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Mr Mark James CBE
Chief Executive
Carmarthenshire County Council
County Hall
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Reference	626A2013
Date	29 November 2013
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Dear Mark

Improvement Assessment

In my letter of 3 September 2013, I gave my opinion on whether Carmarthenshire County Council (the Council) had discharged its statutory duties in respect of improvement planning.

I am also required, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to give an opinion on whether the Council has discharged its duties in respect of improvement reporting and met the requirements of the Measure.

In my opinion, and based on audit work undertaken to date the Council has discharged its improvement reporting duties under the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance

I have reached this conclusion because:

- the Council published an assessment of its performance during 2012-13 in its *Annual Report and Improvement Plan* (the Annual Report) before 31 October 2013;
- the Annual Report assesses the Council's performance in the preceding financial year (2012-13) and sets out how the Council has sought to discharge its duties under the Measure;
- the Annual Report evaluates the Council's success in achieving its improvement objectives and expresses its view clearly in a fair and balanced way;
- the Annual Report includes information for citizens who want to provide feedback or make comments on the content;

- the Annual Report includes details of performance and comparisons as measured by the national statutory performance indicators; and
- the Annual Report includes information on the ways in which the Council has sought to collaborate.

Further proposals for improvement

No new proposals for improvement are being suggested in this letter. I will continue to monitor and report on the progress made by the Council in implementing the proposals set out in my previous reports and letters.

I will undertake more detailed work on the arrangements that support the Council's performance management and reporting over the following months and report this, as well as summarising all of my work and that of relevant regulators during 2013-14, in an Annual Improvement Report for the Council that I will publish by the end of March 2014.

Yours sincerely,



HUW VAUGHAN THOMAS
Auditor General for Wales

cc: Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business