

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

12TH OCTOBER 2021

AUDIT WALES REPORT – REVIEW OF WASTE SERVICE, JULY 2021		
Purpose: To receive and set out the findings of the audit exercise and the accompanying action plan.		
Recommendations / key decisions required: To approve the draft action plan as set out in preparation of formal submission to Audit Wales.		
Reason(s) for recommendation: An action plan is required to address the findings of the audit.		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO		
Cabinet Decision Required No; the Cabinet are aware of the position.		
Council Decision Required NO		
CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Hazel Evans – Cabinet Member for Environment		
Directorate: Environment	Designations: Head of Waste and Environmental Services	Tel: Email addresses: (01267) 224500 AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Name of Head of Service: Ainsley Williams	Head of Waste & Environmental Services	
Report Author: Ainsley Williams	Head of Waste & Environmental Services.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE 12 OCTOBER 2021

AUDIT WALES REPORT – REVIEW OF WASTE SERVICE, JULY 2021

As a result of the Audit Wales Assurance and Risk work in 2019-20, it was agreed between Audit Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council to undertake a review of the Council's waste services. One of the key reasons for this was that from 2017-19 the Council's performance for the amount of waste it recycled, re-used, or composted declined.

Another key reason was that in 2018 the Council changed the status of the company it uses for waste disposal, CWM Environmental Ltd (CWM), from a Local Authority Waste Disposal Company (a LAWDC) to a Teckal¹ company.

The purpose of the audit was to review whether the Council has in place proper arrangements to plan and deliver its waste services sustainably. As part of this work, the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for governing CWM were looked at to establish if adequate oversight and controls were in place. The audit team also looked at the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's waste service and the Council's performance on dealing with fly-tipping.

The review was undertaken during the period December 2020 – April 2021.

A brief summary of the findings is provided as follows:

- To date, the Council has met all the statutory recycling targets but has recognised that its current collection arrangements are not sustainable.
- The Council's garden waste collection service has doubled its customer base in the last year and is helping to improve its recycling performance, but the service is not yet self-financing
- The Council's governance of its arm's length waste recycling company has improved since it changed its company model, but ongoing risks need to be more clearly identified and mitigated
- The Council maintained a safe and effective waste service during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Carmarthenshire has a high number of reported fly-tipping incidents and, although the Council is taking some action, it does not have a clear plan to tackle the problem

- The Council has recently drafted a waste strategy to make the waste service more sustainable, but it needs to be finalised and funded
- 8 key recommendations have been made as a result of the audit. These are set out in the Audit Wales Report and the Council's Action Plan in response to the audit.

¹ A Teckal company is the common name for a company which benefits from contracts for works, services or supply from its controlling contracting authority without having to go through a competitive tender process. At least 80% of the activity of the Teckal company must be for its public sector owner.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

- Appendix 1 – The Audit Wales report
- Appendix 2 – Carmarthenshire County Council's Action Plan.

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: **A WILLIAMS**

Head of Waste & Environmental Services

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

Finance

Funding of the future strategy depends on drawing down significant financial contribution from Welsh Government. Current discussions are ongoing and funding in principle has been informally agreed, subject to the detail being worked through.

Risk Management Issues

The risk of not achieving WG recycling targets are considered in the current corporate risk register. The risks associated with CWM Environmental Ltd will be considered and managed through the Council's Shareholder Board and added in the Departmental and/or Corporate Risk Register if/when appropriate.
CWM manage their own risk register with respect to business risks.

Staffing Implications

Staffing implications in the long term will form part of the considerations for taking the new waste strategy forward as the potential change in methodology will increase the service's operational resource requirements. The additional resource in this respect forms part of the waste strategy funding proposals being discussed with WG.

Physical Assets

Vehicle and other infrastructure asset implications in the long term will form part of the considerations for taking the new waste strategy forward as the potential change in methodology will increase the service's operational vehicle and infrastructure resource requirements. The additional requirements in this respect forms part of the waste strategy funding proposals being discussed with WG.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **A WILLIAMS**

Head of Waste & Environmental Services

1. Scrutiny Committee

NA

2. Local Member(s)

NA

3. Community / Town Council

NA

4. Relevant Partners

NA

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

NA

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

Yes – Cllr Hazel Evans and Cllr Philip Hughes are aware of the conclusions and action plan.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE