

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### Subject Annual Report 2020/21

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject	Page Numbers
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 20-21 contains sufficient information to monitor the achievement of the four Wellbeing Goals and 20 Commitments.
3. 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 20-21 to Cabinet.

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 The 2020-21 Annual Report outlines the progress Newport City Council has made so far in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017-22. This is the fourth year of reporting progress against the plan, and the fourth year of scrutiny from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

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 2021/22 which is its final year.

In 2017 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 2020/21 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). For minutes of the Scrutiny Committees:

- People Performance Scrutiny Committee, [8<sup>th</sup> June](#) and [22<sup>nd</sup> June](#)
- Place and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee, [7<sup>th</sup> June](#) and [21<sup>st</sup> June](#).

- 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 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 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the delivery of services which resulted in 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
- 2.5 The Corporate Annual Report 2019/20 was reviewed last year by the Overview and Scrutiny Management committee [24<sup>th</sup> September](#). The key areas covered by the Committee were:
- Digital inequalities faced by children and people to access devices and internet for home schooling.
  - Prioritisation to have Grade A office space for businesses in the City Centre and if this Covid-19 crisis will change this objective.

- The Annual Report should include an explanation for performance indicators reporting amber and red.
- Consideration of how the Council will provide people with resource and support to move out of the crisis and what steps the Council has taken to achieve this. Example provided was the work completed by the Council and partners with the homeless.
- Impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minority groups in the City and what action the Council will be taking to progress and improve cohesion in the City.
- Noted the positive work that the Council has taken working with partners to deliver services and respond to the pandemic / restrictions.
- How New Ways of Working will support and supplement the care provided to young people and their families as well people in care homes.

### 3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Newport City Council Annual Report 2020/21
- 3.2 This Report provides an overview of Newport City Council's finances and performance against the Well-being and Strategic Recovery Aims. Together with governance and engagement activities undertaken over the last year.
- 3.3 Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Report of the Director of Social Services 2020/21.

### 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

The areas Committee may wish to consider in the report are outlined below:

- An assessment of how the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and senior officers considers the progress towards achieving the mission statement to **Improve People's Lives** in Newport as set out in the Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022.
- An assessment of how well the Council has performed in 2020/21 against its Wellbeing Objectives and Steps in the Corporate Plan 2017-22.
- 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 response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Strategic Recovery Aims.
  - How is the Council learning from its actions to deliver services differently and more effectively to communities and its service users?
  - Resilience and capability to deliver services and the Corporate Plan if there are further restrictions in 2021/22.
  - 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 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 or other Performance Committees?
  - Does the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

## Section B – Supporting Information

## 5 Supporting Information

5.1 The report is intrinsically linked with each of the Acts and Guidance:

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Newport Council Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- [Newport's Well-being Plan 2018 - 23](#)

## 6 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			

## 7 Impact Assessment:

The Corporate Annual Report considers all of the key legislative requirements such as the Equality Act, Socio Economic Duty and Welsh Language Measures.

### Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The delivery of the Corporate Plan supports the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The Act requires Council's to set Wellbeing objectives that are aligned to the Wellbeing Goals. The delivery of Council services and the Plan also must consider the 5 ways of working. These are outlined in the table below and will enable lines of enquiry for Scrutiny Members.

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<b>Long-term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	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?
<b>Prevention</b> Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users are monitored and are taken into account within the implementation of the Plan?

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
	How is the Council considering preventative actions to minimise Covid-19 impact on services?
<b>Integration</b> 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.	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?
<b>Collaboration</b> Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	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?
<b>Involvement</b> 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.	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?

## 8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)

Report Completed: August 2021