

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

3 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider the Annual Report 2016-17 (**Appendix A**) and recommend it to Council for approval.

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 new Corporate Plan 2016-20. It also reiterates the improvement objectives for 2017-18.

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 In March 2016, the Council published its new Corporate Plan 2016-20. The Plan sets out its vision, that is, always to act as 'One Council working together to improve lives', and three new improvement priorities as follows:
- Supporting a successful economy
 - Helping people to become more self-reliant
 - Smarter use of resources

- 3.3 The Plan defined 46 commitments to deliver the three priorities and identified 58 outcome-focused indicators for the financial year 2016-17.

- 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 under the the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, evaluates how well the Council did in 2016-17 in delivering its commitments and planned outcomes for the financial year, using its success measures and other evidence. Wherever performance was short of its target, explanations are provided.
- 4.2 Overall, the Council performed strongly in 2016-17. Of its 46 commitments, the Council carried out to completion 32 (nearly 70%), with a further 11 (24%) that were mostly completed. The Council was short of meeting the target set for three

commitments, namely digitalisation of planned services, asset transfer to community groups and organisations, and income generation initiatives. Even so, a lot had been done during the year to deliver these commitments. Take digitalisation as an example, the Council actually did more than originally planned, e.g. website redesigning, to ensure that the public are happy to use its automated services.

- 4.3 The Corporate Plan identified 58 indicators to measure success and 57 indicators have been collected for the year. Of those with a target, the Council met or exceeded the target for 59.2%, with further 12.2% missing the target marginally. Of those indicators that missed the target, 25% showed improvement, 45% were new indicators which made it hard to set challenging but realistic targets, and a further 15% were influenced by external circumstances. Overall, 74% of all indicators with comparable data showed improvement. Detailed information about the Council's performance against its commitments and targets is included in **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 In 2016-17, the Welsh Local Government Association defined and collected 28 indicators, the Public Accountability Measures (PAMs), for the Welsh Local Authorities. Some of those indicators were locally important, hence were included in the Council's Corporate Plan and embedded in the report. The whole set of these indicators is included in **Appendix A**, with a summary of the Council's performance provided in the Introduction.
- 4.5 The Annual Report also provides a summary of budgets for the year and the regulator's findings.
- 4.6 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 includes those national comparable measures to give a full picture of how we performed across a range of services.
- 4.7 Once approved, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. Hard copies 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 2016-20 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 That Cabinet considers the Annual Report 2016-17 (**Appendix A**) and recommend it to Council for approval.

Darren Mepham
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Background documents

- Corporate Plan 2016-20
- The Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report (September 2017)