

EXECUTIVE BOARD

13TH MAY 2019

WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017-2020

Purpose:

Carmarthenshire Libraries / Annual Assessment Report 2017-18

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To monitor performance of the Library Service against the 6th Quality Assessment Framework of the Welsh Public Library Standards as contained in the Annual Return for 2017/18.

Reasons:

To enable members to monitor the performance of the library service.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted:

YES, Community Scrutiny – 28th March, 2019

Scrutiny Committee Recommendations/Comments:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive Board that the report be received.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision:

Executive Board: YES

County Council: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

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

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

Report Author:

Mark Jewell

Designations:

Head of Leisure

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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 2017/18. This is the first year of assessment under the sixth framework.

Carmarthenshire met all of the 12 core entitlements in full. Of the 10 quality indicators with targets, Carmarthenshire achieved 9 in full, and 1 in part.

Investment in up-to-date reading materials remains strong, with Carmarthenshire recording the highest acquisitions spend of any library service in Wales.

PC provision has increased further in 2017-18 and is now the third highest in Wales, although usage levels remain low.

Staffing levels overall have fallen slightly, but remain above the median level, and the service continues to meet the target for qualified staff.

Total revenue expenditure has increased compared to 2016-17, with Carmarthenshire now spending more per capita on library provision than any other authority.

Carmarthenshire library service continues to perform well, with improvements in some areas, and evidence of decline in others. Some consideration of the factors influencing areas of change would have increased understanding of what this means for future performance. The authority nevertheless demonstrates a strong commitment to the service, with budgets maintained and even increased on 2016-17, and levels of qualified staff retained. Proposals to realign staffing structures are noted, but in the context of ensuring that standards can be maintained and that staffing is consistent with service development. The Library Strategy 2017-2022 provides the framework for future delivery, and recent developments, with the launch of the 'Makerspace' facility at Ammanford library, provide a model for how traditional and digital provision can be balanced.

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. Scrutiny Committee –**
Community Scrutiny Committee was consulted on 28th March, 2019.
- 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
WPLS Carmarthenshire Assessment Report		Attached.