

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: September 2023

### Subject Annual Corporate Plan Self-Assessment Report 2022/23

Author Scrutiny Advisor

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Cllr Jane Mudd	Leader of the Council
Beverly Owen	Chief Executive Officer
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director for Transformation and Corporate
Sally Ann Jenkins	Strategic Director for Social Services
Paul Jones	Strategic Director for Environment and Sustainability

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to consider:

1. The Council's progress towards achieving its mission statement to deliver an "Ambitious, Fairer and Greener Newport for everyone" as part of the Corporate Plan 2022-27.
2. Whether the Annual Report 22-23 contains sufficient information to monitor the achievement of the Wellbeing Objectives and the effectiveness of its governance and performance arrangements to deliver the Corporate Plan and its statutory duties.
3. Consideration of report's Self-Assessment and the supporting action plan to improve governance and performance.
4. Whether it wishes to provide comment and recommendations on the Annual Report 22-23 to Cabinet.

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the Council's annual Corporate Plan Self-Assessment Report 2022/23 is to assess the progress of delivery the Council has made against the Corporate Plan 2022-27 (Well-being of Future Generations Act); and the extent to which the Council has met its performance requirements

under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan and deliver continuous improvement.

**2.2** In November 2022, full Council approved the Council's [Corporate Plan 22-27](#). The Corporate Plan has 4 Wellbeing Objectives:

1. **Economy, Education and Skills** – Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
2. **Newport's Environment and Infrastructure** – A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.
3. **Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care** – Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.
4. **An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council** – Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

Each Well-being Objective is supported by several strategic priorities which the Council will be delivering over the next 5 years.

**2.3** The Self-assessment of performance and progress against the Corporate Plan and its strategic priorities is based upon the End of Year (31<sup>st</sup> March 2023) position reported through the 11 service area plans. The Council's 11 service areas assessed its progress against their objectives, projects and actions, which are contributing towards the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Each service area presented a detailed overview of their progress to the Council's Performance Scrutiny Committees in July 2023. Feedback from the committees has been considered in the production of this report.

**2.4** In addition to the service plans, the report refers to other annual statutory / strategic reports produced by the Council to assess the performance and progress against key strategic priorities. Case studies, assessments and performance information has also been considered in this report.

**2.5** This report will also be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee in September 2023, followed by Cabinet and Full Council in October 2023.

### **Previous Consideration of this item**

**2.6** The Council's Draft Wellbeing Themes were presented to the committee in [September 2022](#) and the Corporate Plan 22-27 was agreed by Council in [November 2022](#).

**2.7** This is the first Annual report that the Committee has received since the Corporate Plan 22-27 was agreed.

## **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

**3.1** Attached at Appendix A is the draft Annual Corporate Wellbeing Self-Assessment Report 2022-23.

**3.2** The report includes:

- An introduction and the purpose of the report
- Key facts about Newport and Newport City Council
- Assessment of progress against the 4 Well-being Objectives including achievements and challenges, performance measures and key deliverables 2023/24.
- Assessment of the Council's Governance and Performance Arrangements
- Annual Governance Statement and statutory duties
- Internal audit and external regulatory reports 2022-23
- Newport City Council's finance outturn 22/23
- Newport Council's involvement and engagement with citizens, businesses and trade unions

- Key Newport City Council decisions and achievements 22-23
- Self-Assessment Actions Update 21/22
- Conclusion and self-assessment of NCC governance and performance arrangements
- Actions for improvement 22-23
- Glossary
- Links to engage with the Council about this report.

## 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

### 4.1

<p><b>The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess progression towards achieving the mission statement for an “<i>Ambitious, Fairer and Greener Newport for everyone</i>” as part of the Corporate Plan 2022-27.</li> <li>• Assess the Council’s performance in 2022/23 against its Wellbeing Objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022-27.</li> <li>• Assess and make comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How effectively the Council is performing against the performance measures.</li> <li>○ The extent to which any under performance is being addressed and associated risks are being mitigated.</li> <li>○ The Self-Assessment and supporting action plan to improve governance and performance arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the report?</li> <li>○ Is the Committee satisfied that it has the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance against the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>○ Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee or other Performance Committees?</li> <li>○ Does the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### 4.2 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p><b>Long-term</b></p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
<p><b>Integration</b></p>	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?

Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

### 6. Corporate Plan / Service Area Plan – Red / Amber / Green Assessment

RAG Assessment	Description
	The delivery against the strategic priority or objective is not on track. Immediate management intervention is required to improve performance and escalation to relevant senior officer group(s).

	The delivery against the strategic priority or objective is mainly on track with some areas requiring management intervention to improve performance and escalation to relevant senior officer group(s)
	The delivery against the strategic priority or objective is achieving and/or succeeding against its agreed targets.

## Performance Measure Monitoring and Tolerance Assessment

Newport City Council has an agreed 15% tolerance against targets set in service plans.

RAG Assessment	Description
=> 15%	Performance is under achieving against target or previous year's performance. Immediate management intervention and escalation to relevant senior officer group(s) is required.
< 15%	Performance is off target or previous year's performance but within the agreed 15% tolerance. Management intervention and close monitoring by the service area and Directorate is required.
	Performance measure is achieving or succeeding against its agree target or previous year's performance. Commentary provided is at the discretion of the service area.

## 7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials – Well-being of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Director of Social Services Annual Report](#)
- [Annual Safeguarding Report](#)
- [Climate Change Annual Report](#)
- [Information Risk Report](#)
- [Digital Annual Report](#)
- Strategic Equalities Plan Annual Report (which will be heard in the same meeting).
- [Welsh Language Annual Report](#)
- PSC – People Service Area End of Year Reviews – [11<sup>th</sup> July](#) and [25<sup>th</sup> July](#)
- PSC – Place Service Area End of Year Reviews – [10<sup>th</sup> July](#) and [24<sup>th</sup> July](#)

Report Completed: September 2023