Pecyn Dogfennau

Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire County Council

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DYDD LLUN, 22 MEHEFIN 2020

AT: HOLL AELODAU'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL

YR WYF DRWY HYN YN EICH GALW I FYNYCHU RHITH-GYFARFOD O'R **BWRDD GWEITHREDOL** AM **10.00 YB, DYDD LLUN, 29AIN MEHEFIN, 2020** ER MWYN CYFLAWNI'R MATERION A AMLINELLIR AR YR AGENDA SYDD YNGHLWM

Wendy Walters

PRIF WEITHREDWR

Swyddog Democrataidd:	**Martin S. Davies**
Ffôn (llinell uniongyrchol):	**01267 224059**
E-bost:	**MSDavies@sirgar.gov.uk**

SYLWCH:
Os oes angen cyfieithu ar y pryd o'r Gymraeg i'r Saesneg arnoch yn ystod y cyfarfod, ffoniwch: 0330 336 4321 cyfrin-gôd' 43665654 #

Am daliadau galwad cysylltwch â'ch darparwr gwasanaeth.

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive,*
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

Y BWRDD GWEITHREDOL
AELODAETH - 10 AELOD

Cynghorydd	Portffolio
Cynghorydd Emlyn Dole	**Arweinydd** Arweinyddiaeth a Strategaeth Gorfforaethol; Cadeirydd y Bwrdd Gweithredol; Cynrychioli'r Cyngor ar CLILC; Datblygu Economaidd; Yn cynrychioli'r Cyngor ar Ranbarth Dinas Bae Abertawe; Cydweithio; Marchnata a'r Cyfryngau; Penodi Aelodau o'r Bwrdd Gweithredol; Penderfynu ar bortffolios ABG; Cyswllt â`r Prif Weithredwr; Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Cynghorydd Mair Stephens	**Dirprwy Arweinydd** Rheolwr Busnes y Cyngor; Adnoddau Dynol; Rheoli Perfformiad; Archwilio Cymru; Hyfforddiant; T.G.Ch; T.I.C. Cynllunio strategol
Cynghorydd Glynog Davies	**Addysg a Phlant** Ysgolion; Gwasanaethau Plant; Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig; Diogelu; Cartrefi Seibiant; Gwasanaeth Gwella Ysgolion Integredig Rhanbarthol; Dysgu Oedolion yn y Gymuned; Gwasanaethau Ieuenctid; Gwasanaethau Arlwyo Ysgolion, Aelod Arweiniol dros Blant a Phobl Ifanc; Llysgennad Ieuenctid
Cynghorydd Cefin Campbell	**Cymunedau a Materion Gwledig** Materion Gwledig ac Ymgysylltu â'r Gymuned; Diogelwch Cymunedol; Yr Heddlu; Deddf Gwrthderfysgaeth a Diogelwch 2015; Trechu Tlodi; Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol; Cyswllt y Trydydd Sector; Cydraddoldeb, Strategaeth Newid yn yr Hinsawdd.
Cynghorydd Hazel Evans	**Amgylchedd** Sbwriel; Clanhau Strydoedd; Gwasanaethau Priffyrdd aThrafnidiaeth; Cynnal a Chadw Tiroedd; Gwasanaethau Adeiladu; Gofalu; Clanhau Adeiladau; Cynlluniau Argyfwng; Llifogydd, Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus.
Cynghorydd Linda Evans	**Tai** Tai - Cyhoeddus; Tai - Preifat; Heneiddio'n dda
Cynghorydd Peter Hughes Griffiths	**Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth** Llysgennad Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned; Datblygu'r Iaith Gymraeg; Theatrau; Chwaraeon; Canolfannau Hamdden; Amgueddfeydd; Llyfrgelloedd; Parciau Gwledig; Twristiaeth.
Cynghorydd Philip Hughes	**Diogelu'r Cyhoedd** Safonau Masnach; Iechyd yr Amgylchedd. Gorfodaeth Amgylcheddol; Gorfodaeth Cynllunio; Gwastraff Didrwydded; Gwasanaethau Parcio; Bio amrywiaeth
Cynghorydd David Jenkins	**Adnoddau** Cyllid a'r Gyllideb; Effeithlonrwydd Corfforaethol; Rheoli Eiddo / Asedau; Caffael; Budd-daliadau Tai; Refeniw; Gwasanaethau Statudol (Crwneriaid, Cofrestryddion, Etholiadol, Arglwydd Rhaglaw); Hyrwyddwr y Lluoedd Arfog; Canolfannau Cyswllt a Chanolfannau Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid
Cynghorydd Jane Tremlett	**Gofal Cymdeithasol ac Iechyd** Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Oedolion; Gofal Preswyl; Gofal Cartref; Anableddau Dysgu; Iechyd Meddwl; Cyswllt / Cydweithio / Integreiddio â'r GIG; Gwasanaethau Arlwyo Cartefi Gofal, Pencampwr Gofalwyr; Llysgennad Anabledd; Pencampwr Gofal Dementia

A G E N D A

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

BWRDD GWEITHREDOL

Dydd Llun, 1 Mehefin 2020

YN BRESENNOL: Y Cynghorydd E. Dole (Cadeirydd);

Y Cynghorwyr:
E. Dole, C.A. Campbell, G. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, P.M. Hughes, P. Hughes-Griffiths, D.M. Jenkins, L.M. Stephens a J. Tremlett;

Yr oedd y swyddogion canlynol yn gwasanaethu yn y cyfarfod:
W. Walters, Prif Weithredwr;
C. Moore, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol;
J. Morgan, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymunedau;
G. Morgans, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Addysg a Phlant;
R. Mullen, Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd;
L.R. Jones, Pennaeth Gweinyddiaeth a'r Gyfraith;
P.R. Thomas, Prif Weithredwr Cynorthwyol (Rheoli Pobl a Pherfformiad);
D. Hockenhull, Rheolwr y y Cyfryngau a Marchnata;
G. Morgan, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd;
M.S. Davies, Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd.

Rhith-Gyfarfod: 10.00 yb - 10.25 yb

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Ni chafwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2. DATGAN BUDDIANNAU PERSONOL

Ni ddatganwyd unrhyw fuddiannau personol.

3. COFNODION - 16 MAWRTH 2020

PENDERFYNWYD YN UNFRYDOL lofnodi cofnodion cyfarfod y Bwrdd Gweithredol a gynhaliwyd ar 16 Mawrth 2020, gan eu bod yn gywir, yn amodol ar newid o ran camlythreniad yn y fersiwn Saesneg ar benderfyniad 9.3 [Cartrefi yn Orsafoedd Pŵer].

4. CWESTIYNAU Â RHYBUDD GAN Y CYHOEDD

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd nad oedd dim cwestiynau wedi dod i law gan y cyhoedd.

5. CWESTIYNAU Â RHYBUDD GAN YR AELODAU

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd nad oedd dim cwestiynau â rhybudd wedi cael eu cyflwyno gan yr Aelodau.

6. PENDERFYNIADAU BRYS A WNAED GAN SWYDDOGION HYD YN HYN ERS PANDEMIG Y CORONAFEIRWS

Roedd yr Arweinydd, wrth gyflwyno'r eitem hon ac ar ran y Bwrdd Gweithredol, wedi talu teyrnged i'r holl staff am y gwaith yr oeddent wedi'i wneud, yn aml y tu hwnt i'w dyletswyddau, i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'r Awdurdod, ar y cyfan, wedi gallu gweithredu mor effeithlon ac mor normal â phosibl o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol.

Bu'r Bwrdd Gweithredol yn ystyried adroddiad a oedd yn manylu ar benderfyniadau brys a wnaed gan Swyddogion hyd yn hyn yn ystod pandemig presennol y coronafeirws ac yn dilyn gohirio y rhan fwyaf o'r cyfarfodydd democrataidd er diogelwch. O dan y Cynllun Dirprwyo i swyddogion yng Nghyfansoddiad yr Awdurdod, "rhoddir y penderfyniad ar unrhyw fater brys yn y meysydd sydd dan ofal y Cyngor, y Bwrdd Gweithredol neu unrhyw Bwyllgor i'r Prif Weithredwr a'r holl Gyfarwyddwyr lle mae'n anymarferol galw cyfarfod o'r cyrff hynny i ystyried y mater." Roedd cyfarfodydd wedi'u gohirio oherwydd ffactorau megis y cyfyngiadau symud, gofynion cadw pellter cymdeithasol a nifer yr Aelodau'n sy'n hunanynysu.

Dywedwyd wrth y Bwrdd, ers llunio'r adroddiad bod trefniadau bellach ar y gweill i ddychwelyd at y prosesau penderfynu democrataidd ffurfiol ac y byddai cyfarfodydd yn cael eu hailgychwyn, er yn rhannol ar sail presenoldeb o bell.

PENDERFYNWYD YN UNFRYDOL nodi'r penderfyniadau brys a wnaed gan y swyddogion.

7. ADRODDIAD CYFARWYDDWR STATUDOL Y GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL

Bu'r Bwrdd Gweithredol yn ystyried adroddiad a oedd yn adlewyrchu sefyllfa'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn Sir Gaerfyrddin yn ystod yr Argyfwng Cenedlaethol a achoswyd gan Covid-19 a'r camau a gymerwyd. Nid oedd yr adroddiad yn cynnwys yr holl feysydd gweithgarwch gan y byddai'r rhain yn cael eu cynnwys yn adroddiad blynyddol y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn ddiweddarach yn y flwyddyn neu drwy unrhyw nodiadau cyngor pellach yr ystyrir eu bod yn angenrheidiol i'w nodi.

Ar y cyfan ystyriwyd bod ymateb y Cyngor wedi bod yn effeithiol o ran cynnal gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol mewn amgylchiadau eithriadol o anodd. Roedd y gefnogaeth ariannol sylweddol a gafwyd a'r gefnogaeth a'r ymyrraeth uniongyrchol gan Arweinydd y Cyngor, yr Aelod o'r Bwrdd Gweithredol dros Ofal Cymdeithasol ac Iechyd a'r Prif Weithredwr wedi cyfrannu at gynnal a chadw y rhan fwyaf o'r ddarpariaeth graidd i safon dda er gwaethaf wynebu heriau digynsail. Roedd effaith y feirws ar breswylwyr mewn cartrefi gofal yn parhau i fod yn bryder difrifol a pharhaus yn Sir Gaerfyrddin fel yr oedd ar draws rhan helaeth o Gymru. Pwysleisiwyd drwy gydol yr argyfwng hwn bod meddyliau pawb gyda'r preswylwyr, y staff gofal a'r teuluoedd hynny y mae'r feirws hwn wedi cael effaith mor drasig arnynt.

Talwyd teyrnged gan yr Aelod o'r Bwrdd Gweithredol dros Ofal Cymdeithasol ac Iechyd i'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan staff yn y sector gofal cymdeithasol ac iechyd o dan yr amgylchiadau presennol.

PENDERFYNWYD YN UNFRYDOL i nodi'r sefyllfa y manylwyd arni yn yr adroddiad a chadarnhau'r camau a gymerwyd.

8. UNRHYW FATER ARALL Y GALL Y CADEIRYDD OHERWYDD AMGYLCHIADAU ARBENNIG BENDERFYNU EI YSTYRIED YN FATER BRYS YN UNOL AG ADRAN 100B(4)(B) O DDEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL, 1972.

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd nad oedd unrhyw eitemau eraill o ran materion brys.

CADEIRYDD **DYDDIAD**

Bwrdd Gweithredol
15 Mehefin 2020

EFFAITH ECONOMAIDD COVID-19 AC ADFER
Ailddechrau, Adfywio, Adnewyddu

Yr argymhellion / penderfyniadau allweddol sydd eu hangen:

Bod yr Aelodau:

1) yn cael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am yr effaith y mae Covid-19 yn ei chael ar economi, busnesau a chymunedau Sir Gaerfyrddin;
2) yn cymeradwyo'r fersiwn drafft o'r strategaeth adfer arfaethedig.

Y rhesymau:

Mae'r wybodaeth a gasglwyd yn dangos yn glir fod yr awdurdod a'r economi leol yn wynebu cyfnod anodd iawn dros y misoedd nesaf wrth i effeithiau argyfwng Covid-19 roi pwysau ar swyddi a'r galw. Felly, mae'n hanfodol bod ymateb y Cyngor yn cyd-fynd ag anghenion busnesau a chymunedau ledled Sir Gaerfyrddin, gan fanteisio ar gyfleoedd i gyflymu newid er mwyn galluogi llwyddiant yn economi'r dyfodol. Mae angen cyflawni adferiad economaidd Sir Gaerfyrddin yn rhan o gynllun economaidd newydd â thri cham, sy'n cynnwys ailddechrau'r economi leol, adfywio ac adnewyddu hirdymor.

Angen ymgynghori â'r pwyllgor craffu perthnasol	Amh.
Angen i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol wneud penderfyniad	OES
Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad	NAC OES

YR AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:- Y Cyng. Emlyn Dole, Arweinydd

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth: Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth: Jason Jones Awdur yr Adroddiad: Jason Jones	Y Prif Weithredwr Swydd: Pennaeth Adfywio	Jajones@sirgar.gov.uk 01267 242336

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
29th June 2020

COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

Restart, Revive, Renew

1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The report provides an assessment of the impact that Covid-19 is having on Carmarthenshire businesses, to identify what is important to them in the short, medium and long-term, so that going forward we can provide them with the assistance they most need. Evidence has also been gathered on the impact on unemployment in the county and the impact on our rural and primary towns. Intelligence has also been sought from developers and investors who have been active in Carmarthenshire to assess whether they are likely to continue to conduct business in the County in the future. The findings of this intelligence, set out in the detailed report attached, demonstrates that the authority and the local economy face a difficult time in coming months as the effects of the Covid-19 crisis puts pressure on jobs and demand.

The immediate impact can be seen from the significant increase (127%) between March and April (first full month of lockdown) in the number of Carmarthenshire residents who are claiming unemployment related benefits. The report suggests that these figures are likely to rise significantly over the coming months. The Council is currently providing support to several food banks around the County. Based on the report findings it is likely that there will be a need for ongoing support as a response to meeting the needs of those facing hardship. The Authority, as part of its recovery and response will need to review its priorities around its support for those communities experiencing high levels of poverty.

Through acting together, the authority and its partners can take action to restore consumer and business confidence to stimulate investment in our economies, which will create employment, reskill the workforce and help the unemployed find new jobs.

As a platform to the development and delivery of the County's Economic Recovery Plan, an internal Business, Economy and Community recovery group has been established to coordinate development and delivery. That group has identified several draft potential action strands and proposals for further consideration. In order to move forward Carmarthenshire County Council is seeking to employ external economic advice to assist with bringing this information together and to map out a plan for future projects and tasks in order to provide the right support for our businesses and communities.

An overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, will be established to assist us with the development and refinement of our draft plan and to lead us through the current crisis. This group will set the vision and direction for recovery.

The attached report contains a summary of the draft recovery plan key themes and actions for endorsement before they are considered by the proposed overarching business forum group.

2. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS The market intelligence clearly demonstrates that businesses are expecting the Council to support economic activity, prepare the ground for recovery and lead Carmarthenshire out of this crisis. There is no other option for the Council other than to take immediate action in collaborating with its businesses and the wider community.	
DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	Yes - An Analysis of the Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire – Copy attached.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Jason Jones **Head of Regeneration**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	**NONE**	**YES**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The detailed report identifies several issues arising from the current crisis. In responding to these challenges, the Council will need to think long term, ensuring an integrated approach, involving and collaborating with stakeholders to prevent where possible business failures and long-term unemployment. This approach is fully aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 five ways of working.

3. Finance

There will be a need for some financial resource to be made available to support some activities and initiatives to respond to the identified challenges. At the current time it is not possible to quantify the level of resource that will be required.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below		
Signed:	**Jason Jones**	**Head of Regeneration**

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2.Local Member(s) N/A

3.Community / Town Council N/A

4.Relevant Partners 996 businesses have been consulted.

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader) has been consulted as EBM and is supportive of the report proposals.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
An Analysis of the Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire		Copy Attached at Appendix 1 to the detailed report

DETAILED REPORT
COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY
Restart, Revive, Renew

BACKGROUND

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic spread to the United Kingdom in late January 2020. By March the scale of the outbreak had already led businesses to change their working practice, such as sending staff to work from home. On March 23rd the UK government imposed a lockdown, banning all "non-essential" travel. The resulting impact on businesses and the economy has been severe with a significant number of businesses either being required, or choosing, to close - notably in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

The Welsh Government introduced 2 separate grant schemes, the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Grant and the Economic Resilience Fund, to support businesses during the lockdown period. Other economic measures such as the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme and Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme were introduced. The Council established a small business rent relief scheme and offered a 3-month rent free period to all its commercial tenants.

The impact of the current lockdown and the enormous economic damage resulting from Covid-19 is self-evident as more reports on the scale of the impact emerge each day. The consequences for the public finances, businesses and households will be severe and drawn out.

Responding to this challenge will require imagination, determination and flexibility. Carrying on business as 'normal' is not an option. At times of crisis, opportunities present themselves to accelerate change and introduce structural reforms to enable success in the economy of the future. We need to show that we are in tune with the needs of businesses and communities across Carmarthenshire, and that we are prepared to take on the task of finding the right response to the sudden downturn in prospects for growth and jobs.

The first stage of the recovery process has been focused on understanding the impact of Covid-19 on our businesses, economy and communities. A questionnaire has been widely circulated to find out more about the impact that Covid-19 is having on Carmarthenshire businesses, to identify what is important to them in the short, medium and long-term, so that going forward we can provide them with the assistance they most need. A dedicated business team has been established. This team is currently undertaking direct dialogue to build relationships with key business sectors, developers and investors, to ensure that proposed recovery actions appropriately respond to the support that these businesses are telling us that they need moving forward. The findings of this engagement will provide the platform upon which we will develop our economic response and recovery proposals.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

To gain an informed understanding of the position in Carmarthenshire, evidence has been gathered on the impact on our businesses, unemployment and rural / primary towns. Evidence has also been sought from developers and investors who have been active in Carmarthenshire to assess whether they are likely to continue to conduct business in the County in the future. The findings of this intelligence gathering follows:

1. Business / Economy

Evidence has been gathered via an electronic survey disseminated to businesses operating within the county to identify what is important to them in the short, medium and long-term, so that going forward we can provide them with the assistance they most need.

The survey includes a mix of both closed and open-ended questions, which has provided robust quantitative and qualitative information through which analysis has determined several reliable conclusions. A total of 574 businesses from across the county responded to the survey. A copy of the full report providing an analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the county of Carmarthenshire, is attached. The main findings and conclusions of the report are summarised below:

a) **The negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been significant and wide reaching for Carmarthenshire's businesses.**
A wide-ranging spectrum of business types and corresponding industries have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. These effects mainly relate to a significant reduction in income, reduced access to customers, problems with supply chains and the possible cessation of trading.

b) **Many of the businesses worst affected are within those sectors deemed of significant importance to Carmarthenshire in terms of employment and/or GVA.**
The visitor economy and food and beverage sectors alone are worth almost £169 million to Carmarthenshire's economy and are therefore sectors of great pertinence to the county. We have also heard first-hand through the survey the challenges being experienced by the Agricultural sector. With a location quotient of 5.64 (showing substantial strength) and a GVA of almost £63 million, adequate support should be offered to support this vitally important sector.

c) **Many businesses (mainly those that are self-employed or freelance), have been unable to access any financial support.**
Analysis has shown that many businesses have faced barriers in accessing support, having been deemed ineligible for the current offer. It could be argued that should any further financial support mechanisms be developed then these businesses should be the first to benefit, especially if any of these businesses align to those sectors deemed high value.

d) **Most businesses will not be able to operate longer than three months if the current situation continues.**
Support developed to date has been done quickly and with depleted resources in many instances. Given the precarious position many businesses find themselves in, should any further support mechanisms be developed then they too will need to be actioned quickly, with the aim of stemming the 'snow-ball' affect that are the impacts of this pandemic.

e) **The most sought-after type of support both in the short and longer term is financial in the form of grants, loans or payment deferrals/holidays.**
These findings present a challenge given that it is currently difficult to ascertain how much longer restrictions will be in place. It could be argued that whilst a financial injection of support would be beneficial for many in the immediate term, if restrictions continue, or are reintroduced in the short-term following a reprieve, then many businesses would unfortunately find themselves in a

worrying predicament once again. The sustainability of this financial support would then become uncertain. In conjunction with this, local and national governments could develop a more sustainable and less cost intensive package of support with the aim of supporting businesses to diversify their operations i.e. moving to online selling, re- training staff, product development or aiding with marketing.

f) **Some businesses would find promotion and advertising support from the Council beneficial.**
Businesses primarily operating within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality sectors indicated that they would find free advertising and promotion beneficial to their recovery. This is an example of a relatively low-cost and non-resource intensive offer of support placing the Council further at the forefront of assisting businesses to recover. This offer of support could be extended to all businesses irrespective of the sector that they operate in. This also aligns with the 'buy local' marketing message that could be promoted to the county's residents in the hope of providing a much-needed boost to the local companies who are the very foundation of our economy.

g) **There are areas of deprivation in the county where the effects of the pandemic could be felt more acutely.**
Community support initiatives should be focussed first and foremost in the areas highlighted as experiencing increased levels of deprivation. With many people feeling more isolated than ever before it is imperative that the Council continues its support and outreach work, to ensure that those most vulnerable in our communities receive the support that they need.

h) **Some businesses foresee that they will experience skills challenges as a result of the pandemic, with the majority stating that these skills deficits will relate to digital and IT skills.**
With the vast majority of respondents indicating that they would benefit from online training in the fields of IT/digital skills, marketing and diversification there is scope to offer subsidised training through provision that is already in existence as an alternative to cash grants. There is also scope to utilise the wealth of expertise readily available within the organisation to offer non-accredited online training resources.

i) **The skills landscape will undoubtedly suffer as a result of the pandemic. The majority of job losses are likely to be at a lower skills level as these jobs tend to be part-time, low paid and more unstable. They are also often aligned with the identified 'shutdown' sectors.**
Local Government and organisations such as the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership have a crucial role to play in assisting employers and businesses to identify the skills that they need and ensuring that suitable provision exists to meet these demands.

In addition to the online survey, telephone interviews have been conducted with 422 businesses. Many of the trends identified from the survey intelligence have been echoed and substantiated through the qualitative interviews and by other external organisations (Ymlaen

Llanelli, Federation of Small Businesses, South Wales Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Hub Carmarthen, Business Wales). There is a general clear consensus across all intelligence that the pandemic has had an unmeasurable impact on the wellbeing of businesses across the county.

171 businesses are completely closed presently with many indicating that they are in a state of ‘hibernation’. A large proportion (166) are partially operating albeit at a reduced capacity, with the majority having placed a significant number of staff on furlough. It is clear that the businesses still trading are those able to operate online, work from home or those that have diversified their offer or service in response to the pandemic.

It seems several businesses operating within the financial and professional services sector such as estate agents and legal and insurance firms have been able to continue to trade through moving their staff to home-working. Whilst many have not been able to offer their full range of services, this has served to keep the respective businesses afloat in this uncertain time.

In response to a question about what support business need moving forward, the vast majority of businesses indicated that the support they desire is related to finance. 114 businesses indicated that an extended period of payment holidays or deferrals would be beneficial to them with a further 93 indicating that financial support in the form of a grant would be of help. The South Wales chamber of commerce have also highlighted the importance of financial support, specifically in the form of extensions to rate relief periods and re-opening grants.

19 businesses highlighted that assistance from the Council to support collaborative procurement, i.e. PPE and safety protection equipment would be welcomed. This would be a prudent approach ensuring economies of scale (where possible), driving efficiencies and reducing the risk for individual businesses (of which many are small enterprises). This is closely aligned to the desire from the Enterprise Hub to see support offered in collaborative tendering and local purchasing.

10 businesses would like help with promotion for either themselves or their industry as a whole. This is consistent with the message from the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality sector which was identified through the survey returns and aligns with the call for national promotions from the Federation of Small Businesses.

Many businesses feel that there is a role for the Council to take the lead on developing and supporting campaigns which promote a ‘buy local’ message and encourage the development and protection of local supply chains. This is a key area of consideration for the county and if successful could alleviate some pressures and would serve to promote local, sustainable growth, supporting not only the businesses based in the county but also their employees and their customers.

A theme raised by several through the survey in relation to the offer of training (especially around digital skills, marketing, online marketing and setting up online shops) has been echoed once again. These findings have been further substantiated by a number of organisations including Coleg Sir Gar, Business Wales and the Enterprise Hub in Carmarthen who made specific reference to training or support in areas such as food safety, mental health first aid, managing finance, business planning, legal issues (especially around employment law) and debt management.

Unfortunately, 18 businesses reported that they were not eligible for any of the financial support grants currently in existence. Most of these businesses are sole traders with no employees. These findings are consistent with those deduced from the impact survey.

78 businesses indicated that they are unsure about what help the Council could offer in addition to what is already being offered. In many circumstances reference was made to the help these businesses had already received for which they were grateful.

The sad reality of the situation is that many businesses will fail, and others will take a significant length of time to get back to where they were. The impact across the UK has been estimated to be as much as one third of total GDP in some sectors. By contrast, some areas of the economy have seen employment growth including distribution, online retail and healthcare. To what extent this is short term growth is unknown and evidence indicates that this temporary employment may be slowing.

2. Unemployment in Carmarthenshire

An analysis of the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in Wales shows that between March and April (first full month of lockdown) there were 104,869 claimants compared with 58,576 in March. This resulted in the claimant rate increasing from 3.9% to 6.8% which compares negatively with the UK average which sits at 5.8%.

The table below provides a breakdown of claimant levels in April 2020 compared with the same time last year. The trends are undeniable and are a stark indicator of the effects of the pandemic. Figures highlighted in the preceding paragraph allows confident deduction that the substantial increases seen in Carmarthenshire are primarily as a result of the pandemic.

Area	**Level**		**Rate**	
	April 2019	**April 2020**	**April 2019**	**April 2020**
Carmarthenshire	2,420	5,495	2.2	5.0
Wales	53,770	104,305	2.8	5.4
UK	1,106,610	2,117,360	2.7	5.1

Carmarthenshire's claimant rate appears to compare positively with the averages for Wales and the UK. However, further analysis indicates that Carmarthenshire has seen the greatest increase (2.8) in the claimant rate compared with increases of 2.6 and 2.4 for Wales and the UK respectively. The count of claimants has increased by 127% in Carmarthenshire which is substantially higher than the proportional increases seen at a Wales and UK level, (94% and 91% respectively).

There are several factors which could be attributable to these trends. Carmarthenshire's economy is characterised by a higher than average proportion of self-employed individuals (12.4% compared with 9.6% in Wales). Anecdotal evidence suggests that at a national level the package of support has been lesser and more difficult to access (owing to eligibility and timeliness) for these individuals and many have been forced to claim unemployment-related benefits. It is feasible that many of these additional claimants are therefore those that have been unable to access any other form of financial support.

Those sectors that have suffered ‘shutdowns’ as a result of the pandemic offer employment to approximately 25,000 people in Carmarthenshire (accounting for 37% of the total workforce). It is realistic therefore to suggest that whilst a proportion of those have been furloughed (with model-based estimates suggesting that 7,500 individuals are benefitting from the furlough scheme in Carmarthenshire) the shortfall of 17,500 people are likely to be those individuals accessing these benefits. The suggestion is that these figures are likely to rise significantly over the coming months.

3. Rural Towns

Prior to the current crisis we were working with consultants to develop growth plans to revitalise our 10 towns – Llandovery, **St Clears**, **Whitland**, **Newcastle Emlyn**, **Laugharne**, Cwmamman, **Llanybydder**, Kidwelly, Llandeilo and Cross Hands - under the Council’s moving rural Carmarthenshire forward strategy. These growth plans were to look forward 10 years with new ideas and priorities agreed in partnership with businesses. The need for these plans has been amplified by the economic whirlwind brought about by the pandemic. The anticipated economic impacts of Coronavirus on 5 of the 10 Towns (shown in bold) has been considered by Owen Davies Consulting. The initial key findings for these 5 towns include:

- Across the five towns, 35% of the workforce (2,330 people) are employed in occupations considered at most risk (administrative, leisure, customer service, elementary).
- If one in five (466) of the most at-risk workforce lost their jobs, unemployment would increase by 70%.
- Whitland (26%) and St Clears (27%) have the highest levels of managers and professionals which offer more capacity to work from home and are considered to be less risk occupations.
- 20% of employees across the five towns are in self-employment and are considered more vulnerable to abrupt and, in some cases, total loss of income.
- Over 40% of businesses in the five towns are in shut down sectors (restaurants, pubs, café, non-food retail etc).
- 50 food and drink businesses and 100 accommodation providers are likely to have closed across the five towns, with Laugharne suffering more significantly than others.
- Impacts on agriculture are likely to have a greater impact on the five towns because there are a higher proportion of people employed in agriculture

A review of the Covid-19 impact on the remaining 5 towns is currently being progressed with further information available shortly.

4. Primary Town Centres

Currently, the economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis are highly uncertain which makes it difficult to draw a clear picture of immediate impact on our primary town centres, namely Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli. The UK and Welsh Governments have imposed restrictions on the operation of businesses which has specifically targeted the retail sector. Jobs in these businesses are particularly affected as the businesses will be following government restrictions. Retail businesses will be vulnerable due to shop closures and a strong drop in demand from consumers. Intervention and clear direction from all stakeholders will be required to prioritise key strategies of support to ensure town centre recovery following the Covid-19 crisis.

The initial issues identified and intelligence coming out of those towns are that there will be a need to:

- Improve access/ social distancing measures to be implemented within town centres, including connections between out of town sites and the town's public transport link.
- Increasing footfall to all areas of the town.
- Reducing the number of empty premises in the town centre.
- Provide alternative trading for those businesses based within core town centres (i.e. deliveries, online sales).
- Public transport issues – avoiding congestion.
- Consider alternative uses of derelict sites / empty buildings / potential future development sites in the interim.
- Consider community enterprise and third sector role in recovery of the town.
- Provide Business Support – chamber of trade, self-help initiatives such as town centre partnerships.
- Need for effective town branding and development of a marketing & tourism development strategy.
- Need for financial support for new and existing businesses.
- Strengthen Local procurement / Local supply chain.
- Clear roles and coordination of BIDS / town Centre forums / taskforces/CCC

The Centre for Towns, an independent non-partisan organisation dedicated to providing research and analysis on a range of issues affecting our towns, has recently reviewed the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on towns and cities throughout the UK. The report findings identify Llanelli as being in the top 20 towns in the UK for absolute deprivation and therefore lacking in resilience with regards to COVID-19.

It is crucial that we help as many of our town centre businesses back operating safely as soon as possible. To achieve this, we need to create safe town centre environments and enable sensible movement throughout that will give users, residents and businesses confidence to resume activity and business.

The lockdown will ease in a phased manner. Plans are currently being put in place to restart our indoor and outdoor markets when it is safe to do so. We are also developing a strategy, working with multiple stakeholders, to ensure that our town centres fully support local businesses, retailing, social and leisure activity. immediate priorities to be achieved include:

- Signage
- Communications with businesses
- Public Conveniences
- Bus Stations
- Car Parks
- Street Furniture issues (e.g. benches)

This will swiftly be followed by more strategic projects for infrastructure that include:

- Re designating street space (including pedestrianisation)
- Re designating infrastructure and plans
- Enforcement

5. <u>Developer / Investor Confidence</u>

Some 15 local, regional and national developers were contacted in respect of their businesses and how they have been impacted by Covid 19. The discussion with developers revolved around 4 main themes:

- Short term impacts (current and in the next 6 months)
- Key constraints anticipated moving forward

- Key opportunities moving forward
- Key public and private sector interventions required

Summary of feedback Received

Short Term Impact	• Generally, most developers were surprisingly positive and see the current crisis as a challenge but in some instances an opportunity. • Rent reduction / rent free windows being requested by a few tenants also some high-profile tenants not paying rent. • A few experiencing delays in incoming payments from tenants and clients. • Mixed response on availability and rates of bank finance. • Some construction materials difficult to get hold of such as plasterboard, plaster and concrete. • Material price rises inevitable in short term due to lack of supply and increasing demand. • Mixed response on anticipated values falling, some developers believe there will be no change others expecting problems with security / projected profit margins from expected devaluation. • Difficult to plan for future as so many unknowns. • A number of projects have been delayed although several were looking to return to site shortly or had returned to site on a limited basis. • Delays being experienced with planning decisions (across Wales) and drainage responses etc. • HMRC furlough payments slow. • Appreciation of quick processing of business rates grant. • Utility companies only doing emergency work. • Current glut of available labour where previously in short supply (Brick layers).
Key Constraints	• Planning process – needs to be more responsive. • Cost value GAP increasing low rentals higher costs. • Increasing costs. • Public sector too strong need to revitalise private sector. • WG withdrawal from Housing association bond scheme. • Lack of reasonable bank and development bank financing at reasonable costs. • Lack of Gap funding schemes such as PDF and business schemes such as CREF. • Communication with local authority would be useful to have single point of contact. • Speculative development unlikely due to higher risk etc • Uncertainty on end values. • Lost income / lack of productivity

Opportunities Moving Forward	• Demand still exists for high quality properties. • Opportunities to market stock / development sites to companies in key cities across UK looking to lower costs and increase quality of life to employees. • Residential market strong plus relocations as above. • Cheap stock and land for acquisition. • Local and consistent procurement. • Remote working practices / IT. • Less competition. • Staycations. • Retirement villages vs care homes. • Live / work schemes. • Creative hubs. • Appetite for joint venture working with Council. • More efficient working practices, IT, home working, TEAMS, reduced travel costs etc. • Opportunities for off site working in construction sector.
Public and Private Sector Interventions Required	• Gap funding support scheme / Property Development Fund. • Higher intervention rates to assist with growing development gap figure. • Forum of developers. • Support to assist with deferring private sector tenants rent. • Rental guarantees from LA. • Joint venture projects potentially LA asset backed. • Seed funding for development of innovative / risky projects. • Low interest or zero interest/ fee commercial borrowing. • Reduce / remove / freeze section 106 contributions. • Use section 106 funds for economic development. • Co-ordinated marketing of development / relocation site.

CARMARTHENSHIRE'S RECOVERY STRATEGY – RESTART REVIVE RENEW

In response to the above issues we are proposing a strategy which outlines what is required during the Covid-19 recovery period to ensure that the Carmarthenshire's economy can recover as quickly as possible. Carmarthenshire's economic recovery needs to be realised as part of a new three-phase economic plan that includes restarting of the local economy followed by a revival phase and long-term renewal. The findings of this impact report are a snapshot of informing the restart phase.

The intelligence gathered clearly demonstrates that the local economy faces a difficult time in coming months as the effects of the Covid-19 crisis puts pressure on jobs and demand. Through acting together, the authority and its partners can take action to restore consumer and business confidence to stimulate investment in our economies, which will create employment and help the unemployed find new jobs.

As a platform to the development and delivery of the economic recovery plan, Carmarthenshire County Council has set up a business, economy and community recovery group to coordinate development and delivery. That group has identified several draft potential action strands and proposals for further consideration. In order to move forward Carmarthenshire County Council is seeking to employ external economic advice to assist with bringing this information together and to map out a plan for future projects and tasks to give a kick start and boost to the local economy.

An overarching advisory group, comprising key private sector industry leaders, will be established to assist us with the development and refinement of our draft plan (summarised below) and to lead us through the current crisis. This group will set the vision and direction for recovery.

The Draft Economic Recovery Plan

Carmarthenshire's Economic Recovery Plan is focused on 11 key areas:

1. ***Capital Infrastructure***
   - Continue with significant regeneration capital infrastructure investments to boost demand in the construction sector and stimulate confidence.

2. ***Business Support***
   - Review of current priorities is required with greater emphasis on engagement. Focus on sector specific as necessary. Greater staff resource required through re-modelling of service. Financial support to assist with recovery. Re-prioritise the Business engagement strategy.
   - Set up a business support hotline to support and provide guidance to Carmarthenshire businesses on funding, recovery and general advice.
   - Investigate possibility of negotiating bulk purchase / subsidised deals for businesses.
   - Refocus Communities for Work to provide training and work experience to people who have become unemployed as a result of Covid 19.
   - Workways + provide assistance for the unemployed as a consequence of Covid 19 - ref Short Term Unemployed.
   - Investigate possibility of reinvention of Future Jobs Fund to provide guaranteed, paid employment for young people.

3. ***Town Centre Economy***
   - Reviewing and refocusing primary town centre regeneration master and recovery plans.
   - Develop safe town centre environment plans.
   - Supporting BIDs in Carmarthen & Llanelli
   - Review current parking initiatives/provisions throughout the County.
   - Acquisition of empty retail premises to revive economic buoyancy/footfall through innovation.
   - Consider county-wide development order for town centres.
   - Put in place arrangements for resumption of trading at our indoor and outdoor Markets – ensuring compliance with regulations and staff and shopper safety.

4. ***Procurement***
   - Explore if we can increase the value and volume of procurement from locally based SME's, compliantly within the Procurement Regulations.
   - Investigate possibility of sub £25k (3 quotes) through an update of our Council's Contract Procedure Rules to stipulate of the 3 quotes sought one should be from a supplier within the County.

- Opportunity to strengthen our Community Benefits approach.

5. ***Planning***
    - Consider relaxation of the emerging LDP for the creation of additional employment areas particularly for B2 uses and small business startups. Consider also any interim options.
    - Consider the emerging LDP in terms of home working and the concept of live / work. Consider also any interim options.
    - Consider feasibility of reallocating S.106 monies where possible to economic development activity.
    - Consider whether there should, or could be, a prioritisation approach for applications that will generate job opportunities/economic benefits.
    - Review and simplify planning support for key economic development applications (small and large).

6. ***Rural Economy***
    - Review and prioritise Council's Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward recommendations and projects.
    - Foundational Economy Fund - develop a local food strategy.
    - Review 10 town growth plans.
    - Investigate feasibility of developing co-operation led milk processing facilities within Carmarthenshire.
    - Review Arfor rural business support.

7. ***Communities***
    - Support local communities to become more self-resilient with sustainable local supply chains.
    - Realignment of Bureau function.
    - Review the Authorities poverty support measures and priorities.
    - Third sector support.
    - Deliver community led projects – Leader.
    - Reprioritise and grow grant funding to Covid-19 community resilience projects.

8. ***Digital Connectivity***
    - Deliver Digital infrastructure regional City Deal project being led by the Council.
    - Deliver LEADER funded project to support digital infrastructure in rural areas of Carmarthenshire.

9. ***Skills***
    - Skills and Talent Swansea Bay City Deal project - identify new ways of working and the new skills and technology required in order to deliver this across the region.
    - Develop local skills action plan.

10. ***Tourism & Events***
    - Review current Marketing Destination plans. Ail-ddarganfod Sir Gar / Re-discover Carmarthenshire – assist promotion and marketing of local businesses.
    - Road Cycling Marketing Campaign - Work with accommodation providers as to what ride and stay packages can be offered and when

- Cultural Heritage Campaign - Celtic Routes - opportunity to continue this project with a further £1million budget into 2021 will deliver tangible visitors to Carmarthenshire.
- Maximising Signature & Major Events - Major events such as the Tour of Britain can contribute £750k economic impact over a weekend, and a smaller event like Llandovery Grit Fest £50k.

11. Land and assets

- Review accommodation programme considering changing working practice and agile working.
- Reprofile capital receipts and potentially target certain sectors.
- Energy efficiency and local energy generation - focus in the short term on invest to save Re:fit scheme.
- Review land availability and reprofile as necessary to ensure that best use of council owned land is being made to support the local economy.
- Development of incubator/commercial accommodation and medium sized food based and production units.

In some areas there will be a need to challenge current ways of working and regulations to maximise opportunities for local businesses and to make it as simple as possible for business to open and expand in Carmarthenshire. Now is the time to make real change, to make a difference we must have the courage to challenge the norm. There will also be a need for some financial resource to be made available to support some activities and initiatives to respond to the identified challenges.

It is recommended that Members approve the proposed draft recovery strategy key themes and actions before they are considered by the proposed overarching business forum group.

An Analysis of the Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire

MAY 2020

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire County Council

Contents

Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Context

The COVID-19 pandemic is considered one of the most significant global events in recent history. Its effects have been felt across the world and has resulted in the most significant disruption to normal life in peace time. The ferocity and complicated nature of the virus has meant that people are unable to exercise their fundamental rights of freedom and free movement, resulting in substantial global economic downturns.

As national and local governments attempt to plan for a rapid and flexible recovery, it has never been more imperative that decisions are informed by accurate and timely intelligence. This report is therefore intended to provide an analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the county of Carmarthenshire. It has been developed with the aim of providing some context on such areas as the economy and labour market, people, businesses, education and skills.

1.2 Process and Methodology

This report draws on several data sources of both a primary and secondary nature. The most recently available secondary labour market information has been analysed to provide information regarding the economy, labour market, people and skills. This information has mainly been accessed via an economic modelling package known as EMSI. The data provided through this package is derived from a collection of nine government sources and recognises itself as a complete, accurate and reliable source of labour market information.

Primary evidence has been gathered via an electronic survey disseminated to businesses operating within the county, this has subsequently been analysed to inform the business intelligence section of this report. The survey includes a mix of both closed and open-ended questions, which has provided robust quantitative and qualitative information through which analysis has determined several reliable conclusions.

1.3 Limitations and Factors for Consideration

When reading this report the following factors should be considered;

- The COVID-19 pandemic progresses at pace, and as such its effects are changeable and substantial. In response; policy matters, interventions and labour market information are also changeable, in a bid to offer as flexible a response as possible to the ever-changing situation. This report should therefore be considered a 'snap-shot' in time and was correct at the time of writing.

- The business analyses are only representative of those businesses surveyed and are therefore not representative of the entirety of the business demography in Carmarthenshire.

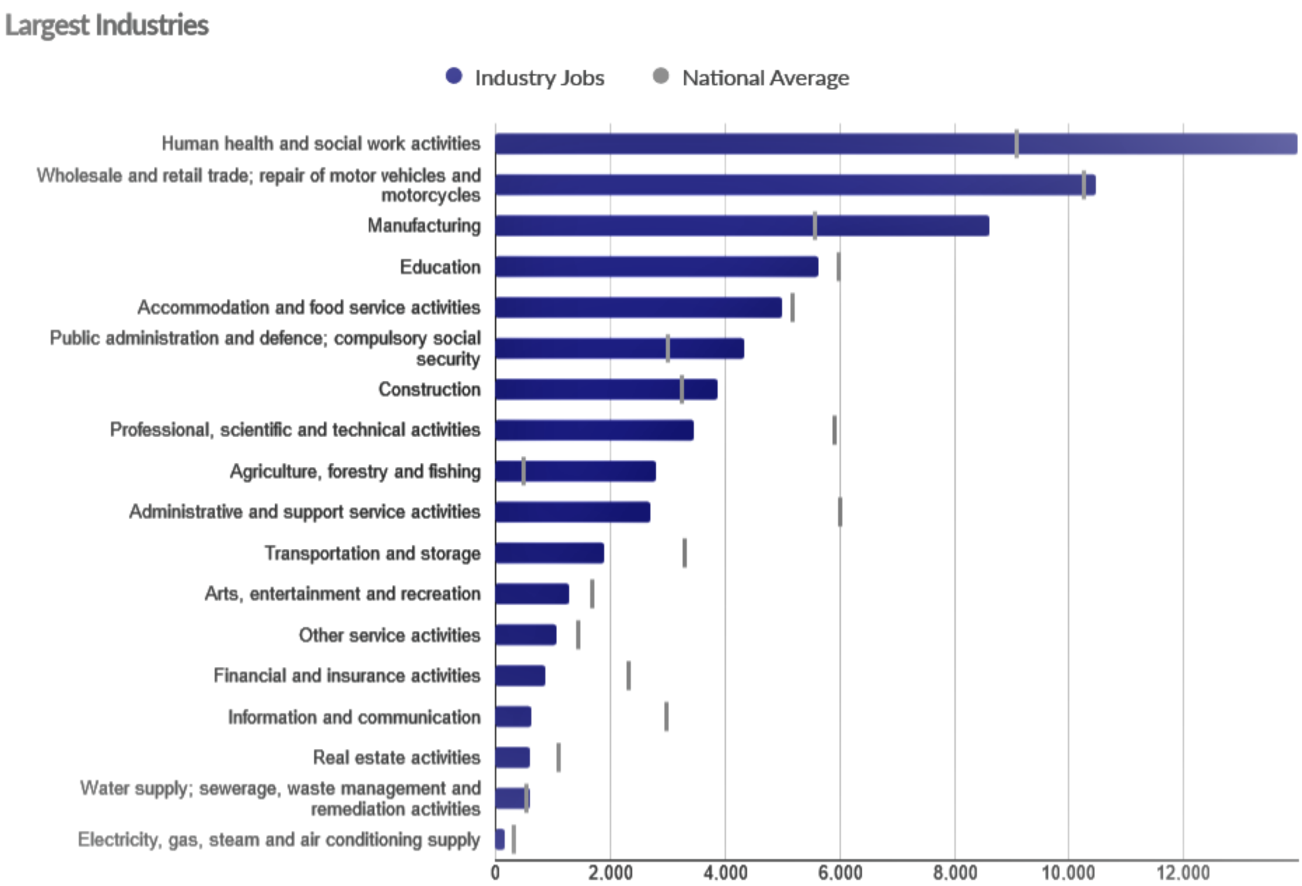
Section 2 – Policy Landscape & Labour Market Intelligence

2.1 The Economy

2.1.1 Employment and Unemployment

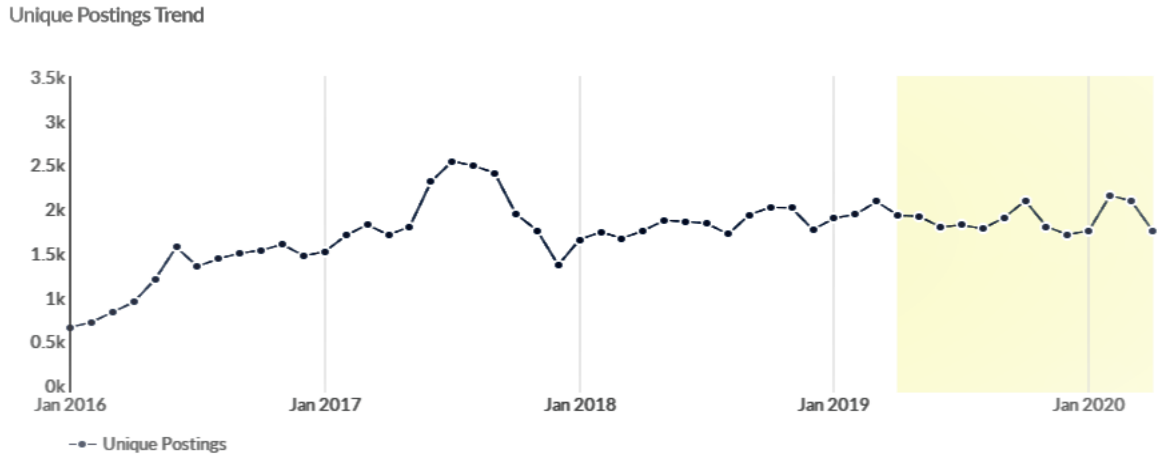
Prior to the outbreak, Carmarthenshire compared positively with national averages with regards to unemployment, showing lower levels compared with national averages. Whilst it is almost a certainty that unemployment levels will have risen over the last three months, it remains unclear by how much. Recent information released by the Department for Work and Pensions states that in a two-week period (between mid-March and the beginning of April), there were 950,000 successful applications for Universal Credit made at a UK level. Comparatively, a two-week period under normal circumstances would see approximately 100,000 claims made. This is a stark indicator of the true scale of the economic emergency posed to many as a result of the pandemic.

The largest industry in terms of employment in the county is ‘Human health and social work activities’, which bodes well in terms of the increased pressure on the health sector in light of recent events. However, this is followed by industries which could be deemed more susceptible to the effects of the virus as a result of their reduced capability to social distance and work from home. These include; ‘Wholesale and retail trade’, ‘Manufacturing’, ‘Education’ and ‘Accommodation and food service activities.’ This is explored in more detail further in the report.



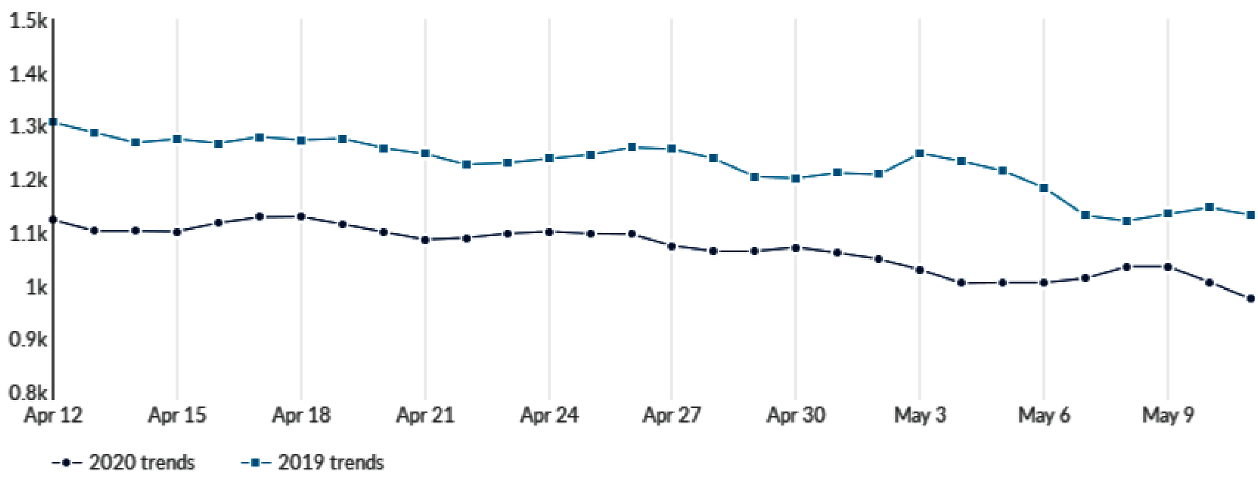
2.1.2 Recruitment Patterns

The following chart details how job posting trends have changed since January 2016 in Carmarthenshire.



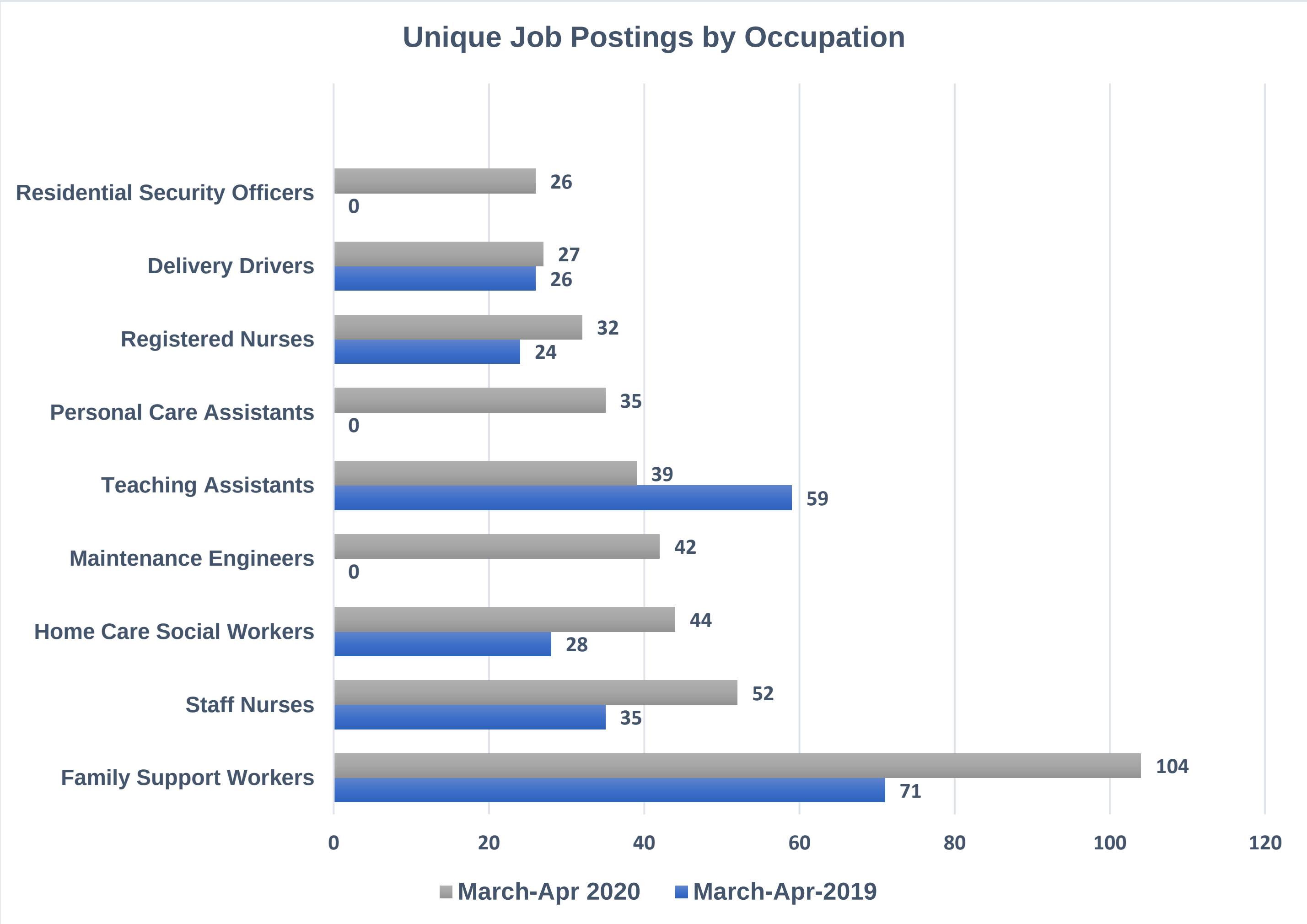
It is evident from the chart above that restrictions introduced as a result of the pandemic have had a dramatic effect on recruitment demand when we consider the labour market in its totality. We see a dramatic rise in recruitment demand between December 2019 and February 2020 which is consistent with patterns exhibited in previous years. We would expect to see this increase continue at a steady pace through the subsequent months, however this year's trends show a sharp decline in recruitment demand from February onwards, which looks set to continue. This is almost certainly attributed to the introduction of stricter measures, i.e. social distancing and lockdown which undoubtedly make recruitment a more challenging prospect for employers.

The chart below, further substantiates the trends previously highlighted. Closer inference of recruitment patterns for the last month show that recruitment is down an average 8.7% on figures for the same time period in 2019. On May the 11th we see the most significant disparity with recruitment levels down 19.3% in comparison to the same time last year.



2.1.3 Occupational Demand

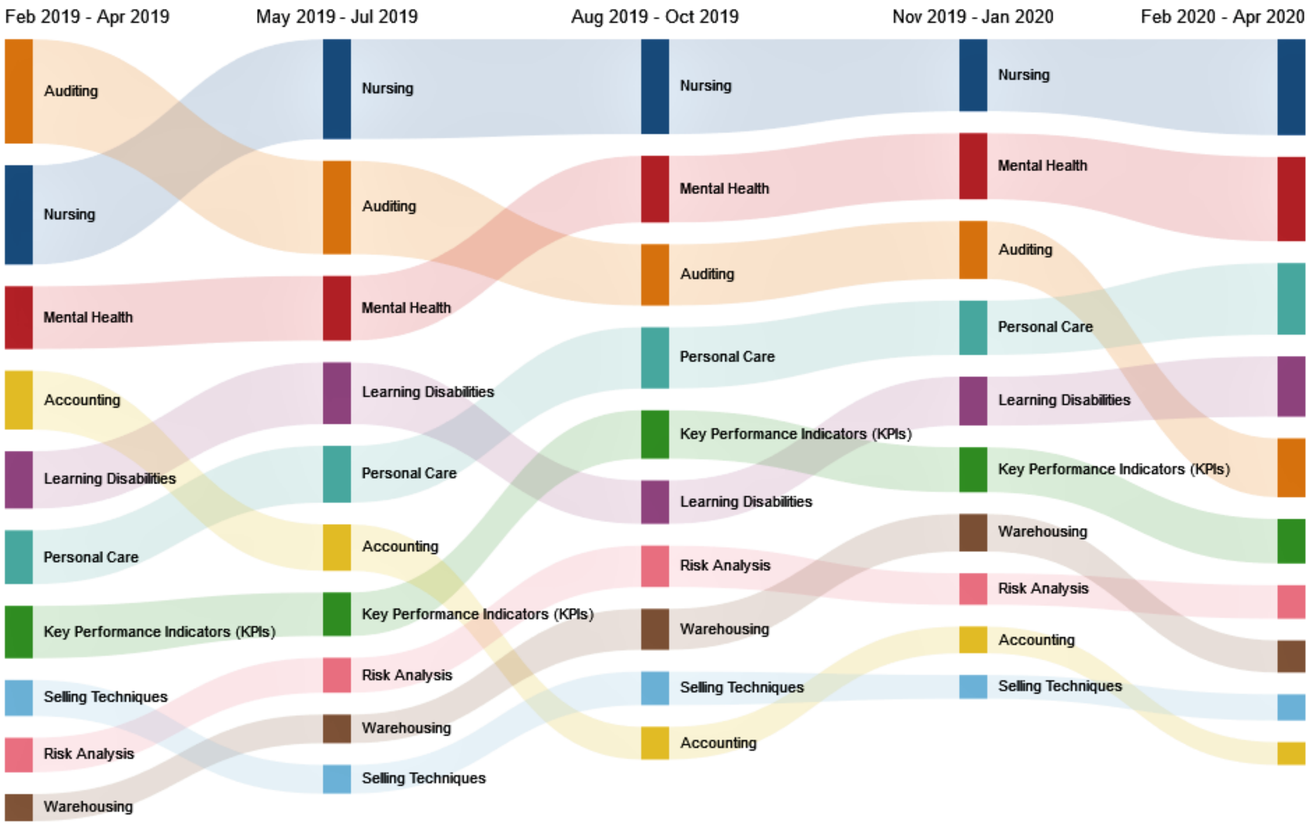
Whilst recruitment demand is down in its totality, the demand for certain occupations has increased. The following chart depicts these fluctuations.



It is evident from the chart that recruitment demand for what are considered health and social care-based occupations has increased, particularly ‘family support workers’, ‘home care workers’, ‘personal care assistants’ and ‘registered nurses’. This is not surprising given the increased pressure that has been placed on these sectors as the country tries to react and respond effectively to the serious health and social effects of the COVID-19 virus. In addition, the demand for ‘maintenance engineers’ has risen, this could be reflective of the growing demand for manufacturing businesses (and similar) to invest in maintaining their machinery, equipment, systems and infrastructures whilst they are not operating at full capacity or at all. This ensures that once restrictions are lifted work can continue quickly and with ease.

2.1.4 Skills Demands

The following infographic indicates how skills demands have fluctuated over the course of the last year in Carmarthenshire.



The infographic above gives an indication that nursing has consistently remained the most sought-after skill in the Carmarthenshire over the last year. This trend is likely to continue given the current pressures on the National Health Service. There has been little fluctuation over the course of the year, with the exception that skills related to mental health, personal care and learning disabilities have increased. Skills related to auditing and accounting have seen decreases.[1]

How the skills landscape on the whole will be affected as a result of the pandemic is not easily identifiable. The majority of job losses are likely to be at a lower skills level as these jobs tend to be part-time, low paid and more unstable. This could result in a further widening of the already prevalent skills gap between the highest and lowest skilled in the labour market. Crucial to addressing this skill gap is understanding exactly what skills people have as well as understanding how these skills are transferrable to other sectors. In accordance with this, employers and businesses need to be able to identify the skills that they need, and providers need to define the skills that they need to teach. Local Government and organisations such as the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership have a crucial role to play in supporting businesses and providers to meet these challenges.

[1] Analysis of EMSI data

2.1.5 Gross Value Added (GVA)[2]

National debt levels have been, and are likely to continue to rise sharply as Governments attempt to react to the wide-reaching effects of the virus. The impacts of this substantial rise in Government spending are likely to be felt for some time with the global economy contracting quicker and deeper than ever before. According to the International Monetary Fund many advanced economies are expected to enter recession this year, these include the UK and US. Many social and economic commentators predict that Wales will be one of the hardest hit due to its social and economic landscape.

It is not yet possible to project the impact of the pandemic on local economies such as Carmarthenshire, however it is possible to identify which sectors of the economy are most pertinent in the area and subsequently identify those at most risk. The following table highlights Carmarthenshire's position in this respect.

Industry	% Change of Jobs (2010-2020)	Location Quotient[3]	GVA (2016)	% Total of GVA
Health and Care	31.6%	1.68	£338,593,817	14.46%
Government	-17.5%	1.46	£180,433,101	7.70%
Education and Childcare	-16.5%	1.03	£161,793,225	6.91%
Property Development	25.7%	0.96	£158,204,355	6.75%
Food and Beverage	7.8%	1.04	£131,036,234	5.59%
Vehicle & Defence Technology	258.1%	2.76	£88,913,493	3.80%
Building Services	19.8%	1.01	£88,168,094	3.76%
Personal Services	15.1%	1.08	£87,668,872	3.74%
Commercial Services	8.8%	0.41	£83,489,309	3.56%
Civil Engineering	7.6%	1.06	£77,754,314	3.32%
Financial & Legal Services	70.4%	0.52	£76,634,986	3.27%
Upstream Metal	29.6%	5.62	£73,367,054	3.13%
Household Goods and Services	-4.3%	1.05	£71,141,102	3.04%
Utility	22.7%	0.70	£62,968,246	2.69%
Agricultural Inputs & Services	26.1%	5.64	£62,697,940	2.68%
Automotive Services	-9.0%	0.93	£60,923,907	2.60%
Food & Drink Production	82.6%	2.14	£50,809,331	2.17%
Logistics & Ecommerce	-8.7%	0.57	£43,540,715	1.86%
Sports & Leisure	23.5%	0.80	£41,275,156	1.76%
Visitor Economy	38.0%	1.01	£38,855,577	1.66%
Education & Knowledge Creation	62.8%	0.45	£35,019,478	1.50%
Production Technology	-16.2%	0.60	£34,916,246	1.49%
Retail	-28.5%	1.06	£29,575,074	1.26%
Downstream Metal	26.8%	1.76	£26,968,760	1.15%
Business Services	23.7%	0.52	£26,774,717	1.14%
Professional Services	-9.1%	0.33	£24,903,786	1.06%

[2] GVA is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services.
[3] A figure higher than 1 indicates that the given sector is considered a strength for the county.

Digital	-2.7%	0.17	£24,374,404	1.04%
Creative	-2.3%	0.32	£20,999,494	0.90%
Precision Technology	-56.5%	0.26	£19,200,481	0.82%
Forestry	5.7%	4.48	£17,548,391	0.75%
Metalworking Technology	74.5%	1.24	£17,066,892	0.73%
Plastics & Vulcanised Products	152.2%	2.29	£16,936,226	0.72%
Local Transport	-30.2%	0.45	£12,724,822	0.54%
Passenger Transport	73.3%	0.67	£11,717,079	0.50%
Local Envrionemntal Services	86.7%	1.30	£8,852,909	0.38%
Fishing	-59.7%	1.01	£8,613,708	0.37%

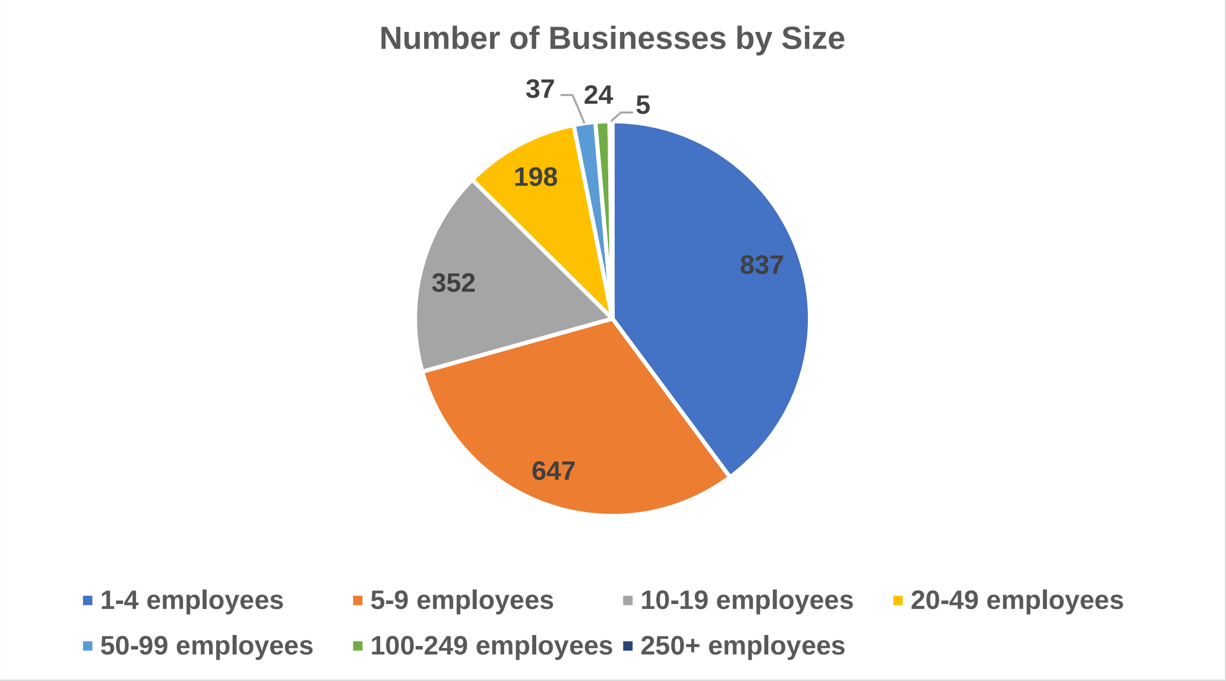
Although it could be argued that all sectors shown in the table above have suffered some adverse effects, highlighted in Blue are those industries which have essentially suffered 'sector shutdowns' as a result of the pandemic[4]. Three of these are in Carmarthenshire's top ten industries in terms of GVA creation, and in totality the industries highlighted account for 24% of Carmarthenshire's total GVA, totalling £552,730,549. As a guide, in the worst-case scenario this would mean that GVA in Carmarthenshire could see a possible deficit of approximately £500 million.[5]

There are opportunities to support these sectors specifically, but also others which are either of specific pertinence to Carmarthenshire (i.e. those with a location quotient above 1) or those that are deemed high value sectors in terms of GVA.

[4] With the exception of some elements of the education sector
[5] Analysis of EMSI – (2016)

2.1.6 Business

In Carmarthenshire there are approximately 3,175 businesses operating within those sectors deemed most susceptible to the pandemic. The following chart provides a breakdown of the size of these businesses in terms of the number of people they employ:



Whilst it is not possible to determine the exact proportion of self-employed individuals affected by the pandemic, this data does suggest that the greatest proportion of businesses at highest risk are those employing less than 4 people. It is reasonable to suggest therefore, that a large proportion of the 837 are self-employed.[6]

Taking account of all businesses irrespective of the sector they operate in, at a UK level 39% of small and medium sized enterprises have either closed down or are planning to do so in the near future. The research also found that the type of support that businesses are looking for varies according to size;

- 'For micro-businesses (those with fewer than 10 employees), cashflow is crucial, with 40% stating they need advice on this,
- Small businesses (10-49 employees) are looking for support to access grants and government loans (31%),
- Medium-sized firms (50-249 employees) want the most guidance with supporting staff from a wellbeing perspective (44%).'[7]

What this means from a Carmarthenshire perspective is explored in section 3.

[6] Analysis of EMSI – Inter Departmental Business Register (2018)
[7] https://smallbusiness.co.uk/two-in-five-small-businesses-face-closure-because-of-coronavirus-2550068/

2.2 People

The virus has been described by some as a ‘great leveller’ however this is not strictly accurate. Whilst it’s true that the virus can affect anybody in a transmission sense, it is apparent that individuals from certain socio-economic groups are more susceptible to its wider implications.

2.2.1 Workers in shutdown sectors

Analysis shows that approximately 24,925 people in Carmarthenshire work in ‘shutdown sectors’, this accounts for 37% of the total workforce. This is consistent with the average for Wales and compares positively with UK averages (42%).
It is not possible to identify precisely how many of these individuals have been furloughed through the job retention scheme, however at a UK level it is expected that around 9 million workers will be furloughed[8] with 50% of all companies putting most of their staff into the scheme. Further analysis indicates that the 9 million account for 29% of the total workforce in the UK. Applying the same logic to Carmarthenshire figures would suggest that around 7,500 individuals are benefitting from the scheme.[9] This clearly leaves a significant short fall whereby it’s likely that many individuals will solely be relying on unemployment benefits, having (in many circumstances) suffered notable drops in their usual incomes.

This undeniably poses economic challenges for Carmarthenshire, the effects of which will be evident long after the pandemic ends. It may take months for household income to recover to pre-pandemic levels resulting in lower levels of disposable income which feeds the local economy. In this situation, individuals are less likely to purchase items that they deem non-essential, it would therefore be prudent to promote a ‘buy local’ message for essential items. This would stimulate growth at a local level, resulting in a steadier economic future for local businesses and their staff.

Analysis of the demographic of those working in these ‘shutdown sectors’ indicates that the majority are female, with the largest proportion aged between 25 and 34. A significant number (20.3%) are also aged between 16 and 24. The average wage for jobs in these sectors is £18,801, which is significantly lower than the Carmarthenshire average for all jobs which is £23,800. This substantiates the fact that from a socio-economic perspective those most likely to experience negative effects as a result of measures put in place are low earners, women and the younger generation.

2.2.2 Deprivation

The effects of the virus have been shown to disproportionately affect areas experiencing severe deprivation. Analysis has shown that deprived areas are experiencing higher death rates, seeing more severe financial effects and experiencing the largest negative effects to over-all wellbeing. Positively, there are no small areas of deep-rooted deprivation in

[8] According to analysis by the Resolution Foundation, using latest figures on take-up from the British Chamber of Commerce
[9] A guide based on a model approach

Carmarthenshire. Of the county's 112 LSOA's[10] only 4.5% are considered in the most-deprived 10% in Wales, these areas are Tyisha 2, Bigyn 4, Tyisha 3, Llwynhendy 3 and Glanymor 1.[11] Particular attention should be paid to these areas to ensure that interventions meet the needs of these communities as they are more likely to be hit hardest.

2.2.3 Social Impacts

The virus has resulted in a momentous and challenging change to lifestyle and working practices. At a Wales level 78% of adults are 'very or somewhat worried' about the effect of COVID-19 on their life right now. 48% feel that their wellbeing is being affected and 47% report feeling high levels of anxiety. There are many contributing factors to this increased anxiety with most reporting; 'worry about relatives and friends', 'financial concerns' and 'uncertainty about education'.

For context, at a UK level 73% of households reported that they have seen a reduction in their income. 16% reported that they have no income at all and a further 20% reported that they are providing financial support to friends and family.

30% of survey respondents indicated that they are feeling uncertain about exams and qualifications, with a further 40% reporting concerns that the quality of education is being affected.[12]

2.3 Education

At a UK level it is believed that approximately 15.4 million learners have been affected by school and institution closures as a result of the pandemic.[13] It is thought that almost 500,000 children in Wales have suddenly found themselves unable to attend school and have subsequently been cut-off from the social and educational benefits that attendance brings. Most worryingly, is the probable exacerbation of existing inequalities that some 28% of learners in Wales face. These existing inequalities relate to;

- Falling educational attainment and possible larger effects on their labour market outcomes,
- Access to adequate learning resources and support,
- Access to adequate nutrition and warmth.[14]

These factors are undoubtedly magnified in the current situation, whereby home schooling and a greater reliance on home life have become prevalent.

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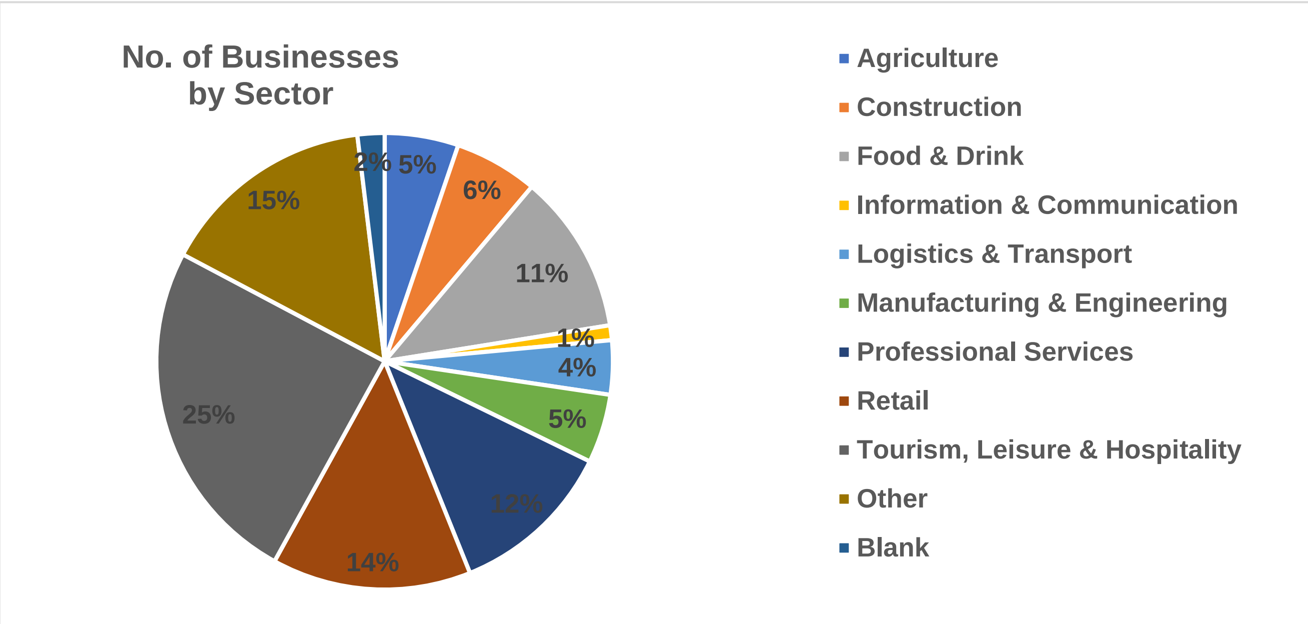
[10] Lower Super Output Areas
[11] https://gov.wales/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-full-index-update-ranks-2019
[12] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/datasets/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritaindata
[13] https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse
[14] https://cpag.org.uk/news-blogs/news-listings/impact-school-closures-children-living-poverty-wales

Section 3 – Business Intelligence

The data discussed in this section has been derived from the analysis of the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey.

3.1 Respondent Demography

A total of 574 businesses from across the county responded to the survey, a breakdown by sector and business size of these respondents is provided below;



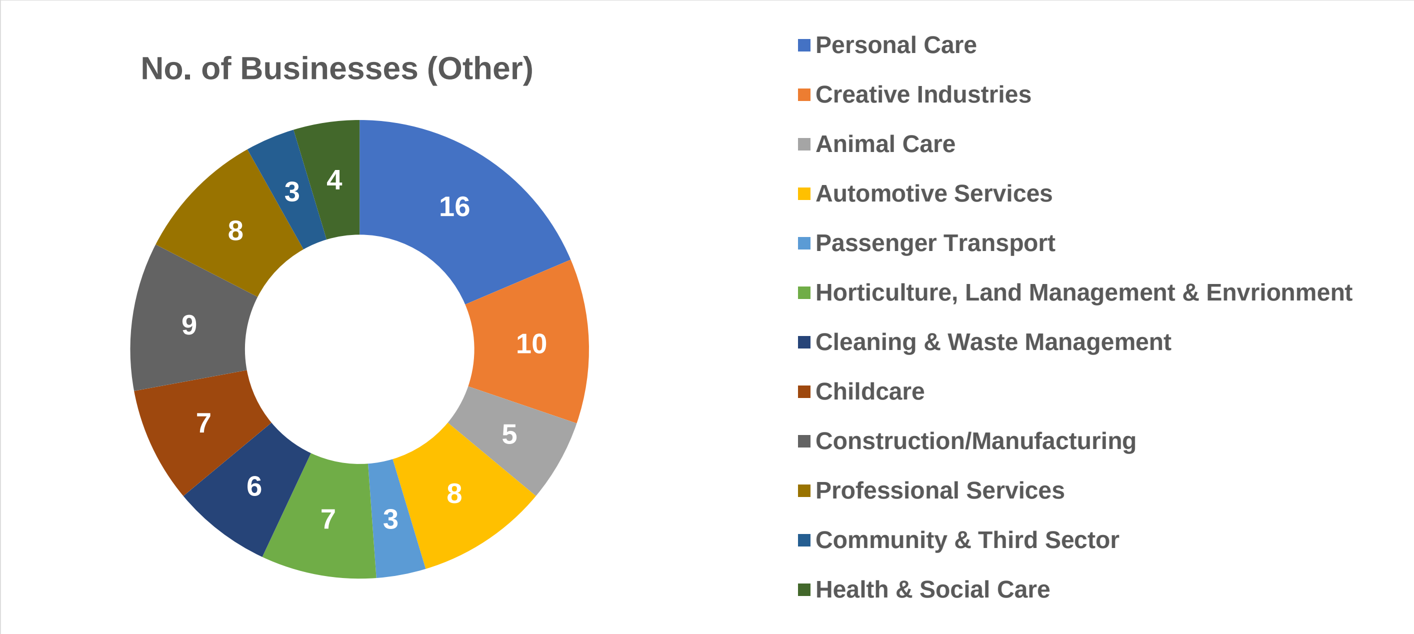
3.1.1 Breakdown by Sector

The majority of businesses (142) identified as operating within the 'Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality' sector which is positive as it is arguably one of the sector's that has suffered some of the most devastating effects of the crisis. A further 11 businesses failed to answer the question and have therefore been recorded as 'blank'.

The 'Retail' sector saw 81 responses, followed by 'Professional Services' (67), 'Food and Drink' (65), 'Construction' (34) and 'Agriculture' (30). The smallest representations are seen from the 'Manufacturing and Engineering' sector (28), 'Logistics and Transport' (22) and 'Information and Communication' sectors (6).

88 businesses felt that they did not identify with the pre-determined sectors within the survey and have therefore categorised themselves as 'other'. These responses have been analysed and subsequently allocated sectors (where possible), a breakdown of which is provided below[15];

[15] **Personal Care**: Barbers, hairdressers, beauty salons; **Creative Industries**: Artists, photographers, crafts, musicians, media & music, video production; **Animal Care**: Boarding kennels/catteries, Dog grooming/breeding; **Automotive Services**: Repair garages, valeting garages; Passenger Transport: Taxi services; **Horticulture, Land Management & Environment**: Recycling, Renewable Energy, Garden



3.1.2 Breakdown by Sector and Size

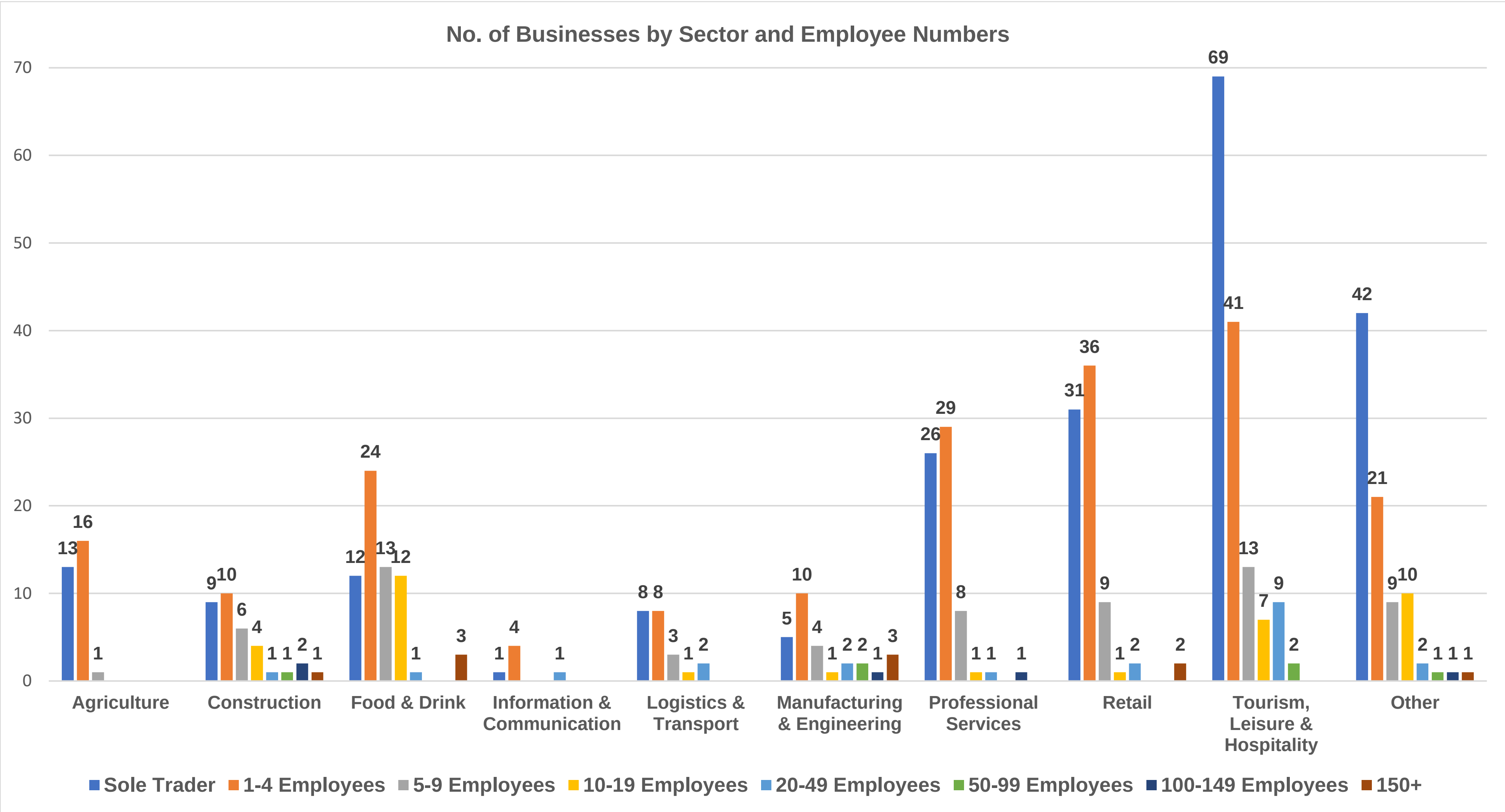
The chart below indicates that the majority of respondents identify as sole traders (216) or employ between 1 and 4 people (199). These account for 74% of the total returns. The largest proportion of sole traders operate within the 'Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality' and 'Retail' sectors, with the exception of the 'other' category.[16]

66 respondents employ between 5 and 9 people with the largest proportion of these seen in the 'Food and Drink' sector. The smallest return was seen from businesses employing over 100 people accounting for only 2.6% of the total responses. The sectors where the largest businesses were most prevalent are 'Construction', 'Manufacturing and Engineering' and 'Professional Services'.

What is pertinent to note is that the response demography largely aligns with Carmarthenshire's business demography as a whole. We would expect to see this response pattern as it is directly representative of the business landscape in the county, whereby the county is characterised by micro and small sized enterprises.

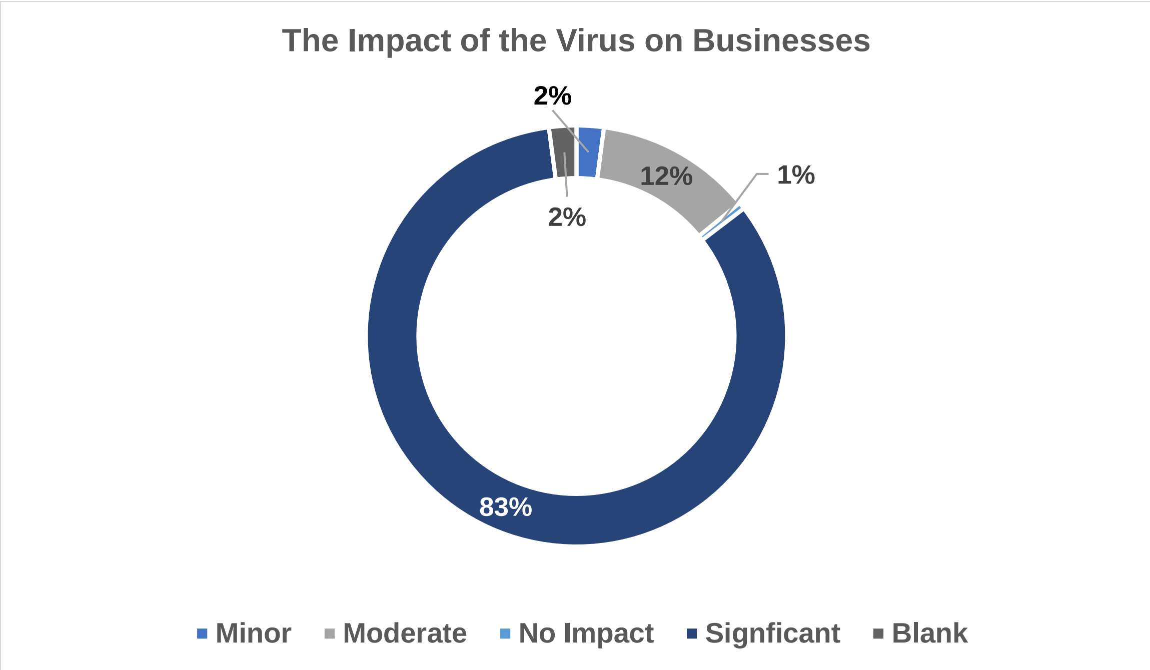
landscaping/maintenance, plant grower/retailer; **Cleaning & Waste Management**: Domestic/commercial cleaners, waste management services; **Childcare**: Childminders, nurseries; **Construction/Manufacturing**: Flooring supply, LPG supply, plumber, painter, pet food manufacturer; **Professional Services**: Marketing & sales, online retailer, storage, service industry; **Community & Third Sector**: Community halls/centres, conservation charity; **Health & Social Care**: Care, Care training.

[16] This of course could be directly attributable to the fact that the largest number of returns in totality were from the 'Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality' sector.


No. of Businesses by Sector and Employee Numbers
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Agriculture
Construction
Food & Drink
Information & Communication
Logistics & Transport
Manufacturing & Engineering
Professional Services
Retail
Tourism, Leisure & Hospitality
Other
Sole Trader
1-4 Employees
5-9 Employees
10-19 Employees
20-49 Employees
50-99 Employees
100-149 Employees
150+

3.2 The Impact of the Crisis

Businesses were asked how they would gauge the impact of the Coronavirus on their business. The results are conclusive and substantiate anecdotal evidence that many of us are already aware of. The chart below provides further insight;



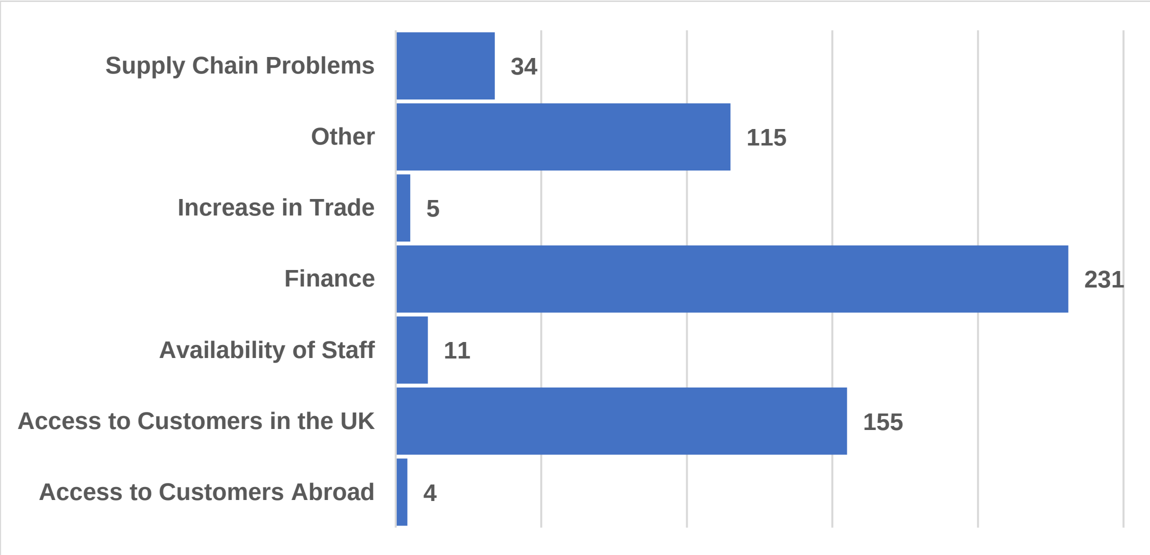
It is evident from the data that very few businesses have experienced 'no impact' as a result of the crisis with only 1% of respondents reporting this through the survey. It is clear that the vast majority of businesses have experienced some impact with 83% describing it as being 'significant'.

Further inference of the data indicates that those reporting 'no impact' are within the 'Retail' and 'Manufacturing and Engineering' sectors, employing between 1 and 4 employees and 5-9 employees respectively. This likely relates to the specific nature of their businesses whereby they may have diversified to meet the changing needs of society, or they operate in sub-sectors where they have been able to continue operations whilst abiding by social distancing and lockdown measures.

The data largely indicates that businesses of all types have suffered similar levels of impact irrespective of the sector they operate within or their size. Although, it is evident that most of the businesses reporting minor impacts are either sole traders or employ between 1 and 4 people.

3.2.1 Categorising the Impact

Those who reported having experienced an impact were asked to categorise this impact, the broad results of which are indicated in the chart below:



Perhaps most crucial to note from the data above is the fact that only 0.8% of businesses have seen an increase in trade as a result of the crisis. Whilst this is positive for these businesses it is apparent that the picture is far bleaker for the remaining majority. A significant 40% are reporting that finance is an issue, corroborating national intelligence which indicates that cash-flow is one of the fundamental issues facing businesses at the moment.

Many of these issues are inter-dependent and the success of one can be determined by the other. For instance, difficulty accessing customers whether locally or abroad and supply chain issues negatively affect the ability to generate income. This puts into perspective the unprecedented nature of the crisis and the complicated and uncertain recovery route for the economy and the businesses which are its very foundation.

A large proportion of respondents reported ‘other’, following further inference these responses have been categorised as follows;

Impact	No. of Businesses
Reduced access to customers or falling demand for services/product	47
Forced closure/unable to open	54
Devaluing price of milk	4
Business owner having to shield	2
Health and Safety	2
Supply chain issues	6

3.2.2 Impact by Sector

Agriculture (Including Support Services)

A number of agricultural businesses within the county appear to be facing challenges related to bringing their product to market. This is especially true for milk producers with respondents stating that the price at which they sell continues to fall with the devaluation of produce continuing at pace. This is resulting in significant levels of wastage with some having to sell at a lower price than it costs to produce. This is also true for beef and lamb produce. One such respondent stated;

'Reduction to the value of our milk, it is due to reduce further, and we are now selling below the cost of production. As all farms, we have a contract and have no control over the price our milk is bought at and have no negotiating powers. Increase in feed costs due to issues with feed companies having issues purchasing raw materials. The value of our beef cattle has also reduced.'

These issues are exacerbated by supply chain problems and reduced access to customers which culminate into significant issues with finance and income.

Construction

Finance and a lack of access to customers in the UK were reported most consistently by the Construction sector when asked about impacts. These are directly related to a reduction in trade and income which were reported by many others. One respondent indicated that staff are afraid and concerned about working with a lack of appropriate PPE worsening these fears.

Food and Drink

In alignment with the Construction sector, finance and a lack of access to customers in the UK are proving challenging for the Food and Drink sector. One respondent however, noted an increase in trade. A vast majority of these businesses have had to completely shut down their operations as per Government instructions which means many are without an income.

Information and Communication

Access to customers was reported as the main issue for businesses operating within this sector. It is interesting to note that given the perceived highly digital nature of this sector that many businesses are still facing challenges. This once again substantiates how far reaching the impact of the pandemic have been.

Logistics and Transport

Although there has been a growth in demand for services offered by the Logistics and Transport sector at a national level, the data indicates that some Carmarthenshire businesses in this sector are feeling negative impacts. A number of these operations seem to be directly impacted by school closures, with the majority indicating that these are directly related to finance.

Manufacturing and Engineering

Supply chain issues are a key consideration for many businesses operating within this sector. This has resulted in complete shutdowns for some which has obviously negatively affected income generation. Access to customers both in the UK and abroad has also been reported, with this also reducing the businesses ability to operate at the level they are accustomed to. To corroborate, two respondents indicated;

'Customers in the EU and the UK cancelling orders leading to a plant closure of 8 weeks'

'The shutdown has caused both supply chain problems and shut down customer sites which in turn has cut off my source of income'

Professional Services

Similarly to other sectors businesses within the professional services sector report that finance and access to customers in the UK are their main issues. It appears that many respondents operate within the service sub-sector which has been negatively affected by the reducing income levels of customers. In conjunction with this, some have reported that they are awaiting payments for works already completed. Several have been directly affected by the shutdown with face to face elements of their operations becoming impossible.

'*Significant drop in new clients and existing clients not paying their invoices'*

'An increasing number of customers are suffering reduced income levels.'

Retail

A significant proportion of respondents have had to cease trading and close their operations completely due to lockdown and social distancing restrictions. It is apparent also, that these businesses are directly feeling the effects of a customer base whose disposable income have seen reductions. A small portion of businesses indicated that supply chain issues were problematic.

Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality

Of the 142 businesses that responded to the survey, nearly half reported that finance is a key concern for them. Contributing factors to this lack of finance is evident through further inference of the data which indicates many have lost access to customers in the UK and abroad. The nature of the sector means that it is reliant on the free movement of people and a face to face approach, these of course are not possible at the moment which poses significant challenges for the sector.

'All bookings have been cancelled and no new bookings, no income as a result'

3.3 Actions Taken as a Result of the Crisis

In response to the crisis businesses have had to make unprecedented changes to the way that they operate. A broad indication of what these measures have been for some is provided in the table below;

Measure	Number of Businesses	% (will not total 100 as respondents were able to select multiple responses)
Implemented furlough	206	36%
Reduced hours of operation	171	30%
Other	164	29%
Adapted business operating arrangements	150	26%
Changed access arrangements for customers and/or suppliers	90	16%
Laid off staff	66	12%
Diversified product or approach	52	9%
Put staff on short time working	39	7%
Stockpiled good/ services	36	6%
Implemented or increased flexible working for staff	27	5%
Increased the number of staff	2	0.3%

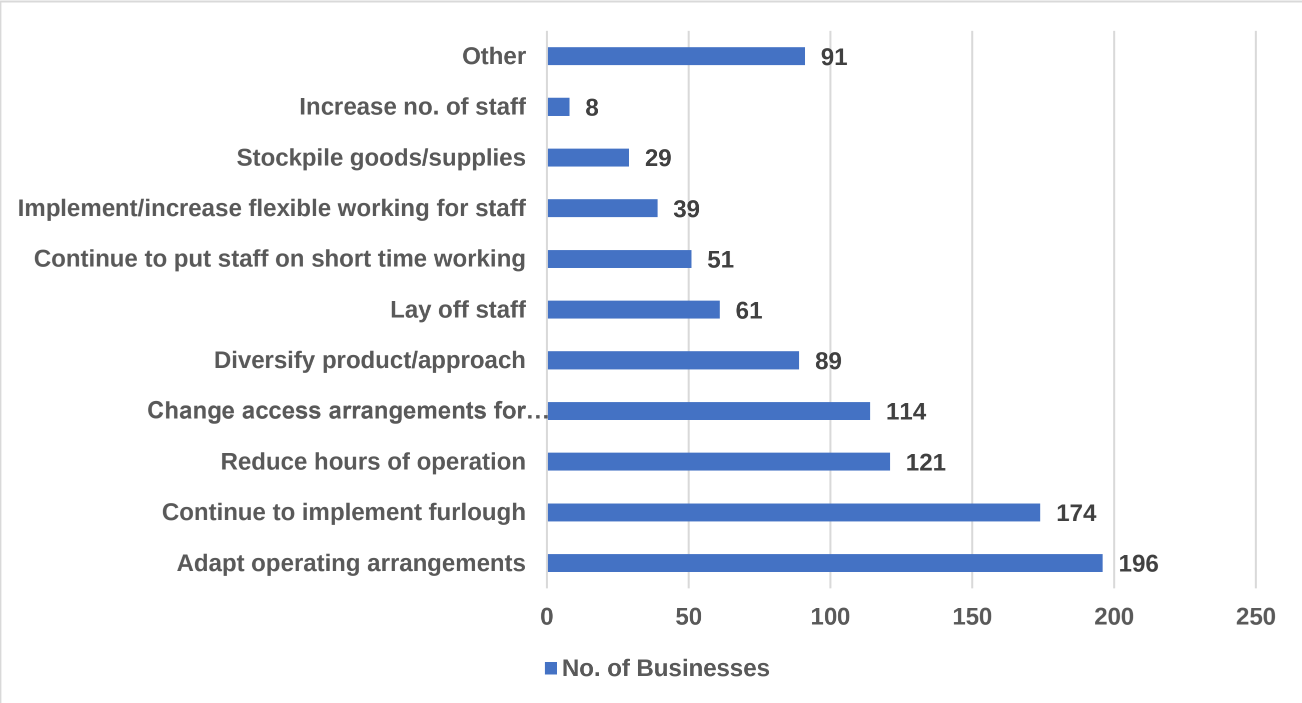
It is positive to see that a large proportion of businesses have furloughed their staff, taking advantage of the Government's Job Retention Scheme. However, in contrast, 66 stated that they have 'laid off staff' which is unfortunate given the availability of such a scheme. A broad analysis indicates that based on the number of people these businesses employ, in the worst-case scenario 994 people have lost their jobs directly as a result of the crisis. This is only representative of the businesses that have responded to the survey, therefore the true figure is unfortunately likely to be higher.

It seems many businesses have attempted to react to the crisis by diversifying or adapting their working practices, hopefully meaning that they have reduced the risk of having to lay off staff or cease trading.

Positively, two businesses have had to employ more people to meet growing demand.

3.3.1 Continuing Actions Taken

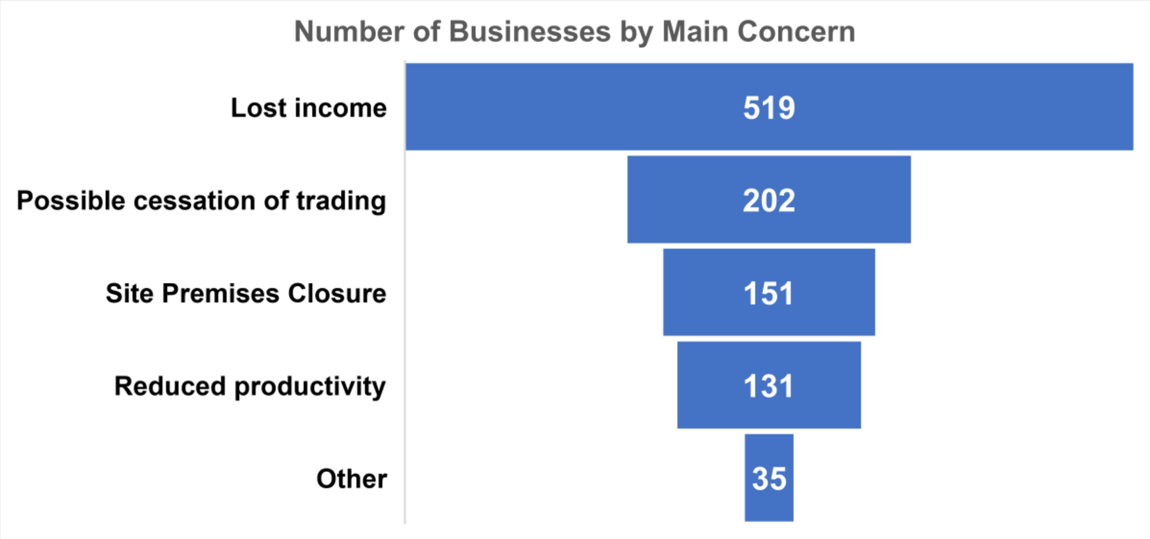
Arguably the pandemic has provided an opportunity to diversify business operations or make changes to working practices. Whilst this has been challenging for the vast majority, some of these forced actions may be positive for businesses moving forward. In an attempt to quantify this, businesses were asked whether they anticipate continuing any actions after restrictions are lifted. The evidence gathered in relation to this is provided below;



A large proportion (196) of businesses foresee that they will continue with the adapted operating arrangements introduced, which hopefully means that they will be able to generate some sort of income. The continuation of the implementation of furlough by 174 businesses is positive also, allowing employees to benefit from at least 80% of their usual income up to £2,500, until a time whereby they will hopefully return to receiving full pay. A likely reduction in the demand for some services or products will result in the introduction of reduced hours of operation for 114 businesses with a further 89 looking to continue with the diversification of their product or approach to meet the needs of a changing labour market.

3.4 Primary Concerns

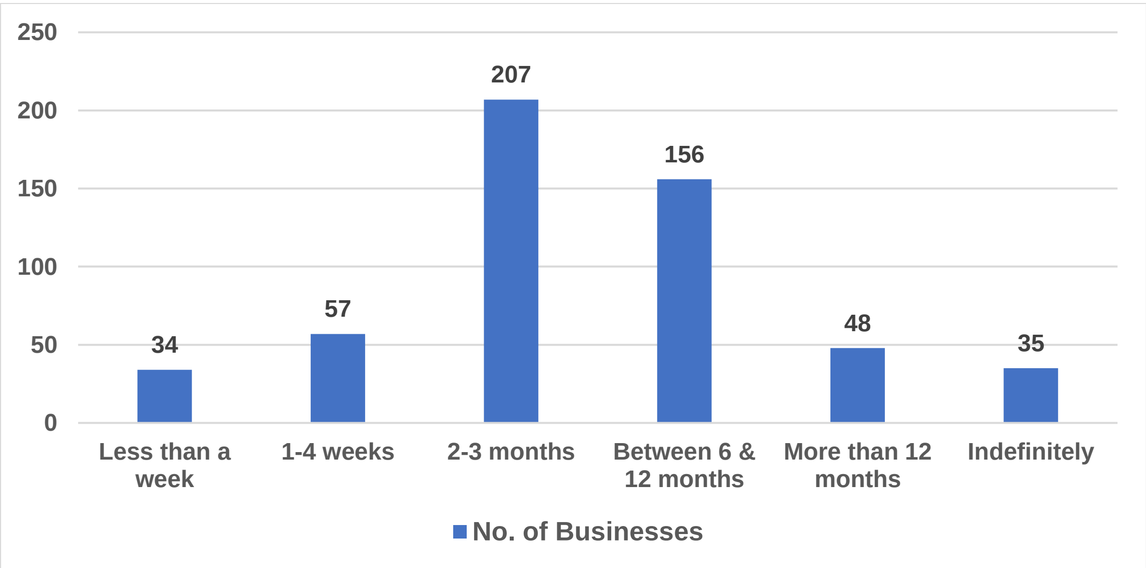
The chart below details the main concerns for businesses at the moment.



This data substantiates themes and trends already highlighted whereby income is reported as the main concern (directly related to challenges with finance). Sadly, 202 businesses indicate that they feel that the cessation of trading is a possibility for them with reduced productivity seemingly less of a concern for many.

3.4.1 The Future

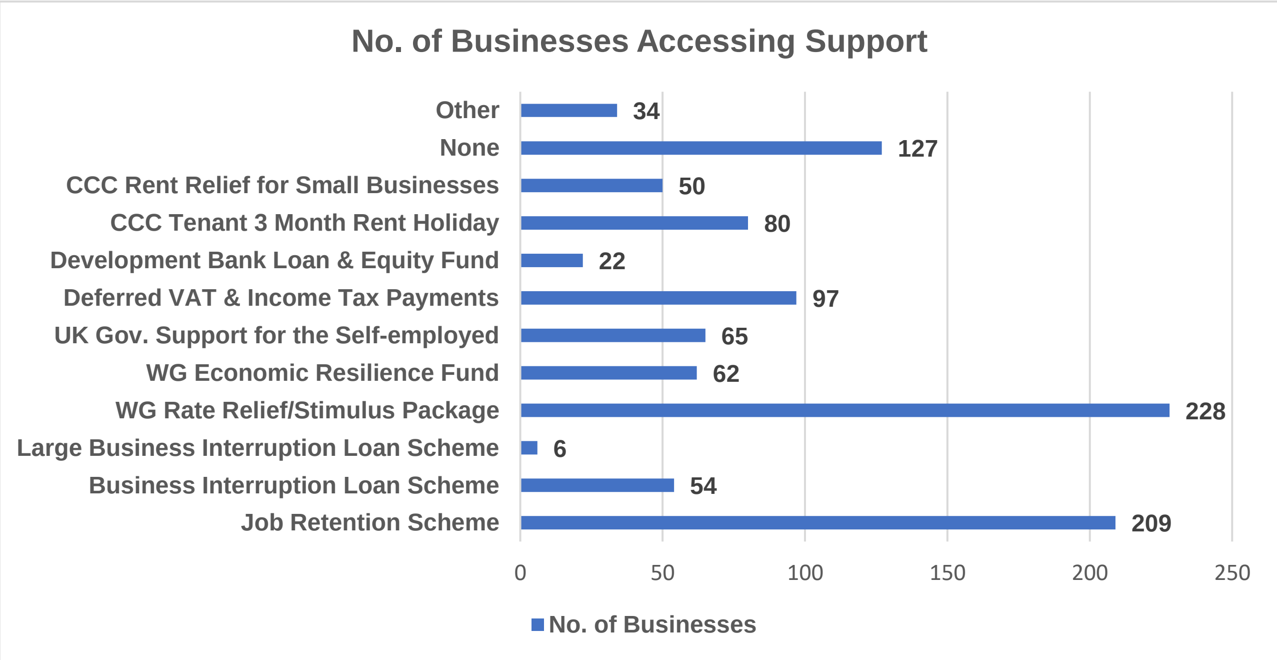
Businesses were asked to state how long they believe they can continue to operate if current restrictions continue. Sadly, 34 businesses reported that they foresee being able to operate for less than a week in the current situation, with a further 57 indicating that they foresee being able to continue operating for between 1 and 4 weeks.



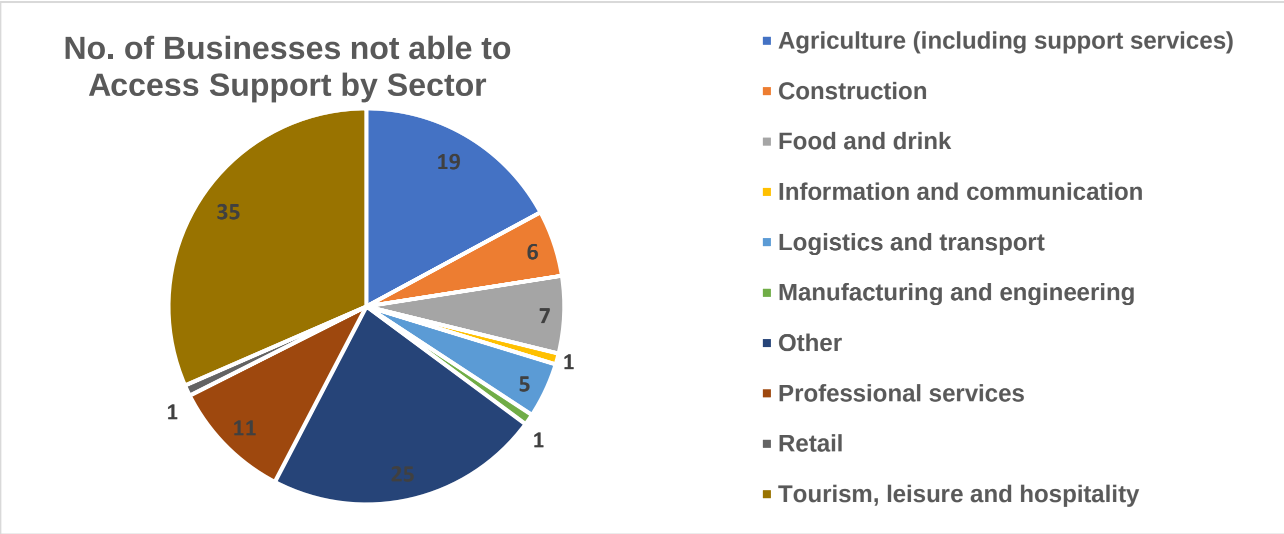
It appears that 35 businesses feel that they will be able to operate indefinitely in the current climate. This is positive and is likely due to the nature of the service/product provided by those businesses, it of course could also mean that they have reacted quickly to the changing circumstances and have been able to diversify their operation to meet the growing demand for certain essential products and services.

3.5 Support Accessed

The majority of respondents have been able to access some sort of support as a result of the pandemic. A large proportion have taken advantage of the Welsh Government Rate Relief/Stimulus Package and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. A breakdown is provided below;



Unfortunately, 127 businesses have not taken advantage of any support schemes. Contributing factors to this could be the sector that they operate in or their business size i.e. how many people they employ. Further inference of the data indicates that 88% of the 126 that haven't accessed support consider themselves self-employed or freelance. A breakdown of the sectors these individuals operate within is provided below;



3.5.1 Barriers to Accessing Support

The current pandemic has seen the introduction and roll out of a number of complicated support mechanisms with reduced resources and very little notice. It would be expected therefore that some will have experienced barriers in terms of processes and communication, which was reported by some as challenges in accessing support. Specifically, time lags were mentioned by several and some deemed the process of applying for grants a complicated and arduous one.

Unfortunately, many indicated that they have experienced barriers in accessing any financial support. This primarily relates to businesses that have seemingly not been eligible for any of the support packages due to various reasons, the majority of these being self-employed or freelance.

A small minority indicated that they have not received any information regarding what support is available to them or they find the information difficult to access.

A large proportion are early on in the process of applying for support and therefore felt that they could not answer the question fully.

Positively, 20% of those that answered the question indicated that they had experienced no barriers to accessing support.

3.6 Skills

Businesses were asked what skills implications they foresee in the future as a result of the pandemic. The majority reported that they feel that their business type would not allow for any diversification or change to working practices and as a result believe that there would be no skills implications for them.

Of those that do, the majority (84) stated that they will need support with IT and digital skills in a bid to further their online presence or move towards selling online. Many made specific reference to website development and social media use. In addition, a further 8 businesses indicated that support to develop marketing skills would be beneficial. 16 businesses indicated that they will be looking to diversify and therefore would benefit from support relating to amending working practices or new product development. A further 8 made specific to reference to the need for enhanced marketing skills.

Given the current climate it is not surprising that an overwhelming majority of 216 businesses indicated that they would like to receive any training required via online platforms. A further 35 indicated that in-work training would be their desired approach and a further 32 indicated that they would benefit from training at a local college.

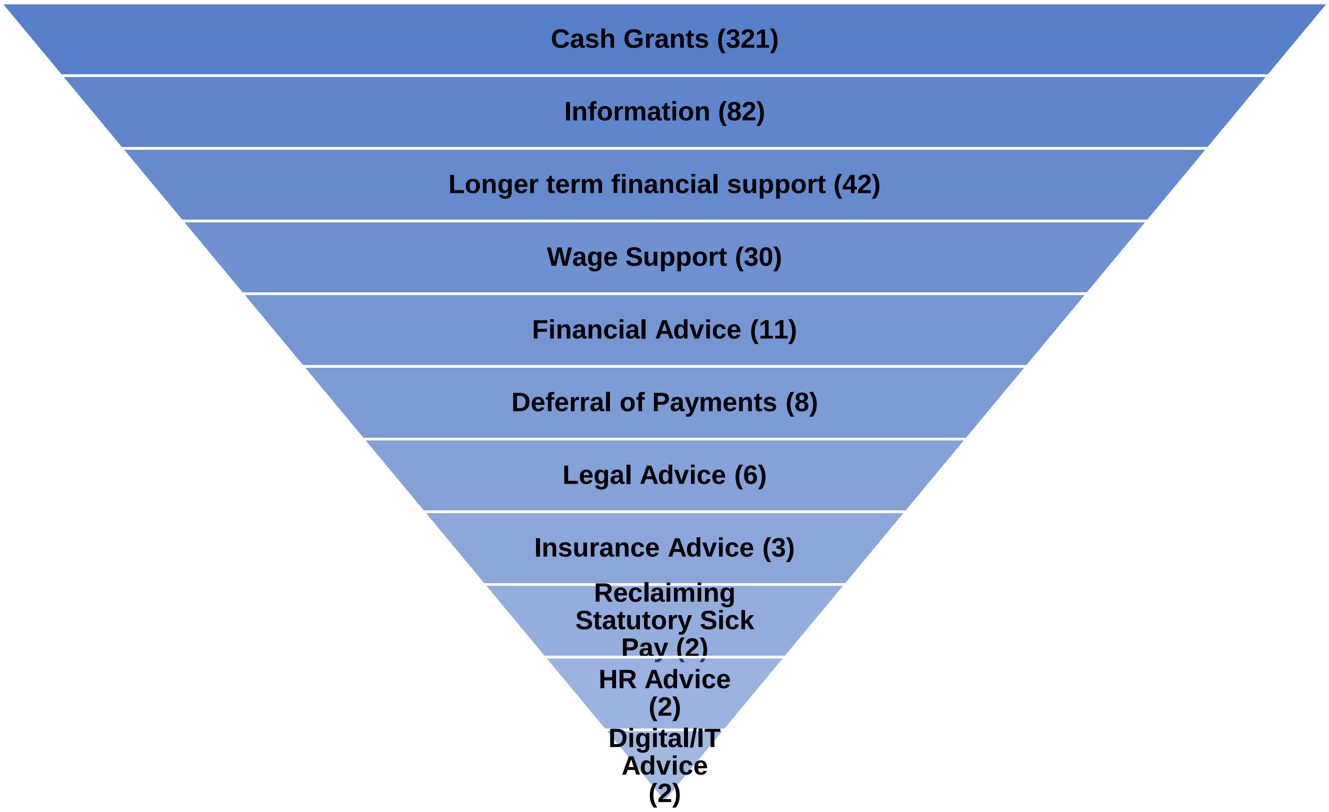
There is some scope here for local governments to utilise the expertise within their own organisations i.e. business support teams, marketing and media and IT departments to develop online training resources to support businesses with these issues. Of course, there is also a wealth of accredited provision available through local colleges and private training providers, but these courses would be at a cost to the business. A cost which many are unlikely to be able to afford at the moment.

An additional option to explore following the relaxation of restrictions would be to develop shared apprenticeship schemes within the sectors of Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality, Health and Social Care and Manufacturing and Engineering. This would be building on the already very successful shared apprenticeship model delivered in the county within the Construction sector[17]. For those businesses that cannot diversify or change their business models this could be an attractive option whereby they share the risk of employing an individual and also provide the training to develop the skills that they need. It would also serve to meet the needs of those requesting ‘in-work training’.

[17] Cyfle Building Skills - http://cyflebuilding.co.uk/

3.7 Support Required

A broad analysis of the data indicates that 321 of survey respondents ranked ‘cash grants’ as the support mechanism that would be most beneficial to them. This was followed by ‘information’ and ‘longer term financial support’. ‘HR’ and ‘Digital/IT Advice’ were ranked as the most beneficial by the fewest number of respondents.[18]



3.7.1 Support over the next 3-6 Months

Respondents were asked what support could be provided by the Council in the short term (over the next 3-6 months) to assist them. The vast majority (287), reported that financial assistance in the form of a grant would be most beneficial, especially for those that have not been eligible for any of the financial support initiatives currently available. In accordance with this, a further 75 respondents indicated that an extension to or introduction of payment holidays would support them greatly. Many made specific reference to an extension of the 3-month rent holiday currently in place.

It is apparent that the uncertainty around how much longer restrictions will remain in place is causing financial concern for several businesses. Many indicate that the financial provision would support them to such a time when restrictions are lifted, and they can operate as

[18] Figures will not total the sample size as a number of respondents skipped the question

normal. This is substantiated by the further 23 respondents who made pleas for restrictions to be lifted enough for them to be able to either open their business or start operating in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Furthermore, 40 respondents referred to the continuation of the advice and information already being relayed. A further 18 indicated that some level of promotion or advertising for their business or sector would be valuable. This includes, promoting the tourism sector, promoting local produce and promoting the services of individual businesses.

3.7.2 Support over the next 6-12 Months

The same pattern of desired support is evident in the longer term. Many (90) reiterated the desire and need for cash grants or interest free loans, with a further 49 requesting the deferral of rent, rates or tax payments. 30 respondents indicated that the sharing and dissemination of key information relevant to businesses would be welcomed. A further 28 reiterated that free promotion and marketing would support them to recover.

Section 4 – Main Findings and Conclusions

1. **The negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been significant and wide reaching for Carmarthenshire's businesses.**

   A wide-ranging spectrum of business types and corresponding industries have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. These effects mainly relate to a significant reduction in income, reduced access to customers, problems with supply chains and the possible cessation of trading.

2. **Many of the businesses worst affected are within those sectors deemed of significant importance to Carmarthenshire in terms of employment and/or GVA.**

   The visitor economy and food and beverage sectors alone are worth almost £169 million to Carmarthenshire's economy and are therefore sectors of great pertinence to the county. We have also heard first-hand through the survey the challenges being experienced by the Agricultural sector. With a location quotient of 5.64 (showing substantial strength) and a GVA of almost £63 million, adequate support should be offered to support this vitally important sector.

3. **Many businesses (mainly those that are self-employed or freelance), have been unable to access any financial support.**

   Analysis has shown that many businesses have faced barriers in accessing support, having been deemed ineligible for the current offer. It could be argued that should any further financial support mechanisms be developed then these businesses should be the first to benefit, especially if any of these businesses align to those sectors deemed high value.

4. **The majority of businesses will not be able to operate longer than three months if the current situation continues.**

   Support developed to date has been done quickly and with depleted resources in many instances. Given the precarious position many businesses find themselves in, should any further support mechanisms be developed then they too will need to be actioned quickly, with the aim of stemming the 'snow-ball' affect that are the impacts of this pandemic.

5. **The most sought-after type of support both in the short and longer term is financial in the form of grants, loans or payment deferrals/holidays.**

   These findings present a challenge in itself owing to the fact that it is currently difficult to ascertain how much longer restrictions will be in place. In light of this, it could be argued that whilst a financial injection of support would be beneficial for many in the immediate term, if restrictions continue or are reintroduced in the short-term following a reprieve, then many businesses would unfortunately find themselves in a worrying predicament once again. The sustainability of this financial support would then become uncertain. In conjunction with this, local and national governments could develop a more sustainable and less cost intensive package of support with the aim of supporting businesses to diversify their operations i.e. moving to online selling, re-training staff, product development or aiding with marketing.

6. **Some businesses would find promotion and advertising support from the Council beneficial.**

   Businesses primarily operating within the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality sectors indicated that they would find free advertising and promotion beneficial to their recovery. This is an example of a relatively low-cost and non-resource intensive offer of support placing the Council further at the forefront of assisting businesses to recover. This offer of support could be extended to all businesses irrespective of the sector that they operate in. This also aligns with the ‘buy local’ marketing message that could be promoted to the county’s residents in the hope of providing a much-needed boost to the local companies who are the very foundation of our economy.

7. **There are small areas of deprivation in the county where the effects of the pandemic could be felt more acutely.**

   Community support initiatives should be focussed first and foremost in the areas highlighted as experiencing increased levels of deprivation. With many people feeling more isolated than ever before it is imperative that the Council continues its support and outreach work, to ensure that those most vulnerable in our communities receive the support that they need.

8. **Some businesses foresee that they will experience skills challenges as a result of the pandemic, with the majority stating that these skills deficits will relate to digital and IT skills.**

   With the vast majority of respondents indicating that they would benefit from online training in the fields of IT/digital skills, marketing and diversification there is scope to offer subsidised training through provision that is already in existence as an alternative to cash grants. There is also scope to utilise the wealth of expertise readily available within the organisation to offer non-accredited online training resources.

9. **The skills landscape will undoubtedly suffer as a result of the pandemic. The majority of job losses are likely to be at a lower skills level as these jobs tend to be part-time, low paid and more unstable. They are also often aligned with the identified ‘shutdown’ sectors’.**

   Local Government and organisations such as the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership have a crucial role to play in assisting employers and businesses to identify the skills that they need and ensuring that suitable provision exists to meet these demands.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Y BWRDD GWEITHREDOL
29/06/2020

DIWEDDARU RHAGLEN GYFALAF 2020-21
Y Pwrpas: I adrodd am ychwanegiadau newydd i'r rhaglen gyfalaf ers ei chymeradwyo ar 03/03/2020
YR ARGYMHELLION / PENDERFYNIADAU ALLWEDDOL SYDD EU HANGEN: Bod yr adroddiad diweddaru rhaglen gyfalaf yn cael ei derbyn a bod y gwelliannau'n cael eu cymeradwyo.
Y RHESYMAU: Rhoi manylion am ychwanegiadau i'r rhaglen gyfalaf i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol - ers cymeradwyo rhaglen 2020/21 - 2024/25 ar 03/03/2020.
Ymgynghorwyd â'r pwyllgor craffu perthnasol - Amherthnasol
Angen i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol wneud penderfyniad OES **Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad** NAC OES

YR AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO: Cyng. David Jenkins		
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth: **Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol** **Enw Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol:** **Chris Moore** **Awdur yr Adroddiad:** **Chris Moore**	**Swydd:** **Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol**	**Rhif ffôn: 01267 224120** **Cyfeiriad E-bost:** **CMoore@sirgar.gov.uk**

Executive Summary
Executive Board
29-06-2020

This report provides members with details of capital projects that have secured external funding since the approval of the 2020-2025 five-year capital programme.

The following table shows details of the individual capital projects that have secured new funding and require approval.

<table>
<tr><th>Dept</th><th>Project</th><th>£</th><th>Grant Name</th><th>DRF Match Funding Required £</th><th>Total Funding £</th></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Dairy culvert replacement at Llanybydder</td><td rowspan="4">£372,300</td><td rowspan="4">Flood Prevention Grant 2020/21</td><td rowspan="4">£65,700</td><td rowspan="4">£438,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>New trash screen at Bishops Rd, Garnant</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>New trash screen at New school Rd, Garnant</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Johnstown, Carmarthen Drainage project</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Road Safety - Llanelli South</td><td>348,500</td><td>Road Safety Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>348,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Road Safety - A476 Llanelli to Ffairfach</td><td>261,000</td><td>Road Safety Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>261,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Cross Hands Electric Vehicle Charging Hub</td><td>370,000</td><td>Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>370,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Environmental Growth - Purchase of Mower</td><td>33,660</td><td>Local Places for Nature Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>33,660</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environment</td><td>Greening the Public Estate – Purchase of Mower</td><td>42,200</td><td>Local Places for Nature Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>42,200</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communities</td><td>Private Housing Improvements - Energy Efficiency Grants</td><td>245,600</td><td>ENABLE Grant 2020/21</td><td>0</td><td>245,600</td></tr>
<tr><td>Chief Executive - Regeneration</td><td>Llanelli Library Green Wall</td><td>96,600</td><td>Green Infrastructure Grant</td><td>0</td><td>96,600</td></tr>
<tr><td>Chief Executive - Regeneration</td><td>Carregaman Car Park Enhancements</td><td>200,000</td><td>Green Infrastructure Grant</td><td>0</td><td>200,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>County Wide</td><td>Total</td><td>1,969,860</td><td></td><td>65,700</td><td>2,035,560</td></tr>
</table>

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report: **Signed: C.Moore Director of Corporate Services**						
Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities **NONE**	Legal **NONE**	Finance **YES**	ICT **NONE**	Risk Management Issues **NONE**	Staffing Implications **NONE**	Physical Assets **YES**

Finance

Increase the 2020/21 – 2024/25 capital programme by £2,035,560 as set out in this report.

Physical Assets

The capital programme will have an impact on the physical assets of the Authority.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: C. Moore Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee Relevant Scrutiny Committees will be consulted.
2.Local Member(s) N/A
3.Community / Town Council N/A
4.Relevant Partners N/A
5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Capital Programme 2020/25 Grant Award Letters from Welsh Government		County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP 01267 234567 Corporate Website

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol