

Ref: GAC2023-2  
Date: 12 July 2023

Councillor Huw Thomas, Chris Lee and Sarah McGill  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF104UW

Dear Councillor Huw Thomas, Chris Lee and Sarah McGill

## **Governance and Audit Committee Observations - Draft Well-being (Self-Assessment) Report 2022/23**

In accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Governance and Audit Committee has a responsibility to review the Council's draft annual Self-Assessment Report (represented by the Annual Well-being Report) and to make any recommendations for changes.

Through our meeting yesterday, this was the second time that the Committee has undertaken this responsibility, and in considering this report we have reflected on the recommendations and observations that we made on last years' report. The committee was satisfied that our comments made last year had been reflected in this year's report.

The report was presented by the Council's Corporate Directors (Chris Lee and Sarah McGill), the Gareth Newell (Head of Performance and Partnerships) and Dylan Owen (Operational Manager, Policy and Improvement). The meeting was informative, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank these officers for attending our Committee to provide an invaluable outline of the report.

To prepare for our review, a briefing session was held on the Council's Planning and Performance Framework in June 2023, and this gave us a good base-level understanding of the arrangements in place underpinning the report. We also received an overview of the half-year self-assessment process and outcomes from the Head of Performance and Partnerships in January 2023.

### Our View

The overall view of our Committee arising from our review is that we are satisfied with the self-assessment process. We consider that a robust exercise has been completed in which duties have been sufficiently discharged. We have revisited the recommendations and observations that our Committee raised in our previous review, and we consider that these are being sufficiently addressed.

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#### **GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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#### **WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

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**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



The committee wished to thank all concerned for what it considered an excellent report.

We do not have any formal recommendations, but there were some observations arising from our consideration of the report as matters for the Council to reflect upon and consider, as future annual reports are prepared. The Committee offers them in the spirit of continuous improvement, and they are contained in the following paragraphs.

### Our Observations

The assessment is well structured whilst being based on a governance framework and reporting requirements that have inherent complexity. The report demonstrated clear corporate ambition but in some areas our Committee considered there was scope to make the outcomes of the assessment easier to identify and digest.

There was a feeling that it would be a great pity if the undoubted success which was being achieved in delivering many of the planned outcomes became lost in the inevitable detail of such a wide ranging report. In particular, it was felt that the most important ambitions and areas of performance could be more prominently highlighted within the report. This may, perhaps, be a matter for consideration in future years.

Last year we referred to opportunities for some evaluative improvements in future years and we have seen evidence of this. However, we do consider that the conclusions against respective well-being objectives are drawn out to a greater extent in some areas than others.

There is evidence that careful attention has been given to the content and messaging of the report, and we encourage continued effort in future years. We do not underestimate the difficulty of striking the most appropriate balance between providing a focussed report, whilst also offering the necessary level of detail across the entire range of objectives.

Yours sincerely

Gavin McArthur, Chairperson, Governance and Audit Committee

Chris Burns, Deputy Chairperson, Governance and Audit Committee

On behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee

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Governance and Audit Committee

Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons

Chris Pyke, Audit Manager

Gareth Newell, Head of Performance and Partnerships

Dylan Owen, Operational Manager, Policy and Improvement

Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services