

Report to	County Council
Date of meeting	July 6, 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets / Alan Smith, Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation
Report author	Nicola Kneale, Strategic Planning Team Manager / Iolo McGregor, Strategic Planning and Performance Team Leader
Title	Annual Performance Review 2020 to 2021

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report accompanies the council's draft Annual Performance Review for 2020 to 2021 (attached at appendix 1), providing our quarterly and end of year analysis, and highlighting specific projects and action for delivery in 2021 to 2022.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To provide information regarding the council's progress in delivering Corporate Plan outcomes as at quarter 4, 2020 to 2021, meeting our statutory obligation to publish an annual report on performance by October 31 under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. It also responds to our duty around equality monitoring (under the Equality Act 2010 and Wales Measure 2011, which includes the new Socio Economic Duty); our contributions to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and for the first time, responds to the requirement to self-assess under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

2.2. To inform members about Corporate Plan projects planned for delivery in 2021 to 2022, which the council is required to publish to meet its improvement duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

- 2.3. Regular reporting is an essential monitoring requirement of the council's performance management framework. We monitor our performance regularly, taking quarterly reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings, and produce an Annual Performance Review to evaluate progress.
- 2.4. A decision is required to approve the Annual Performance Review 2020 to 2021.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. It is recommended that, subject to any agreed changes, Council approve the Annual Performance Review 2020 to 2021.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The council's Corporate Plan 2017 to 2022 sets the strategic direction for the council and its priorities for the five-year period. The detail about what the council intends to do each year to help deliver these priorities is set out in annual service plans. The projects originate from Service and Programme Plans. Progress will be reported to Performance Scrutiny, Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team through our Quarterly Performance Reports.
- 4.2. This annual performance report provides a retrospective evaluation of the council's success in delivering against these plans during 2020 to 2021, and whether the council has successfully fulfilled its obligation to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement. It also looks ahead to what will be delivered in 2021 to 2022.
- 4.3. It includes for the first time a new 'pilot' chapter to satisfy the need to self-assess under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. It focuses on seven key governance areas. Drawing on available published evidence from internal and external sources, and looking at data agreed by Senior Managers, the chapter paints a wider picture about the context in which the council is operating when delivering its performance objectives. It also seeks to draw out any key actions to improve performance going forward. The report has been drafted in this way following independent advice received through the WLGA, and we are assured that, combined with our usual evaluation of performance against our corporate priorities, it will meet the new requirement to produce an annual self-assessment under the Act.

4.4. In addition to our new chapter on Corporate Health, appendix 1 contains narrative on progress in delivering our corporate priorities, including the current status and programme progress. Within each corporate priority subsection there are also Well-being and Equality sections that capture our contributions to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and the Equality Act 2010 and Wales Measure 2011 (which includes the socio-economic duty). In addition to Equality and Diversity, we also evaluate our contributions to Welsh Language and Sustainable Development, and draw out any key messages from our regulators and nationally published data. The Corporate Project Register and Corporate Risk Register can also be found at the back of the document.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The Annual Performance Review includes an evaluation of the council's success in delivering against its corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There is no additional cost associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment (WIA) is not required for this report. A WIA was undertaken on the Corporate Plan itself, and was presented to County Council when the plan was approved in October 2017. Individual projects / programmes of work within the Corporate Plan will subsequently have been individually assessed, as any new actions will be going forward.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. The report has been developed by the Strategic Planning Team, in consultation with other council services. Feedback has already been sought on the report from SLT, Corporate Governance and Audit Committee (now being required under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021), Performance Scrutiny and Cabinet. Following County Council, the report will be published on our website.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. There are no significant financial implications arising from the report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. Failure to publish the Annual Review by the October 31 deadline would be likely to result in statutory recommendations from the Wales Audit Office, with significant implications for the reputation of the council.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. The Corporate Plan and the Annual Performance Review are key elements of the Wales Programme for Improvement (2010), which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. Going forward, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act will apply.