

Governance and Audit Committee

14th July 2023

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the content of the draft Council Annual Report for 2022-23

Reasons:

- 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 aims to meet both these requirements in one document

Cabinet Decision Required YES – 4 September 2023

Council Decision Required YES - 11 October 2023

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Phillip Hughes, Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce

Directorate: **Chief Executive**

Jason Jones

Report Author

Gwyneth Ayers &

Robert James

Designations:

Head of Regeneration,
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Corporate Policy,
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Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23

This is the first draft of the Council Annual Report for the period 2022-23. There are sections where information is outstanding or awaited but these will be updated as they become available. The Annual Report is due to be presented to Full Council at its meeting in October 2023. The structure of the Annual Report is based on the new Council Well-being Objectives (4) as agreed in the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2022-27. As business plans for the 2022-23 period were based on the former 13 well-being objectives progress reports have been aligned on a best fit model. In that respect, this should be considered as a transition report as we move to fully implementing our new Well-being Objectives for the 2023-24 period.

18/19 19/20 20/21 21/22 22/23 23/24 24/25 25/26 26/27

**Old Corporate Strategy 2018-23
with 13 Well-being Objectives**

(An end of year PIMS action and target report is
automatically available if required)

**New Corporate Strategy 2022-27
with 4 Well-being Objectives**



This is an Annual Report and self-assessment on the new Corporate Strategy

The Annual Report looks in turn at each of our four Well-being Objectives and Core Business Enablers and assesses the progress that has been made during the year. The report provides information on the following basis for each Well-being Objective and Core Business Enabler:

- Overarching judgement
- Why is this important
- Key overarching indicators and measures
- Outcomes we set ourselves
- How well are we doing and how do we know?
- Case studies
- Areas for improvement
- Governance.

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:

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

We also have a duty to consult on our Performance Assessment.

This report aims to meet both these requirements in one document.

This is a first draft for consideration. Further information will be added as it becomes available.

Next steps

1. More end of year information and national data will become available as this report is being finalised.
2. Each Head of Service has completed an Annual Self-Assessment against the performance requirements. These will be discussed at Engagement and Assurance sessions during June and July. The findings will be considered in order to prepare a corporate self-assessment of the Council which will be incorporated in a strengthened Appendix 4.
3. Each year, as required by law, we must consult with residents, staff, businesses, and trade unions on the extent to which we meet the performance requirements. These consultations are being published on the 8 June and will close on the 18 July 2023. The findings of these consultations will be incorporated into Appendix 4 in further editions of the Report.
4. Key conclusions from the Annual Governance Statement will also inform the report.

The Governance and Audit Committee has a duty under the Local Government & Elections Act to consider the Council Annual Report. The Committee has received a briefing on its duty to review the draft report and held a workshop on the Annual Report on July 11th before its formal meeting on July 14th 2023 to examine the report in more detail.

- a) *The council must make a draft of its self-assessment report available to its governance and audit committee.*
- b) *The committee must review the draft report and may make recommendations for changes to the conclusions or action the council intends to take.*
- c) *If the council does not make a change recommended by the governance and audit committee, it must set out in the final self-assessment report the recommendation and the reasons why the council did not make the change.*
- d) *When the report is finalized a copy of the report should be made available to the Governance and Audit Committee.*

Extracts from – Performance and Governance of Principal Councils – Statutory guidance on Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

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: **Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration, Digital & Policy**

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

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 	Our new Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives
<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

Under the 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

This is the second 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](#) and includes specific duties for the Council:

- Duty to keep performance under review;
- Duty to consult on performance;
- Duty to report on performance – based on self-assessment approach;
- Duty to arrange a panel performance assessment;

Duty to respond to a panel performance assessment report.

3. Finance

For the period 2022-23 the Council had a revenue budget of £656m (total expenditure/income). This is drawn from a range of sources:

- Revenue Support Grant (Welsh Government) - £243m (37%)
- Specific Grants - £108m (16%)
- Council Tax - £104m (16%)
- Fees, Charges & other Income - £90m (14%)
- Non-domestic Rates - £68m (10%)
- Housing Rents - £43m (7%).

In addition, for the same period there was a Capital Budget of £189m

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration, Digital & Policy**

Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	YES
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	Place, Sustainability & Climate Change
Date the report was considered:-	27 th July - date to be confirmed
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

3. Community / Town Council

4. Relevant Partners

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

All Departments have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide comments on their performance and progress.

As part of the duty to consult on performance a residents, businesses, Trade Union and staff survey have been published in order to capture views.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Cllr. Philip Hughes
YES	

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.		SPSF2: Individual Public Body Role
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.		Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils