



SPECIAL COUNCIL – 24TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 2019/20

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. The report sought Cabinet's approval of the Annual Performance Report for 2019/20 prior to its onward submission for noting by full Council.
2. The Annual Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and forms an important part of the Council's performance framework. It is also a statutory requirement that the Annual Performance Report is published by 31st October 2020.
3. Cabinet noted that the Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance. The Council must also report progress against the six Well-being Objectives set out within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023. The report covers the second year of the Corporate Plan.
4. The response to the COVID pandemic has brought a refinement to the prior year approach with the report being provided in a shorter, more accessible format focussed on highlighting the key impacts.
5. It was noted that Welsh Government suspended the need to provide certain data sets this year and consequently no public Accountability Measures have been collected across Wales by the Welsh Local Government Association. As a result, there are no national comparators or rankings available for this year's report.
6. The Wales Audit Office is required to check whether an authority has complied with the statutory duty and to issue a 'certificate of compliance' in response. The Annual Performance Report demonstrates to the Wales Audit Office how the Council has met this duty.
7. A Cabinet Member sought further information around the reason for the 5% decrease in Child Assessments being undertaken on time. Officers explained that there are a number of reasons for this, which includes the complexity of the child's needs, which could, as a result, require a multiagency and partnership approach, causing a delay in the assessment. In addition, was noted that there were several vacancies in the Children's Services team last year, which, as a result of additional funding, these have now been filled, but have caused a back log. Many of the new recruits were also newly qualified Social Workers, which often required accompanying, as part of their induction and learning process. Members were assured however, that whilst

there was some delay with assessments, the primary aim is quality of assessment, ensuring a child has all their needs met.

8. A Cabinet Member sought further information around the Energy Efficiency Grant and whether the scheme is likely to improve in coming years. Officers explained that this can be problematic, especially considering the housing stock and significant upfront costs, however the Council and Welsh Government remain committed to the scheme. Members were asked to note that as a result of the pandemic, there completion of the WHQS scheme has been delayed, but were assured that fuel efficiency is next on the agenda following this.
9. Discussions took place around Well-being Objective 1 and the decrease in families benefitting from the Families First Programme. Officers explained that as a result of vacancies, as well as challenges of the Pandemic and a reshuffle across the Early Years and Family Schemes, there has been a need for other services to offer support to families, usually considered by Families First. As a result of this some families and services have not been counted in the usual robust way.
10. A Cabinet Member sought further information around the incidents of fly-tipping and enforcement action undertaken. Whilst it was noted that there has been an increase in enforcement action, 18 out of the 1477 reports can appear to be low. Officers assured Cabinet that there is significant work undertaken in this area, however it is often very difficult to enforce. Fly tipping often takes place in secluded beauty spots, and without evidence, such as catching culprits in the act of evidence within the materials, it can be very difficult to enforce action. Members were asked to note however that this is a growing issue nationally, and consideration is being given to covert surveillance in order to mitigate the issue.
11. Members discussed the homelessness issue and it was noted that 73% of Homelessness cases were prevented in 2019/20 but further information was sought around expectations going forward. Officers explained that this is difficult to predict, but it is anticipated that there will be an increase in homelessness cases. Welsh Government have clearly expressed that homelessness on the streets is to be prevented at all costs and whilst this is difficult to manage with lockdown closing hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation, which is often the temporary accommodation solution, further work is underway with Registered Social Landlords to look at alternative options for accommodation.
12. The recommendation of the report was considered and approved by Cabinet.
13. Members are therefore asked to note the recommendations of the report and Cabinet decision

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Appendices: Report to Cabinet 28th October 2020 – Agenda Item 9.