

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

5 OCTOBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's Annual Report 2015-16, which consists of Appendix A and Appendix B (attached), for Council to consider and approve.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The Annual Report evaluates the Council's performance against the priorities set in the Corporate Plan 2013-17. It also reiterates the improvement objectives for 2016-17. This is the last year of the Corporate Plan 2013-17, as it is replaced by the new Corporate Plan for 2016-20.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and in accordance with the related statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government, the authority must publish its assessment of performance for the previous financial year before 31 October.
- 3.2 The Council's Corporate Plan for 2013-17 sets out six improvement priorities as follows:
1. Working together to develop the local economy
 2. Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement
 3. Working with children and families to tackle problems early
 4. Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent
 5. Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles
 6. Working together to make the best use of our resources
- 3.3 In March 2015, the Council published its reviewed Corporate Plan for 2015-16. The Plan defined 58 commitments to deliver the six improvement priorities and identified 76 outcome-focused indicators for the financial year.
- 3.4 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identified how it would use its resources to support the achievement of the improvement priorities and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over the next four years.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The Annual Report, prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, summarises how well the Council did in progressing these priorities in 2015-16. It consists of two parts:
- Part one (Appendix A) evaluates the Council's performance against its commitments and planned outcomes. A summary of budgets for the year and regulator's findings is also included. Citizens' views and how we consulted with our citizens are set out within the report.
 - Part two (Appendix B) provides detailed performance information about each of the 76 indicators defined by the Corporate Plan. This part also includes performance information about those national indicators (including statutory one) that were not included in the Corporate Plan but the Council must collect.
- 4.2 The Council carried out to completion 44 (76%) of its 58 commitments, missed only marginally in a further 12 (20%) and mostly missed planned improvements in just 2 (4%). Of the 76 indicators that were identified for the Corporate Plan for 2015-16, 75 had data available. Fifty one (68%) met their target, 14 (19%) were marginally off target and 10(13%) were off target by more than expected.
- 4.3 The Annual Report also evaluates the Council's performance against the 41 national indicators. Comparative data was available for 39 of the indicators that were collected by the Council in the previous year. Of those 39 indicators, 28 (70%) showed improvement on the previous year compared with 65% improvement nationally. This made the Council the second most improved local authority in Wales. It is also worth noting that 24 of the Council's 40 nationally comparable indicators for the year are ranked in the top half when measured against other local authorities, making the authority the joint best fifth in Wales.
- 4.4 This is an important document as it provides citizens and stakeholders with detailed information about the Council's performance against its planned improvement priorities and outcomes for citizens. It also provides a comparison of the Council's performance with that of other Welsh local authorities across a range of services and highlights year on year trends.
- 4.5 Once approved, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. Hardcopies of the report will be produced and placed in the Council's public libraries. A summary of the report will also be prepared to highlight key points in the Council's performance and will be placed in the public libraries, too.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The Annual Report provides an assessment of progress on the Corporate Plan 2013-17 which forms part of the corporate policy framework.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The Annual Report provides information on the Council's performance and has no negative equality implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The Annual Report has no financial implications.

8. Recommendation

8.1 Subject to any amendments by Cabinet on 4 October, that Council approves the Annual Report 2015-16 (Appendix A and Appendix B).

Darren Mepham
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Background documents

- Corporate Plan 2013-17
- The Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report (January 2016)