

**COUNCIL: 25 OCTOBER 2018**

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**CABINET PROPOSAL**

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**CARDIFF COUNCIL ANNUAL STATUTORY WELL-BEING REPORT 2017-18**

**Reason for this Report**

1. This report has been prepared to enable the Cabinet to approve the Council's Annual Statutory Well-Being Report, a document required under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015. The report also satisfies the conditions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, for submission to Council in October 2018, and its publication by 31st October 2018. This report was formerly known as the Statutory Improvement Report.

**Background**

2. The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires that the Council publishes 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 focused on the delivery on a small number of key priorities. In recognition of this, the growing pressure on Council finances and ongoing demand pressures, the following four priorities were identified:
  - Better Education and Skills for all
  - Supporting Vulnerable People
  - An Economy that benefits all Citizens
  - Working Together to Transform Services
3. The Council's Corporate Plan 2017-19 focussed on what the Council would deliver to achieve these four priorities, and in turn, helped to shape the Council's Well-Being Objectives for 2017-18. The Council's Well-Being Objectives for 2017-18 were:
  - 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**

4. The Council's Annual Statutory Well-Being Report (Appendix A provides a retrospective summary evaluation of performance for the financial year 2017-18. 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).
  - communicate improvement information that is timely and accurate to Members, officers, citizens, communities, stakeholders, other councils, the Welsh Government and regulators
5. The Wellbeing Report contains a self-assessment of how the Council considers that it is performing against each Wellbeing Objectives. The Council uses a number of sources of information to assess progress including performance against the Council's Corporate Plan commitments, national and local key performance measures, inspection reports and citizen surveys.

### **The Council's Performance**

6. Over the course of recent years, the Council has been able to evidence a broad pattern of year-on-year improvement, which has been consistently reflected by external regulators and comparative data. A corporate focus on improvement and performance management has underpinned the Council's progress, with a sustained increase in the Council's performance relative to other local authorities.

#### Corporate Performance- Comparative Position 2017-18

7. The National Accountability Measures provide a set of performance indicators against which all local authorities in Wales can be measured. The annual performance data for all 22 local authorities in Wales in 2017/18, published in August by Data Wales, showed that Cardiff Council: In 2017-18 Cardiff Council:
  - Ranked 5th out of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, compared to 13th in 2016-17;

- Improved for the third year in a row in the annual Local Authority rankings;
- Had the joint highest number of performance areas which had improved (alongside Carmarthenshire);
- Had the joint fewest number of indicators where performance had declined (alongside Swansea);
- Scored higher than the Wales average for the majority of indicators.

#### Corporate Performance- Performance against previous year

8. An analysis of performance over time (where comparable historical data is available) demonstrates a broadly positive picture for 2017-18 compared to the previous year. The Council's performance has:
- Improved against 79% of its indicators (11 out of 14 indicators) compared to 52% in 2016-17 (13 out of 25 indicators)
  - Been maintained against 7.1% (1 out of 14 indicators) of its indicators compared to 4% in 2016-17 (1 out of 25 indicators)
  - Declined against 14.3% (2 out of 14 indicators) of its indicators compared to 44% in 2016-17 (11 out of 25 indicators)

#### Education and Social Services

9. The performance of statutory services has been a focus of improvement activity. In education, for example, better outcomes for children and young people are evidenced by Cardiff's performance relative to other local authorities, building on what Estyn described as "[an] *emerging culture of more rigorous performance management*".
10. The results for the 2016 – 2017 academic year demonstrate a clear pattern of continuing improvement in recent years, and Cardiff is performing well in a wide range of performance indicators across the key stages. There has been an overall improvement in the quality of education provision in Cardiff, as evidenced by Estyn inspections and national categorisation. The most recent education results (2017-18), though outside the period assessed by the Annual Well-being Report, continues this pattern of improvement. The Wellbeing Report recognises that while significant progress has been made in working towards the goals of 'Cardiff 2020' focussed action is required in relation to improving educational attainment for identified vulnerable groups.
11. Despite the challenges facing social care being recognised at the national level, a number of measures and initiatives have been undertaken that will improve both the effectiveness of the services and the outcomes it delivers. In terms of Adult services good progress has been made through the implementation of the Independent Living Service, helping manage

demand and cost. Satisfaction with the service is high, and indicators like Delayed Transfers of Care have seen a significant improvement in performance. The Independent Living Services (ILS) First Point of Contact for Adult Services has continued to focus on citizens' strengths to help them achieve their outcomes, and in 70% of instances the Independent Living Services were able to find an alternative solution so that there is no need for an onward referral to Social Services. The Well-being Report does, however, identify performance issues in relation to improving aspects for vulnerable children as outlined below.

### Corporate Performance- Challenge and Improvement

12. The Annual Wellbeing Report 2017-18 highlights a range of performance challenges. Key issues include:

- Financial pressures: The need to address the medium term budget deficit represents a significant challenge for the authority, particularly in the context of maintaining and improving service area performance over the medium term.
- Sickness Absence: The Council recognises that the number of sickness absences represents a corporate challenge. Work has commenced on implementing the APSE action plan, with focus groups conducted with frontline staff and deep-dives being undertaken into areas that have high proportions of sickness to understand the specific issues.
- Waste Management & Street Scene Services: Despite a number of service areas delivering good performance outcomes and the achievement of significant improvement to recycling rates, some fundamental performance challenges have been identified. Recycling performance must be accelerated to achieve the statutory target and long standing productivity challenges in areas of the service must be addressed.
- Corporate Landlord: The Council manages an estate of around 1000 properties with a current use value of approximately £1.2 billion. Around 450 properties (2,000 buildings) are currently being used for operational purposes. The operation and delivery of the Council's Corporate Landlord functions and responsibilities remains a significant challenge in terms of the level of risk and liability which the Council needs to effectively manage.
- Supporting vulnerable children and families: Supporting young people, particularly those who are vulnerable is a long standing corporate priority. Significant challenges remain in relation to safeguarding the most vulnerable children, with the recruitment and retention of social workers in particular an ongoing performance challenge for the Council. With the number of children placed into care continuing to rise, a preventative multi-agency approach, which ensures that families and children get the right support, at the right time, in the right way, will be a priority for 2018-19.

## **Role of the Auditor General for Wales**

13. The Auditor General for Wales through the Wales Audit Office (WAO) audit each authority's Improvement 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 a Certificate of Compliance.

## **Scrutiny Consideration**

14. Following consideration of the draft Annual Statutory Well-Being Report 2017-18 by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee on 3 October 2018 the report was amended to include a more detailed summary of the Council's self-assessment of improvement against each Wellbeing Objective (page 13-14). The letter from the Chair of the Committee is attached at Appendix B.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

15. To recommend the Council's Annual Statutory Well-Being Report 2017-18 to Council in time for the Plan to be published by the statutory date of 31 October 2018.

## **Financial Implications**

16. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, however action on identified priorities for improvement may well have financial implications which would need to be addressed in the budget setting process.

## **Legal Implications**

17. The recommendation is made for the purposes of enabling the Council to comply with its legal duties as outlined in this report

## **HR Implications**

18. There are no HR implications arising directly from this report.

## **CABINET PROPOSAL**

Council is recommended to approve the Annual Statutory Wellbeing Report 2017-18

## **THE CABINET 19 October 2018**

*The following appendix is attached:*

Appendix A – Annual Statutory Wellbeing Report  
Appendix B – Letter from Chair of Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee