



CABINET – 9TH DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL LIBRARY STANDARDS ASSESSMENT 2014-2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 1.1.1 The report, which detailed the progress made by the County Borough Library Service in seeking to meet the 5th Framework of Welsh Government Public Library Standards, Core Entitlements, and Qualitative Indicators, during 2014-15, and provided a guide to the new features contained in the 2014-2017 Welsh Government Public Library Standards Framework, was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 3rd November 2015.
- 1.2 Members noted that this is the 1st year of the new Framework that will operate until 31st March 2017 and includes a number of new assessment areas with a focus on outcome and qualitative measures in addition to more traditional standards of attainment.
- 1.3 Caerphilly County Borough was assessed as meeting 17 of the 18 Welsh Government Core Entitlements for Public Library Service provision, with one Entitlement met in part. The Borough Library Service was deemed as meeting 6 of the 7 Quality Indicators for Wales with none failed in totality and was described by the Assessors and Reference Panel as being a "strong performer" within Wales achieving a number of indicators that other Council's have failed to achieve.
- 1.4 It was noted that, the Assessment Group stated that "Caerphilly Library Service is a strong performer and is to be congratulated on its high visits and active borrower figures per capita. It is also meeting several targets which most other authorities are failing".
- 1.5 However, the Welsh Government Public Libraries Standards Reference Group noted a number of areas of performance that were below the average for Wales and required further attention by the Borough Council in order to continue to deliver a strong performing service in the future. These included informal training for customers, increasing the use of Public Computer Services and providing Wi-Fi to customers in the additional one third of static Library bases that do not currently offer the service.
- 1.6 The Scrutiny Committee noted the positive report and that overall the assessment of the County Borough Council's Public Library Service for 2014-2015 was positive and complementary of the investment and strategic leadership the Authority has provided over a number of years.
- 1.7 Following consideration and discussion of the report, the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein:
 - (i) the information received from the County Borough Library Service with regard to its performance for 2014-2015 in working towards achieving the 5th Framework of Welsh Government Public Library Standards, 2014-2017 be noted;

- (ii) the Welsh Government's Public Library Standard Reference Group assessment of this performance (as detailed in the appendices to the report), and the Authority's attainment of 17 Core Entitlements and 6 Quality Indicators that have target levels of attainment be noted;
- (iii) in noting that the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee have endorsed its content, the Welsh Government Public Library Standards Annual Report 2014-2015 be approved.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Report dated 3rd November 2015.