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**Stronger Fairer Greener**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. To brief Members on the policy priorities for Cardiff Council's new administration, 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener,' prior to consideration by the Cabinet.

**Structure of the Papers**

2. Attached to this scrutiny cover report are the papers to be considered by Cabinet on 14 July 2022.

**Appendix 1:** Cabinet report – Stronger, Fairer, Greener

Appended to this report

**Appendix A:** Policy statement titled 'Stronger Fairer Greener' Cardiff Council 2022

**Context**

3. At the start of a new administration a statement of policy intention sets the agenda for the programme of policies to be delivered over the forthcoming 5 years. The statement captures the priorities of the administration and forms the basis of future corporate planning.
4. The statement of policy priorities attached at **Appendix A** will be endorsed by Cabinet on 14 July 2022. Consideration of the document at this scrutiny meeting is to ensure early scrutiny member familiarity with the administration's priorities, in preparation for

the committee's engagement in developing the Corporate Plan and agreeing its work programme for 2022/23.

5. The Council's Corporate Plan is the key strategic document that sets out detailed delivery milestones, key performance measures and targets. It is supported by Delivery Plans developed by each Directorate, which set out in greater detail how the administration's priorities will be delivered, as well as how Directorate business will be taken forward.
6. This Committee's Terms of Reference confers responsibility for scrutiny of the overall direction set out in the Corporate Plan and the process for its development. As the Council's key strategic document, the Plan will aim to link the priorities set out in the 'Stronger Fairer Greener' statement, with the Public Services Board Well-being Objectives and Directorate Delivery Plans.

### **Structure of the Policy Statement – Stronger Fairer Greener**

7. The Policy Statement attached at **Appendix A** allocates a two-page spread to each named Cabinet portfolio holder and clearly states the vision for that portfolio, together with a list of priorities that will be delivered to achieve the vision. This list will be fundamental to the work programming of all five scrutiny committees over the five-year term in holding Cabinet to account for its delivery and performance in achieving the vision.

### **The Policy Statement**

8. The Cabinet report makes clear that this policy programme is delivered in a challenging external environment that is likely to generate increasing demand pressures on statutory services. The cost of living is of particular concern both because of the impact on vulnerable residents and increased demand for Council statutory services and increasing cost pressures on the Council relating to the rising cost of energy, raw materials, and wages.

9. The Council's MTFP identifies a potential budget gap of £69 million over the period 2023/24 – 2026/27, and the administration's priorities will need to be translated into the Council's policy and budgetary frameworks, backed up by robust governance and performance management arrangements and strong partnership working.
10. Taking the administration's priorities as set out in the document attached at **Appendix A**, the Council's policy framework will translate these into clear organisational objectives with associated delivery milestones, key performance indicators and the necessary resources to ensure progress.
11. The Corporate Plan will be the key document that translates the administration's policy ambitions into clear organisational objectives. It will be developed alongside the Council's Budget, thereby ensuring that the Council's resources are aligned behind the delivery of its policy priorities. The Corporate Plan and Budget are approved alongside one another by Council in February of each financial year.
12. Members will be aware that the Cardiff Public Services Board<sup>1</sup> (PSB) brings together the city's public and third sector leaders. The Cabinet report stresses that to deliver its 'Stronger Fairer Greener' policy agenda the Council will need to coordinate with its partners, to ensure that the priorities identified in the PSB's Wellbeing Plan reflect the priorities set out in 'Stronger Fairer Greener.' Members are advised that this Committee has been designated as the scrutiny committee with statutory responsibility for scrutiny of the effectiveness of PSB arrangements. It will therefore be important to evaluate whether the partnership governance and delivery arrangements ensure that they are well placed to deliver against these priorities.
13. For clarity, the refreshed policy and delivery framework will consist of the Corporate Plan, the Budget Strategy, Partnership Planning and Delivery, and the Performance Management Framework. Scrutiny of these four pillars of the framework will fall to this Committee and as such should form the core of the committee's work programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory Membership of the Cardiff PSB extends to Cardiff Council, Cardiff & Vale Health Board, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue, Natural Resources Wales. The Cardiff Third Sector Council is a statutory invitee.

## **Scope of the Scrutiny**

14. The Committee has an opportunity to offer comments and observations on the statement of policy intent before it is presented to Cabinet, and then to Full Council for approval. This scrutiny offers an opportunity to test the strength of the links between Budget Strategy, Partnership Planning and Delivery and how the Council's Performance Management Framework will support the delivery of the vision.

## **Way Forward**

15. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Huw Thomas; Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation and Performance, Councillor Chris Weaver, the Chief Executive, Paul Orders; and Head of Performance and Partnerships, Gareth Newell; will attend to present the administrations statement of policy priorities, Stronger Fairer Greener, and to answer Members' questions.

## **Legal 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 legal implications. However, legal 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 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**

17. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

18. To consider the Stronger Fairer Greener statement of policy intent and agree any comments and observations to inform Cabinet's consideration.

**DAVINA FIORE**

Director of Governance and Legal Services

7 July 2022