



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	27 th October 2020
Report Author	Matthew Rivers / Maria Purnell / Sian Lyons / Saeif Jablaoui
Service Area	Performance and Scrutiny
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

MTCBC Annual Performance Report

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report summarises the Council's Annual Performance Report (APR), attached as Appendix 1. Our Annual Performance Report is a statutory requirement for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (a document that we are required to publish in line with our regulations). We publish the Annual Performance Report to communicate our self-evaluation against delivery of our well-being objectives. The intention of the APR is to provide an overall assessment of Council performance during the year.
- 1.2 This APR document relates to the year April 2019 to March 2020.
- 1.3 Based on the judgements identified in the four well-being themes, our overall judgement for 2019/20 is **ADEQUATE**, where strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement. Our four well-being objectives were assessed as: Best Start to Life – Unsatisfactory; Working Life – Adequate; Environmental Well-being – Adequate; Living Well – Adequate.
- 1.4 The elements in this APR were challenged throughout the Scrutiny Committee cycle 2019/20. Due to the cancellation of meetings as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, reallocation of staffing to respond to the pandemic and the 2020/21 Committee Cycle publication being delayed with the last Council meeting scheduled for early October 2020, approval of this report has been considered under delegated authority. This has been done to meet the deadline (31st October 2020) for publication of the APR.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The Council's Annual Performance Report be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report summarises the Council's Annual Performance Report (APR), attached as Appendix 1. Our APR is a statutory requirement for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (a document that we are required to publish in line with our regulations). We do this to communicate our self-evaluation against delivery of our well-being objectives. The intention of the APR is to provide an overall assessment of Council performance during the year (April 2019 to March 2020).
- 3.2 As a result, it is important that the judgements made within this report receive challenge. This has been done by peer officer challenge throughout the year but also at our Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.3 The elements in this APR were challenged throughout the Scrutiny Committee cycle 2019/20.
- 3.4 Due to the cancellation of meetings as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, reallocation of staffing to respond to the pandemic and the 2020/21 Committee Cycle publication being delayed with the last Council meeting scheduled for early October 2020, approval of this report has been considered under delegated authority. This has been done to meet the deadline (31st October 2020) for publication of the APR. However, the APR was circulated to all Elected Members for questions or comments (from 19th October 2020 to 26th October 2020). No additional questions or comments were received.
- 3.5 Our APR will be published by the deadline of 31st October 2020.

4.0 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND WELL-BEING DUTY

Continuous Improvement

- 4.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 applied the duty on all local authorities in Wales to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions by identifying their own priorities for improvement. This principle has been maintained in the approaches of developing and delivering our Corporate Well-being Plan. It has also been built into our self-evaluation process (used as part of the APR to arrive at our judgements). The APR reports on our performance for 2019/20 and considers trends from the previous year. Our findings will be built into planning and delivery in future years to learn from past experiences, continuously improve and enable us to continue to use the sustainable development principle (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act) 2015.

Our Well-being Objectives

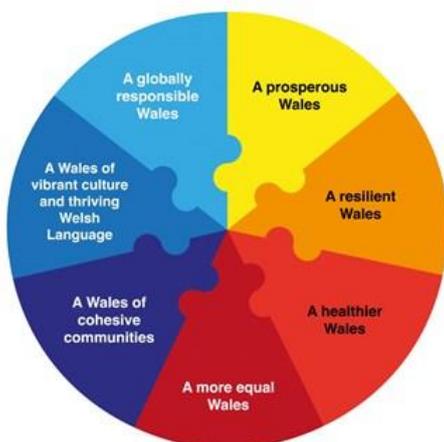
- 4.2 Our Corporate Well-being Plan (Focus on the Future – Well-being in our Community) sets out the Council’s well-being objectives from 2017 to 2022. The Plan outlined four organisational well-being objectives as stated below.

Well-being Theme	Objective
 Best Start	Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.
 Working Life	People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure which makes Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.
 Environmental Well-being	Communities protect, enhance, and promote our environment and countryside.
 Living Well	People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Well-being Duty

- 4.3 The Council, like other public bodies, is continuing to respond to the Well-being Duty as laid out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This Duty requires public bodies to contribute to the achievement of the seven national Well-being Goals and adopt the Sustainable Development (five ways of working) as the central organising principle.

Seven Well-being Goals for Wales



Five ways of working



Long term

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.



Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.



Integration

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.



Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

- 4.4 The Council's Well-being Plan, 'Focus on the Future: Well-being in our Community' represents our first contribution in taking steps to achieve the seven national Well-being Goals. This report looks back over the third year of that plan to assess our performance in delivering improvements to the economic, social, environment and cultural well-being in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 4.5 The APR provides an overall assessment of Council performance during 2019/20. To do this we will consider our self-evaluation and conclusions from our regulators.
- 4.6 This is the third year where we have measured how activities and services across the Council can impact upon well-being. We have used a mixed method approach combining quantitative (using data to assess our performance against our key performance indicators) and qualitative data (case studies) to measure the impact on well-being in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 4.7 Each well-being objective and theme (as set out in 4.2) has a set of performance indicators used to measure progress. Where possible these indicators have been assigned a RAYG (Red; Amber; Yellow; Green) status to indicate their current position. Indicators are evaluated based on a ranked position when compared to the other Welsh Councils. The purpose of using comparative data is to enable us to understand our relative performance across Wales.

Table Indicator status definitions

Performance definition	Rank	Status
The current position is excellent	1-6	Excellent
The current position is good	7-11	Good
The current position is adequate	12-16	Adequate
The current position is unsatisfactory	17-22	Unsatisfactory
There is no comparable information, only local data	Not applicable	

4.8 In some instances, we are unable to compare an indicator with other Councils in Wales. **When this occurs, local targets set should be considered in conjunction with the judgement definitions listed below to enable officers to assign a judgement.**

EXCELLENT	Very strong, sustained performance and practice.
GOOD	Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
ADEQUATE and needs improvement	Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
UNSATISFACTORY and needs urgent improvement	Important weaknesses outweigh strengths

4.9 The second part of the APR considers our performance though utilising qualitative data (case studies) to demonstrate how we are working towards the seven Well-being Goals and five ways of working. The data captured in the case studies provide a rich account of the positive outcomes for individuals and communities. For 2019-20, we have developed the case studies to now demonstrate how we have used the sustainable development principles (the five ways of working) to deliver the support/services to communities; thereby more explicitly evidencing this aspect of the Council's requirement to respond to the Well-being Duty. We have also assessed how our work has taken an integrated approach to delivering our well-being objectives and the cross-cutting theme of 'Tackling Poverty'. This theme has emerged from feedback from the first two years of the plan. This is a wicked issue for the County Borough.

4.10 Based on the judgements identified in the four well-being themes, our overall judgement for 2019/20 is **ADEQUATE**, where strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement. Our four well-being objectives were assessed as: Best Start to Life – Unsatisfactory; Working Life – Adequate; Environmental Well-being – Adequate; Living Well – Adequate.

External Regulators

- 4.11 Like all Councils in Wales, our work is scrutinised by external regulators to ensure that we use public money effectively to deliver benefits to our communities. Audit Wales (previously known as the Wales Audit Office (WAO)) has an annual programme of audit and assessment work which it undertakes in the Council. Other regulators undertake work relating to specific service areas. The conclusions from all this work are brought together in an Annual Improvement Report. The other primary regulators are Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales (Estyn) and the Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW).
- 4.12 Every year, Audit Wales reports on how well each Council is planning for improvement and delivering services. The latest Annual Improvement Report for Merthyr Tydfil incorporates the Corporate Assessment and was issued in October 2019. The report included that, during 2018/19 the Council is unlikely to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement without support to address some significant challenges. These outcomes are being addressed and further work being done during 2020/21 and as part of the Council's improvement planning.

During the year, the Auditor General made a number of recommendations. These came from national audit inspections. In summary, they include:

- Waste and Recycling
 - Rural Communities
 - The Maturity of local government in use of data
 - The effectiveness of local planning authorities in Wales
 - The 'front door' to Adult Social Care
- 4.13 Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. Estyn provides an independent inspection and advice service on quality and standards in education and training in Wales. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) register, inspect and take action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of the people of Wales. This includes the review of the Council's children and adult social services.

5.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- 5.1 To determine if we are performing as a Council, we will evaluate improvements made in our priority areas and compare outcomes of performance across Wales (where this information is available).
- 5.2 By using qualitative and quantitative data analysis and applying the sustainable development principles (five ways of working), the Council can continue to self-evaluate, challenge and improve to better deliver its well-being objectives and support regional and national delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- 5.3 The Council wants to improve on the 'Adequate' and 'Unsatisfactory' judgements across the well-being themes noted within the report covering 2019-20
- 5.4 The corporate self-evaluation process was reintroduced in June 2019 and this will offer further sources of evidence to support the preparation of the Annual Performance Report document going forward.
- 5.5 To deliver the newly developed 'Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan'. In doing so focus on raising standards in Education, increasing resilience in Social Services and the Economic Recovery of the County Borough. This means we will need to continue to respond and recover from the Coronavirus pandemic and transform the way we work. This will include: Digital Transformation; a Commercial work programme; creating a Health Organisation (e.g. being a learning organisation, better use of data, enhancing how we monitor staff and organisational performance); and Governance Improvement.

6.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 6.1 Use the lessons learnt, together with areas for improvement and priorities captured as a result of the roll-out of the corporate self-evaluation process to respond to the identified needs of our communities; to deliver our well-being objectives; and to provide evidence for external regulators undertaking audits and examination visits.
- 6.2 To continue to strengthen our corporate service improvement framework and self-evaluation processes, deliver changes and ensure alignment with the Well-being Duty.
- 6.3 To continue to deliver our 'Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan'.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (<i>including Welsh Language</i>)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impacts are around the well-being objectives and five ways of working. The APR enables us to set out and deliver services that meet our objectives and involve others, work collaboratively and integrate whilst being preventative and thinking long term.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>			

ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
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.