

**GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE  
16 DECEMBER 2022**

**AUDIT WALES REPORT – REVIEW OF WASTE SERVICE, JULY 2021; UPDATE, DECEMBER 2022**

**Purpose:**

To update on the actions identified in the action plan.

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

To note the progress made by Carmarthenshire County Council in response to the Audit Wales recommendations.

**Reason(s) for recommendation:**

Update only.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Cabinet Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr. Edward Thomas- Cabinet Member for Place & Infrastructure

**Directorate:**  
Place & Infrastructure

Name of Head of Service:  
Daniel W John

Report Author:  
Daniel W John

Designations:

Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services

Interim Head of Waste and Environmental Services.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE  
16 DECEMBER 2022**

**Audit Wales Report – Review of Waste Service, June 2021; Update position December 2022.**

Following Audit Wales’ review of the Council’s waste service, the outcomes and recommendations, together with a high-level action plan were brought to the Governance and Audit Committee in October 2021.

The Audit Wales review was undertaken during the period December 2020 – April 2021.

A brief summary of the findings is provided as follows:

- To date, the Council has met all the statutory recycling targets but has recognised that its current collection arrangements are not sustainable.
- The Council’s Garden waste collection service has doubled its customer base in the last year and is helping to improve its recycling performance, but the service is not yet self-financing.
- The Council’s governance of its arm’s length waste recycling company has improved since it changed its company model, but ongoing risks need to be more clearly identified and mitigated.
- The Council maintained a safe and effective waste service during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Carmarthenshire has a high number of reported fly-tipping incidents and, although the Council is taking some action, it does not have a clear plan to tackle the problem
- The Council has recently drafted a waste strategy to make the waste service more sustainable, but it needs to be finalised and funded
- 8 key recommendations have been made as a result of the audit. These are set out in the Audit Wales Report and the Council’s Action Plan in response to the audit.

An update on the progress of the actions contained in the response plan is attached in Appendix 1.

Following the request for further detail on the waste strategy plans by the Governance and Audit Committee in October 21, a synopsis of the Waste Strategy Implementation Plan is provided in Appendix 2 for information.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

Appendix 1: Update on the progress of the actions contained in the response plan  
Appendix 2: Synopsis of the Waste Strategy Implementation Plan

## 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: **A WILLIAMS**

**Head of Waste & Environmental Services**

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

### Finance

Funding of the future strategy depends on drawing down significant financial contribution from Welsh Government. Funding arrangements have been agreed in principle.

### Risk Management Issues

The risk of not achieving WG recycling targets are considered in the current corporate risk register.

### Staffing Implications

Staffing implications in the long term will form part of the considerations for taking the new waste strategy forward as the potential change in methodology will increase the service's operational resource requirements.

### Physical Assets

Vehicle and other infrastructure asset implications in the long term will form part of the considerations for taking the new waste strategy forward as the potential change in methodology will increase the service's operational vehicle and infrastructure resource requirements.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **D W John**

**Interim Head of Waste & Environmental Services**

- 1. Scrutiny Committee: NA**
- 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 – Cllr Edward Thomas and Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen are aware of the position.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**