

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: 24th September 2020

Subject **Annual Report 2019/20**

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Councillor Jane Mudd	Leader of Newport City Council
Beverly Owen	Chief Executive
Rhys Cornwall	People & Business Change
Chris Humphries	Acting Director of Social Services

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 **Improve People's Lives** in Newport.
2. Whether the Annual Report 19-20 contains sufficient information to monitor the achievement of the four Wellbeing Goals and 20 Commitments.
3. Consider the initial impacts of Covid-19 on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Strategic Recovery Aims.
4. Whether it wishes to provide comment and recommendations on the Annual Report 19-20 to Cabinet.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The 2019-20 Annual Report outlines the progress Newport City Council has made so far in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017-22. This is the third year of reporting progress against the plan, and the third year of scrutiny from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and this report reflects: the achievements made in the year; the challenges the Council has faced; where decisions made have been learned from; and what will be delivered in 2020/21 and beyond.

The Corporate Plan introduced the Council's four Wellbeing Objectives and related steps to achievement (Corporate Plan pages 40 – 46):

- 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
- To build cohesive and sustainable communities

In the Corporate Plan the four Wellbeing Objectives are linked to four **Corporate Commitments** (Corporate Plan Page 26 to 34):

- **Resilient Communities** (To build cohesive and sustainable communities);
- **Thriving City** (To promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment);
- **Aspirational people** (To improve skills, education and employment opportunities and to be healthy, independent and resilient); and
- **Modernised Council** as the overarching supporting function for the three Corporate Action Plans.

2.2 To support the delivery of the Corporate Plan, each of the eight service areas have set a service plan that is aligned to the Wellbeing Objectives, and Corporate Commitments. These Service Plans contain:

- Service Plan Objectives;
- Planned Actions for each Objective for the year. The actions in the 20-21 Service Plans also link to the Strategic Recovery Aims where applicable;
- Performance measures which include national and locally set performance measures; and
- Service Area risks.

Service Plans in 2019/20 have been monitored through the Performance Scrutiny Committee People (Adult Services, Children Services and Education Services) and the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate (City Services, Finance, Law & Regulation, People & Business Change and Regeneration Investment & Housing). Service Plan scrutiny for the People Committee is available [here](#) and Place and Corporate is available [here](#).

2.3 The Corporate Plan Annual Report is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for a **strategic overview** to work alongside the performance monitoring completed by other Committees. The Annual Report also provides an overview of progress made against performance measures in the last three years as well as demonstrating how the Council supports the Wellbeing for Future Generations goals.

2.4 In the last quarter of 2019/20, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the delivery of services which resulted resources being diverted towards front line services and support for communities. The Council's Covid-19 response, impact on service delivery has been outlined in the report. The Report also details how the Council's learning and actions have supported the development of the Council's [Strategic Recovery Aims](#) and also the delivery of the Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Newport City Council Annual Report 2019/20

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

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

Question the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and senior officers on the progress towards achieving the mission statement to **Improve People's Lives** in Newport set out in the Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022.

- Look back at how well the Council has performed in 2019/20 against its Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan 2017-22;
- To assess whether the steps to achieving the four Wellbeing Objectives are being undertaken, to what extent and where the evidence for this is;
- Assess and make comment on:
 - How effectively the Council is performing against the performance measures;
 - The extent to which any underperformance is being addressed and associated risks are being mitigated;
- Consider the Council's initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant lockdown measures.
 - Is the Council confident that the Strategic Recovery Aims and their actions support the recovery of services and communities?
 - How is the Council learning from its actions to deliver services differently and more effectively to communities and its service users?
 - Does the Council have resilience and flexibility in the Strategic Recovery Aims and Corporate Plan to support future localised lockdowns in 2020/21?
 - Confidence of the Council to achieve its objectives and actions for the remainder of the Corporate Plan to 2022.
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the report?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance against the Corporate Plan?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- The report is intrinsically linked with each of the Council policies and priorities:

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

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	How are you prioritising the actions with the plan against the short term and long term needs of the Community?
	How is the Council considering the long term impacts of Covid -19 actions on the long term needs of the community?
	Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?
	How is the Council considering the long term sustainability of its finances?
<p>Prevention</p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users are monitored and are taken into account within the implementation of the Plan?
	How is the Council considering preventative actions to minimise Covid-19 impact on services?
<p>Integration</p> <p>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>	How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?
	How is the Council ensuring the Strategic Recovery Aims are being aligned to the Corporate Plan Objectives and Service Plans?
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	How is the knowledge / information / good practice of others being used to inform / influence the Council's work?
	How is the Council learning from the experience and knowledge gained from other organisations and service areas during the Covid-19 crisis?
	How is the Council collaborating with other organisations to build resilience across its front line services?
<p>Involvement</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 as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?
	Within the development of the Council's strategic policies decisions, how are you ensuring the views of the City's diverse communities are considered?
	How is the Council seeking the views of service users to understand the impacts that Covid-19 has had on their experiences and effectiveness of delivery?

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017-22](#)
- [Strategic Recovery Aims](#)