
FULL COUNCIL - REPORT

Date Written	9 th September 2015
Report Author	Ewan McWilliams
Service Area	Performance
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	7 th October 2015

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Annual Performance Report 2014/15

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an assessment of performance against the Corporate Plan, Outcome Agreement and National Strategic Indicators during 2014/15.
- 1.2 The overall position for the delivery of the priority areas in the Corporate Plan is "adequate" where strengths outweighed areas for improvement. An evaluation of each outcome within the outcome agreement aggregates to form a provisional score of 9, which equates to full payment for part 1 of the Outcome Agreement Grant. Merthyr Tydfil was ranked equal 11th with 10 national strategic indicators in the top quarter of local authorities in Wales.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that

- 2.1 The Annual Performance Report 2014/15 be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires local authorities to:
- Publish their plans for improvement which must include a set of improvement objectives (this is our Corporate Plan); and

- Publish an assessment of performance relating to their plans and improvement objectives (this is our Annual Performance Report).
- 3.2 This report introduces the Annual Performance Report, which provides an assessment of performance of the Corporate Plan for 2014/15. The document is available via the Background Papers link, and the agreed version of the Annual Performance Report will be made available for download on our website and in our main Civic Offices.
- 3.3 Council is required to publish its Annual Performance Report on or before 31st October 2015.

4.0 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT SUMMARY

- 4.1 The Annual Performance Report provides an overall assessment of Council performance during 2014/15. This report is organised in sections to cover the following elements of work:
- The Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017.
 - The Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2015.
 - The statutory indicators of the Welsh Government to evaluate performance.
 - The conclusions from audit and inspection work from our external regulators.
- 4.2 A summary statement from each of the above sections is highlighted here, with a more complete picture presented in the Annual Performance Report background paper.

Corporate Plan

- 4.3 The overall position for the delivery of the priority areas in the Corporate Plan is "adequate" where strengths outweighed areas for improvement. Of the seven priority areas, two have been judged as good and five as adequate. No priority areas are unsatisfactory.

Outcome Agreement

- 4.4 The council has taken a simple scoring methodology to arrive at a score for each outcome, and then aggregated the scores to offer a provisional assessment. An evaluation of each outcome within the outcome agreement aggregate to form a provisional score of 9, which equates to full payment for part 1 of the Outcome Agreement Grant.

National Strategic Indicators

- 4.5 Merthyr Tydfil was ranked equal 11th with 10 national strategic indicators in the top quarter of local authorities in Wales. In addition, 66 per cent (19) of the 29 indicators either show improvement or maintained maximum performance during 2014/15.

External Auditors

- 4.6 Each year, the Wales Audit Office reports on how well each council is planning for improvement and delivering their services. The latest Annual Improvement Report for Merthyr Tydfil incorporates the Corporate Assessment and was issued in June 2015. The report concluded that, during 2013/14:

- The Auditor General has concluded that the Council's track record, and its capacity and capability may mitigate the effectiveness of its arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2015/16. This judgement reflects the conclusion of his corporate assessment that the Council continues to face significant challenges and must continue to draw upon external support if it is to deliver its priorities.

4.7 The Auditor General makes the following formal recommendations for improvement:

- The Auditor General recommends that the Council, following discussion with the Welsh Government, continues to secure appropriate external support to enable it to deliver its statutory duty to deliver continuous improvement.
- The Auditor General also recommends that the Welsh Government continues to provide support through the Education Recovery Board and that it keeps under review the support it provides to the Council generally.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any specific financial implications to achieve progress against the outcomes of the Corporate Plan will be reflected in existing budgets. Any potential financial implications for future years will be addressed as part of the budgetary process.

6.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

6.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposal positively impacts on all aspects of the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan because it supports a discussion on improvement.

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

LORRAINE BUCK
CORPORATE DIRECTOR PEOPLE &
PERFORMANCE

COUNCILLOR PHIL WILLIAMS
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Annual Performance Report	2014/15	Background Paper Link
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?	No	

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.