

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Cabinet – 23 September 2014

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE 2013/14

Purpose:	The report is a review of progress made by the Council in meeting the priorities, actions and targets set out in <i>Standing up for a Better Swansea</i> the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2013/17 as required by Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
Policy Framework:	<i>Standing up for a Better Swansea</i> Corporate Improvement Plan 2013/17
Reason for Decision:	To comply with statutory guidance and to approve and publish the Annual Review of Performance 2013/14.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services and Cabinet Member.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Annual Review of Performance 2013/14 is approved.
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Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 creates an obligation on Councils to account for improvement. The process for accounting for improvement falls into two stages.
- 1.2 Stage one reporting covers the Council's plans and Improvement Objectives for that year and should be published every year as soon as possible after the 1st April.
- 1.3 Stage two reporting arises when the Council is in a position to be able to account for success of the previous year's improvement activity and must be published before 31st October in the financial year after the year to

which the information relates. The attached report relates to stage two performance reporting.

2.0 Content

- 2.1 The Annual Review of Performance is written in a way that tries to be accessible to the general public, complies with statutory guidance and addresses previous proposals for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office.
- 2.2 The Annual Review of Performance 2013/14 is structured as follows:
 - 2.2.1 *Parts 1 and 2 – Executive / Summary of evaluations delivering the Council's Improvement Objectives in 2013/14* - represents a summary where the Council presents a précised conclusion of its own evaluation of its performance delivering its Improvement Objectives during 2013/14.
 - 2.2.2 *Part 3 – Working in partnership with others in 2013/14* - This part summarises how the Council is collaborating with others across a wide range of services in some key areas.
 - 2.2.3 *Part 4 – Performance Information and its use* - Summarises how the Council plans for and puts arrangements in place to secure improvement.

3.0 WAO Proposals for Improvement

- 3.1 The Wales Audit Office (WAO) in its Annual Improvement Report 2014 on Swansea Council stated that the Council last year produced a readily accessible Annual Review of Performance on 2012/13 but did not consistently explain how successful it had been in delivering its objectives.
- 3.2 The Council has sought to address this in the 2013/14 report by judging success on the basis of meeting the improvement projections for the measures included in the Corporate Improvement Plan and / or showing improvement compared to the previous financial year.
- 3.3 The Council has also considered the detailed self-evaluations undertaken by each service on their contribution to the Improvement Objectives; these self-evaluations, which are part of the Council's plan to continue to develop its approach to self-assessment, will be published on the Council's website.
- 3.4 The Council will continue to look for areas of improvement as part of its commitment to performance management and community engagement.
- 3.5 The Council is currently undertaking a review of its performance and improvement arrangements. This includes further developing and embedding the Council's corporate approach to self-evaluation over time

in order to strengthen our ability to be self-aware and learn from others. We plan to have a Peer Review as part of the WPGA scheme in September, which will involve a self-assessment.

4.0 Equality & Engagement Implications

4.1 The Annual Review of Performance is not relevant for an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) itself. It may mean however that it might form part of the information that leads to a service screening for and undertaking an EIA as required.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The financial resources required to implement all the actions and achieve the specified performance targets in 2013/14 were provided in the approved budget. Any additional financial implications which arose from the pursuance of the priorities in the Corporate Improvement Plan would have been dealt with as virement within the normal financial procedures.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Annual Review of Performance 2013/14 must be published at or before the statutory date of 31st October 2014.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Annual Review of Performance 2013/14.