

**COUNCIL**  
**23 OCTOBER 2018**

**THE COUNCIL'S 2017/18 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Report Submitted by: Alison Ward, Chief Executive  
Report Written by: Tom Roberts, Senior Corporate Improvement and Scrutiny Officer

**1. Area Affected**

1.1 County Borough Wide.

**2. Purpose of Report**

2.1 To approve the Council's 2017/18 Annual Performance Report.

**3. Key Messages**

- 3.1
- Under part one, section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and related guidance issued by the Welsh Government, the Council is required to publish an Annual Performance Report outlining its progress in delivering the previous year's improvement activity.
  - This includes, but is not confined to audited data yielded from the statutory performance indicators. It should detail evidence of the processes the Council has gone through to discharge its general duty to improve as expressed in the previous year's forward facing improvement plan.
  - The report should be written for both internal and external audiences and should be published before 31<sup>st</sup> October in the financial year after the year to which the information relates.
  - To ensure consistency in the Council's approach to delivering improvements to citizens across Torfaen, the three priorities of Corporate Plan 3 (CP3) were set as the Council's improvement objectives for the duration of the Plan, subject to annual review to make sure they remain relevant for citizens and affordable within any budget constraints.
  - The Council adopted a new Corporate Plan in January 2016, which runs from April 2016 to March 2021. Therefore the financial year 2017/18 is the second annual report since the adoption of CP3.

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended Council approve the 2017/18 Annual Performance Report as attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

**5. Background**

- 5.1 In April 2010, legislation came into force which redefined the duty placed on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and account for it. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires local authorities to account for their improvement in two stages. Firstly local authorities are required to plan for improvement at the start of each financial year, including the selection of a set of short term improvement objectives for the year ahead. Secondly the council needs to report achievements against those plans as soon as the authority is in a position to be able to account for the success of the previous year's improvement activity.
- 5.2 Council adopted its Corporate Plan (CP3) in January 2016. CP3 covers the period from April 2016 to March 2021. It contains three priorities, developed and agreed by elected members ...
- A Clean and Green Torfaen
  - Raising Educational Attainment
  - Support for Torfaen's most Vulnerable Residents
- 5.3 The Plan provides a clear vision for the whole Council, with a set of priorities providing a framework to create a fairer future where everyone maintains cleaner and greener communities, where young people receive the best possible standard of education and where everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, independent lives regardless of who they are or where they live.
- 5.4 Council approved its 2017/18 Improvement Plan in April 2016. This plan was based on the Council's new Corporate Plan (CP3), with the three Corporate Plan priorities adopted as the Council's Improvement Objectives for 2017/18.

## **6. Issues and Findings**

- 6.1 The Council's 2017/18 Annual Performance Report is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report. This report looks backward, focusing on the Council's performance during the 2017/18 financial year. It focuses on the three published improvement objectives for the 2017/18 financial year, namely:
- A Clean and Green Torfaen
  - Raising Educational Attainment
  - Support for Torfaen's most Vulnerable Residents

The report includes:

- Details on the activities delivered, both by the Council and in collaboration with partners, to deliver the priorities of CP3;
- Narrative descriptions and performance updates showing how successful the Council has been in delivering its agreed 2017/18 improvement objectives;
- The Council's reported performance against the Public Accountability Measures;
- Details of how the Council's outcome based service planning process has been used to progress the Council's agreed outcomes and how service areas are working together to maximise the impact of available resources;

- Details of where the Council is successfully working in collaboration with partner agencies to deliver service improvements and cost savings; and
- A self-assessment of the Council's progress in delivering the three agreed improvement objectives, together with explanations where progress to improve the agreed outcomes has not been as successful as originally planned.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 The Council's third Corporate Plan was developed by elected members and adopted by full Council on 26 January 2016. It contains clear priorities and agreed outcome statements formulated following an extensive member led exercise, based on the views of citizens, stakeholders and service professionals, and local demographic data. The plan helps to focus the Council's activities and resources on the areas that matter most to citizens.
- 7.2 On the 13 September 2018 the Cross-cutting Resources and Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the draft 2017/18 Annual Performance Report scrutinising the progress made by service areas during the 2017/18 financial year.

## **8. Implications**

### **8.1 Policy –**

- 8.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan provides the key framework for all policy decisions of the Council. In effect, it has become the lens through which all proposals are considered in development and implementation terms.
- 8.1.2 This 2017/18 Performance Report gives a position statement of what has been achieved during the past year in relation to the Council's agreed improvement objectives.
- 8.1.3 The report is not supported by a completed well-being assessment tool. This is because the Annual Performance Report is a compendium of information, summarising our progress against a range of improvement activities. Where appropriate these will have been subject to their own in depth well-being assessments.

### **8.2 Legal –**

- 8.2.1 There is a requirement to publish the Council's 2017/18 Annual Performance Report before 31<sup>st</sup> October in the financial year after the year to which the information relates.

### **8.3 Financial –**

- 8.3.1 Whilst there are significant financial implications associated with delivering the Council's Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan, these are related to choices the Council faced as part of the annual 2017/18 budget process.

## 8.4 Communication –

8.4.1 Following approval, this report will be translated into Welsh and published on the Council's website. A summary version of the Annual Performance Report will be advertised and made available to all citizens through the Council's website.

## 9. Action to be taken following decision

9.1 Following approval of the 2017/18 Annual Performance Report, the document will be provided to the Wales Audit Office for their assessment on our progress to deliver the Council's priorities and short term improvement objectives.

9.2 Their findings with regards to the Council's arrangements to secure continuous improvement in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 will be included in their 2017 Annual Improvement Report of the Council.

## 10. Recommendation

10.1 It is recommended Council approve the 2017/18 Annual Performance Report as attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Appendices</b> | Appendix 1 – 2017/18 Annual Performance Report |
|-------------------|--|

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Background Papers</b> | 2017/18 Forward Facing Improvement Plan<br><a href="https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Performance-Improvement/Forward-Facing-Improvement-Plan/2017-2018-Well-being-Statement.pdf">https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Performance-Improvement/Forward-Facing-Improvement-Plan/2017-2018-Well-being-Statement.pdf</a> |
|--------------------------|--|

|   |
|---|
| <b>For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please telephone :</b><br>Tom Roberts, Senior Corporate Improvement and Scrutiny Officer, 01495 766298 |
|---|