

COUNTY COUNCIL
10TH FEBRUARY 2016

Wales Audit Office - Corporate Assessment Report 2015

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To approve the content of the Corporate Assessment Report 2015
2. That an action plan is produced to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the Report.

Reasons:

In 2013-14 the Welsh Audit Office began a four year cycle of Corporate Assessments of all Authorities in Wales under the Welsh Local Government Act (2009). In October 2015 they carried out their Corporate Assessment of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted - NA

Exec Board Decision Required	Yes - February 1 st 2016
Council Decision	Yes - February 10 th 2016

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Emlyn Dole

Directorate Chief Executive	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Wendy S Walters	Assistant Chief Executive Regeneration & Policy	01267 224112 wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Noelwyn Daniel	Performance and Information Manager	01267 224476 NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COUNTY COUNCIL
10TH FEBRUARY 2016

SUBJECT

Wales Audit Office - Corporate Assessment Report 2015

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Welsh Audit Office undertook the Corporate Assessment fieldwork in Carmarthenshire County Council during October 2015. The purpose of the Corporate Assessment is to provide a position statement of an authority's capacity and capability to deliver continuous improvement.

The Authority has been highly praised by the Welsh Audit Office for having a well established vision that is driven forward by a strong collective leadership from both Executive and Corporate Management Teams. A clear framework of well-aligned plans and strategies that translate high level outcomes the Council has agreed with partners into priorities for action has also been recognised ensuring a strong ethos of continuous improvement runs through everything the Council does.

The Auditor General has concluded that: Carmarthenshire County Council, demonstrating ambition in its vision, with collective leadership and more robust and transparent governance, is delivering improved outcomes for its citizens although some out-dated approaches may limit the speed of progress. He came to this conclusion because:

- increasingly collective leadership is supporting a revised vision for Carmarthenshire and sustaining a culture of improvement;
- the Council has made good progress in establishing improved governance arrangements which are now more robust and transparent, although there are opportunities for further improvements to enable Members to be more effective in their roles;
- the Council's arrangements for managing its resources have served it well in the past, but the current approach in some areas is out-dated and not joined up, which may limit the speed of progress towards improved outcomes for citizens;
- the Council has an established and effective approach to partnership working;
- the Council's framework to manage improvement is good but lacks quality and consistent application within some departments leading to a lack of accountability
- the Council in collaboration with partners, is continuing to improve performance across its priority areas.

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: Wendy S Walters - Assistant Chief Executive Regeneration & Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<p>1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p> <p>In addition to the Proposals for Improvement, the paragraphs of the report do contain some other actions that may need to be addressed or formally discounted. Therefore these actions should also be extracted and addressed.</p>						
<p>2. Legal The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						
<p>3. Finance The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						
<p>4. ICT The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						
<p>5. Risk Management Issues The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						
<p>6 Staffing Implications The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						
<p>7. Physical Assets The Corporate Assessment assesses our governance arrangements throughout the organisation. We will need to address the Proposals for Improvement made within the final published report.</p>						

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Wendy S Walters - Assistant Chief Executive /Head of Regeneration & Policy

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A

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: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW :-

Title of Document	FileRefNo.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection