

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016

## SUBJECT:

### WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2014-17

#### Purpose:

Carmarthenshire Libraries / Annual Assessment Report 2015-16

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

To monitor performance of the Library Service against the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Framework of the Welsh Public Library Standards as contained in the Annual Return for 2015/16.

#### Reasons:

To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance of the library service.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Leisure Portfolio Holder)

##### Directorate

Communities

##### Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

##### Report Author:

Mark Jewell

##### Designations:

Head of Leisure

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**SUBJECT:**  
**WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2014-17**

## 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Public Libraries and Museums ACT 1964 sets out the statutory duties of public library authorities to “provide a comprehensive and efficient library service” and makes it a duty of the Welsh Ministers “to superintend and promote the improvement” of public library services in Wales. In accordance with these statutory requirements the Welsh Government has completed its assessment of Carmarthenshire’s Library Services Annual Return for 2015/16.

This is the second year of assessment under the fifth framework.

Carmarthenshire Libraries have performed exceptionally well against the criteria set in the Welsh Public Libraries Standards during 2015/16 with the service making headline news as it continues to demonstrate positive impact for Carmarthenshire’s residents, bucking national trends. Indeed in a recent press article by CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Llanelli Library was ranked as 3<sup>rd</sup> highest issuer out of all libraries in England, Scotland and Wales for the numbers of book or other loans to service users being 555,712 loans. The other libraries in the top five were in Norfolk, Worcestershire, Cambridge and Oxford.

Carmarthenshire is meeting 17 of the 18 core entitlements in full, and partially meeting 1. Of the 7 quality indicators which have targets, Carmarthenshire achieved all 7 in full, an improvement compared to last year. It is also one of only two authorities to achieve this in 2015/16.

Carmarthenshire achieved both quality indicators in Learning for Life for up to date and appropriate reading material, one of only 4 authorities to do this. Spending on Welsh language material has increased which means targets set were met in 2015/16.

Carmarthenshire library service is generally performing well, and has seen marked improvements in areas such as collection development and ICT provision which were previously giving cause for concern. There are no significant areas of concern this year.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED**

**YES**

## 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: Ian Jones Head of Leisure

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

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Ian Jones Head of Leisure

1. Local Member(s) - N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners - N/A
4. 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:

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection