

## Council Response Form

### Council action planned in response to the recommendations issued by Audit Wales

**Council:** Carmarthenshire County Council

**Report title:** Follow Up Review: Overview and Scrutiny Fit for the Future?

**Issue date:** July 2022

**Document reference:** 3097A2022

Ref	Recommendation	Council action planned in response to recommendation issued by Audit Wales	Target date for completion of actions	Responsible officer
R1	<p><b>Fully addressing all previously issued proposals for improvement</b></p> <p>The Council needs to ensure that it acts to fully address the proposals for improvement in the <u>'Overview and Scrutiny: Fit for</u></p>	<p><b>PFI 1</b> – Review the overview and scrutiny committee structure to ensure it is able to meet current and future challenges – Partially met</p> <p>The Cross-Party Constitutional Review Working Group at its meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 has considered this matter and is recommending to the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 meeting of Council that the remits of the Scrutiny Committees change from the traditional model and be aligned with the new Cabinet Member portfolios which were announced by the Leader after the May elections.</p>	September 2022	Linda Rees Jones/Gaynor Morgan

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	<p><u>the Future?</u> report (June 2018) issued by Audit Wales</p>			
		<p><b>PFI 3</b> – Be specific in the reports presented to overview and scrutiny why the committee is receiving the information and how this relates to the role of the scrutiny committee – Partially Met</p> <p>The Cross Party Constitutional Review Working Group on the 20<sup>th</sup> July has considered the ways in which the Scrutiny Committee’s work and agreed a pre-decision scrutiny approach Pre-Cabinet will no longer be systematically referring reports to the Scrutiny Committees and will instead encourage pre-decision Scrutiny by the Committees to assist that approach the Cabinet’s Forward Plan is being strengthened and it will be for the Scrutiny Committees to select the items they wish to be brought before them.</p> <p>CRWG also reiterated the need for all Scrutiny Committees to adopt and employ the gateway document (which has been in existence for some time and promoted by officers).</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged for the 31st August with the Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum to promote the pre-decision scrutiny approach.</p>	October 2022	Linda Rees Jones/Gaynor Morgan

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		<p><b>PFI 5</b> – Identify and implement further ways to encourage greater public involvement in overview and scrutiny – partially met</p> <p>This issue is not unique to Carmarthenshire and is an issue across most if not all Welsh Authorities and confirmed by the Centre for Governance &amp; Scrutiny at the recent member induction session.</p> <p>The Authority does have arrangements in place for the public to involve themselves in Council business, we will work with the Marketing and Media Team to further promote Scrutiny as per the 2018 Scrutiny Communication Plan:-  <a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s63192/Scrutiny%20Communication%20Plan.pdf">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s63192/Scrutiny%20Communication%20Plan.pdf</a></p> <p>The Council has recently published its <u>Public Participation Strategy</u> which provides information on how to get involved in Scrutiny.</p> <p>3 T&amp;CC Topics and 1 public topic have been received since June 2022 and will be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Cttees in Sept when they consider their FWPs.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Linda Rees Jones/Gaynor Morgan</p> <p>Deina M Hockenhill</p>
		<p><b>PFI 6</b> – Put in place arrangements for assessing the effectiveness and impact of overview and scrutiny. – Not Met</p> <p>A self-assessment of the Scrutiny Service was undertaken in late 2019 the results of which were considered by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs</p>	<p>Survey Spring 2023  Analysis September 2023</p>	<p>Linda Rees Jones/Gaynor Morgan</p>

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		<p>Forum in early 2020. The Forum, due to the lack of responses (14 out of 74 members) agreed to undertake a further survey in late 2020. The Authority acknowledges that this has not been done as priority was given to Covid19 matters and the move to virtual meetings. We propose undertaking a further survey in Spring 2023 when the new Scrutiny Structure and pre-decision Scrutiny approach will have had a 6-month bedding in period.</p> <p>Officers are currently looking at alternative templates for Scrutiny Annual Reports and will place options before the Chairs and Vice Chairs Forum in the next few months.</p>		