

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: 20 December 2018

Subject Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 – Recommendations Monitoring

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Councillor Debbie Wilcox	Leader of the Council
Will Godfrey	Chief Executive
James Harris	Strategic Director – People
Bev Owen	Strategic Director – Place
Rhys Cornwall	Head of People and Business Change

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to;

1. Establish how the Committee's comments and recommendations from the **28 September 2017** have been addressed in the implementation of the Corporate Plan.
2. Question the Leader and Officers on any areas that are relevant to the progress of the recommendations.
3. Determine if it wishes to make further comment or recommendations to the Cabinet on the implementation of the Corporate Plan.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan forms a part of the Council's Policy Framework. The Plan was accepted at full Council on the [28 November 2017](#) .
- 2.2 Evaluating the impact of the recommendations made by Scrutiny is an important tool in assessing whether the work of the Scrutiny Committee's is making a difference and making an impact.
- 2.3 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) practice guide 'Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact' ([Link](#)) outlines the importance of being able to demonstrate that Scrutiny is effective and that it has impact.

'When we talk about scrutiny having an "impact" we mean that the work of councillors sitting on scrutiny committees should translate into better outcomes for local people. A scrutiny investigation of an issue should lead to services provided to the public improving. If scrutineers are unable to demonstrate either to themselves or others that their work adds value and makes a positive difference to local people, it is more difficult to justify expending resource on it in difficult financial times.'

- 2.4 Demonstrating impact does not necessarily mean that a decision was changed, or altered, Scrutiny's recommendation of the Corporate Plan being discussed at this meeting were centred around Whether the plan could be easily monitored and progress measured, and factors to take into account when the plan is implemented. The value of Scrutiny in assessing the implementation of the recommendations at this stage is to check whether those issues identified by the Committee are being addressed and mitigated against when the Plan is being implemented.

Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.5 The Committee made the following comments and recommendations on the [28 September 2017](#);

- a) It was noted that the Draft Corporate Plan is a well presented, readable document, and the Committee noted the intention to route the Plan in activities that the Council does, and what sits behind these actions.
- b) The Committee Members expressed concerned about how easily this document could be monitored. This document should be a stand-alone document that needs to contain sufficient information about how the plan will be achieved in order to ensure that progress in over the next 5 years can be measured.

This should include:

- Additional information underpinning the 20 pledges such as the relevant headline performance indicators, the timescales for the phasing of the implementation of the actions, and an indicator of what the next steps would be in moving the actions forward.
- Further explanation on how the plan fits together with the other key documents within the Council, particularly how they will be used to monitor and measure the achievement of the pledges.
- For the example of the actions associated with the market, it was suggested that

more information was needed to articulate the longer term vision for the market, and the city centre as a whole.

- c) Members noted that there was no reference to the development of a safe and vibrant night time economy within Newport within the Plan, and suggested that this should be included as it impacted upon the vibrancy of the city centre.
- d) It would be beneficial to include consistent references to the role of collaborative working within the Plan, particularly how Council will be working with its partners to achieve the 20 pledges. The Committee were advised by Officers at the meeting collaboration underpinned all of the action; Members suggested that this needed to be made clearer in the plan.
- e) Members commended the focus on preventative actions within the Plan, and the emphasis on improving how the Council engages with communities. Members emphasised the need to ensure that the implementation of these actions were done consistently and thoroughly throughout the organisation, to be able to deliver what is set out in the plan.
- f) With regard to the city centre development pledges, it was noted that it was important to engage with the communities within the wards as well as those living within the city centre. To understand the impact of and changes to the city centre to the whole of Newport, and to understand how the Council can encourage people from the suburbs to utilise the city centre.
- g) Members suggested that the Corporate Plan should be available in a smaller, summary format with just the key sections. Members also discussed with officers how the Plan could be created as an online version, with links and interactive sections. The purpose of this would be to make it more accessible and interesting to the public.
- h) The Committee discussed the development of the City Centre, including how the Council was engaging with those living in the city centre, safety issues how the environment could be improved, and how people living in the surrounding areas could be encouraged to utilise the city centre. The Committee felt that this was an important area that should be considered in more detail by the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate regularly to monitor progress.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – Update – Recommendations Monitoring – Corporate Plan
This appendix outlines progress and commentary from the Officers against each of the recommendations made by the Committee previously.
- Appendix 2 - Programmes and Projects linked to the Corporate Plan
This appendix introduces each of the Corporate Plans 'Themes' to the Committee, along with the 20 corresponding Commitments, Measures of Success and Progress achieved so far.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Question the Leader and Officers on any areas the Members feel requires further explanation or additional information.
- Establish whether the report addresses the Committees Recommendations relating to the implementation of the Corporate Plan;
 - What progress has been made towards addressing the recommendations?
 - What actions are in place to continue progress the implementation of the Corporate Plan over the next twelve months?
- **Conclusions**
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained in the report?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any comments to the Cabinet or directly to the Cabinet Member to address at the Committee's next meeting?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee or further information required?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- The Corporate Plan in its nature is the starting point for the Corporate Plan Commitments and the driving force behind the Councils Well-being Objectives:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Committees consideration of the implementation of the Corporate Plan should consider how the Council is demonstrating working within the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales Act).

The Committee should consider how the implementation of the Corporate Plan is contributing and demonstrating the 5 ways of working.

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>How are you prioritising the actions with the plan against the short term and long term needs of the Community?</p> <p>Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented or how the actions are prioritised?</p>
<p>Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users monitored and are taken into account within the implementation of the Plan.</p>
<p>Integration 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.</p>	<p>How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p>
<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?</p>
<p>Involvement 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>	<p>How have as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?</p> <p>Within the work of the Project Boards, how are you ensuring the diverse communities are involved in your decision making?</p>

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- [OSMC Meeting – 28 September 2017](#)
- [Council - 28 November 2017](#)

Report Completed: December 2018