

EDUCATION YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

01/12/2022

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

Purpose:

The Council's Draft Annual Report.

The Scrutiny Committee Is Asked To:

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

- Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
- Under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance, based, on a self-assessment approach
- This report meets both these requirements in one document.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Corporate Overview: Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce - Cllr Philip Hughes

Well-Being Objective Portfolio Holders: Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language - Cllr Glynog Davies

Directorate: Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel: Email addresses:
Noelwyn Daniel	Head of ICT & Corporate Policy	01267 246270 ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jan Coles	Head of Children and Families	JColes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education	SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EDUCATION YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
01/12/2022

**CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2021/22**

The following sections within the document are **relevant to Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny**:

Annual Report Sections and Well-being Objectives (WBO)		
Introduction		
WBO 1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences	Focus on Additional Learning Needs
WBO 2	Help children live healthy lifestyles	All except Leisure Services matters
WBO 3	Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	All
WBO 4	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty	Gap in exams results of pupils receiving Free School Meals
WBO 12	Promote Welsh Language and Culture	Focus on Welsh Language
Appendix		

- The Annual Report starts with an overview of our COVID-19 response and outlines some key impacts, challenges and learning.
- The Annual Report then looks in turn at each of our 13 Well-being Objectives and assesses the progress and adaptations that have been made during this difficult year.
- Appendices
 1. a) Statutory Requirements
b) How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the national Well-being Goals
 2. Success measures for our Well-being Objectives
 3. National Survey for Wales 2021/22 – Carmarthenshire results
 4. Regulatory reports issued during 2021/22
 5. The extent to which we meet 'performance requirements'
 - a. Departmental analysis
 - b. The Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic-unplanned transformation
 - c. Consultation on 'performance requirements'

- Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
- Under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance-based on a self-assessment approach.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements. The performance requirements are the extent to which:

- *we are exercising our functions effectively.*
 - *we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.*
 - *our governance is effective for securing the above.*
- We also have a duty to consult on the extent to which we meet our performance requirements.
 - This report aims to meet these requirements within one document.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES Annual Report Annexe – Commitment updates*
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* Annexe – Commitment updates – At the end of each Well-being Objective is a web link to the detailed actions and targets (commitments) set out to deliver the objective and the progress made during the year. These web links will open to readers when the document is finalised and published on the internet. However, they do not always work at Scrutiny and this annexe provides a listing of all 13 Well-being Objectives commitment updates.

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:

Noelwyn Daniel	Head of ICT & Corporate Policy
Jan Coles	Head of Children and Families
Aneirin Thomas	Head of Education and Inclusion
Aeron Rees	Head of Strategy and Learner Support
Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	No	No	No	No

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set and publish well-being objectives 	Corporate Strategy update was published in June 2019, and further updated in May 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a statement about well-being objectives 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish an annual report of progress 	This will be accomplished by the enclosed Annual Report

Only when a public body can demonstrate it has taken into account the sustainable development principle in the setting, taking steps and meeting of its well-being objectives will it be compliant with the Act. Public bodies may take other matters into account when making their decisions, but in order to comply with the Act they must take into account the 5 ways of working.

1. Long term
2. Integrated
3. Involving
4. Collaborative
5. Preventative

Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021

The Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. It replaces the Local Government Measure 2009.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires that a Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that financial year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.

The performance requirements are the extent to which:

- we are exercising our functions effectively.
- we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
- our governance is effective for securing the above.

2. Legal

The requirement to publish a forward-looking Improvement Plan by the end of June and an Annual Report by the end of October no longer applies.

- *The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) replaces the current improvement duty for councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009* para 1.2

Statutory guidance on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) act 2021

The new Act sets a duty to report on performance through self-assessment. It provides that a council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report should be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the financial year to which it relates. However, it is for the council to determine when exactly to do this to best align with its own corporate arrangements. Para 2.28.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than March 31st. It is up to Carmarthenshire County Council when it publishes its Annual Report on 2021/22 so long as it is before March 31st 2023. Though it should be as soon as reasonably practicable.

The requirement to produce a self-assessment report is one for the full council or its executive (as a council may determine). Councils will be required to involve a wide range of stakeholders and local people in its self-assessment. In addition, involving members from controlling and opposition groups.

Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services.

‘Scrutiny committees, as well as internal audit, will be a key part of a council’s self-assessment, and the council should determine and agree how best to involve their scrutiny committees in the self-assessment process itself, not just in considering the outcomes of any self-assessment’.

The self-assessment report must be published within four weeks of it being finalised and approved in accordance with the council’s agreed processes.

This is the first year that we are reporting under the duties of Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

[Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils.](#)

Note: Governance and Audit Committee must receive the Annual Report and its feedback considered.

3.Finance

Well-being Objective 13 – Better Governance and Use of Resources covers financial matters.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES		<i>Cllr. Philip Hughes as Cabinet Member with responsibility for performance management has the overall lead for the report however it references the work of all Cabinet portfolio holders</i>
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
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		https://gov.wales/well-being-of-future-generations-wales
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021		Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils