



Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Scrutiny Panel – 5th
September 2023

Annual Review of Performance 2022/23

Purpose:	To make a draft of the Council's Annual Review of Performance 2022/23 available to the scrutiny panel for review and comment. The Annual Review of Performance 2022/23 meets the statutory requirements to publish an annual self-assessment report and annual well-being report under Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 respectively.
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan 2022/23 <i>Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea</i> .
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the Panel: 1) reviews the draft report to provide comment.
Report Author:	Richard Rowlands
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach.
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith.
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Annual Review of Performance 2022/23 (referred to as the 'Review') represents a report on the progress the Council has made undertaking the steps it set out in its Corporate Plan 2022/23 to work towards meeting each of the Council's well-being objectives.
- 1.2 The well-being objectives agreed for 2022/23 were:
 - **Safeguarding people from harm** – so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.

- **Improving Education & Skills** – so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- **Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty** – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- **Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change** – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- **Transformation & Future Council development** – so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

1.3 In doing so, this Review meets the performance duty established in Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to describe the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively, using its resources well when meeting its well-being objectives by working in line with the requirements set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The effectiveness of governance is assessed in the Council's Annual Governance Statement, which is published in the Council's Statement of Accounts.

2. Approach and method

2.1 This Review uses self-reflection tools and supporting evidence to provide an integrated approach to gather evidence to determine progress against the Council's well-being objectives and to fulfil its self-assessment responsibilities.

2.2 This Review assesses the Council's effectiveness in 2022/23 in exercising its functions and using its resources through:

- Progress meeting the steps set out in the Corporate Plan to achieve its well-being objectives.
- Resources (budgets, workforce, and assets) used when delivering its well-being objectives.
- The contribution of its well-being objectives to the National Goals.
- Working sustainably (in line with the 5 ways of working – the sustainable development principle – set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act).

2.3 For each well-being objective, Section 5 of this Review sets out for 2022/23:

- The progress made meeting the steps to achieve the well-being objective.
- Use of resources.
- Strengths and challenges.
- Delivering the sustainable development principle.

- Maximising our contribution to the well being goals.
 - Overall assessment.
- 2.4 The overall assessment on progress meeting each well-being objective in 2022/23 and prospects for improvement is made against the following criteria:
- **‘Limited’** little or no evidence of effective use, application or delivery.
 - **‘Mixed’** some good evidence and some gaps in use, application or delivery.
 - **‘Strong’** clear evidence of effective use, application or delivery.
 - **‘Embedded’** clear evidence of effective and embedded use, application or delivery.
- 2.5 Each self-assessment and this Review was checked and challenged during the process by a Strategic Governance Group. The membership of the Strategic Governance Group was expanded to include the Corporate Management Team and includes the Strategic Delivery and Performance Manager and a representative from the Governance & Audit Committee; the Chief Auditor attended each meeting as an observer.
- 3. Improvements made following the 2021/22 assessment.**
- 3.1 Audit Wales undertook in 2022 a review of the Council’s self-assessment arrangements. They identified several positive attributes, which were reported to the Governance & Audit Committee on 27th September 2022. They also identified the need to try and improve the response rate to the public consultation on the self-assessment, which was included within the Review as an area for continued improvement.
- 3.2 The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel and the Governance & Audit Committee met to discuss the Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 on 8th November 2022 and 14th December 2022 respectively. The Governance & Audit Committee proposed the following, which have been implemented in the 2022/23 Review:
- 3.2.1 *Consider the methods and methodologies for 2022/23* - the self-reflection tools were improved following the first round of self-assessments undertaken in 2021/22. A consistent methodology and scoring criteria were adopted in the tools for assessing performance and the use of resources. The effectiveness of governance is already assessed in the Council’s Annual Governance Statement, which is published in the Councils Statement of Accounts, and so this was removed from the process. The format of the Review was also evaluated with the intention of making it more succinct and easier for the public to read.
- 3.2.2 *Linking the performance and risk assessments for 2022/23* - a new section on corporate risk and performance has been included within this Review, to demonstrate the links between the performance and risk

assessments; the corporate risks formed part of the evidence considered during the development of this Review.

3.2.3 *Recognizing improvements that would need to be articulated within the report around stronger analysis* - an assessment of strengths and challenges and a more evaluative overall assessment have been included in this 2022/23 Review.

3.2.4 *Improving the links between consultation engagement / stakeholder reference* - after a poor consultation response in 2021/22, a number of 'digital citizens panels' were established and piloted to improve consultation and to facilitate face-to-face engagement with the public, including with other stakeholders, such as council staff and the trade unions. The pilots proved successful and the outcome from the panels formed part of the evidence considered during the Review.

4. Summary of 2022/23 self-assessment

4.1 The following represents a summary of the overall assessment on the extent to which the Council is meeting the performance duty when working towards its well-being objectives in line with the requirements set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act:

Objective	Progress	Prospects for improvement
Safeguarding	Strong	Mixed
Education & Skills	Strong	Strong
Economy & Infrastructure	Strong	Strong
Poverty	Strong	Strong
Nature & Climate Change	Strong	Strong
Transformation & Future Council	Strong	Mixed

8. Integrated Assessment Implications

8.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

8.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

8.1.3 This report meets our duty to report on progress in 2022/23 on the extent to which a local authority is meeting the performance duty required by Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; there is no direct impact on people or communities.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The financial resources required to implement all the actions and achieve the specified performance targets in 2022/23 were provided in the approved budget. Any additional financial implications that arose from the pursuance of the priorities in the Corporate Plan would have been dealt with as virement within the normal financial procedures.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 None.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A Annual Review of Performance 2022/23

Appendix B IIA