
- Current inter-dependency map for the nine services, the critical path, and go/no-go criteria for each phase;

- Transfer and retrieval standards for Llanelli patients transferring from PPH to Glangwili (and step-down), including tested timings, protected ambulance capacity, and on-transfer clinical care;
- Summary of workforce assumptions and risks (rota resilience, recruitment timelines, bridging/locum use) for critical care, emergency general surgery, radiology, and stroke;
- Short note on funding status for transitional mitigations and any Government underwriting discussions;
- Public engagement and communications plan addressing public trust and opposition linked to reduced local emergency capacity.

Scheduling

The council can host a future meeting at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Llanelli, or via hybrid attendance if preferred. To this end please can you kindly confirm availability and the names/roles of likely attendees.

The council wishes to be a constructive stakeholder but it must also serve as a strong local voice for Llanelli residents and all patients depending on using PPH. Your Board has presented a clear strategic direction; we now need to ensure delivery is safe, sequenced, and properly resourced with transport readiness proven before any reconfiguration is enacted, and local risks, especially for Llanelli, are addressed in practice, not just in principle.

The council looks forward to your positive response and to working together to achieve the best outcomes for our residents.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Council

Alexandra Einon

From: HSCEY.GovernmentBusinessTeam@gov.wales
Sent: 08 April 2026 09:04
To: enquiries
Cc: Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales
Subject: TO/JMHSC/00690/26 - Mark Galbraith (Llanelli Rural Council) re Clinical Services Plan
Attachments: Scan-2026-03-11-14-20-11.pdf

LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
DATE	08 APR 2026
FILE REF	TO/JMHSC/00690/26 - Clinical Services
PASSED TO	ACK CL

Dear Mr Galbraith,

Please find a further copy attached of the reply sent to you last Thursday, as we received notification this had not been delivered. The appears to be because the e-mail address in the scanned letter, when copied and pasted, substitutes a 't' for the 'l' in 'rural' (see below).

Yours sincerely,

Tîm Busnes y Llywodraeth/Government Business Team
Y Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r Blynyddoedd/Health, Social Care and Early Years Group
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

From: HSCEY – Government Business Team / Tîm Busnes y Llywodraeth
Sent: 02 April 2026 09:05
To: 'enquiries@lanelli-rurat.gov.uk'
Cc: Correspondence Mail - JM
Subject: TO/JMHSC/00690/26 - Mark Galbraith (Llanelli Rural Council) re Clinical Services Plan

Dear Mr Galbraith

Thank you for your letter attached. We have been asked to reply on this occasion and apologise for the delay in doing so.

We recognise how strongly communities feel about their local NHS services, and understand the decision taken by the health board to reconfigure the nine clinical services within the plan, will have prompted concerns. These services matter and are deeply valued.

Decisions about how and where clinical services are provided must be made by health boards. Health boards have the statutory responsibility for planning and delivering services for their local populations, based on their needs. With direct access to clinical advice, real time operational data, and engagement with the public and partners, they are best placed to understand community needs and make accountable, evidence-based decisions affecting their populations.

As with any service change, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care expects health boards to undertake transparent engagement with stakeholders in line with national guidance. In addition, health boards should also undertake a rigorous options appraisal and impact assessments regarding any proposed service change.

Hywel Dda University Health Board has been clear about the reasons for the Clinical Services Plan: to address service fragilities, to improve patient outcomes and meet clinical standards, to respond to

increasing and more complex demand, to ensure clinical and financial sustainability and to increase the quality of services.

We understand this decision by the health board was not taken lightly. It represents the culmination of a substantial, evidence-based process, undertaken through the health board's formal governance and scrutiny arrangements, and shaped by extensive engagement with patients, staff, partners and elected representatives. Notably, the health board ran a 13-week public consultation that received more than 4,000 responses and more than 200 alternative proposals.

The health board is now developing its implementation plan, and we understand the full implementation of the agreed Clinical Services Plan could take up to 4 years. The implementation and delivery of this plan remains the responsibility of the health board. As such, the most appropriate route is to direct your concerns to Hywel Dda University Health Board and to continue engaging with them as implementation planning proceeds.

If you have not done so already, you may wish to raise your concerns with the local health board through the [Patient support services \(complaints & feedback\) - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#) process.

You may also wish to contact Llais, the national citizen voice body, which provides free and confidential complaints advocacy and support for health and social care. They can be contacted as follows: [West Wales | Llais](#)

Yours sincerely,

Tim Busnes y Llywodraeth/Government Business Team

**Y Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r Blynyddoedd/Health, Social Care and Early Years Group
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government**

Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data. Os cysylltwch â Llywodraeth Cymru, mae ein [hysbysiad preifatrwydd](#) yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn anfon ateb yn Gymraeg i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. -----

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Cyngor Gwledig LLANELLI Rural Council

Clerc i'r Cyngor
Mark Galbraith A.C.I.S.
Clerk to the Council

Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA15 3BD
Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 3BD
Ffon / Tel.: 01554 774103
E.bost / E.mail: enquiries@llanelli-rural.gov.uk

Fy nghyf:
My ref:

C/KPH

Eich cyf:
Your ref:

Gofynnwch am:
Please ask for:

4 March 2026

Jeremy Miles M.S.
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff bay
CF99 1SN

Dear Minister,

MINISTERIAL INTERVENTION REQUEST - ENSURING SAFE DELIVERY OF HYWEL DDA UHB'S CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN AND SAFEGUARDING LLANELLI PATIENTS

Following a special meeting of Llanelli Rural Council held on 26 February 2026, I write to set out the council's serious concerns regarding Hywel Dda University Health Board's preferred options and next steps for its Clinical Services Plan. The programme involves concurrent reconfiguration across nine inter-dependent clinical services, with significant implications for patient safety, transfer dependence, workforce resilience and public confidence in Llanelli.

While the council recognises the ambition to improve sustainability and while investment in Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) for certain facets of planned care is welcomed, it is the council's view the delivery approach set out by the Health Board presents material risks unless Welsh Government intervenes now to ensure proper sequencing, validated readiness, and transition financing.

1. Risks arising from concurrent delivery across nine inter-dependent services: the Health Board endorsed preferred options for critical care, emergency general surgery, stroke, orthopaedics, radiology, dermatology, ophthalmology, endoscopy and urology. These changes are to be undertaken largely in parallel, with several dependent on business cases or further engagement. Slippage or failure in any one strand will create cascading operational risk across the others without government-led independent assurance.



Mae Cyngor Gwledig Llanelli yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg
Llanelli Rural Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English



2. Llanelli specific safeguarding issues: Loss of specialist ICU and consolidation of Emergency General Surgery. The proposals establish an Enhanced Care Unit at PPH and to transfer all patients requiring specialist critical care to Glangwili, alongside consolidating emergency general surgical operations at Bronllais and Glangwili. This makes inter-hospital transfer the default pathway for time-critical care. The council therefore asks Welsh Government to require the Health Board to demonstrate patient-safety equivalence for Llanelli residents before any implementation proceeds.
3. Transport and travel readiness must be a pre-condition for any reconfiguration. Transport capacity assumptions remain untested. The council recommends requiring a Transport Impact Assessment co-produced with Transport for Wales, WAST and community transport providers. This should map patient journeys, set and test time standards for critical transfers, and identify gaps and mitigations.
4. Programme inter-dependencies, sequencing and go/no-go criteria: Given the scale of change, Welsh Government should require a full inter-dependency map, critical path, phased sequencing, go/no-go criteria, and contingency planning. This should be tested through an independent gateway review.
5. Transition funding, workforce resilience and government underwriting: Without explicit time-limited underwriting, it's difficult to believe the Health Board can maintain safe double-running. The council asks Welsh Government to underwrite bridging workforce, surge beds, retrieval capacity, and community/digital readiness.
6. Public trust and communication risks reductions in local emergency capacity are highly sensitive: The council asks Welsh Government to require a public engagement plan addressing emergency access concerns, rurality impact assessments, and clear communication of safeguards.

Summary of government actions requested:

1. Commission an independent gateway review.
2. Require a phased, gated delivery plan.
3. Underwrite transitional safety and capacity costs.
4. Mandate explicit Llanelli safeguarding conditions.
5. Require essential planning materials (Transport Impact Assessment, inter-dependency plan, transfer standards, workforce assumptions, funding status, public engagement plan).

Anticipating a Non-Intervention Response and Why Ministerial Action Is Both Lawful and Necessary

The council anticipates that Welsh Government may respond by stating that the reconfiguration plan is a matter for the Health Board. Respectfully, this programme creates system-level risks that exceed the Health Board's direct control and therefore require proportionate Ministerial assurance. The duty to protect patients, sustain services through transition, and uphold public confidence is not something that can be delegated when multiple inter-dependent changes proceed concurrently across critical pathways.

This is not about Ministers determining clinical models. It is about Welsh Government setting the enabling conditions, i.e. sequencing, readiness tests and transitional underwriting so that clinically-led change is delivered safely. Only Welsh Government can convene across

organisations, align transport and emergency retrieval capacity, and provide the time-limited funding that prevents unsafe 'single-running' during the switch-over.

Applying the precautionary principle, change should not reduce local emergency capability until safety equivalence is demonstrated and independently validated for time-critical transfers affecting Llanelli residents. Requiring an inter-dependency map, transport impact assessment, explicit transfer standards, and go/no-go criteria is a facilitative act that respects clinical judgement while protecting patients.

In short, Ministerial involvement can be light-touch, time-limited, and focused on assurance: commissioning an independent gateway review; mandating phased, gated delivery; underwriting transitional safety costs; and setting clear safeguarding conditions for Llanelli. These steps will not delay necessary improvements, they will ensure they are achieved safely and with public confidence.

Assurance, Not Interference

The council does not ask Ministers to substitute their view for clinicians'. It asks for proportionate, time-limited system leadership so that the necessary safeguards, financing and sequencing are in place before irreversible steps are taken. This will protect patients, sustain the workforce and maintain public trust - outcomes that align squarely with the Welsh Government's responsibilities and values.

The council supports clinically-led improvement, but attempting to reconfigure nine inter-dependent services concurrently, while removing specialist ICU capacity from PPH, creates avoidable risks unless sequenced, assured and financed.

We urge timely Welsh Government intervention to safeguard Llanelli residents.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Council

14/04/26

Dear Mr Galbraith

On behalf of Five Roads and District WI, I would like to thank Llanelli Rural Council for the generous donation to our institution. The money will be put to good use in this the year of our 60th anniversary.

Our thanks also to Cllr Alex Evans and Cllr Owen Williams for requesting this support.

Diolch yn fawr,

(secretary Five Roads WI)

LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
DATE	20 APR 2026
FILE REF.	
PASSED TO	CL