

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020

## SUBJECT:

### WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017-2020

#### Purpose:

Carmarthenshire Libraries / Annual Assessment Report 2018-19

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

To monitor performance of the Library Service against the 6<sup>th</sup> Quality Assessment Framework of the Welsh Public Library Standards as contained in the Annual Return for 2018/19.

#### 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. Peter Hughes-Griffiths (Culture, Sport & Leisure Portfolio Holder)

##### Directorate

##### Communities

##### Name of Head of Service:

Ian Jones

##### Report Author:

Mark Jewell

##### Designations:

Head of Leisure

Library Services Manager

##### Tel Nos.

01267 228309 / 01554 744328

##### E Mail Addresses:

Ijones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

MJewell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020

## SUBJECT:

### WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS 2017-2020

Sixth Assessment Framework for Welsh Public Library Standards: Annual Return 2018/19

#### 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 service Annual Return for 2018/19.

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

The external validator, in consultation with a Reference Group comprising Welsh Government officials and three heads of library services, found that:

- **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, and is one of only four authorities to achieve at this level.**

Carmarthenshire has continued to perform well against the standards framework in its second year. Library use has generally increased, with Carmarthenshire recording some of the highest per capita performances for visits, membership and adult use.

Carmarthenshire continues to meet the target for easy access to service points, through its network of regional, community, branch and mobile libraries.

The authority is also continuing to invest strongly in the service, with plans to extend the successful Makerspace initiative to two further libraries, and to further develop its new mobile library provision, in line with the aspirations of its Library Strategy.

Carmarthenshire has maintained its performance in this second year of the sixth framework, with no significant change on 2017/18, and remains one of the highest achieving authorities overall.

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
WPLS Carmarthenshire Assessment Report		<a href="\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Leisure &amp; Culture\Cultural Services\Libraries\WPLS\2018-19">\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Leisure &amp; Culture\Cultural Services\Libraries\WPLS\2018-19</a>