

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 October 2019

**Subject** Corporate Annual Report 2018/19

**Purpose** To present to Cabinet the Corporate Annual Report 2018/19 on the progress of delivery against the Corporate Plan 2017-22.

**Author** Chief Executive Newport City Council  
Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** Newport City Council launched its Corporate Plan 2017-22 'Improving People's Lives' and set 4 Well-being Objectives: to improve skills, education and employment opportunities; to promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment; to enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient; and to build cohesive and sustainable communities. To support the delivery of these objectives and enable change in the way we deliver our services we established 4 themes: Resilient Communities, Aspirational People, Thriving City and Modernised Council.

This is the second year of reporting against the Corporate Plan objectives and the Annual Report reflects back on the achievements we have made, where we have learned from the decisions made and looking forward to what will be delivered in 2019/20 and beyond. The report also reaffirms our commitment to delivering the Corporate Plan objectives in 2019/20 and demonstrates how we are contributing towards the delivery of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023. The Annual Report highlights the achievements in delivering the Civil Parking Enforcement, introducing a new Waste Strategy, development of Chartist Tower, improvement in GCSE and A Levels, introduction of the Gwent Homelessness Strategy and the Young Person's promise.

As part of the 2009 Local Government Measure the Council will publish the Annual Report in Welsh and English on the Council's website before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

**Proposal** Cabinet is asked to endorse the Annual Report 2018/19 and enable the report to be published before the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 deadline.

**Action by** Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Corporate Management Team

**Signed**

## **Background**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has set 7 Wellbeing goals for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. The Act also requires public bodies deliver 'sustainable development' to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing. To deliver these goals the Future Generations Commissioner has set 5 principles for public bodies to consider in their decision making activities: Long Term, Collaborative, Involvement, Integration and Prevention.

Newport Public Services Board (PSB) has set their Wellbeing Plan 2018-23 'One Newport' to deliver the Wellbeing goals for Newport. In support of the PSB work, Newport City Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22 has set a mission statement 'Improving People's Lives' to address the root causes of inequalities and to give our citizens the possible chance to achieve their ambitions, to build strong and resilient communities and to have a local economy and thriving city. To achieve these aims we set 4 Wellbeing Objectives:

1. To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities;
2. To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment
3. To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
4. To build cohesive & sustainable communities.

To support the delivery of the Wellbeing Objectives, the Council has 4 themes: Aspirational People, Thriving City, Resilient Communities and Modernised Council.

This is the second Annual Report on the delivery of the Corporate Plan as required by the Wellbeing Act and the 2009 Local Government (Wales) Act. The purpose of the report is to self-reflect on the achievements made, where the Council can do more to improve performance and what we intend to deliver in 2019/20 for the rest of the Corporate Plan. We will also take this opportunity to review and confirm the wellbeing objectives, annually.

The 2018/19 Annual Report has looked back at the Council's performance against its budget, national performance measures (Public Accountability Measures and Social Services Performance Measures) and progress against the 4 themes. The report also examined the progress being made to deliver change in the Council's governance and supporting activities; progress against the Strategic Equalities Plan and the Welsh Language Standards.

In 2018/19, the achievements made by Newport City Council included:

### **Resilient Communities**

- Implementation of an independent living strategy that set out a clear pathway for eligible adults with learning disabilities and providing opportunities for independent living and community resilience.
- Older person's pathway – a collaboration with Gwent Age Cymru and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to enable older people to create their own 'stay well plan' and maintain their well-being and independence.
- Gwent homelessness strategy was delivered in collaboration with other local authorities and charities that commits early intervention and prevention, affordable housing, advice and support.
- The young person's promise (children's charter) involved working with young people in Newport to develop six promises that the council is committed to deliver.

### **Aspirational People**

- The council's apprenticeship programme saw the appointment of 15 apprentices as part of a drive to connect and raise aspirations in the city with recognised qualifications through partners ACT, and opportunities at the end of their placement.
- 'Attendance Matters' campaign helped schools to maintain high attendance figures and reduce overall exclusion rates.
- Rose Cottage was opened to reduce the impact of out-of-county placements. Four children were brought back to the city improving the level of care and support and reducing cost.

- GCSE and A Level Results – once again GCSE (57 per cent) and A Level (53.7 per cent) results improved reflecting the hard work that pupils and staff across schools make to inspire young people to progress into further education, training and employment.

### **Thriving City**

- The National Software Academy provides support for business projects, creating the opportunity for future business developments, and will produce 60 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students each year.
- Chartist Tower – supported planning and redevelopment of Chartist Tower by Mercure Hotel Group who agreed a 10-year franchise, will generate over 350 jobs.
- Civil Parking Enforcement – preparations were made in the year across Newport to enable the council to implement its new enforcement powers from 1st July 2019.

### **Modernised Council**

- A new customer relationship management system was developed so customers can access their information to report issues / complaints; having their say on council matters and keeping up to date with activities and news. A mobile application, My Newport, was launched for phones and tablets.
- Fleet review - as part of a Gwent public body partnership, funding was secured for a Carbon Trust and Energy Service review of fleet and associated carbon emissions. It will inform the approach to the management of council fleet and mileage over the remaining term of the plan.
- Neighbourhood Hubs - development of the first multi-agency Neighbourhood Service Hub in Ringland that will bring together a range of services to support better outcomes.

The Annual Report also highlights the many challenges that Newport City Council faces in delivering its services. The Financial budget pressures in 2018/19 and in the medium term (£30million budget gap) remain a significant challenge with increasing demand on Social Services, Education and City Services. The report also highlights where the Council is performing well against the other Welsh local authorities and where we can do better in our national performance measures. The Council strives to continuously monitor these areas and make the necessary improvements for the remainder of the Corporate Plan.

Attached at appendix 1 of this report is a copy of the Annual Report. The Council's Communications team will be finalising the report before it is published on the Council's website in Welsh and English before the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 as required by the Local Government Act 2009.

### **Financial Summary**

The Council's Finance team are monitoring any impacts on budgets through the monthly budget reporting process.

### **Risks**

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?
The Annual Report is not published in accordance with the Wellbeing Act 2015 and Local	M	L	The Council will be finalising the report with the communication's team and publishing the report on the Council's website.	Head of People & Business Change  Communications Manager

Government Act 2009.				
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**Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2018-23  
 NCC Corporate Plan 2017-22

**Options Available and considered**

1. Cabinet to endorse the Annual Report and for officers to publish the report in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Local Government Act 2009.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the report

**Preferred Option and Why**

1. Cabinet are requested to endorse the Annual Report 2018/19 to enable publication by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 deadline.

**Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. Where there is a financial impact of delivering the objectives of the Corporate Plan, they are either met through existing budgets, identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan or require further work to identify the financial impact.

This will be monitored and updated as the Corporate Plan progresses and further updates to the MTFP made when financial impacts are identified.

**Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. Although the Council has separate statutory duties in relation to continuous improvement under the Local Government Measure 2009 and also in relation to well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, a single integrated process of performance monitoring will provide a more streamlined and robust approach to performance management. The improvement and well-being objectives are closely aligned under the over-arching Corporate Plan and the delivery will be underpinned through individual service plans.

**Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Local Government Act 2009 requires the Council to publish its Annual Report on progress of delivery against the Corporate Plan 2017-22. This provides the Council an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and the further work we have to do in delivering the Corporate Plan to 2022. With the publication of this report it also provides an opportunity for Newport residents, businesses and staff to understand the progress of delivery and to provide feedback on where we can make improvements with our services.

**Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Leader of the Council has been consulted and agreed the content of the annual report, which was also reviewed by Scrutiny Committee.

## **Local issues**

Not Applicable

## **Scrutiny Committees**

The Annual Report was presented to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Committee raised the following recommendations which have been considered in the final version of the report for Cabinet's endorsement and will be considered for future reports:

- There needed to be a consistency of approach within the Plan and consideration of content for the target audience.
- There needed to be a clear emphasis on the council's collaborative working.
- The 20 commitments were not clear, it was not easy to cross-reference the objectives within the Plan, making them difficult to monitor.
- There were minor errors within the report, which would be passed to the Policy Partnership and Involvement Manager.
- There was a lack of background information on subjects such as the Children's Charter.
- There were some examples within the report that were repetitive.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Annual Report endorsed by Cabinet has been drafted in accordance with the guidance and information provided by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Commissioner. The Report reflects on how the Council is delivering against its Wellbeing Objectives which contribute towards the 7 Wellbeing goals. In the delivery of our services we consider the 5 ways of working principles and have incorporated these into the Council's reflection in the Annual Report. The final version of the report will be published on the Council's website and available in Welsh and English.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable.

## **Consultation**

Senior Leadership Team

Corporate Management Team

## **Background Papers**

Newport Public Services Board – One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2018-23

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Overview Scrutiny and Management Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dated: October 2019