

SUBJECT: Draft Self-Assessment 2024/25
MEETING: Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 15 th July 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide the committee with an assessment of the council's performance during 2024/25. This will inform the development of the final report that will be presented to full Council in September and enable the committee to scrutinise the delivery of the objectives set in the Community and Corporate Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee uses the draft self-assessment report to scrutinise the council's performance during 2024/25 and agree any areas they would like to examine in greater depth as part of their forward work programme.
- 2.2 That the committee provides feedback to help shape the development of the final self-assessment report which will be presented to Council in September
- 2.3 The committee is also invited to consider whether the report will enable the authority to meet the performance requirement outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Monmouthshire County Council has a clear purpose to be a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life. This is underpinned by six well-being objectives. These form part of the Community and Corporate Plan approved by Council in 2023. As well as tracking progress throughout the year, we undertake an annual self-assessment exercise. This ensures we can learn, understand where we need to make improvements and target actions accordingly. It also allows us to be held to account for delivery of our priorities.
- 3.2 The evaluation has concluded that the council is making good progress against five of the six objectives with one, a green place – assessed as adequate. It highlights some areas where performance and delivery is falling short of expectations and identifies areas for development. The assessment highlights a positive trajectory of improvement.
- 3.3 Inviting the scrutiny committee to consider this report during its development stage enables members to share their perspectives on whether the report, and the scores assigned to each objective, present an accurate assessment of progress.
- 3.4 Following scrutiny, the self-assessment report will be presented to Governance and Audit Committee which has a statutory role in scrutinising the self-assessment report to seek assurance on the effectiveness of the council's governance and performance management arrangements. The assessment will then be presented to Council on the 18th September.
- 3.5 The production of a self-assessment report is a requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The Act requires each local authority in Wales to keep

under review the extent to which it is meeting the 'performance requirements', that is the extent to which; it is exercising its functions effectively, it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively and its governance is effective for securing these.

- 3.6 The report evaluates the council's performance under each of the six Well-being Objectives embedded in the Community and Corporate Plan. The full self-assessment includes progress updates on twenty specific areas of activity that support delivery of the wider objectives. The council must make sure that its governance and enabling functions are working efficiently and effectively. Over the past year the authority has developed enabling strategies in areas including finance, people, assets and digital and data to ensure its resources are aligned behind the organisation's purpose and priorities.
- 3.7 A summary of the assessment is included as appendix 1 of this report with the fuller assessment as appendix 2. The following issues are highlighted:
- We have been working hard to improve life chances for people irrespective of their income or background. This includes providing targeted support to those experience disadvantage including increasing the number of flying start places and running the food and fun programme which provides free or subsidised meals and activities during school holidays.
 - We are taking local action to reduce our carbon emissions. Scorecards published by Climate Emergency UK show that Monmouthshire County Council has improved its work towards net zero over the past two years and are performing better than most councils in England and Wales.
 - Alongside this, residents have made a significant contribution to the green agenda by recycling 72.18% of household waste – one of the highest rates in the UK.
 - We've delivered a range of projects to develop a diverse local economy in which businesses and working people can thrive. In April 2024 we secured up to £8.4m to implement transport projects across the county to enhance access, safety and infrastructure. We made changes to local bus services, with a new operator taking over some routes and several services being adjusted to improve connections and efficiency.
 - We have allocated an additional £2M in our 2025-26 budget for infrastructure with the majority being spent on road improvements. However, like all parts of the UK we have a highways maintenance backlog that exceeds the available funding.
 - We have taken action to reduce homelessness. Last year we prevented 71% of households at risk from becoming homeless.
 - We are changing the way we provide social care by taking a more preventative approach, intervening earlier and bringing some provision back into the county. This represents a significant improvement over the past three years. We have overseen a gradual reduction in the number of children looked after from 209 to 190 over the past three years.
 - In 2024 our secondary schools achieved higher results than elsewhere in Wales. 27.5% of pupils across Monmouthshire achieved 5 or more GCSE at levels A*-A, compared with 18.1% for Wales. Pupils eligible for free school meals don't do as well however, they have higher attainment than their peers in Wales at Key stage 4.
- 3.8 Over the past year we have developed new enabling strategies to ensure we align all of our resources to deliver the priorities set out in the Community and Corporate Plan. We have evaluated these and concluded that we have sound arrangements in place to enable and support service delivery. The assessed scores have, on average, improved over the past year with five areas assessed as good or very good and two as adequate.
- 3.9 As a result of the self-assessment, we have identified several areas for development. These include:

- Develop more childcare places, including Flying Start and Welsh medium places.
- Develop solutions to tackle the rise in young people not in education, employment or training.
- Strengthen our capacity in digital and data
- Strengthen our procurement arrangements to ensure we can deliver the ambition within our Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy

3.10 The Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee has an important role in scrutinising the council's performance. This report provides an assessment of performance during 2024/25 to assist the committee in fulfilling this role. The committee may also use the self-assessment to identify any further areas it may want to scrutinise in more detail as part of its forward work plan.

3.11 The annual self-assessment report will be complemented by a panel performance assessment once in an electoral cycle. This provides an opportunity to seek an external perspective to complement those of auditors and regulators. Monmouthshire's panel performance assessment is scheduled for February 2026.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. However, there may be implications in undertaking further actions identified in the self-assessment report. These would be subject to the usual council decision-making processes.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
Performance and governance of local authorities: statutory guidance
Community and Corporate Plan 2022-28

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