

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: October 2022

### Subject **Draft Annual Corporate Wellbeing Self-Assessment Report 2021/22**

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	<b>Leader of Newport City Council</b>	
Beverly Owen	<b>Chief Executive</b>	
Rhys Cornwall	<b>Director of Transformation &amp; Corporate</b>	
Paul Jones	<b>Director of Environment and Sustainability</b>	
Sally Ann Jenkins	<b>Director of Social Services</b>	

## 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 as part of the Corporate Plan 2017-22.
2. Whether the Annual Report 21-22 contains sufficient information to monitor the achievement of the 4 Wellbeing Goals and 20 Commitments.
3. Impacts of Covid-19 and the cost of living on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan.
4. Consideration of report's Self-Assessment and the supporting action plan to improve governance and performance.
5. Whether it wishes to provide comment and recommendations on the Annual Report 21-22 to Cabinet.

## 2 Context

### Background

2.1 The 2021-22 Annual Report is the final report to summarise the progress Newport City Council has made in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017-22 before the new Corporate Plan 2022-27 comes into effect.

This report reflects: the achievements made in the previous year; the challenges the Council has faced; where decisions made have been learned from; and actions for improvement in 22/23.

In 2017 the [Corporate Plan](#) introduced the Council's four Wellbeing Objectives and related steps to achievement (Corporate Plan pages 40 – 46):

1. To improve skills, education and employment opportunities
2. To promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment
3. To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
4. 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 In 2021/22, the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 was passed. The new legislation requires Local Authorities to conduct a [Self-Assessment](#) of its governance, and performance for the previous reporting year. To meet this requirement, this year's report incorporates the self-assessment requirements and includes an action plan at the end of the report that will support how the Council will improve its governance and performance arrangements.

2.3 A copy of this report will also be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Both recommendations and comments will be considered as part of the Cabinet Report in November and before publication. A copy of the Annual Report will also be shared with Welsh Government and the three regulatory bodies (Audit Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn). The delivery of the actions identified in the report will be monitored through the service plans and update on progress reported in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

2.3 The delivery of the Corporate Plan was based upon the previous structure of eight service areas. Each of the eight service areas have set a service plan that is aligned to the Wellbeing Objectives, and Corporate Commitments. These Service Plans contained:

- Service Plan Objectives.
- Planned Actions for each Objective for the year.
- Performance measures which include national and locally set performance measures; and
- Service Area risks.

Service Plans in 2021/22 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, [12<sup>th</sup> July](#) and [26<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#).
- Place and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee, [11<sup>th</sup> July](#) and [25<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#).

2.4 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.

2.5 For most of 2021/22, Covid restrictions remained in place for communities and businesses in Newport. Delivery against the four Strategic Recovery Aims were reported to the Council's Cabinet throughout 2021/22 as services moved back into more business-as-usual routines. However, this did not mean all services went back to pre-pandemic arrangements and where changes were found to be beneficial to service users these have remained in place.

2.6 The Corporate Annual Report 2020/21 was reviewed last year by the Overview and Scrutiny Management committee on the [10<sup>th</sup> September 2022](#).

### 3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Newport City Council Draft Corporate Wellbeing Self-Assessment Report 2021/22.

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 The Council's new Corporate Plan 2022-27 Well-being Objective themes was presented at OSMC in September 2022. Link to the Corporate Plan is linked [here](#).

### 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

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

- Assess progression towards achieving the mission statement to **Improve People's Lives** in Newport as set out in the Corporate Plan 2017-22.
- Assess the Council's performance in 2021/22 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 under performance is being addressed and associated risks are being mitigated.
  - The Self-Assessment and supporting action plan to improve governance and performance arrangements.
- Consider the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis.
  - How is the Council learning from its actions to deliver services differently and more effectively to communities and its service users?
- 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:

<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	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
<b>Corporate Plan Commitments</b>	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
<b>Supporting Function</b>	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:
<p style="text-align: center;"><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>	<p>How are you prioritising the actions with the plan against the short term and long term needs of the Community?</p> <p>How is the Council considering the long-term impacts of Covid -19 and cost of living actions on the long term needs of the community?</p> <p>Are there any long-term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?</p> <p>How is the Council considering the long-term sustainability of its finances?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<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?</p>

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
	How is the Council considering preventative actions to minimise Covid-19 and cost of living impact on services?
<p><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.</p>	<p>How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p> <p>How is the Council ensuring the Strategic Recovery Aims are being aligned to the Corporate Plan Objectives and Service Plans?</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>How is the knowledge / information / good practice of others being used to inform / influence the Council's work?</p> <p>How is the Council learning from the experience and knowledge gained from other organisations and service areas during the Covid-19 crisis?</p> <p>How is the Council collaborating with other organisations to build resilience across its front-line services?</p>
<p><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.</p>	<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?</p> <p>Within the development of the Council's strategic policies decisions, how are you ensuring the views of the City's diverse communities are considered?</p> <p>How is the Council seeking the views of service users to understand the impacts that Covid-19 and cost of living has had on their experiences and effectiveness of delivery?</p>

## 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: October 2022