

Committee: Council

Date of Meeting:

26th November 2020

Report Subject:

Assessment of Performance 2019/20

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor N. Daniels, Leader / Executive Member - Corporate Services

Report Submitted by:

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Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	22/9/20						26/11/20	

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to present the Council's Assessment of Performance 2019/20 (attached at Appendix 1) for consideration.

The Assessment of Performance 2019/20 fulfils the statutory obligations placed on the Council as part of the requirements of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009.

2. Scope and Background

In April 2018 Council agreed the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/22, which includes the Well-being Objectives as priorities. The Well-being Objectives are required as part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Well-being Objectives also act as our Improvement Objectives in order to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure.

There is a statutory requirement for the Assessment of Performance to be translated and published by 31st October each year. The Assessment of Performance 2019/20 was published on the Council's website before this date. This is then subject to external audit by Audit Wales.

The Council is required to undertake an assessment of performance of the previous year. Appendix 1 details the progress the Council has made against each Well-being Objective in 2019/20. The Well-being Objectives are:

- Social Services
- Education
- Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Efficient Council

The Assessment of Performance also includes an assessment of the work undertaken as part of the response to the global pandemic, COVID 19.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 *To include Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CMT/Committees/Other groups)*

Recommendation

Endorse the Council's Assessment of Performance which provides a retrospective account of the 2019/20 year and fulfils all required statutory legislative requirements.

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

The Assessment of Performance 2019/20 provides retrospective information on the activity that has been undertaken by the Council over the past year.

There is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure to undertake an assessment of performance and for this information to be publically available by 31st October each year.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act requires the Council to develop Well-being Objectives.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Financial information for 2019/20 is included within the Assessment of Performance provided at appendix 1.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There is a reputational risk if the Assessment of Performance 2019/20 is not approved by Council.

The Assessment of Performance is subject to external audit by the Audit Wales who will assess for compliance against the Local Government (Wales) Measure.

5.3 ***Legal***

There is a statutory requirement as part of the Local Government (Wales) Measure to develop an annual assessment of performance and have this published by 31st October each year.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has a statutory requirement to develop a set of Well-being Objectives. The Assessment of Performance includes the Well-being Objectives and an assessment of them.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. All activity to implement the Assessment of Performance is identified within the relevant business plan and monitored as part of the quarterly Joint Finance and Performance Report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The Council has a requirement to measure a number of national performance indicators known as Public Accountability Measures (PAMs). The PAMs consist of a small set of “outcome focussed” indicators. They reflect those aspects of local authority work which local authorities agree are considered to be important in terms of public accountability. All Councils in Wales are required to submit their performance against the PAMs. However, for the year 2019/20 a number of these indicators were not collected nationally owing to the global pandemic, COVID 19. Where information is available this has been included within the Assessment of Performance at appendix 1.

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

To provide the public with information with regard to how the Council is performing and what activity is being undertaken for the people of Blaenau Gwent.

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

The Assessment of Performance involved both officers and members in its development. Information to populate the report is taken from officer business plans.

Engagement remains a key priority for the Council and the Well-being Objectives / Improvement Objectives are intended to ensure that all services are focussed on their customers and communities through strong engagement and communication.

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

The Well-being Objectives / Improvement Objectives looked to implement activity that would impact communities in the longer term. These have now been replaced by the Corporate Plan, which also looks to the long term.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Assessment of Performance looked to undertake preventative activity i.e. people to remain in their own home for as long as possible.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Collaboration is a key activity for the Council and where possible, collaborative activity is taking place.

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

The Assessment of Performance is integrated as it identified activity for officers across the Council with business plans identifying how the work would be undertaken.

6.8 ***EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

An EqlA has been undertaken on the Assessment of Performance 2019/20 and no negative impacts against the protected characteristics have been identified.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 *State how the work will be monitored e.g. through scrutiny or directorate performance management arrangements*

The Corporate Plan priorities and activity have been included within the business plans of directorates. These are monitored on a quarterly basis and reported through the Joint Finance and Performance Report to Corporate Overview and Executive Committees.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

1. *Appendix 1 – Assessment of Performance 2019/20*