

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **4th October 2023**

Report Subject: **Regeneration and Community Services Performance Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Helen Cunningham, Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member, Place and Environment**
Cllr John Morgan, Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Economic Development

Report Submitted by: **Ellie Fry, Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance and Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	24.8.23				05.09.23	04.10.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the performance activity for the full year from April 2022 to March 2023 and highlight how the Department is contributing to four of the Council's Corporate 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

1.2 Plus, contributing towards the Council's overall aim of delivering all seven national well-being goals:

- Prosperous Wales
- Resilient Wales
- Healthier Wales
- More equal Wales
- Globally responsible Wales, and
- A Wales of more cohesive communities.

2. Scope and Background

2.1. The Regeneration and Community Services Directorate continue to focus on delivering a structured programme of work based around the priority areas identified in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022/27. The performance of the department is monitored throughout the financial year from April to March, with six monthly reports presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee covering the following areas:

- Housing Development
- Employment and Skills
- Destination Management and Tourism
- Energy and Digital
- Town centres
- Improving the Local Environment;
- Managing Our Estate;
- Improving the Well-being and Resilience of our Communities;
- Healthy and Safe Communities; and
- Managing our Highways Network and Infrastructure.

2.2. The annual performance report makes reference to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which not only underpins the Council's aims, but also guides the ways in which our actions to realise sustainable development can be delivered. This is through:

- Collaboration
- Integration
- Involvement
- Long term
- Prevention

2.3 A series of case studies are also included to highlight some of the work that has been delivered over the 12 month period.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5th September 2023, supported Option 2.

3.2 Option 1:
That Members consider the information provided within the appendix and make specific recommendations prior to approval.

Option 2:
That Members accept the report as provided.

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

This proposal supports the Outcome Statements within the Corporate Plan. Corporate Plan 2022/27 Outcome Statements:

- Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent Support a fairer sustainable economy and community
- Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities
- Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

- 5.1 The portfolio has an annual revenue budget that it invests into the services it provides to the Communities in Blaenau Gwent. Capital investment is also available for specific projects through various grants or funding from the Council. The Directorate has some income generating capability and examines all practical forms of funding to support service delivery.
- 5.2 In most cases the Regeneration and Community Services Directorate is the channel through which Welsh and UK Government make domestic funding available for regeneration projects whether they are social, economic, or physical in outcome.

5.1. ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There are no risks directly associated with this report

5.2. ***Legal***

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.3. ***Human Resources***

There are no additional implications for human resources.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1. ***Performance Information and Data***

The Performance report is attached at Appendix 1.

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

Improved economy and community benefits from the work undertaken in the last 12 months

6.3. ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The strategy and action plan is designed to be a method to organise support, target areas of need identified, and take account of changing and future business needs of Blaenau Gwent.

6.4. ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The areas of collaboration are outlined in the performance report.

6.5. ***Integration (across service areas)***

Integration is outlined in the performance report

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

Monitoring will be done through the Council's Corporate Plan and Service business plan and through Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Regeneration & Community Services Performance Report as at March 2023