

Annual Performance Report for Planning

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1. Area Affected

1.1 County borough wide

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 For Members to note the Annual Performance Report (APR) that has been submitted to Welsh Government.

3. Key Messages

- 3.1
- The APR is a self-evaluation of the Council's performance and achievements for the period 2017-18
 - The APR measures the Authority's performance against the Planning Performance Framework and the Welsh average
 - The Council performed 'Good' in 9 of the 13 measured areas of the Performance Framework
 - The customer survey highlights several areas which need to be addressed: quality and consistency of advice; handling of applications and keeping applicants informed.

4. Background

4.1 In December 2013 the Welsh Government (WG) published the consultation document: 'Positive Planning' which was accompanied by the draft Planning Bill. The document made it clear that the performance of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in carrying out their planning functions is a priority for the Welsh Government (WG). The documents set out WG's proposals for a planning system that "enables appropriate development." The proposed Planning (Wales) Bill is the mechanism for delivering comprehensive reform to the planning system in Wales. This was eventually brought into effect by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

4.2 According to WG, significant improvement to the delivery of the LDP and to the operation of the development Management service is necessary to increase efficiency and consistency between local planning authorities across Wales. Where performance is deemed to be consistently poor, WG intend to use new powers to intervene. A Planning Performance Framework was, therefore, published by WG against which all Welsh local planning authorities are measured. In addition to providing quarterly performance information, each local planning authority is required to produce an Annual Performance Report (APR) to nationally agreed standards in order to drive self-improvement.

5. Issues and Findings

5.1 The APR for Torfaen Local Planning Authority has recently been submitted to WG and is included as appendix A. The APR will also be published on the Council's website. WG will prepare and publish an all Wales report on the performance of local planning authorities across Wales for the Minister

in due course.

6. Consultation

6.1 Not applicable

7. Well-being Assessment

7.1 Not applicable

8. Risks

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Action to be taken following decision

9.1 The APR will be published on the Council's website. Welsh Government will produce an all Wales report assessing the performance generally of all Welsh local planning authorities.

10. Measures of Success

10.1 See performance framework information at the end of the APR in appendix A. The Council performed 'Good' in 9 of the 13 measured areas of the Performance Framework. In 3 areas the Council scored 'Fair.'

The only area where improvement is required is the 5 year land supply although Members will note the recent Annual Monitoring Report presented to Council on 23 October which explained that the Minister had temporarily dis-applied paragraph 6.2 of TAN1 (for the duration of a wide-ranging review of the delivery of housing through the planning system). This would remove the reference to attaching "*considerable weight*" to the lack of a five-year housing land supply as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing.

11. Conclusion/summary

12.1 The Planning (Wales) Act requires the Council to submit a APR every October. The APR is a means of self-evaluating the Council's performance against the targets set out in the Performance Framework and against other welsh local planning authorities.

12. Recommendation(s)

12.1 That Members note the report and accompanying APR set out in appendix A.

Appendices	Appendix A: Annual Performance Report 2017-18
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Background Papers	<p>Note: Members of the public are entitled, under the Local Government Act 1972, to inspect background papers to reports. The following is a list of the background papers used in the production of this report.</p> <p>Officers must list here any material on which the report is largely based (or from which quotes have been taken), unless that material is 'published work' and provided it is not exempt. Published work includes documents within the public domain (e.g. previous committee reports and minutes, acts of parliament, WAG or WLGA guidance etc.).</p>
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For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please telephone: insert name, job title, phone number and email address of author or responsible officer here

