

Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date of meeting	04 October 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets / Nicola Kneale, Joint Acting Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation
Report author	Iolo McGregor, Strategic Planning and Performance Team Leader
Title	Audit Wales Report - Delivering Sustained Performance Improvement

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. To give an overview of the Audit Wales report on Delivering Sustained Performance Improvement, and subsequent management response. This cover report provides highlights from the review, including its scope and key outcomes.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To detail the review conducted by Audit Wales on the council's arrangements for managing its performance.
- 2.2. To detail the management response that responds to the recommendations made by Audit Wales.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee confirms it has read, understood and taken account of the content and recommendations in the Audit Wales report on Delivering Sustained Performance Improvement (Appendix 1).

- 3.2. That the Committee notes the agreed actions in the management response (Appendix 2).

4. Report details

- 4.1. Between June 2021 and September 2021, Audit Wales carried out a review of the Council's corporate performance management arrangements, involving document reviews, interviews and focus groups with officers and councillors, and virtual meeting observations. The review examined in particular Environmental and Young People's services as tracers to evidence how the corporate arrangements were being deployed in service areas.
- 4.2. The review sought to answer the question: Are the Council's performance management arrangements robust and likely to support continuous and sustainable improvement as it rebalances from the impact of Covid-19?
- 4.3. The review concluded that the council's Performance Management Framework and arrangements for measuring and reporting performance are effective, with some opportunities to improve the use of the performance management software. The council could also look to improve performance reporting of non-priority areas; how finance and performance information are considered simultaneously; and that staff 1:1s are recorded in an accurate and timely manner.
- 4.4. Four recommendations were made by Audit Wales, and appendix 2 outlines the council's intended action in response to these.

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

- 5.1. The report does not have a direct impact upon the current Corporate Plan priorities for 2017 to 2022. However, it does provide assurance that our processes for measuring the progress of our priorities are good, giving us something to build upon as we take forward our next Corporate Plan framework for 2022 – 2027.

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

- 6.1. There is no financial or resource implications arising from this report.

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

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment is not required for this report – no change or decision is required.

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

8.1. The Audit Wales review has been undertaken with relevant officers and lead members across the council. Likewise, the report and management response has been agreed with input from key officers and lead members prior to publication.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. A statement is not required for this report.

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

10.1. There are no significant risks arising from this report.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. No decision is required.