
CARDIFF COUNCIL STATUTORY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2016-17

Reason for this Report

1. To facilitate the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Council's Statutory Improvement Report prior to its submission to Cabinet on 12 October 2017.

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 Acts require the Council to publish its Improvement Objectives and how it plans to achieve them, whilst improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.
4. The Improvement Report is a statutory requirement that reviews the Council's performance over the previous year using evidence that demonstrates the delivery of its Improvement 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. Attached at **Appendix A** is a draft of the Report. It contains the key elements to meet the statutory requirements. Once approved, it will be translated into Welsh prior to publication by 31 October 2017. A user-friendly version will be published on the Council's website, inviting comments from the public
6. The report clearly illustrates the linkages (page 4 of 62) between the **National Well-Being Goals**, *which are*:
- A Prosperous Wales;
 - A Resilient Wales;
 - A More Equal Wales;
 - A Healthier Wales;
 - A Wales of Cohesive Communities;
 - A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language;
 - A Globally Responsible Wales,

and the Objectives in the **Well-Being Plan for Cardiff**, *which are*:

- Cardiff has a thriving and prosperous economy;
- People in Cardiff achieve their full potential;
- Cardiff is clean, sustainable and attractive;
- Cardiff is fair, just and inclusive;
- People in Cardiff are healthy;
- People in Cardiff are safe and feel safe;
- Cardiff is a great place to live, work and play.

7. The Well-being objectives above link to the **Council's priorities** set out in its 2017-19 Corporate Plan, *which are*:
- Better education and skills for all;
 - Supporting vulnerable people;
 - An economy that benefits all our citizens; and
 - Working together to transform services,

and also to its **Improvement Objectives** for 2016-17 *which are*:

- Every Cardiff school is a good school where learners achieve well;
- Looked After Children in Cardiff achieve their potential;
- Adult learners achieve their potential;
- 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 employment opportunities and higher value jobs;
- Cardiff has a high quality city environment that includes attractive public spaces and good supporting transport infrastructure;
- All young people in Cardiff make a successful transition into employment, education or training;
- Communities and Partners are actively involved in the design, delivery and improvement of highly valued services;
- The City of Cardiff Council has effective governance arrangements and improves performance in key areas;
- The City of Cardiff Council makes use of fewer, but better, buildings.

Cardiff Council's Performance in 2016-17

8. Members are referred to **page 9** of **Appendix A** to see how Cardiff compares against other Welsh Councils in a table comparing Local Authority Improvement in 2016-17 with 2015-16. In 2016-17 the Council's position in Wales National Performance Table improved to 13th out of 22 local authorities. Sixty per cent of Cardiff's results were better than the Wales Average, and performance in Education was significantly better than the all Wales performance.
9. The Local Government (Wales) Measure requires the Council to make continuous improvement. There are three assessment outcomes

Good progress: The evidence suggest good progress has been made in achieving the Improvement Objective, with improvement observed across all key performance areas.

Satisfactory progress: The evidence suggests satisfactory progress has been made in achieving the Improvement Objective, with improvement observed across most of the key performance areas. However, there may be areas where performance is not as strong as it should be, and this helps to identify where more focus is needed

Unsatisfactory progress: The evidence suggests unsatisfactory progress has been made against the Improvement Objective, with no improvement observed across key performance areas.

10. The report takes each Improvement Objective and asks:

- What do we want to achieve?
- What are our key achievements during 2016-17?
- What is our self-assessment of our performance?
- What is our plan for the future?

11. The final 8 pages of the report provide trend detail of Cardiff's ranking out of the 22 Welsh authorities in the core data sets. Members will note that, of the 28 core indicators, the Council has improved in 13, declined in 11, maintained two, met its target in one, and for one indicator trend data is unavailable.

Role of the Auditor General for Wales

12. The Auditor General for Wales, through the Wales Audit Office (WAO), audits 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 the Council a Certificate of Compliance.

Way Forward

13. The Committee is invited to consider the Annual Statutory Improvement Report 2016-17 and internally challenge how effectively the Council is preparing for improvement going forward, by focusing on delivery of its key priorities.

14. 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 Improvement Report 2016-17.

Legal Implications

15. 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

16. 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 Statutory Annual Improvement Report 2016-17
- II. report any concerns and observations to the Leader of the Council prior to submission to Cabinet on 12 October 2017 and publication by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2017

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

28 September 2017