

Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio
24 Medi 2021

Archwilio Cymru: Adolygiad o Wasanaethau Cynllunio – Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Yr Argymhellion / Penderfyniadau Allweddol Sydd Eu Hangen:

1. I nodi canfyddiadau adroddiad Archwilio Cymru.
2. I nodi ymateb a chynllun gweithredu Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin rhoddwyd I Archwilio Cymru ar Gorffennaf 30ain 2021

Y Rhesymau:

Cynhaliodd Archwilio Cymru yr adolygiad o wasanaethau cynllunio Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin yn dilyn eu gwaith Sicrwydd a Risg a nododd fod y gwasanaeth yn risg bosibl.

Ymgynghorwyd â'r pwyllgor craffu perthnasol: Amherthnasol

Angen i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad: Amherthnasol

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad: Amherthnasol

YR AELOD O'R CABINET SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO: Cyng. Mair Stephens, Dirprwy Arweinydd a Cyng. Philip Hughes, Aelod Cabinet yn gyfrifol am Orfodaeth Cyllunio.

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Amgylchedd

Enw Pennaeth y

Gwasanaeth:

Noelwyn Daniel

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Noelwyn Daniel

Swyddi:

Pennaeth Dros Dro Cynllunio

Rhif ffôn:

01267 226270

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

NDaniel@sirgar.gov.uk

Governance & Audit Committee

24 September 2021

Audit Wales: Review of Planning Services – Carmarthenshire County Council

The Audit Wales review sought to answer the question: Is the planning service meeting its own objectives, and supporting the Council in the delivery of its overall objectives?

Overall, Audit Wales found that: Significant and long-standing performance issues in the planning service need to be urgently addressed to help support delivery of the Council's ambitions. They came to this conclusion because:

- the Council's current arrangements for determining major planning applications need strengthening to help it achieve its regeneration ambitions;
- long-standing, significant performance issues in development management and planning enforcement are undermining effective service delivery; and
- the Council needs to urgently review its performance and service improvement arrangements for its planning service to better serve its customers.

The report includes 17 key recommendations for the Council to address, these are included in the Audit Wales report and action plan.

The Council has already considered the findings and recommendations and prepared a detailed response and action plan which looks to address the issues identified. Noelwyn Daniel has been appointed as Interim Head of Planning and leads the Intervention Board, an Intervention Assurance Board is chaired by the Chief Executive which monitors and challenges progress with implementing the action plan.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

1. Audit Wales Report
2. Carmarthenshire response and action 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: Noelwyn Daniel, Interim Head of Planning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO

Legal

Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation and the Planning Protocol are being proposed that will assist with improving performance of the Planning Division. These will be discussed at CRWG on September 19th 2021.

Finance

There are financial implications with actions taken to address the recommendations of the Audit Wales report. These are being managed within current budget and at the last budget monitoring the Division was projecting an underspend of £102k. There were financial implications identified relating to the undetermined planning application that were outside of the allocated 8-week time.

ICT

Work is being undertaken to identify improvements that can be made to the Planning Services main ICT back-office system, Arcus Global. This work will be prioritised and taken forward by staff within the ICT & Corporate Policy Division.

Risk Management

Risk has been identified from not addressing the Recommendations within the Audit Wales report and the Corporate Risk Register has been updated to articulate these Risks. Financial risk was also identified if the situation regarding the undetermined applications was not addressed urgently.

Staffing

There have been staffing implications relating to the implementation of the actions to address the Audit Wales recommendation. Staff have been appointed into funded vacant posts but recruiting staff is a challenge across the whole planning sector. Staff well-being is vitally important to the authority and everything is being done to support staff as we address these recommendations.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel, Interim Head of Planning

1. Scrutiny Committee: Not Applicable

2. Local Member(s): Not Applicable

3. Community / Town Council: Not Applicable

4. Relevant Partners: Not Applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations: Not Applicable

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

There are none