

# Governance and Audit Committee

## 17 March 2023

### AUDIT WALES REPORT: SPRINGING FORWARD - ASSET MANAGEMENT CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To note the findings and recommendations of the Audit Wales local report.
2. To note the Carmarthenshire County Council response to the recommendations of the local report relevant to the Council.

#### Reasons:

We have a duty to consider regulatory report recommendations and Proposals for Improvement.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted

- The report will be presented to Governance & Audit Committee (as part of Audit Wales requirements).

Cabinet Decision Required: NO

Council Decision Required: NO

#### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Alun Lenny

Cabinet Member for Resources

Chief Executive

Designations:

Tel:

Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration

[JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Governance and Audit Committee

### 17 March 2023

#### Audit Wales Report: Springing Forward – Asset Management Carmarthenshire County Council

##### PURPOSE

Audit Wales reviewed the Council's arrangements for managing its assets with a focus on office accommodation and buildings from which the Council delivers services to its residents. The findings are summarised in the report [Springing Forward Asset Management – Carmarthenshire County Council](#).

The review sought to answer the question: *Is the Council's strategic approach to its assets effectively helping the Council to strengthen its ability to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of its services in the short and longer-term?*

##### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overall, it found that: The Council is strengthening its arrangements for asset management and recognises that there are opportunities to use the sustainable development principle more to improve this work.

The Council is prioritising how it can use its assets to help support economic recovery and is drafting a new corporate asset management plan to cover the period to 2028.

The Council is strengthening its corporate arrangements for asset management, and is working collaboratively with its partners in this area, but recognises that it could use the sustainable development principle more to further improve this work.

There is limited performance information reported corporately on asset management and it is an area that the Council wants to strengthen.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

###### Asset Management Planning

**R1** The Council needs to apply and embed the sustainable development principle in the way it plans, delivers and monitors the management of its assets.

###### Performance management

**R2** The Council needs to improve the performance management of its assets by:

- developing a set of performance and outcome measures that reflect the Council's ambitions for its assets and monitor these measures at a corporate level, including reporting to overview and scrutiny committee(s);
- benchmarking performance on asset management with other organisations.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES:**

1. Audit Wales Report
2. Carmarthenshire Action Plan response

# 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:

Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

### Corporate Strategy

The report's recommendations support the Corporate Strategy and our Well-being Objectives.

### Regulatory Reports

- All regulatory report recommendations are entered onto the Council's performance monitoring system (PIMS) and any reasons for discounting recommendations should be explained and recorded. Progress against recommendations is monitored and reported.
- All regulatory reports are considered by lead Director, Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and where appropriate relevant scrutiny committees.

### Governance and Audit Committee

- The role of the Governance and Audit Committee is to review and assess the risk management, internal control, performance management and corporate governance arrangements of the Council, it is expected that the council's Governance and Audit Committee formally consider all reports of external review bodies – principally; Audit Wales, Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- As well as actively considering reports, committees are expected to assure themselves that there are arrangements in place to monitor and evaluate progress against any recommendations contained in them. The focus here should be on holding executives and officers to account to ensure that reports and recommendations have been acted upon.

### Scrutiny

- Some reports may also be relevant for consideration by scrutiny committees.
- Constitution- Scrutiny-Terms of Reference-item 6  
*To monitor progress in the undertaking of WA reviews including the recommendation of future service options/performance targets to Cabinet/Council and the monitoring of subsequent action plans*

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE / CONSULTED?  
YES

Cllr. Alun Lenny

### 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	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire County Council – Springing Forward Asset Management		<a href="#">Audit Wales</a>