

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 14th October 2020

Subject Corporate Annual Report 2019/20

Purpose To present to Cabinet the Corporate Annual Report 2019/20 on the progress of delivery against the Corporate Plan 2017-22.

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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. This year's Annual Report reaffirms our commitment to delivering the Corporate Plan objectives in 2020/21 and demonstrates how we are contributing towards the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2018-23.

This is the third year of reporting against the Corporate Plan objectives and this year's Annual Report reflects back on the achievements we have made, where we have learned from decisions made and looks forward at what will be delivered in 2020/21. Additionally the Annual Report also reflects on the Council's Covid-19 response and how this has contributed towards the delivery of the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims.

This year's report highlights the achievements made by the Council including: the improvement in Primary Schools categorisation; increase in household recycling; the delivery of the 'Baby and Me' initiative; Launch of the Council's commitment to be Carbon neutral by 2030; the redevelopment of Ringland Community Centre and launch of the Neighbourhood Hubs.

As part of the 2009 Local Government Measure the Council will publish the Annual Report in Welsh and English on the Council's website by 31st October 2020.

Proposal Cabinet is asked to endorse the Annual Report 2019/20 and enable the report to be published by the 31st October 2020 deadline.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Corporate Management Team

Signed

Background

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has set seven Well-being 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) 'One Newport' has set their Wellbeing Plan 2018-23 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 four Well-being 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.

This is the third Annual Report on the delivery of the Corporate Plan as required by the Well-being 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 2020/21 for the rest of the Corporate Plan. As part of the Council's Annual Review, the Council will commit to the delivery of the four Well-being Objectives in 2020/21, supported by our Strategic Recovery Aims.

The 2019/20 Annual Report looks back at the Council's performance against its finances, performance measures and progress against the four Well-being Objectives. The report also looks at other areas such as how Newport City Council supports the delivery of services, staff and decision making such as: corporate / service planning, workforce well-being, procurement, equalities (including the Strategic Equality Plan [SEP]) and engagement.

This year's Annual Report also reflects back on the Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis that impacted Newport since February 2020. The Council's response alongside its partners to the crisis has led towards the re-evaluation of how services are delivered and re-focus of the Council's priorities set in the Corporate Plan. The Council recognises the work that is required to help support the recovery of the City's economy, support of vulnerable and marginalised communities that have been impacted by Covid-19 and the delivery of Council services. This has resulted in the Council adopting its four Strategic Recovery Aims to support the Corporate Plan and the delivery of the four Well-being Objectives in 2020/21:

1. Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.
2. Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city's economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.
3. Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities.
4. Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

The Annual Report has highlighted the ongoing collaborative work that it is involved with in the City and across the wider South East Wales region. The Report also highlights the many challenges that Newport City Council faces in delivering its services sustainably in the long term against increasing demand for services and ongoing budget pressures.

The Council once again managed to deliver its services against its budget despite overspends in frontline areas such as Adults social care (£0.95m), Children's independent fostering (£0.6m), Children's out of area placements (£0.5m) and schools (£2m).

The report also highlights where the Council is performing well over the last three years and where further improvement can be made. The Council strives to continuously monitor these areas and make the necessary improvements for the remainder of the Corporate Plan.

In this year's Annual Report 2019/20 the following has been successfully delivered by the Newport Council:

Well-Being Objective 1: To improve skills, education and employment opportunities

- Continuing improvement in the Welsh Government School Categorisation of Newport's Primary Schools as green increasing from 62.8% in 2018/19 to 74.4% in 2019/20.
- Continuous improvement with both Primary and Secondary school attendance in the academic year 2018/19.
- Successful delivery of the pilot project Raising Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) and Seren Academy in secondary schools to support disadvantaged pupils to obtain their predicted attainment outcomes so that they are equalised to other mainstream pupils nationally (or in the school).
- Continuous delivery of adult learning including the delivery of EU funded schemes in the community to support disadvantaged people opportunities to retrain, reskill and employment opportunities.

Well-Being Objective 2: To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment

- Continuous regeneration of the City through the support and delivery of schemes such as the Chartist Hotel, Indoor Market, Market Arcade, Mill Street Post Office building, Transporter Bridge Visitor Centre and now the Information Station.
- Implementation of the new smaller bins across households in the City contributing towards the increase in the Council's recycling rates to 66.4%.
- Successful implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement in Newport seeing the improvement in the behaviour of motorists and the environment of Newport.
- Delivery of various bio-diversity and green projects to improve the City's environment. This includes the installation of solar panels across 21 sites to reduce the Council's energy consumption.

Well-Being Objective 3: To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

- The delivery of the Baby and Me initiative by the Council's Children Services and Barnardos to provide holistic support to parents in overcoming the barriers to successful parenting.
- The continuous improvement and delivery of the Council's First Contact Service, Community Connectors and Adult Social Care support to ensure service users are signposting to the right service and supported to live healthy and independent lives.
- Delivery of the Council's Active Travel schemes such as Fourteen Locks and Coed Melyn Cycleway and St David's Primary school offering improved access to walking and cycling.
- Adoption of the [Sustainable Travel Strategy](#), by Newport Council and its Public Services Board partners to encourage the move towards alternative / cleaner transport, use of more public transport, support infrastructure changes to enable safe routes and promote engagement across schools and communities.

Well-Being Objective 4: To build cohesive and sustainable communities

- Collaborative working with the City's Registered Social Landlords to deliver the Housing Support Grant and housing developments that will offer more affordable good quality housing for its residents.
- The delivery of the Safe, Warm and Secure housing improvement loan scheme to encourage private landlords to improve their properties for rental and home ownership in the city.
- Redevelopment of the Ringland Community Centre into the Ringland Neighbourhood Hub. The four Neighbourhood Hubs in the City bring together key community services for residents to access Council services.
- Continuing engagement and involvement of Newport's communities through collaborative groups such as Safer Newport that aim to problem solve issues in the communities and improve the opportunities of

disadvantaged groups. Other initiatives such as Operation Bang and Participatory budgeting help the communities to be involved in the Council's partnership activities.

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 by the 31st October 2020 as required by the Local Government Act 2009.

Cabinet also received a report outlining the progress against the Strategic Recovery objectives and as such this is not covered in detail here.

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 Government Act 2009.	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

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2018-23
NCC Corporate Plan 2017-22
Strategic Recovery Aims

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 2019/20 to enable publication by the 31st October 2020 deadline.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. The report highlights the impact of COVID at the tail end of 2019/20 and ongoing financial pressures that have been and continue to be managed through the Welsh Government Hardship Fund. The report outlines its strategic recovery aims and where there is a financial impact of delivering these aims and the objectives of the Corporate Plan, they are either met through existing budgets, WG grant identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan for funding or, in one promise area only, 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. The publication of this report also provides an opportunity for Newport residents, businesses and staff to understand the progress of delivery. The comments of the Scrutiny Committee are also included in the report.

This report, alongside our COVID recovery reports outline the continuous progress that is being made including to build up resilience in the long term.

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 Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 24th September 2020. The agenda and video of the committee meeting is linked [here](#).

The Committee had a very detailed discussion on the contents of the report and the Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis in Newport. The Committee requested that the report provides an explanation for the 'Amber' and 'Red' performance measures which have been updated in the Annual Report.

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 – 24th September 2020

Dated: October 2020