

Carmarthenshire County Council – Annual Audit Summary 2025

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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

Introduction



Adrian Crompton

Auditor General for
Wales

I am pleased to share my Annual Audit Summary for Carmarthenshire County Council (the Council). It summarises the main findings from my 2025 audit work undertaken to fulfil my responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

I provided an opinion on whether the accounts were properly prepared and gave a true and fair view, in all material aspects.

My audit team has also assessed whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness

in its use of resources, and has acted in line with the sustainable development principle. In doing so, my audit team has reviewed the Council's risk management and cyber security arrangements. As set out in my audit plan, these reviews have been carried out in line with the [International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions \(INTOSAI\) standards](#).

The detailed audit findings for each of my reviews are set out in the respective reports which my audit team have presented throughout the year. The performance audit reports are available on the [Audit Wales website](#) and further links are available in the summary.

The Annual Audit Summary should be shared with the Governance and Audit Committee. I will then make the summary available to the public on the [Audit Wales website](#).

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Council's officers for their help and cooperation throughout my audit.

Your audit at a glance



I received the draft accounts in line with the statutory deadline of 30 June 2025. The quality of the draft accounts and working papers was good.



I issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts in advance of the statutory deadline of 31 October 2025. There were no uncorrected misstatements in the accounts. There was one other significant issue reported.



My performance audit work found that there remains scope to strengthen how the Council identifies the most significant risks to achieving its strategic objectives.



My audit team made recommendations to the Council in each of the reviews. These included strengthening its arrangements for risk identification, management and reporting.



There is still some work outstanding from my Audit Plan dated April 2025. My team expects to complete this work by June 2026.

Audit of accounts findings

Preparing annual accounts is an essential part of demonstrating the stewardship of public money. The accounts show the organisation's financial performance and set out its net assets/reserves, total comprehensive income and expenditure, and cash flows. My annual audit of those accounts provides an opinion on whether the accounts were properly prepared and gave a true and fair view, in all material aspects.

My responsibilities in auditing the accounts are described in my [Statement of Responsibilities](#) publications, which are available on the [Audit Wales website](#).

The draft accounts were presented for audit on 30 June 2025. This was in accordance with the deadline of 30 June 2025 set by the Welsh Government. The quality of the draft accounts presented for audit was generally good.

My audit opinion

I must report issues arising from my work to those charged with governance for consideration before I issue my audit opinion on the accounts. I reported these issues within my Audit of Accounts Report to the Governance and Audit Committee on 24 September 2025.

Accuracy of preparation

A number of changes were made to the draft accounts arising from my audit work.

There were no uncorrected misstatements.

There was one other significant issue reported in relation to strengthening the supporting evidence for and accounting of leases.

My work did not identify any material weaknesses in internal controls (as relevant to my audit), and I made no recommendations.

The Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements and with my knowledge of the Council.

I concluded that the Council's accounts were properly prepared and materially accurate and issued an unqualified audit opinion on them.

Audit completion

I issued the certificate confirming that the audit of accounts for 2024-25 was completed on 25 September 2025.

Other accounts work still underway

In addition to my responsibilities for auditing the Council's accounts, I also have responsibility for the certification of a number of grant claims and returns.

The work to date has not identified any significant issues.

At the time of reporting, my audit team were still undertaking grants work at the Council. This work is due to be completed by 31 January 2026.

Performance audit findings

Review of corporate risk management arrangements

My team looked at whether the Council's corporate risk management arrangements support the delivery of its strategic objectives.

I found that it is clear that senior leaders in Carmarthenshire emphasise the importance of managing corporate risks. Positively, the Council has reviewed and evaluated its arrangements in recent years. However, it has yet to fully embed previous recommendations. This means that our audit has found similar areas for improvement to those highlighted in previous reviews. For example, there remains scope to strengthen how the Council identifies the most significant risks to achieving its strategic objectives.

I made four recommendations aimed at improving the Council's risk management arrangements. These cover risk identification, management, monitoring and reporting, as well as the Council's evaluation of its arrangements.

Audit of cyber security arrangements

My team looked at the Council's cyber security and resilience arrangements.

Due to the nature of the topic, the Council's Governance and Audit Committee determined to receive our report in exempt session, and therefore this report is not published on our website.

Performance audit work still underway

At the time of reporting, the following reviews from the 2025 Audit Plan are ongoing at the Council:

- thematic review – recruitment and retention challenges;
- local review – counter fraud; and
- local review – highways maintenance.

In addition to the above reviews, we will also publish our regional review of Unscheduled Care arrangements across Health and Local Government.

Audit quality

Our commitment to audit quality in Audit Wales is absolute. We believe that audit quality is about getting things right first time.

We use three lines of assurance to show how we achieve this. We have set up an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and our Chair of the Board, acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our [Audit Quality Report 2024](#).



Our People

- Selection of right team
- Use of specialists
- Supervisions and review



Arrangements for achieving audit quality Selection of right team

- Audit platform
- Ethics
- Guidance
- Culture
- Learning and development
- Leadership
- Technical support



Independent assurance

- EQRs
- Themed reviews
- Cold reviews
- Root cause analysis
- Peer review
- Audit Quality Committee
- External monitoring

Further information

Audit Wales has a range of other information to support the scrutiny of Welsh public bodies and to continue to improve the services provided to the people of Wales.

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Information on our upcoming work and forward work programme for [performance audit](#).



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