

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION
by
COUNTY COUNCILLOR RACHEL POWELL
(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, YOUTH,
LIBRARIES AND LEISURE)
August 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: Principal Librarian

SUBJECT: Welsh Public Library Standards; Annual Return for 2016/17

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to give consideration to the submission of the Annual Return to the Welsh Government on the Library Service, for the year 2016/17, (see Appendix A), as required under the Welsh Public Library Standards (5th Framework).
- 1.2. The Welsh Government has a supervisory and monitoring role in relation to the 22 Library Authorities in Wales.
- 1.3. Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) were first developed in 2002. The period 2014 -2017 is covered by a fifth performance framework, this being the final year of this framework. Under the framework, the Authority's performance is measured annually against a set of Standards and a range of key Performance Indicators.
- 1.4. The Standards are intended to help define the responsibilities of library authorities in providing a "comprehensive and efficient" service under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The performance framework aims to:
 - Safeguard the improvements achieved since 2002
 - Protect library services from disproportionate resource reductions
 - Reflect the ways in which libraries can make significant contributions to the delivery of key national policy agendas
 - Provide a suitable tool to support the management of services, and to ensure that services are delivered efficiently

2. Proposal

2.1 To approve the Annual Return to Welsh Government on the Library Service 2016/17, as required under the Welsh Public Library Standards.

3. Options Considered / Available

3.1 The Authority is obliged to comply with the reporting requirements of the performance framework and of the Welsh Public Library Standards.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

4.1 That the submission is noted, to aid compliance with the Welsh Public Library Standards. The subsequent report on performance from Welsh Government will be brought back to Scrutiny and Cabinet later in the year.

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

6.1 During the year of the report, Powys Library Service contributed to the achievement of the One Powys Plan and Powys 2020 vision, values and priorities; in particular:

6.1.2 Reflecting the council's values: we will work together to meet the needs of Powys citizens, delivering high performance and value for our communities, providing our residents with accessibility to services, through a professional, positive, progressive, open and collaborative approach.

6.1.3 Remodelling our services for reduced funding through redesigning our approach, working together with our communities and enabling joined up services for Powys citizens through public and third sector partnerships.

6.1.4. Supporting people within the Powys Community to lead fulfilled lives:

- Older people are supported to engage and take part in community life through visiting the library
- Carers have a good sense of wellbeing, through access to social and leisure opportunities
- Access to Book Prescription Schemes, and providing a boost to mental and emotional wellbeing through reading and social interaction
- Encouraging people to lead active and healthier lives

- Building stronger communities through bringing people together in a safe and trusted environment

6.1.5 Supporting development of the local economy through support for job seekers and small businesses, provision of broadband and ICT facilities, with trained staff to help with getting started.

6.1.6. Supporting improved learner outcomes for all, minimising disadvantage through:

- Addressing poverty, particularly child poverty, through offering a service which is free at the point of delivery
- Supporting children and young people to achieve their full potential through promotion of literacy and provision of a wide range of resources, facilities and activities to promote active learning.
- Provision of a wide range of resources in varying formats including electronic formats, for learners of all ages

6.2 Risks: Any reduction in public library provision in Powys would impact badly on the beneficial outcomes provided, some of which are described above, and would attract public dissatisfaction, negative publicity and the potential for legal challenge. Balancing this with service delivery under reducing budgets is an ongoing risk to the authority.

6.2.1. Failure of the Welsh Public Library Standards can result in intervention from Welsh Government, and ultimately in removal of the public library powers from the local authority.

7. Local Member(s)

7.1 Not applicable

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? No

If so please provide their comments

9. **Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

Communications Comment: Information item no proactive communication action required.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 Legal - The Professional Lead-Legal agrees with the proposal outlined in order to aid compliance with the Welsh Public Library Standards

10.2 Finance - The annual submission is noted to aid compliance with the Welsh Public Library Standards and has no budgetary implications.

10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate)

10.4 HR (if appropriate)

10.5 ICT (if appropriate)

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

If Yes what version or date of report has been scrutinised?

Please insert the comments.

What changes have been made since the date of Scrutiny and explain why Scrutiny recommendations have been accepted or rejected?

11.1

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments by Finance.

12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest she should declare it, complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to the cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That the Annual Return on the Library Service 2016/17 contained in Appendices A-E of the report, be approved for submission to the Welsh Government	To aid compliance with the requirements of the Welsh Public Library Standards.

Relevant Policy (ies):	Welsh Public Library Standards Framework		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Principal Librarian
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Appendix A: Powys Library Service Annual Return to Welsh Government, 2016/17

Appendix B: Powys Library Service Case Studies 2016/17

Appendix C: Powys Library Service future direction statement 2016/17

Appendix D: Powys Library Service contribution to national strategies 2016/17

Appendix E: “Libraries making a difference; the 5th framework of Welsh Public Library Standards 2014-17”