

# Governance and Audit Committee

## 15 December 2023

<b>Audit Wales Report:</b> <b>Setting Well-being Objectives – Carmarthenshire County Council</b>		
<b>Recommendations / key decisions required:</b> 1. To consider the findings and recommendations of the Audit Wales local report. 2. To note the Carmarthenshire County Council response to the recommendations of the report relevant to the Council.		
<b>Reasons:</b> 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 Philip Hughes, Cabinet Member for Organisation and Workforce		
Chief Executive's Department	Designations:	Tel:
Jason Jones	Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital	<a href="mailto:JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Gwyneth Ayers	Corporate Policy, Performance & Partnership Manager	<a href="mailto:GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Audit Wales Report: Setting Well-being Objectives - Carmarthenshire County Council

### Why the audit was undertaken?

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act) places a 'well-being duty' on 48 public bodies. The duty requires those bodies to set and publish 'well-being objectives' that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving each of the Act's seven national well-being goals. They must also take all reasonable steps, in exercising their functions, to meet those objectives.

The Auditor General must carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives. They are carrying out a rolling programme of these examinations, up to early 2025.

To do something in accordance with the sustainable development principle means acting '*in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'. To achieve this, a public body must take account of the five ways of working: long term; integration; involvement; collaboration; and prevention.

### Key findings

*The Council has applied the sustainable development principle in the setting of its new well-being objectives but could strengthen its arrangements for citizen involvement and monitoring its progress.*

### Report recommendations

The report makes 1 recommendation, and the Council's action plan response is attached.

#### Recommendation1

The Council should build on the progress it has made in applying the sustainable development principle in the setting and delivery of its well-being objectives by:

- a) ensuring that it is able to draw on the views of the full diversity of the population in setting its future well-being objectives;
- b) providing a clearer description in future iterations of its WBOs/Corporate Strategy of how the Council has applied the sustainable development principle in the setting of its WBOs and how its WBOs support the delivery of the national goals;
- c) maintaining the positive momentum around its monitoring and reporting by ensuring that its Divisional/Thematic/Service Delivery Plans identify appropriate actions and measures that continue to provide an effective framework for assessing progress on the delivery of its WBOs; and
- d) ensuring that in future budget setting or refresh of its medium-term financial plan there is clear alignment with the Council's new WBOs, and that there is clarity about how savings targets or known future financial uncertainty might affect the delivery of its WBOs.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES:**

- 1 Audit Wales Report**
- 2 Carmarthenshire Action Plan response**

# 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, Digital & Policy

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

### Regulatory Reports

- National/Thematic reports are undertaken by regulators to look at all Councils in Wales (in an integrated programme of work consulted and agreed upon with local government) to identify best practice.
  - Most of these reports contain recommendations. Sometimes the recommendations are for Welsh Government and/or local government.
  - Not all recommendations contained in reports may apply to Carmarthenshire as in some instances we could be the area of best practice proposed, be already doing what is identified or it may not be applicable.
- 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 will now be considered by Corporate Management Team, 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.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**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)**

**3. Community / Town Council**

**4. Relevant Partners**

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**Cllr. Philip Hughes**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**

**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy 2022-27		<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1231822/corporate-strategy-2022-27.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1231822/corporate-strategy-2022-27.pdf</a>