

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

Report Subject: **Regeneration & Community Services 6-month progress Performance Report – April 2023 – September 2023**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr H Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Community Services and**  
**Cllr J 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 Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet  | Council | Other (please state) |
|                             | 21.12.23                  | 07.02.24                 |                            |                               | 16.01.24           | 21.02.24 |         |                      |

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Regeneration and Community Services Annual Performance Report covering the 6-month period April 23-September 23 and is attached as (*Appendix 1*).

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1. The first six months of performance for the Regeneration and Community Services Department has been summarised in the attached document and provides Members and the public an insight into the progress, achievements and issues.

- 2.2. The Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 22-27 outlines the four aims:
- 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

and the aims of the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), which are:

- a prosperous Wales
- a resilient Wales
- a healthier Wales

- a more equal Wales
- a Wales of cohesive communities
- a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- a globally responsible Wales

2.3. From the report the summary of achievements ranges from an increase in footfall throughout the towns across BG from an increased number of successful events; to an increase in our recycling rates which bring us closer to our WG targets. In Q2 we exceeded the WG target of 70% for the first time. Our successful fly tipping prosecutions have also increased.

2.4. The celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS was particularly poignant for Blaenau Gwent, the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan. Events with the public and local pharmaceutical companies took place and memorial artwork was created.

2.5. Housing development continues to grow with five sites in different stages of progress giving the authority a pipeline of housing development over the next 5-10 years. The Council is working well with housing association and private partners on a range of schemes.

2.6. The new Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) processes have been worked through and there are now numerous projects progressing across the three areas: People and Skills; Communities and Place and Business Support. These funds replace the European funding that the Council received previously and funds support community groups, businesses, and local projects.

2.7. New developments including industrial and enterprise space are progressing well with completion dates later in the year; and the contract for strengthening Newtown Bridge has been completed with the bridge looking resplendent following the work. Progress against the Local Area Energy Plan has made and the start on site of the HiVE (High Value Engineering) Facility in Ebbw Vale which will be completed in late 2024.

2.8. A series of case studies are included to highlight some of the work that has been outlined in the performance report.

### **3. Options for Recommendation**

3.1. The report has been considered by Regeneration and Community Services DLT and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).

3.2. The Place Scrutiny Committee also considered the report and supported Option 2.

### **3.3 Option 1**

Members are asked to consider the information detailed within the Regeneration and Community Services report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

## **Option 2**

To consider and accept the report as presented.

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

- 4.1. This proposal supports the amendments made to the Outcome Statements within the Corporate Plan 2022/27 Outcome Statements:
- 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

### **5. Implications Against Each Option**

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

There are no short term budget implications associated with the report.

#### **5.2. *Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There are no risks directly associated with this report

#### **5.3. *Legal***

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

#### **5.4. *Human Resources***

There are no additional implications for human resources.

### **6. Supporting Evidence**

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

The Six Month Performance report is attached.

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

Improved economy and community benefits from the work undertaken in the last 6 months

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

The performance reporting is designed to be a method to summarise the ongoing work undertaken by the department to support and target areas of need identified through Corporate Plan and take account of changing and future 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, Service business plan and Place Scrutiny Committee

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

*Appendix 1 –Regeneration and Community Services Q1 and Q2  
Performance Report*