

Governance & Audit Committee

14 July 2023

Audit Wales report: Time for Change – Poverty in Wales

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To note the findings and recommendations of the Audit Wales national report.
2. To note the Carmarthenshire County Council response to the recommendations of the national report relevant to the Council.

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,
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit Wales report: Time for Change – Poverty in Wales

This Audit Wales national report looks 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 report includes a total of 8 recommendations focusing on the following key areas:

- National strategy and targets for tackling and alleviating poverty
- Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty
- Leadership on the poverty agenda
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of grant-funded programmes
- Experience mapping to create inclusive services for people in poverty
- Single web landing page for people seeking help
- Streamlining and improving application and information services for people in poverty
- Complying with the socio-economic duty.

The Carmarthenshire response document provides an outline of the Council's response to the recommendations relevant to local government.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
1. Audit Wales Report – Time for Change 2. Carmarthenshire response to recommendations	

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
YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Corporate Strategy

The report's recommendations support the Corporate Strategy and our Well-being Objectives.

Regulatory Reports

- All regulatory report recommendations are entered onto the Council's performance monitoring system (PIMS) and any reasons for discounting recommendations should be explained and recorded. Progress against recommendations is monitored and reported.
- All regulatory reports are considered by lead Director, Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and where appropriate relevant scrutiny committees.

Governance and Audit Committee

- The role of the Governance and Audit Committee is to review and assess the risk management, internal control, performance management and corporate governance arrangements of the Council, it is expected that the council's Governance and Audit Committee formally consider all reports of external review bodies – principally; Audit Wales, Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- As well as actively considering reports, committees are expected to assure themselves that there are arrangements in place to monitor and evaluate progress against any recommendations contained in them. The focus here should be on holding executives and officers to account to ensure that reports and recommendations have been acted upon.

Scrutiny

- Some reports may also be relevant for consideration by scrutiny committees.
- Constitution – Scrutiny -Terms of Reference - item 6

To monitor progress in the undertaking of WA reviews including the recommendation of future service options/performance targets to Cabinet/Council and the monitoring of subsequent action plans

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	Cllr. Linda Davies Evans
YES	

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)		<p>Cymraeg: https://www.audit.wales/cy/publication/amser-am-newid-tlodi-yng-nghymru</p> <p>English: https://www.audit.wales/publication/time-change-poverty-wales</p>