

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

08/07/21

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The Council's draft Annual Report.

Reasons:

- Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 we must publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.
- Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives.
- This report meets both these requirements in one document.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES

Executive Board: YES (27th Sept) / County Council: YES (13th Oct)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Corporate Overview:

Cllr. Mair Stephens (Deputy Leader)

Well-Being Objective Portfolio Holders:

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

Directorate:	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Education & Children		
Name of Head of Service:		
Aeron Rees	Head of Curriculum and Well-being	01267 246532 JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Aneirin Thomas	Head of Education Services	01267 246645 ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services	01267 246530 SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education	01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:		
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EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

08/07/21

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21

The following **sections** within the document are **relevant to Education and Children Scrutiny**:

- Introduction
- WBO 1 Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
- WBO 2 Help children live healthy lifestyles (Childhood Obesity)
- WBO 3 Support and improve progress, achievement, for all learners
- WBO 4 Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning and career pathways
- Appendices

2020/21 was a year like no other due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The vast majority of the Council's services had to adapt and change, with many being shut down completely for long periods of the year. For this reason, it is not possible for the 2020-21 Annual Report to act as a progress report on previous performance or as a comparator with other local authorities. The report reflects the actions the Council had to take to support its residents, communities and businesses through the pandemic. With many staff being redeployed to assist in the pandemic response and many set to work to aid recovery the Council's priorities had to shift significantly to face the challenges presented by the pandemic.

For these reasons, the Annual Report for 2020-21 has a different focus and approach to previous reports.

- Many of the actions and targets we set for 2020/21 were blindsided by the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and we had to deal with the emergency in hand. An initial COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment was published in September 2020 and individual services reported their responses to Scrutiny Committees in the November / December 2020 cycle of meetings. We will when appropriate update the Community Impact Assessment on COVID-19 within Carmarthenshire.
- The Annual Report starts with an overview of our COVID-19 Year and outlines some key responses and impacts.
- The Annual Report then looks in turn at each of our 15 Well-being Objectives and assesses the progress and adaptations that have been made during this difficult year.

COVID-19

We have a statutory duty to publish an Annual Report for 2020-21 by the 31st October 2021. There has been no relaxation on this statutory duty despite the pandemic. It is not possible to provide as much in-depth analysis and evaluation as we have done in previous years due to some performance information not being gathered nationally as services focused on pandemic response. There are also some gaps in information that we would usually provide. For instance, Welsh Government has confirmed that comparative out-turn data will not be published for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 period.

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:

Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing
Aneirin Thomas, Head of Education Services
Stefan Smith, Head of Children's Services
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	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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 	Corporate Strategy update published – June 2019, and further updated in May 2021.
<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

2. Legal

We have to publish our Annual Report by the 31st October to comply with the Local Government Measure 2009.

This is the last year that we will be reporting under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as this is being replaced by the duties of Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in future years

3. Finance

Well-being Objective 15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better use of Resources covers financial matters.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:

Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Aneirin Thomas, Head of Education Services

Stefan Smith, Head of Children's Services

Simon Davies, Head of Access to Education

1. Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Committee	Date	Outcomes
Community and Regeneration	1 st July	
Environment and Public Protection	2 nd July	
Social Care and Health	7 th July	
Education and Children's Services	8 th July	
P+R	21 st July	

2. Local Member(s)

NA

3. Community / Town Council

NA

4. Relevant Partners

NA

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

NA

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Include any observations here

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
Shared purpose: shared future Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		SPSF 2 Individual Role (public bodies)
Local Government Measure (2009)		Local Government Measure (2009)
June 2019 - Corporate Strategy		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/12190/49/corporate-strategy-revised-2019-20.pdf