

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **22nd September 2021**

Report Subject: **Assessment of Performance 2020/21**

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

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

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| | 26/08/21 | 07.09.21 | | | 21/09/21 | 22/09/21 | 30/09/21 | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to present the Council's Assessment of Performance 2020/21 (attached at Appendix 1) for consideration.

The Assessment of Performance 2020/21 fulfils the statutory obligations placed on the Council as part of the requirements of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009.

It is to be noted that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 has been replaced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 therefore this Assessment of Performance will be the last under these regulations.

In future the Council will still be required to develop reports on the progress made against the Corporate Plan and also implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

2. **Scope and Background**

In July 2020, Council approved a refreshed Corporate Plan 2020/22. The Plan was reviewed as part of the response and learning to date from COVID 19 and what the Council is aiming to achieve by the end of the Plan in 2022.

This resulted in some amendments being made to the Outcome Statements in order to better demonstrate the contribution different areas across the Council will contribute to achieving them, enhancing the 'One Council' approach. The Corporate Plan 2020/22 Outcome Statements are:

- **Protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities**
- **Support a fairer sustainable economy and community**
- **To enable people to maximise their independence, develop solutions and take an active role in their communities**

- **An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities**

All Council planning is aligned to the Corporate Plan.

There is a statutory requirement for the Assessment of Performance to be translated and published by 31st October each year. 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 during 2020/21 and 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 At their meeting on 21st September Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee considered the Assessment of Performance 2020/21. Any comments from this meeting will be fed into Executive Committee verbally.

Option 1

Endorse the retrospective progress made and included within the Council's Assessment of Performance for 2020/21 and be assured that it fulfils all required statutory legislative requirements before being submitted to Council for approval.

Option 2

As above but provide amendment to the document before submission to Council.

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 2020/21 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 2009 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 and report on 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 2020/21 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 2020/21 is not approved by Council and published before the statutory deadline of 31st October 2021.

The Assessment of Performance is subject to external audit by the Audit Wales who will assess for compliance against the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

5.3 ***Legal***

There is a statutory requirement as part of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 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. This information 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)***

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 look to implement activity that would impact communities in the longer 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 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
Decarbonisation and current activity is included within the Assessment of Performance. A key action under the theme, '*Protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities*', is, '*To be carbon neutral by 2030*'.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***
The report does not include any 'strategic decisions' as defined by the Socio-economic Duty. Therefore, a Socio-Economic Duty Assessment was not required.

An assessment will be required when formulating and agreeing the new priorities as part of the next Corporate Plan from 2022 onwards.

6.9b. ***Equality Impact Assessment***
An EqlA has been undertaken on the Assessment of Performance 2020/21 and no negative impacts against the protected characteristics have been identified.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1

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

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