

# PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

## CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

### THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Consider and comment on the Council's draft Annual Report relevant to Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee's remit.

### 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 meets both these requirements in one document.

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

#### Corporate Overview:

Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce - Cllr Philip Hughes

#### Well-Being Objective Portfolio Holders:

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen      Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation & Sustainability

Cllr Edward Thomas      Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services

#### Directorates:

#### Designations:

#### Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:

#### Names of Heads of Service:

Ainsley Williams	Director of Place & Infrastructure	<a href="mailto:AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Stephen Pilliner	Head of Highways & Transport	<a href="mailto:SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager	<a href="mailto:JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Daniel W John	Head of Waste & Environmental Service	<a href="mailto:djohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">djohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability	<a href="mailto:RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager	<a href="mailto:jmedwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">jmedwards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

#### Report Author:

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

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

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

Annual Report Sections and Well-being Objectives (WbO)	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member responsible
Introduction	<b>All</b>	
WbO 10: Look after the environment now and for the future	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Cllr Edward Thomas
	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
WbO 11: Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen
Appendices	<b>All</b>	

- The Annual Report starts with an overview of our COVID-19 response and outlines some key impacts, challenges and learning.
- The Annual Report then looks in turn at each of our 13 Well-being Objectives and assesses the progress and adaptations that have been made during this difficult year.
- Appendices
  1. a) Statutory Requirements –  
b) How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the national Well-being Goals
  2. Success measures for our Well-being Objectives
  3. National Survey for Wales 2021/22 – Carmarthenshire results
  4. Regulatory reports issued during 2021/22
  5. The extent to which we meet ‘performance requirements’
    - a. Departmental analysis
    - b. The Council’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic-unplanned transformation
    - c. Consultation on ‘performance requirements ‘

- 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:*
  - *we are exercising our functions effectively.*
  - *we are using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.*
  - *our governance is effective for securing the above.*
- We also have a duty to consult on the extent to which we meet our performance requirements.
- This report aims to meet these requirements within one document.

**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:**

Ainsley Williams	Director of Place & Infrastructure
Stephen Pilliner	Head of Highways and Transport
Jason G Jones	Property Maintenance Manager
Daniel W John	Head of Waste & Environmental Service
Rhodri D Griffiths	Head of Place and Sustainability
Jackie Edwards	Business Improvement Manager

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

## 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"> <li>• Set and publish well-being objectives</li> </ul>	Corporate Strategy update was published in June 2019, and further updated in May 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish a statement about well-being objectives</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish an annual report of progress</li> </ul>	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

### 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

The requirement to publish a forward-looking Improvement Plan by the end of June and an Annual Report by the end of October no longer applies.

- *The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) replaces the current improvement duty for councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009* para

1.2 Statutory guidance on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) act 2021

The new Act sets a duty to report on performance through self-assessment. It provides that a council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report should be made as soon as reasonably practicable after the financial year to which it relates. However, it is for the council to determine when exactly to do this to best align with its own corporate arrangements. Para 2.28.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>

It is up to Carmarthenshire County Council when it publishes its Annual Report on 2021/22 so long as it is before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. Though it should be as soon as reasonably practicable.

The requirement to produce a self-assessment report is one for the full council or its executive (as a council may determine). Councils will be required to involve a wide range of stakeholders and local people in its self-assessment. In addition, involving members from controlling and opposition groups.

Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services.

*‘Scrutiny committees, as well as internal audit, will be a key part of a council’s self-assessment, and the council should determine and agree how best to involve their scrutiny committees in the self-assessment process itself, not just in considering the outcomes of any self-assessment’.*

The self-assessment report must be published within four weeks of it being finalised and approved in accordance with the council’s agreed processes.

This is the first 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.](#)

Note: Governance and Audit Committee must receive the Annual Report and its feedback considered.

## 3. Finance

Well-being Objective 13 – Better Governance and Use of Resources covers financial matters.

<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AWARE/CONSULTED:</b>	Yes Cllr. Philip Hughes as Cabinet Member with responsibility for performance management has the overall lead for the report however it references the work of all Cabinet portfolio holders.
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<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b>		
<b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>		
<b>THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW</b>		
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		<a href="https://gov.wales/well-being-of-future-generations-wales">https://gov.wales/well-being-of-future-generations-wales</a>
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021		<a href="#">Part 6 of the Act outlines new duties in respect of Performance and Governance of Principal Councils</a>