

<b>Report to</b>	Full Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	July 4, 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
<b>Head of Service</b>	Nicola Kneale, Interim Head of Service Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital and Assets
<b>Report author</b>	Emma Horan, Planning and Performance Officer
<b>Title</b>	Council Performance Self-Assessment 2022 to 2023

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. This report accompanies the council's Performance Self-Assessment for 2022 to 2023, which is appended. These reports provide our end of year analysis of progress and challenges with our key performance objectives (i.e. our Corporate Plan themes), and for the first time presents data against the new Corporate Plan's performance management framework.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 Regular reporting is an essential monitoring requirement of the council's performance management framework and our statutory duties in relation to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Equality Act 2010 and Wales Measure 2011, and our contributions to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2.2 We monitor our performance regularly, taking quarterly reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings. Our Executive Summary, presented alongside this report, provides an evaluative statement of our progress.

2.3 A decision is required to approve the Council Performance Self-Assessment 2022 to 2023.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. It is recommended that, subject to any agreed changes, Council approve the Performance Self-Assessment 2022 to 2023.

### **4. Report details**

- 4.1 With this report, we present two documents. Appendix I presents our Executive Summary, which seeks to draw out the highlights of our performance against our objectives (i.e. our Corporate Plan themes that are also our Well-being and Equality Objectives) and the seven governance areas prescribed in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The short paragraphs within this document are effectively our statement of performance against our functions, also looking ahead to the challenges that we face and areas for improvement. We have introduced a new section within this report called 'Overall, how well are we doing?'. This section highlights areas we should focus on to ensure performance can be sustained and where needed, improved.
- 4.2 Appendix II is our familiar quarterly Performance Update Report, which is our process for ongoing self-assessment and embodies all the evidence (internal and external) and analysis that seeks to answer the questions of 'How well are we doing', 'How do we know', and 'What and how can we do better'? This Performance Update Report presents the latest picture covering January to March 2023, and is the first performance report for our new Corporate Plan performance management framework. The new Corporate Plan and associated performance management framework is significantly larger than our last, but we have managed to keep the report to the same size as our previous reports. Services and the Strategic Planning Team have done a great deal of work to collate the data that we have available, but we acknowledge that there are some gaps to further investigate and areas for development. These areas are highlighted and discussed within the reports. Our next performance report for April to June, is likely to present a more complete picture of performance. This Performance Update Report for January to March, when combined with the Executive Summary and the three preceding Update Reports, makes up our Self-Assessment for 2022 to 2023. Reviewing all four Performance Update Reports together will allow the reader to see improvement activity that we have identified throughout the year in support of performance.

4.3 From our October to December report to these present reports, we included Well-being and Equality sections that capture our contributions to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; the Equality Act 2010, and subsequent Wales Regulations 2011 and 2021 (including the socio-economic duty). We also include an update on corporate initiatives in support of Equality and Diversity.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

5.1 The Performance Self-Assessment includes an evaluation of the council's success in delivering against its Corporate Plan themes.

## **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](#) in October 2022. New projects / programmes of work within the Corporate Plan will be individually assessed, as any new actions will be going forward.

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

8.1. The reports have been developed by the Strategic Planning Team, in consultation with other council services. Feedback has been sought on the report from the Senior Leadership Team, [Performance Scrutiny Committee](#), [Governance and Audit Committee](#) and [Cabinet](#).

8.2. Governance and Audit Committee considered the report on July 14, and noted the following actions as part of its recommendations:

- That the report provide clear definitions, in particular, but not exclusively, in respect of procurement and assets.
- The report would benefit from setting out the performance of the Council in a broader regional and national context, noting that the default position is to benchmark against national indicators.

- The Committee notes and considers the exemplar leadership in respect of climate change, but recognises that achievement of objectives will require collaboration with all partners.
  - The Committee observed that there may be an opportunity to engage more overtly with local and regional business forums to inform a wider stakeholder engagement.
  - The Committee seeks assurance that in respect of Council housing tenants as stakeholders, in particular those with protected characteristics, are effectively and meaningfully consulted.
- 8.3. Throughout, Members have been encouraged to discuss aspects of the reports they might wish to scrutinise further.
- 8.4. Once approved, our self-assessment will be shared with the Auditor General, Welsh Ministers etc. as specified in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1. As stated in section 6, there are no direct financial implications of this report. However, it should be noted that the overall financial position faced by the council for 2024 to 2025 and beyond, may put pressure on services in maintaining performance levels in some areas in the future.

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

- 10.1 Failure to publish our Self-Assessment would likely result in statutory recommendations from Audit Wales, with significant implications for our reputation.
- 10.2 The risk of poor performance being reported out of context, impacting on our reputation. We have, therefore, been working closely with the Communications Team.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

- 11.1 Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (section 89).
- 11.2 Part 2 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (section 13).
- 11.3 The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 (section 16); and The Equality Act (Authorities subject to the Socio-economic Inequality Duty) (Wales) Regulations 2021.