

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER 2024

THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Purpose:

To consider the draft Council 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 aims to meet both these requirements in one document.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Corporate Overview:

Cllr. Phillip Hughes, Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce, including performance management.

Well-being Objective Portfolio Holders

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability
Cllr Edward Thomas	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
Cllr Carys Jones	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy

Directorates:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
Heads of Service:		
Paul R Thomas	Assistant Chief Executive (People, Digital & Policy)	PRThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Simon Davies	Head of Economic Development & Property	sidavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes and Safer Communities	jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	rdgriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Daniel W John	Head of Environmental Infrastructure	dwjohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Authors:		
Gwyneth Ayers	Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager	GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rachel Clegg	Data Insight & Performance Manager	RHClegg@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager	jmedwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER 2024

THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

This is a draft of the Council Annual Report for the period 2023/24. There are some 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 December 2024, having been through Scrutiny, Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet.

The Annual Report is based on our four Well-being Objectives as outlined in the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2022-27. This report takes on a slightly different structure to its predecessors, in that progress has been noted under the 'outcomes we hope to achieve' which form our well-being objectives. This ensures a greater and more seamless alignment between our Corporate Strategy and how we report on our progress.

The intention is that the links between our activity as an organisation and the outcomes that we hope to achieve are clearer to the reader. This aligns with the greater emphasis and focus being placed on an outcome-focussed approach to performance management from Audit Wales. This has also informed our approach to developing the Corporate Data Suite whose measures and indicators form an important part of this Annual Report as indicated below under 'How are we Doing?'.

The report provides information on the following basis for each Well-being Objective as well as the Thematic and Service priorities:

- **Overview of progress** – provides a succinct overview of our progress against the overarching measures for each Well-being Objective, linking this to the importance of that objective.
- **In Summary** – provides an overview of our progress against each of our Thematic and Service priority areas.
- **How are we Doing?** - provides a breakdown of the progress made against our key measures as detailed within the Corporate Data Suite. A detailed overview of all measures is provided in Appendix 5.
- **Progress Against Outcomes** – provides content on activity from across the organisation which relates to or addresses that outcome.
- **Is Anyone Better Off?** – this section provides case studies or good news stories relating to the 'So What?'. The focus is to highlight what difference we have made to the lives of our residents and service users through our activity.
- **How can we do Better?** – this section provides a summary of the identified areas for improvement and serves to 'close the loop'.

This new structure refines what were more numerous sections in previous versions of the Annual Report. We have done this with the aim of producing a more refined and succinct report which still satisfies statutory duties and provides a balanced overview of the Council's story during 2023/24

The following sections within the document are **relevant to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change scrutiny committee**

Thematic/service Priority

Well-being Objective 1: Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible Start in Life (Start Well) -

Service Priority: Education

Well-being Objective 2: Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)

Service Priority: Housing

Well-being Objective 3 – Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)

Thematic Priority: Economic Recovery and Growth

Thematic Priority: Decarbonisation & Nature Emergency

Thematic Priority: Community Safety, Resilience and Cohesion

Service Priority: Waste

Service Priority: Highways & Transport

Well-being Objective 4 – Our Council: To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council.

Outcome: Deliver organisational change that supports key Net Zero Carbon targets

Appendix 3 - Self-Assessment

Appendix 5 - Data on indicators and measures linked to each Well-being Objective and Priorities

Statutory Duties

This Annual Report fulfils the following statutory duties placed upon the Council.

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.*

Each of the Council's divisions has completed a self-assessment of their own performance which have been reviewed, analysed, and summarised into a corporate overview. This is included in Appendix 3 within this Annual Report.

We also have a duty to consult on the degree to which we are meeting our performance requirements which we do on an annual basis through consultations with residents, our own staff, businesses, and trade unions. Findings are included in this report where relevant.

Next Steps:

1. We will continue to monitor updated data as it becomes available and include it if appropriate.
2. We will include key conclusions from the Annual Governance Statement in Appendices 3 and 4.

The Governance and Audit Committee now has a duty under the Local Government & Elections Act to consider and review the Council Annual Report. The Committee discussed the report on 27 September.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

- 1. Draft Council Annual Report 2023/24**
- 2. Appendices 1-5**

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:

Paul R Thomas	Assistant Chief Executive, People, Digital & Policy
Simon Davies	Head of Economic Development & Property
Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes and Safer Communities
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability
Daniel W John	Head of Environmental Infrastructure

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	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 Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives Publish a statement about well-being objectives 	Our Corporate Strategy and 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 third 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.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED -YES	Cllr. Philip Hughes
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	
Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy 2022-27	Corporate Strategy 2022-27
The Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021	Part 6 of the Act, Performance and Governance of Principal Council's statutory guidance
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: the essentials GOV.WALES