



JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH NOVEMBER 2022

SUBJECT: ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT (INCLUDING WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES) 2021/22

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Scrutiny with the Annual Self-assessment Report for 2021/22. The report also includes an update of the Well-being Objectives for 2021/22.
- 1.2 The Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 requires a draft of the self-assessment to be approved by Governance and Audit Committee prior to coming to Joint Scrutiny. The draft attached (Part 1, Appendix 1) was approved by Governance and Audit Committee on 11 October 2022.
- 1.3 Following Scrutiny, the report will go on to be presented to Council on 24 November 2022.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The self-assessment report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. It is an important part of the Council's performance framework. This is the first time the Council has been required to produce a self-assessment report which replaces the former Annual Performance Report.
- 2.2 The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance.
- 2.3 The Council must also report progress against the six Well-being Objectives set out within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023. This report includes an update on the fourth year of the Corporate Plan.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members review the Self-assessment Report (including Well-being Objectives) 2021/22 (Appendix 1) and discuss, challenge, and scrutinise the information contained within.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to publish a self-assessment report and it should be made available as soon as reasonably practicable after the financial year to which it relates.
- 4.2 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 replaces the improvement duty for principal councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. The new approach as set out in the Act is designed to be a more streamlined, flexible, sector-led approach to performance, good governance and improvement. The intention is for councils to be proactive in considering how internal processes and procedures should change to enable more effective planning, delivery and decision-making to drive better outcomes.

Under the Act we have duty to keep performance under review the extent to which we are fulfilling the 'performance requirements' that is, the extent to which we are:

- exercising our functions effectively.
 - using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
 - has effective governance in place for securing the above
- 4.3 Scrutiny Members are involved in the 'self-assessment' process by scrutinising the information within the report. This supports the principles within Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 statutory guidance.
- 4.4 The guidance says that council executives should welcome and encourage scrutiny inquiries to make recommendations for system improvements. The aim is to support councils to build on existing strengths and to support them to achieve a more innovative, open, honest, transparent and ambitious sector, challenging itself and collectively driving up service delivery outcomes and standards.
- 4.5 The guidance also states that principal councils are responsible for:
- Conducting robust self-assessments and reporting on the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements in order to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its local communities.
 - Setting out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements, including, for example, the role of scrutiny in challenging and driving the extent to which the performance requirements are being met.
 - Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services. Scrutiny committees, as well as internal audit, will be a key part of a council's self-assessment.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This report introduces the Annual Self-assessment Report (including Well-being Objectives) 2021/22 (Appendix 1).

- 5.2 The intention of self-assessment is to provide and act on organisational learning and provide an ongoing process of review about how good our performance is and where it could be better. From this learning we produce a self-assessment report.
- 5.3 The statutory guidance says that self-assessment can be achieved by using intelligence already held corporately in an insightful way and reflecting at a strategic level on how the council is operating, and what action is needed to ensure it can continue to provide effective services now and for the long term.
- 5.4 The Council's 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.
- 5.5 The Council was involved in the creation of the statutory guidance, so the Directorate Performance Assessments (DPA) and the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA), key documents in our Performance Framework, were designed with this in mind. Much of the information contained within the report is sourced from the DPA's and CPA, in addition to other council reports, including the Annual Governance Statement and Financial Reports.
- 5.6 The self-assessment process will produce a summary of the learning which has emerged from the self-assessment process. We have chosen a range of information to use that will be reviewed to reach our conclusions under the following headings:
- Corporate Planning
 - Financial Planning
 - Workforce Planning
 - Procurement
 - Assets
 - Risk Management
 - Performance Management
 - Other Key Council Health Checks
- 5.7 The report also includes a progress update of the six Well-being Objectives contained within the Council's Corporate Plan (2018-2023), which was endorsed by Cabinet in April 2018. The Objectives will remain in place until 2023.
- 5.8 Each of the six Well-being Objectives has a series of outcomes which sets out what the Council hopes to achieve on behalf of citizens. This report sets out the progress made against those six objectives during 2021/22.
- 5.9 As part of the self-evaluation process that underpins the report the Council has set out in each section of the Well-being Objective:
- What went well this year
 - What did not go well and what have we learned
 - What difference have we made
 - Our focus for the future

5.10 Summary of progress of the Well-being Objectives

Well-being Objective	Summative Judgement
1. Improve education opportunities for all	Progressing well
2. Enabling employment	Progressing well
3. Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being	Progressing well
4. Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimizes the adverse impacts on the Environment	Progressing well
5. Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Progressing well
6. Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being	Progressing well

5.11 Conclusion

The self-assessment provides a platform to celebrate the activity that has gone well, reflect on the areas that need to be improved and to identify new approaches and interventions to support future progress.

The past few years have provided a number of significant challenges as we navigated through a global pandemic. Overnight, at the start of covid, we turned our organisation on its head – introducing many new services and turning others off within a matter of hours – all to meet the new and urgent needs of our community.

We responded quickly and we responded together. Throughout this time, we saw first-hand the forceful impact of Team Caerphilly - bound together through a shared purpose and desire to do whatever was needed to protect our people and place.

Now, as we emerge from covid we are faced with new challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis, the climate emergency, social care pressures and ongoing budgetary pressures which are expected to worsen over the coming years.

The Council's Performance Framework has been developed to meet several strategic and operational needs, as well as to meet the legislation. It is an ongoing process that allows the Council to act on organisational learning, review its performance and recognise where it could improve.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made or were thought necessary, for this report that are not already contained within the report.
- 6.2 Unless a specific Well-being Objective is judged as delivered in its entirety, or assessment of data and public consultation responses change direction significantly,

it is assumed the Well-being Objectives will continue throughout the course of the remaining year of the Corporate Plan.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 No Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed for this report although individual assessments may have been made to support activity within the Well-being Objectives. Page 14 of the Self-assessment Report provides a brief update on our Welsh Language and equalities work. Delivery of the Well-being Objectives maximises our contribution to all the national well-being goals including 'A More Equal Wales'.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Page 7 in the Self-assessment Report provides information on Financial Planning.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personal implications arising from this Report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated within this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and associated statutory guidance

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Background Papers:

[Corporate Plan 2018-2023](#)

[Statutory guidance on Part 6, Chapter 1, of the Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Self-assessment Report (including Well-being Objectives) 2021/22