

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD  
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**POLICY REVIEW & PERFORMANCE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**17 January 2023**

**MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2022/23**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's Mid-year Performance Assessment for 2022/23 prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

**Structure of the Papers**

2. The Mid-Year Assessment of Performance 2022/23 will be considered by Cabinet on 19 January 2023. The papers attached to this cover report to enable this scrutiny comprise:

**Appendix 1** – Draft Cabinet report titled Mid-Year Assessment of Performance 2022/23

**Appendix A** – Mid-Year Assessment of Performance 2022/23 (Narrative)

Additional information on progress against the Steps and Key Performance Indicators for each Well-being Objective is accessible by following this link to the [Corporate Plan Dashboard](#)

**Context**

3. This committee's Terms of Reference confer responsibility for scrutiny of the Council's corporate planning, performance assessment and reporting arrangements.
4. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places the onus on the Council to take ownership of its own improvement and develop a performance and governance system that allows for the annual assessment of performance, that can be reviewed periodically by an appointed external panel. The new performance framework the Council has put in place assists the Council in developing a balanced picture of its

improvement journey over the year, while also recognising areas which require further attention. The approach makes a strategic evaluative assessment of performance for each Well-being objective, recognising both successes and challenges, in order to identify areas of focus for the year ahead.

5. The self-assessment framework includes challenge by a number of stakeholders, including engagement with Scrutiny as a significant part of the governance of performance in Cardiff, alongside the formal role given to the Governance & Audit Committee in the Act.
6. The Leader of the Council takes an inclusive approach to meaningful scrutiny engagement in the corporate planning and performance process. This includes a commitment to scrutiny of performance at mid (Q2) and end of year (Q4) by the Committee, and informal policy development discussions with the Scrutiny Performance Panel to support Corporate Plan target setting and end of year performance assessments. This level of scrutiny engagement acknowledges the benefit of progressive interaction of policy development, supporting effective scrutiny of corporate performance and its reporting processes.

## **Background**

7. In February each year, Council approves a three-year **Corporate Plan**. The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council will deliver the administration's priorities as set out in its Policy Statement and the Council's Well-being Objectives for the year in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Plan includes the **Steps** and **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** considered necessary to deliver and monitor progress.
8. As a key stakeholder in the Council's self-assessment of performance, this Committee will routinely scrutinise performance formally three times a year, as follows:
  - a. February - Corporate Plan and Target Setting
  - b. June/July – End-of-Year assessment for the Annual Wellbeing Report – Q2
  - c. December/January - Mid-Year Assessment of Performance – Q4

## Structure of the Corporate Plan & Mid-Year Assessment Report

9. The Corporate Plan for 2022-25 is structured around seven **Well-being Objectives** linking the Administration's Priorities to the Well-being Objectives (WBO) followed by all partners of Cardiff's Public Services Board.
  - Cardiff is a great place to grow up
  - Cardiff is a great place to grow older
  - Supporting people out of poverty
  - Safe, confident and empowered communities
  - A capital city that works for Wales
  - Cardiff's population growth is managed in a resilient way
  - Modernising and integrating our public services
10. The Corporate Plan includes detailed delivery milestones, key performance measures and targets, and is supported by Directorate Delivery Plans, which set out in greater detail how the Administration's priorities will be delivered. Members are advised that the Mid-Year Assessment has been evaluated against the Corporate Plan 2022/25, and a new Corporate Plan 2023/26 addressing the Administration's Stronger Fairer Greener policy agenda will be considered by this Committee on 1 March prior to Cabinet on 2 March and Council on 9 March 2023.
11. Each of the above objectives has been translated into a number of **Steps** the Council will take to make progress in achieving these objectives. The list of Steps is followed by a number of **Key Performance Measures** and allocated a **Target** that will enable the Council, and its scrutiny committees, to monitor how effectively the objectives are being delivered going forward.

## Mid-Year Assessment of Performance

12. The Cabinet report at **Appendix A** summarises areas of progress and improvement (*points 8-9*) and areas of strategic challenge and corporate improvement priorities (*point 10*).
13. The [Corporate Plan Dashboard](#) provides a visual presentation of all Corporate Plan **Key Performance Indicators** and **Steps** for each well-being objective. By following the link, you can view progress at Q2 for each of 143 KPI's and 144 Steps. You will be

able to filter results corporately, by Well being Objective, by Scrutiny Committee, or by Directorate.

14. Directorates have been asked to self-assess a RAG rating for each of the *KPI's* and *Steps* for which they are the lead directorate using the following criteria:

**Red** = serious issues have occurred and without some form of assistance from outside of the Directorate it is unlikely that the Step will be delivered within the agreed time frame / or at all.

**Amber** = issues have occurred, not serious enough to require assistance, progress can be recovered, a plan is in place, and it is likely that the Step will still be delivered within the agreed time frame.

**Green** = there are no issues with progress / performance, and the Step will be delivered within the agreed time frame.

### **Scope of the Scrutiny**

15. The scope of the scrutiny will focus on the assessment of performance at mid-year and the challenges and priorities ahead and allow the committee to inform target setting discussions for the Corporate Plan 2023/26 currently underway.

16. Members are welcome to comment on performance related to all seven Well-being objectives, however, the key objective relevant to the PRAP Terms of Reference is *WBO7 – Modernising and Integrating Our Public Services*.

17. Members are requested to consider whether there are comments and observations that need to be captured during the Committees discussion of this item at the Way Forward for submission to Cabinet.

18. To support this item the Leader of the Council, Councillor Huw Thomas; the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance, Cllr Chris Weaver; the Chief Executive, Paul Orders; Corporate Director Resources, Chris Lee; Corporate Director Communities, Sarah McGill; and Head of Performance and Partnerships, Gareth Newell will attend to facilitate the discussion.

## **Legal Implications**

19. 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**

20. 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**

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Consider the information provided at the meeting, the Council's Mid-Year Performance Report 2022/23, and its appendices; and
- II. Determine whether it wishes to offer its comments, observations, or recommendations to Cabinet before its meeting on 19 January 2023.

**Davina Fiore**

Director of Governance & Legal Services

11 January 2023