

Governance & Audit Committee
15 December 2023

Audit Wales report: Time for Change – Poverty in Wales
Progress Report

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider progress being made on the recommendations in the national report.

Reasons:

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

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Davies Evans, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Tackling Poverty

Directorate:

Chief Executive

Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones

Report Author:

Gwyneth Ayers

Designations:

Head of Regeneration,
Policy & Digital

Corporate Policy,
Performance &
Partnership Manager

Tel:

Email addresses:

JaJones@cararthenshire.gov.uk

GAyers@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit Wales report: Time for Change – Poverty in Wales Progress Report

This Audit Wales national report looked at the challenge of poverty in Wales and how national and local government is responding. The report notes:

Our overall conclusion is that the scale of the challenge and weaknesses in current work make it difficult for Welsh and local government to deliver the systemic change required to tackle and alleviate poverty.

The Carmarthenshire response document provided an outline of the Council's response to the recommendations relevant to local government and a progress report is attached.

In July 2023 the Council approved it's 'Tackling Poverty Plan 2023'. The actions from the plan are now embedded in service business plans and progress is being monitored through usual performance management arrangements. The cross-party Tackling Poverty Advisory Panel, chaired by the Cabinet Member responsible for Tackling Poverty (Cllr. Linda Evans) monitors progress on the delivery of the plan as well as advising the Cabinet Member of areas for development and progression.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

1. Progress Report

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 & Digital

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

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

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	N/A
If yes include the following information:	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A. The Council's Tackling Poverty Advisory Panel members will consider the report and discuss future approach.

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

The report and its findings will be considered as part of the Public Services Board (PSB) forward work programme as part of its new Well-being Plan 2023-28

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Cllr. Linda Davies Evans
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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
Time for Change – Poverty in Wales (Audit Wales)		Cymraeg: https://www.audit.wales/cy/publication/amser-am-newid-tlodi-yng-nghymru English: https://www.audit.wales/publication/time-change-poverty-wales
Carmarthenshire County Council Tackling Poverty Plan 2023		Available through Gwyneth Ayers