

Report to	Performance Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	30 November 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets Helen Vaughan-Evans, Head of Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital and Assets
Report author	Emma Horan, Planning and Performance Officer
Title	Corporate Plan Performance Update: July to September 2023

1. What is the report about?

1.1. To present an update on the Council's performance against its [Corporate Plan](#) as at the end of September (quarter 2), including Strategic Equality objectives and the seven key areas of governance, which are: corporate planning; financial planning; performance management; risk management; workforce planning; assets; and procurement.

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. Quarterly performance reports are routinely shared with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Cabinet and Performance Scrutiny Committee to support constructive discussion about our performance and the identification of interventions where necessary.

2.2. These quarterly performance update reports capture the evidence that forms part of our Self-Assessment of performance against our functions, as required under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. Scrutiny Committee considers the report, and agrees any further actions required to respond to any performance related issues highlighted within it.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The report contained within appendix 1 is our familiar quarterly Performance Update Report, which is our process for ongoing self-assessment, for the period July to September 2023. The Council is required to self-assess our performance against the delivery of our functions under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 4.2. It is the second of four Performance Self-Assessment updates that are produced throughout the year to self-assess our performance against the delivery of our functions. Broadly, the report is presented in two parts that seek to outline progress against the following key areas:
 - Performance Objectives – comprised of our Corporate Plan / Strategic Equality Objectives (which also form our Well-being Objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).
 - Governance Areas – pre-determined by the statutory guidance on performance under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 4.3. The quarterly Performance Self-Assessment Update reports are all shared with the SLT, Cabinet and Performance Scrutiny Committee (tabling quarters two and four with committees). Quarter 4 reports are also shared with the Governance and Audit Committee and County Council, including a Self-Assessment Summary for the year. The reports should be seen as tools to support constructive, open and honest discussion about our performance, helping to identify good practise and areas for intervention or further scrutiny.
- 4.4. This Performance Update Report presents the latest picture covering July to September 2023, and is in a slightly updated format to reflect discussions following the Corporate Plan Tranche Review in September and publication of our April to June report:

- This report now includes sections that give a summary of measures and projects supporting each pledge for each of the nine themes in the Corporate Plan.
- Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) measures now appear at the end of each section.
- Stakeholder Survey measures now sit in their own table with data columns for those that answered 'agree', 'disagree' and 'no opinion/unsure', with a status for those who expressed an opinion and agree. We are, though, still considering Stakeholder Survey reporting.
- We have started to review, with Heads of Service, thresholds for some of our measures. We have noted where these have been updated.
- Pipeline projects are included.
- Following discussion by the new Well-Run, High Performing Council Board the wording of the pledges under theme 9 have been expanded. Approval for these wording changes will be sought from County Council as part of our Self-Assessment Report for the year in spring 2024. In the meantime, we will work on the basis that the expanded wording will be accepted.

4.5. Any further opportunities to continually improve the Performance Management Framework and Performance Update Reports, as always, will be taken by Strategic Planning Team.

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

5.1. The Performance Update Report 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 when the Plan was approved 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 report has been compiled by the Strategic Planning Team, in consultation with Council services. The performance information contained within the document has been provided by Services, and has been drawn from the Verto performance management system and reflects, where appropriate, discussion by Corporate Plan Boards or actions following the Tranche Review.

8.2. Discussion has already taken place at SLT and Cabinet (November 21).

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. 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 performance update reports, that contribute to our annual Self-Assessment, would likely result in statutory recommendations from Audit Wales, with implications for the reputation of the Council.

10.2. There is a risk of poor performance being reported out of context, impacting on our reputation. We have therefore discussed the key messages with the Communications Team.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (chapter 1, 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.

11.4. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7 of the Council's
Constitution outline Scrutiny's powers in relation to performance management.