

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

Part 1

Date: 11 December 2017

Subject Improvement Plan 2016-18 Update – Quarter 2

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

IP Objective	Cabinet Member Lead	Head of Service Lead
IP – Objective 5 <i>Supporting young people into education, employment or training</i>	Gail Giles Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment
IP – Objective 7 <i>Increasing recycling</i>	Roger Jeavons Cabinet Member for Streetscene	Paul Jones Head of Streetscene and City Services
IP – Objective 3 <i>Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation</i>	Jane Mudd Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment
IP – Objective 4 <i>City Regeneration and Development</i>	Jane Mudd Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations

1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the progress being made in relation to the following improvement objectives:

- *IP – Objective 5 - Supporting young people into education, employment or training;*
- *IP – Objective 7 - Increasing recycling;*
- *IP – Objective 3 - Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation;*
- *IP – Objective 4 - City Regeneration and Development.*

1.2 Determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet on the progress towards achieving the improvement objectives in Quarter 2.

2 Context





- 2.1 The Council approved 8 Improvement Objectives in the 2017-18 Improvement Plan in April 2016, 4 of which are within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, namely:

IP Objective	Cabinet Member Lead	Head of Service Lead
IP – Objective 5 Supporting young people into education, employment or training	Gail Giles Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment
IP – Objective 7 Increasing recycling	Roger Jeavons Cabinet Member for Streetscene	Paul Jones - Head of Streetscene and City Services
IP – Objective 3 Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation	Jane Mudd Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment
IP – Objective 4 City Regeneration and Development	Jane Mudd Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Keir Duffin Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment

- 2.2 At its meeting on 11 September, the Committee agreed to include monitoring of the improvement objectives on its work programme.
- 2.3 This update covers the period July to September 2017, with further updates scheduled for the Committee covering the further two quarters.

<i>Report produced in...</i>	<i>September</i>		<i>December</i>		<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>To show status for....</i>	<i>Q1 Apr-Jun</i>		<i>Q2 Jul-Sept</i>		<i>Q3 Oct-Dec</i>	<i>Q4 Jan-Mar</i>
3. Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation	Amber- Acceptable	●	Green - Good	★		
4. City Regeneration and Development	Green - Good	★	Green - Good	★		
5. Supporting young people into education, employment or training	Green – Good	★	Green - Good	★		
7. Increasing recycling	Green - Good	★	Green - Good	★		
OVERALL	Green - Good	★	Green - Good	★		

- 2.4 In order to provide a more meaningful assessment of the progress of the Improvement Plan and enable more informed judgement to be undertaken, an overall evaluation of progress is made using the following criteria:

Status		Evaluated as	Explanation
Green Star		Excellent	All actions and measures are on track
Green		Good	Actions and measures are on mostly on track, one or two falling marginally short of planned targets
Amber		Acceptable	Some actions and measures have deviated from plan and are some are falling short of planned targets
Red		Improvement Required	Actions and measures are of concern and are mostly falling short of planned targets

- 2.5 This update is being presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 18 January 2018, along with any comments / recommendations from this Committee as to the progress towards achieving these objectives.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** provides the Committee with an update from the Objective Leads for its consideration.
- 3.2 The update includes:
- an overall judgement for the objective (red, amber or green) along with brief comments from the leads on this judgement;
 - an update on the current progress with the measures associated with the objective, and;
 - an update on the actions associated with the objective.

4 Suggested Areas of Focus

- 4.1 The Committee agreed in its Annual Work Programme at the meeting on 11 September 2017: *"To consider the progress of the Council towards actions associated with the improvement plan objectives and provide comment to Cabinet"* in respect of the four relevant objectives within its remit.
- 4.2 The Committee received an Improvement Plan 2016-18 Update - Quarter 1 at the meeting held on 2 October 2017 and made comments to the Cabinet on the Improvement Objectives within its portfolio.
- 4.3 The Cabinet considered the comments at its meeting held on 18 October 2017. The Leader highlighted that, as part of the new scrutiny structure and accountability arrangements in place, for the first time this report had been presented to the Scrutiny Committees for consideration before Cabinet. The Leader thanked scrutiny colleagues for their detailed consideration and comments, and highlighted some of the key points raised in the report and scrutiny comments:
- The overall rating for quarter 1 was Green – Good.
 - Three objectives were rated as Amber – Acceptable as some actions and measures had deviated from the plan are some were falling short of planned targets. It was important that action was taken in quarter 2 to address underperforming measures.
- 4.4 The Committee's comments on the four Improvement Objectives within its portfolio and related responses from Cabinet are fed back for Members' consideration in the following table:

IP - Objective 5 - Supporting young people into education, employment or training	
Comments by Committee - 2 October 2017	Response by Cabinet - 18 October 17
<p>The Committee noted the good progress being made in relation towards this objective, particularly the progress in relation to NEETs.</p> <p>Members discussed the risk of the potential reduction in EU funding in the future as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Assurances were given that the current funding schemes were in place until 2020 and as such the short to medium term impact of this was being managed. Members wished to highlight this as an area of concern and risk in the longer term, and the potential impact this would have to the provision of services and the performance in this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet echoed the Scrutiny Committee's comments regarding the good progress being made towards this objective, particularly in relation to NEETs. - Cabinet also shared Scrutiny's concerns regarding the potential risk of reduced funding in the future for this area as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, and the impact that could have on the authority's excellent performance in this area.
IP - Objective 7 - Increasing recycling	
Comments by Committee - 2 October 2017	Response by Cabinet - 18 October 17
<p>Members noted the progress being made towards achieving this objective, and noted the impending Scrutiny review that will have relevance to this objective in the future.</p> <p>The Committee made the following suggestions to the Officers and Cabinet Members for further exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pilot scheme with housebuilders to incorporate the necessary storage facilities into the design of the kitchen areas, to make recycling in flats and smaller dwellings easier in the future. - The development of an education programme on recycling with schools to engage with young people from an early age to improve awareness of the environmental importance of managing waste and increasing recycling rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet noted the suggestions from the Scrutiny Committee, which would be explored further. - Cabinet noted that the scrutiny review of the Waste Strategy would be concluding and reporting back soon.
IP - Objective 3 - Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation	
Comments by Committee - 2 October 2017	Response by Cabinet - 18 October 17
<p>Following discussion with the Cabinet Member and the lead officers, the Committee noted the positive progress being made in achieving this objective.</p>	<p>– Performance on this objective was rated as Amber - Acceptable. Cabinet noted the scrutiny comments, the reasons for the variance and the actions being taken to improve performance.</p>
IP – Objective 4 - City Regeneration and Development	
Comments by Committee - 2 October 2017	Response by Cabinet - 18 October 17
<p>Members acknowledged the progress being made towards this objective, and noted that the City Centre Masterplan would provide an important steer for progressing the regeneration and development of the City Centre. The Committee suggested that the Performance Scrutiny Committee -Place and Corporate monitor the implementation of this plan once it is adopted. The purpose of this would be to consider and monitor the progress in delivering the schemes and projects within the plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet noted that the measures and actions this objective 4 had been amended following the end of Vibrant and Viable Places funding in March 2017. - Cabinet noted the comments from scrutiny and welcomed the suggestion that the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate should monitor the implementation of the City Centre Masterplan once it had been adopted.

4.5 The Committee is asked to evaluate the performance of the Council in achieving the four Improvement Objectives for Quarter 2 in its portfolio and might wish to consider:

- Progress being made in addressing comments from Scrutiny on Quarter 1 performance.
- Whether Improvement Objectives are being achieved and how this is clearly evidenced?
- How are measures and activities measured and evaluated?
- Do “green” objectives have sufficiently challenging targets and are the measures balanced between being realistic and robust?
- What is being done to address amber measures?
- Are there any barriers to delivering the Improvement Objectives?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

5.1 This report directly links with all of the Councils Improvement Objectives identified in the Improvement Plan 2016-18. These objectives also link to the Well-being Objectives agreed by Cabinet in March 2017, which aim to maximise the Council’s contribution to the Well-being Goals for Wales and will form part of the new Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan from 2017 onwards.

5.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services. The Improvement Plan objectives have links to each of the well-being objectives and the well-being goals.

Well-being Objective	Link to Improvement Plan Objective
To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities	4 – City Regeneration and Development 5 – Supporting young people into education, employment or training
To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	4 – City Regeneration and Development 7 – Increasing recycling
To build cohesive and sustainable communities	3 – Ensuring people have access to suitable accommodation 4 – City Regeneration and Development

6 Risks

6.1 Each individual action in this report is subject to financial and risk assessment in its own right in accordance with council procedures.

Risk	Impact of risk if it occurs (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk
That the council’s plans and projects do not have the desired impact on the city	H	M	The council will assess the impact of its actions on an on-going basis and enable adjustments to actions and policies to be brought forward as the need arises	Project managers for individual action plans

That major impacts are not properly monitored due to faulty assessment of risk and/or impact	H	L	Quarterly reporting to cabinet, together with opportunity for scrutiny reviews will enable adjustments to monitoring regime to be implemented as the need arises	Project managers
That on-going monitoring impedes progress on project delivery	H	L	The assessment criteria for monitoring progress are designed to ensure monitoring is proportionate to impact and purpose. This will be reassessed as part of the on-going reporting process	Cabinet / Corporate Directors

7 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific cost implications associated with the report.

8 Background Papers

8.1 Annual Review of the 2016-18 Improvement Plan Cabinet Report - 24 Aug 2017
2016-18 Improvement Plan

Report Completed: 23 November 2017