

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **18th January 2023**

Report Subject: **Review of the Finance and Performance Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Leader / Cabinet Member Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Gemma Wasley, Service Manager Performance and Democratic**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	24/11/22 And Virtual	03.01.23			15/12/22	18/01/22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Cabinet a draft finance and performance report for consideration (attached at Appendix 1).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Finance and Performance has been developed in order to provide a reporting framework against the Council's Corporate Plan, including areas of progress and where further improvement is needed. All Council business plans are aligned to the delivery of the Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 The Finance and Performance Report is to be used as a key improvement tool for the Authority.
- 2.3 With a new Corporate Plan 2022/27 being approved by Council in October provides an opportune time to consider how the Council will report against the Plan.
- 2.4 The Council's new democratic arrangements also provide an opportunity to review what is reported, when and where. It has been established that the Finance and Performance report should be the main monitoring tool for the Council and for the majority of strategic reporting to be aligned to this.
- 2.5 Information included within the Finance and Performance report is gathered from a number of different sources including updates from business plans, drawing evidence from strategic reports and data analysis. This provides a detailed view of the activity and performance of the Council.
- 2.6 The report forms part of an on-going process of development within the Council's Performance Management Framework.
- 2.7 Appendix 1 provides an example of how the Finance and Performance Report will look moving forward. The information provided within the example

is Blaenau Gwent data and information from 2021/22 and to be used for illustration purposes only.

- 2.8 The format has been adapted to be more visual and engaging using data and extracts of narrative as part of an infographic format. The narrative provided will be more succinct and will include updates on key strategies and plans, finance and risk.
- 2.9 The template will also provide an opportunity to develop ‘themed’ pages in order to highlight key activity within a certain area e.g. cost of living, safeguarding etc.

2.10 Key information and data will be included to show progress of:

- The Corporate Plan priorities:
 - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
 - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities
 - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place
 - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
- The sustainable development principles, a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act:
 - Long term
 - Prevention
 - Collaboration
 - Integration
 - Involvement

2.11 The intention is for the Finance and Performance Report to be reported through the democratic processes in April 2023, in order to provide full years’ worth of information. Following this it will be presented on a six-monthly basis.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 The reviewed Finance and Performance Report has been approved by CLT at their meeting on 24th November 2022.

3.1.1 The Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet approve Option 1 with the proposal that future Finance and Performance reports be presented on a quarterly basis for a trial period.

3.1.2 **Option 1**

Provide suggestions to the content of the Finance and Performance Report in order to make it more efficient and effective as a management tool, noting the inclusion of information as identified at 2.7 to 2.10, prior to approval.

Option 2

Accept the information as presented.

4. Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

- 4.1 The Council has a responsibility to provide performance related information to the public in order to scrutinise the Council's performance and to gauge how well the Council is doing. There is also a requirement for Members to scrutinise the Council's performance. Reporting of such information contributes to the Council's Performance Framework.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

Financial information is a key aspect of the Finance and Performance Report and it will be included in all Finance and Performance Reports split per directorate.

5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

Risk information is a key aspect of the Council's performance management framework and updates on the Council's Corporate Risk Register is to be included in all Finance and Performance Reports.

- 5.2.1 The Finance and Performance Report acts as a key monitoring tool for the Council and is considered by external regulators which can have an impact on the reputation of the Council.

5.3 *Legal*

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.4 *Human Resources*

The Council's Self-Assessment report covering 2021/22 highlighted that the Council is experiencing challenges in relation to workforce capacity and work is to be undertaken to support workforce stability, recruitment and retention.

- 5.4.1 An update on the workforce will be included within future Finance and Performance Reports.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

Performance information and data is a key aspect of the Council's Performance Management Framework and will be included within all Finance and Performance Reports to show progress of the Corporate Plan and national data requirements.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The information included within the report will provide opportunity for the public to scrutinise the Council's performance and provide accountability across the Council.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Services look to involve partners and involve citizens in consultation where possible. This information is included as part of the planning arrangements of the Council and will also be included in the Finance and Performance Report when available.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Finance and Performance Report is reported on regularly and is aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Council aims to work using a preventative approach wherever possible so that problems can be tackled before they are escalated. Preventative actions are included in the Council's business plans.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

There are a number of collaborations that the Council is involved with and, where relevant, information on some of these has been included within the Finance and Performance Report.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Council's business plan includes where an integrated approach to planning and delivery is taking place.

6.8 ***EqlA***

The Finance and Performance Report has no negative impact on the protected characteristics.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The report will be monitored quarterly through the Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Draft Example Finance and Performance Report