



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH FEBRUARY 2022

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

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND
ENVIRONMENT**

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.

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 and the services within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee include Infrastructure, Community and Leisure Services, Public Protection and Land & Property Services. The Regeneration and Planning Service is the remit of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members review the attached document (Appendix 1) and discuss, challenge, and scrutinise the information contained within.

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.

Many services that were paused or scaled back as a result of the pandemic response have now restarted, with notable examples being full leisure centre provision (with the exception of Pontllanfraith LC which remains a mass vaccination centre), implementation of food standards inspections, targeted activity to deal with the perpetrators of fly tipping and householder duty of care via enforcement processes and progressing tasks and work streams linked to the decarbonisation agenda and reducing the impact of our own vehicle fleet (although there is a lot more to be done).

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.

There are several significant challenges that services are facing in relation to

recruitment and retention of key staff (particularly in property, engineering and fleet management and maintenance). This matter has been escalated corporately as it is mirrored in certain corporate services such as IT. The organisations ability to deal with this recruitment and retention crisis will have an impact on its ability to deliver high profile projects moving forward and/or to deliver key frontline 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

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Consultees: Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection

Councillor Jamie Pritchard, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Property
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Planning and Fleet
Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member for Learning & Leisure
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
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)
Ian Raymond, Business Improvement Support

Appendices:

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