

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 30TH JANUARY, 2018

SUBJECT:

WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017

Purpose:

Carmarthenshire Libraries / Annual Assessment Report 2016-17

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To monitor performance of the Library Service against the 5th Quality Assessment Framework of the Welsh Public Library Standards as contained in the Annual Return for 2016/17.

Reasons:

To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance of Carmarthenshire library services.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. P. Hughes-Griffiths (Culture, Sport & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

Report Author:

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Designations:

Head of Leisure

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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 2016/17.

This is the third and final year of assessment under the fifth framework.

Carmarthenshire Libraries have performed exceptionally well against the criteria set in the Welsh Public Libraries Standards during 2016/17 with the service making headline news broadcasts as it continues to demonstrate positive impact for Carmarthenshire’s residents, bucking national trends.

Carmarthenshire meets all 18 core entitlements in full, an improvement on last year. Of the 7 quality indicators which have targets, Carmarthenshire achieved 6 in full, and one in part.

Carmarthenshire library service is generally performing well, and has seen marked improvements in a number of areas in the course of this framework, against the wider trend. However, overall staffing levels have dropped below the target set for this year. The service is well used with evidence of strategic planning and investment.

Carmarthenshire has achieved all three quality indicators in Learning for Life for up-to-date and appropriate reading materials and online access, one of only five authorities to do so this year. Spending on Welsh material has maintained the levels achieved last year and remains above the median for Wales overall. Investment in the book stock is reflected in the proportion of customers who rate the choice of books as good or very good.

Carmarthenshire conducted a customer impact survey in October/November 2016, with good results. 98% of attendees at training sessions said that attendance had helped them to achieve their goals this year.

Both physical and virtual visits continue to increase compared to last year, and the per capita levels are among the highest in Wales. Issues of audio-visual and electronic issues/downloads have increased significantly and they are now the highest per capita level in Wales and the increase is against the trend in Wales.

Expenditure per capita is the second highest in Wales, but high levels of visits bring the net cost per visit below the median for Wales as a whole, suggesting a service which is operating in an efficient way.

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:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Annual Assessment Report 2016-17		As attached.