



HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST FEBRUARY 2022

**SUBJECT: DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR ECONOMY
AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES - SIX MONTH UPDATE 2021/22**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Scrutiny with the 6-month Economy and Environment Directorate Performance Assessment Report, which is part of the Council's Performance Management Framework.
- 1.2 The Performance Assessment (referred to hereafter as the DPA) is the Directorate's self-assessment and forms part of the Council's overall self-assessment activity. It provides information and analysis for the 6-month period April to September 2021. Members are invited to discuss, challenge, and scrutinise the range of information in the DPA.
- 1.3 Members should note that the Directorate for Economy and Environment reports to 2 Scrutiny Committees, and for the purpose of this meeting, the focus will therefore be, on the Planning and Regeneration service aspects of the DPA. Consequently, the DPA will also be considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on the 8 February 2022 in relation to the other services within the Directorate.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's revised Performance Framework was endorsed by Cabinet in February 2020 and this report introduces one of the key components of the framework, the Directorate Performance Assessment (DPA). The DPA is a 'self-assessment' of the Directorate's progress across a wide range of information types and meets our 'duty as a principal council to keep our performance under review'.
- 2.2 DPA's are an opportunity to bring together a range of information and intelligence into one picture, to answer the self-assessment questions of 'how well are we performing? how do we know? And, what and how can we do better?'

Appendix 1 is the Economy and Environment Services Performance Assessment 6-month update for 2021/22.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members review the attached document (Appendix 1) and discuss, challenge, and scrutinise the information contained within, for the Planning and Regeneration service aspects only.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Scrutiny Members are involved in the 'self-assessment' process by scrutinising the information within the Directorate Performance Assessment. This also supports the principles within the new section (Part 6, Chapter 1) of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act which provides for a new performance and governance regime for principal councils.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Performance Framework has been developed to meet several strategic and operational needs, as well as to meet the legislation and further the Council's desire to be a high performing learning organisation, focused on meeting the needs of its residents. The framework was piloted in 2019 and endorsed by Cabinet in February 2020 and now is reported as a regular part of scrutiny committees. This report introduces and shares the Economy and Environment (the DPA) Report for the 6-month update 2021/22.
- 5.2 The spirit of the DPA (Appendix 1) is about providing learning. The DPA is less about performance and targets (though they have their place) and is more so, to provide a wider picture of performance that will support reflective and challenging conversations and scrutiny that will ultimately lead to learning and further improvement.
- 5.3 **Conclusion**

This DPA covers the period April 2021 to September 2021.

Services continue to respond well to the ongoing pandemic and our largely seamless delivery of services continue despite the challenges of Covid-19.

Significant progress has been made on the Caerphilly Town 2035 strategy and the many projects that sit within it, although it is accepted that there is more work to do on the larger elements of the project.

The authority has been successful in securing Community Renewal Funding (CRF) totalling circa £1.3m for a number of private/ 3rd sector led projects. CCBC will now be tasked with administering the CRF (as well as formulating other funding bids such as those required for the Levelling Up Fund) which will be a significant challenge without additional staff.

Good progress is being made in the regeneration and transport areas with significant regional work progressing in areas such as Regeneration of the Heads Of The Valleys, regional transport initiatives such as metro+ and bus services, although there are also challenges ahead in terms of the future of bus services.

Colleagues from across the services, wider organisation and communities have been incredible through the recent extraordinarily challenging times and it is important that this DPA is considered through the lens of these efforts and the wider pandemic response.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions thought to be required within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report is for information only and on this basis an integrated impact assessment is not required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications within this report, however the DPA (appendix 1) has a section on resources including relevant budget outturns as part of the overall self-assessment of the directorate.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications within this report, although the DPA (appendix 1) has a section called 'resources' which provides data on a range of workforce aspects.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Any consultation responses have been included with in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Author: Mark S Williams -Corporate Director for Economy and Environment

Consultees: Councillor John Ridgewell, Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Mike Adams, Vice Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Planning and Fleet
Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy & Enterprise
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager
Ian Raymond, Business Improvement Support
Sharon Hughes, Committee Support Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Economy & Environment - Directorate Performance Assessment (DPA)
- April to Sept 2021