
CARDIFF COUNCIL ANNUAL STATUTORY WELL-BEING REPORT 2017-18

Reason for the Report

1. To facilitate the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Council's Statutory Well-being Report, prior to its submission to Cabinet on 11 October 2018.

Background

2. The Committee, within its Terms of Reference, has responsibility for scrutiny of the Council's programme for improvement.
3. The national framework for improvement is the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Together, these two Acts require the Council to publish its Well-Being Objectives, and how it plans to achieve them, whilst improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.
4. As of 2018, the Improvement Report has been re-branded, and will now be known as the Well-being Report. It is a statutory requirement that reviews the Council's performance over the previous year, using evidence that demonstrates the delivery of its Well-Being Objectives. The Report should communicate improvement information that is timely and accurate to Members, officers, citizens, communities, stakeholders, other Councils, the Welsh Government and regulators.

5. The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires the Council to publish its Well-Being Objectives and how it plans to achieve them. In previous assessments, the Auditor General for Wales highlighted the need for the Council to be more focussed on its key priorities and the delivery of these. In recognition of this opinion, and the growing pressure on the Council's finances available to deliver services to the citizens and communities of Cardiff in 2017-18, the following **four priorities** were identified as key areas of focus:

- Better Education and Skills for all
- Supporting Vulnerable People
- An Economy that benefits all Citizens
- Working Together to Transform Services

6. The Council's Corporate Plan 2017-19 focussed on what the Council would deliver to achieve these four priorities, and in turn, the priorities helped to shape our Well-Being Objectives for 2017-18.

7. The Council's **Well-Being Objectives for 2017-18** focussed on:

- Every Cardiff school is a great school
- Looked After Children in Cardiff achieve their potential
- Supporting people into work and education
- People at risk in Cardiff are safeguarded
- People in Cardiff have access to good quality housing
- People in Cardiff are supported to live independently
- Cardiff has more and better paid jobs
- Cardiff has a high quality city environment where population growth and transport needs are managed sustainably
- All young people in Cardiff make a successful transition into employment, education or training
- The Council has a high quality and sustainable provision of culture, leisure and public spaces in the city

- Communities and Partners are involved in the redesign, development and delivery of local public services
- The Council has effective governance arrangements and improved performance in key areas
- Our services are transformed to make them more accessible, more flexible and more efficient

Cardiff Council's Annual Statutory Well-Being Report 2017-18

8. The Council's Annual Statutory Well-Being Report provides a retrospective summary evaluation of performance for the financial year 2017-18 and Members should note that the Report attached at **Appendix 1** is a final draft. It contains the key elements to meet the statutory requirements. Once approved, it will be translated into Welsh prior to publication by 31 October 2018. A user-friendly version will be published on the Council's website, inviting comments from the public.

9. The Well-Being Report should:

- provide a picture of the Council's performance for the reporting year against the agreed outcomes (the Council's Well-Being Objectives), and targets
- communicate improvement information that is timely and accurate to Members, officers, citizens, communities, stakeholders, other councils, the Welsh Government and regulators

Cardiff Council's Performance in 2017-18

10. In 2016, Welsh Government revoked the Local Government (Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2012, removing the duty on local authorities to submit National Strategic Indicator (NSI) data. In response, and having consulted with the Auditor General, it was agreed that a WLGA-led Task and Finish group should be established to consider the need for, and structure of, a future framework post 2016-17. This revised Public

Accountability Measures (PAM) framework provides a clear and simple overview of local government performance and how it contributes to the national well-being goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

11. In 2017-18, where comparable historical data is available, performance in Cardiff Council has :

- Improved in 64.3% (9 / 14) of indicators, compared to 52% in 2016-17 (13 / 25 indicators)
- Maintained in 7.1% (1 / 14) indicators compared to 4% in 2016-17 (1 / 25 indicators)
- Declined in 14.3% (2 / 14) indicators compared to 44% in 2016-17 (11 / 25 indicators)
- Two indicators with comparable historical data currently not available (14.3%)

12. Cardiff has the largest number of indicators that have improved out of the 22 local authorities – 9 / 14 (joint first with Carmarthenshire). Cardiff also has the fewest number of indicators where performance has declined – 2 / 14 (joint first with Swansea). Cardiff is positioned in 5th place out of the 22 Local Authorities in respect of their positions in the 4 “quarters” (7 in the Upper Quarter, 4 in the Upper Middle Quarter, 2 in the Lower Middle Quarter and 5 in the Lower Quarter) compared to 13th in 2016-17

13. 61% of indicator results were better than the Wales average (11 / 18 indicators) compared to 60% in 2016-17 (15 / 25 indicators). 61% of indicators in the top 2 quarters (11 / 18 indicators) compared to 60% 2016-17 (15 / 25 indicators). 61% of Cardiff's indicators were placed in the ranks of 1st to 11th out of the 22 local authorities (11 / 18 indicators) compared to 60% in 2016-17 (15 / 25 indicators).

14. Despite positive trends, however, it is recognised that the Council will need to continue to focus on addressing areas of underperformance. These areas

will in part inform future planning arrangements in the context of changing demographics, a growing population and ongoing budgetary pressures.

Role of the Auditor General for Wales

15. The Auditor General for Wales, through the Wales Audit Office (WAO), audits each authority's Well-Being Report to assess the extent to which the Report has been prepared and published in accordance with statutory requirements and will determine whether or not to issue the Council with a Certificate of Compliance.

Previous Scrutiny of Improvement

16. The Committee previously monitored the Council's self-assessment of its improvement, in the form of the Statutory Improvement Report 2016-17, in October 2017, at which Members consolidated a future role in contributing to improvement planning and processes around target setting. Following the scrutiny, Members requested.

- Earlier sight of the Improvement Report.
- A summary assessment within the report of where concerns lie, how Directorates will address them, and how they will be monitored to enable more valuable internal challenge.
- An opportunity to contribute to the review of KPI's.
- An appendix explaining any anomalies.
- Greater involvement in the target setting for the forthcoming Corporate Plan; considering that for the purposes of meaningful scrutiny, there needs to be more context setting in improvement performance reporting, as to what exactly performance indicators mean, and the reasoning behind the level at which they are set.
- The Performance Team's expertise and support for its Performance Panel, to ensure productive scrutiny of target setting and improvement.

17. In addition, Members previously expressed an interest in why some targets for 2017/18 had been set lower than the previous years' result. To address this, attached at **Appendix 2** is a table that identifies those Performance Indicators where this is the case, and
18. In response, the Committee was afforded an opportunity for its Performance Panel, joined by all Chairs of Scrutiny Committees to contribute to improvement planning and processes, particularly around target setting. The Committee was reassured that the Council's Corporate Performance Team would be very happy to support the work of the Committee's Performance Panel. The Cabinet Member considered this would provide a very productive avenue through which to develop further the Committee's involvement with the Performance Management Framework and agenda, as a key stakeholder in both its development and implementation.

Scope of the Scrutiny

19. The Committee is invited to consider the Well-being Report 2017-18 and internally challenge how effectively the Council is preparing for the Well-Being of Future Generations going forward, by focusing on delivery of its key priorities.
20. Councillor Chris Weaver, Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation and Performance, Paul Orders, Chief Executive, Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources and Joseph Reay, Head of Performance and Partnerships will attend Committee to address Members questions on the Well-being Report 2017-18.

Legal Implications

21. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise when the matters under

review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

22. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. consider the Council's Annual Statutory Well-being Report 2017-18
- II. report any concerns and observations on the Annual Well-being Report 2017-18 to the Leader of the Council prior to submission to Cabinet on 11 October 2018, and publication by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2018

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

27 September 2018