



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

### THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21

#### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CLLR A. MORGAN

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#### 1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report outlines Rhondda Cynon Taf's draft Corporate Performance Report (CPR) which contains progress for 2019/20 and plans for 2020/21 in respect of the Council's strategic priorities. It also sets out how the CPR enables the Council to meet its statutory reporting requirements.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft CPR (Appendix 1) and recommend its approval to Council on 21 October 2020.

#### 3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure the Council publishes information on performance across its strategic priorities in line with statutory reporting requirements.

#### 4. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Council's three key strategic priorities for 2019/20 are set out in the Council's first Corporate Plan, [The Way Ahead](#) agreed in 2016. The Council's new priorities, covering the period 2020-2024, were agreed by Council [on 4 March 2020](#) and are set out in the Council's new Corporate Plan '[Making a Difference](#)'. 'Making a Difference' continues the positive work started in 2016, and is a key element of effective strategic and financial management for the Council to ensure that it:

- is well placed to meet future ambitions, particularly in the context of challenging funding levels, demographic changes in the demand for services and legislation changes;
- sets a clear strategy and set of priorities for future years;

- allocates resources to priority areas; and
- puts in place plans to deliver the agreed priorities.

4.2 The new plan continues to set a clear direction for the Council, which all staff and Managers can see, understand and work toward through their Service Delivery Plans. There are transparent, robust and regular reporting and scrutiny arrangements in place which also ensure that residents and external stakeholders are able to hold the Council to account.

4.3 The three new strategic priorities are:

1. Ensuring **People**: are independent, healthy and successful;
2. Creating **Places**: where people are proud to live, work and play; and
3. Enabling **Prosperity**: creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.

4.4 As with the previous Corporate Plan, progress in the delivery of these priorities will be reported as part of the Council's quarterly Performance Reports to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee during the year, and also made available on the [Council's website](#).

4.5 There are two separate, but related legislative reporting requirements on the Council that are met by the Corporate Performance Report:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives, take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives and publish an annual report of progress; and
- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, which requires all local authorities in Wales to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions by setting Improvement Objectives and to make a public assessment of their performance for each financial year by no later than 31 October following the end of the financial year to which the information relates.

4.6 Improvement Objectives need to reflect the strategic priorities of the Council and to all intents and purposes, Well-being Objectives and Improvement Objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on its Corporate Priorities, the Council can discharge its duties under both areas of legislation.

4.7 This approach was supported by Council in endorsing the new Corporate Plan on [4 March 2020](#) when it agreed that the Council's Corporate Priorities would also serve as the Council's Well-being Objectives.

## **5. THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21**

5.1 The Council has a positive track record of setting and delivering its Strategic Vision and in doing so meeting its statutory reporting duties. In previous years, the Corporate Performance Reports have been agreed by Council in meetings held in July.

5.2 However, the impact of the recent unprecedented events of the floods resulting from Storms Ciara and Dennis, and more recently the wider national and local impact of Covid-

19, has affected the 2019/20 reporting arrangements and has also necessitated a different approach for the Council's 2020/21 planning.

- 5.3 These events have not diminished the Council's ambition in the medium to longer term. However, in recent months the Council has, of necessity, considered and agreed urgent key tasks it will tackle during 2020/21, e.g.
- Cabinet on [21 May](#) agreed:
    - Contact Tracing;
    - Recovery and Service Planning;
    - Decision Making & Democratic Engagement;
    - Counting the Cost (now and into the future); and
    - Economic Resilience.
  - Cabinet on [28 July](#) agreed a set of Service Recovery Plans following the easing of lock down restrictions.
- 5.4 The Council's draft CPR for 2020/21 has been prepared in the context of the above events and is included as **Appendix 1**. The content of the draft CPR has been reviewed and challenged by Council officers and its purpose is to provide a high level, easy to read summary of:
- progress of the Council's previous priorities of **Economy, People and Place** since 2016 and, in particular, 2019/20. More detailed evaluations of performance and progress, and other relevant support documents, are included as links within the CPR to enable the reader to access more detailed information, as required; and
  - plans to deliver the new priorities of **People, Places and Prosperity** in 2020/21. The detailed plans and target dates are also included as links within the CPR.
- 5.5 In this way, the draft CPR aims to provide elected Members, partners, residents, staff and regulators with an overview of progress and plans, as well as access to further detailed information. This approach also ensures the Council meets its legal duties as set out in paragraph 4.5 above.
- 5.6 At its meeting on [24 September](#) 2020 as part of the Quarter 1 Performance Report, Cabinet received a progress update based on the draft plans put in place to deliver the three Corporate Priorities of PEOPLE, PLACES and PROSPERITY in 2020/21. Where revisions are required to the content of the draft plans, following review by Cabinet and Council in October, these will be incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports presented to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee this year.
- 5.7 Audit Wales has a statutory duty to audit the extent to which Councils have met their statutory responsibilities, which will be formally reported to Council in due course.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendation set out in the report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendation set out in the report.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation set out in the report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The report aims to ensure the Council complies with its legal duties under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

10.1 This report evidences how it is managing its Strategic Priorities, as set out in the Council's Corporate Plans '[The Way Ahead](#)' and '[Making a Difference](#)' at this unprecedented time. The Council's Corporate Performance Report also provides information and evidence of how the Council is meeting its duty in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The Council's draft CPR 2020/21 demonstrates the positive progress made since 2016, and in particular 2019/20, and puts in place a clear and positive direction for the Council in the context of continuing global, national and regional challenges.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972**

**as amended by**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

Cabinet - [Quarterly Performance Reports](#)

Cabinet - [Report 21 May 2020](#)

Cabinet - [28 July 2020](#)

Cabinet - [Report 24 September 2020](#)