

SUBJECT: Stage 2 Improvement Plan

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 22nd September 2016

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek council approval of the Stage 2 Improvement Plan for 2015/16.
- 1.2 To ensure that members have access to comparative performance information for 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2015/16 be approved.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.
- 3.2 As part of the Wales Programme for Improvement councils must:
- Set Improvement Objectives at the beginning of each business year. These are included in the Stage 1 Improvement Plan agreed by council in April/May each year.
 - Collect evidence of progress made and outcomes achieved during the year and publish a report on that information. This is reported in the Stage 2 Improvement Plan published each October.
- 3.3 This Stage 2 Improvement Plan covers the period April 2015 to March 2016 and relates to objectives that members agreed in May 2015. The forward looking Stage 1 Plan for 2016/17 was agreed by council in May. Progress on that plan will be formally reported in October 2017 although select committees will have the opportunity to scrutinise progress throughout the year.
- 3.4 The Improvement Plan is a public document and should be accessible to a wide audience. The plan will be published on the council's website alongside a public summary of the plan. The summary will be made available in community hubs, reception areas and on the council's website.
- 3.5 In this plan we evaluate performance against our local priorities and objectives, as well nationally important issues. The plan describes progress with our five Improvement Objectives and assesses each one using a six point scale which ranges from unsatisfactory to excellent. The improvement objective performance has already been scrutinised by select committees in

June/July 2016. Four of our five improvement objectives have been evaluated as making good progress with the fifth objective making adequate progress. Under-performance has been evaluated why to inform our future work.

- 3.6 Services maintained their performance levels in 2015-16. Well over 50% of all comparable measures fall within the top half of performance indicators for Wales as a whole. Over the past four years the council has reduced the amount it spends while delivering improvement against 74% of its performance indicators – we also have far less measures falling into the bottom-quartile of performance.
- 3.7 This is likely to be the final annual cycle of Improvement Planning in this format. The council is currently undertaking two substantial assessments of need and wellbeing within the county as a consequence of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. This information will provide a much deeper evidence base of well-being in the County and will be used to review the council's current improvement objectives in preparation for the publication of the council's well-being objectives by 31st March 2017.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the council can be held to account for performance and can demonstrate progress towards delivering better outcomes for citizens.
- 4.2 To comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

6 WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

This plan is an evaluation of previous commitments and is not seeking a decision which would have an impact on these issues

7 CONSULTEES

Senior Leadership Team; Cabinet; Select Committees – Scrutiny of progress against the four Improvement Objectives during June and July 2016

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Stage 1 Improvement Plan 2015-17

9 AUTHORS

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