Meeting of:	**GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**
Date of Meeting:	**24 SEPTEMBER 2026**
Report Title:	**SELF-ASSESSMENT 2025-26**
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
Responsible Officer:	**KATE PASK POLICY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**The Corporate Plan and Performance Framework (on which Self-Assessment is based) form part of the Policy Framework.**
Executive Summary:	**This report seeks the Committee's views on the Council's self-assessment 2025-26. Key points are – • This is the fifth self-assessment report and third year judging performance against the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28. • Draft judgements / scores were developed based on the objective methodology agreed by Cabinet Corporate Management Team (CCMT) and the Governance and Audit Committee in 2024. • A moderation exercise has been completed with Heads of Service and Corporate Management Team. • All Wellbeing Objective scores are yellow (good). • Use of resources score is yellow (good). • Governance score is yellow (good).**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Governance and Audit Committee's view on the draft self-assessment for 2025-26.

2. Background

2.1 This is Bridgend County Borough Council's fifth self-assessment report, which reviews the 2025-26 year. One of the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 is for the Council to make and publish a self-assessment report once each financial year. The self-assessment report has to set out conclusions on whether the Council met the 'performance requirements' during that financial year, and actions needed to improve. The ‘performance requirements’ focus on –

- Are we exercising our functions effectively;
- Are we using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- Is our governance strong.

2.2 The self-assessment report also acts as our annual report, our wellbeing report and our social partnership duty report.

2.3 Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association published guidance that told us how to develop our self-assessment and what evidence to use to judge ourselves. Our approach to developing the self-assessment report has evolved over time since the first report was published in October 2022. In the writing of every report we have had the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the year being reviewed, celebrating achievements as well as identifying areas of improvement. Every year our approach seeks to improve the data and evidence base used to form our judgements and ensure they are fair and robust.

2.4 The self-assessment process also focuses our attention on the challenges we face. These are important because we need to continue to adapt to meet these challenges in order to ensure our services are sustainable and continue to identify opportunities to raise performance levels, identify efficiency savings, or both.

2.5 The self-assessment report should assure Welsh Government that we are performing well, using our money and other resources properly, and making decisions in a sensible, open way. Most importantly, the report must tell local residents, businesses and all stakeholders how we are doing.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 In May 2026 we outlined the intended approach to producing this year’s self-assessment, which was reviewed and noted by the Governance and Audit Committee. It was agreed that the performance section of the self-assessment report for 2025-26 follows the same process as in 2024-25 but with the addition of more qualitative data in the form of case studies, regulator views and resident views where possible and pertinent to the wellbeing objective. This section includes –

- A performance overview summarising performance against the whole corporate plan, using two graphs showing how are we doing on our commitments / projects and how are we doing on our performance indicators.
- A performance section for each wellbeing objective to include a graph showing performance, a summary of performance against each aim with a Red Amber Yellow Green (RAYG) rating for each and a short narrative section, what we will we do to improve and case studies.

3.2 The same methodology was used for developing an initial RAYG rating for each of the wellbeing objectives and aims as we have used for the previous two years. This means that the RAYG is objective and based on performance on the commitments and performance indicators (PIs) in the 2025-26 Corporate Plan Delivery Plan.

3.3 The approach gives a score to each commitment and PI based on their RAYG rating. The individual scores are then combined to give an overall score for the aim (as a proportion of the maximum), using the approach provided in the performance framework. This methodology has worked well for the previous two years. A score for each aim is developed and a narrative provided for each aim that summarises the key information within the commitments and PIs from the year-end performance dashboards.

3.4 Slightly different for this year, we have included additional qualitative data where possible if it provides additional insight into how we are performing against the wellbeing objective, for example recent regulator views and any service user perspective data. This has been looked at in conjunction with the quantitative score to form a final more balanced score which has been tested with Heads of Service and Corporate Management Team (CMT) to produce a final set of judgements.

3.5 Progress against the second performance requirement on use of resources has followed the same process as last year with seven use of resources templates reviewed and updated by the lead officers to provide theme judgements, which have then been combined to provide an overall use of resources judgement.

3.6 The third performance requirement, on governance, is covered by the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee. Key findings and areas of improvement from the AGS have been used to produce the governance judgement and narrative provided in the draft Self-Assessment Report (**Appendix 1**).

3.7 The draft findings from each of the three performance requirements have been brought together into a single presentation for officer scrutiny and challenge in the first instance. Moderation exercises were completed by Heads of Service at their meeting on 24 June 2026 and CMT on 8 July 2026. Cabinet and Corporate Management Team (CCMT) then tested these judgements on 14 July 2026.

3.8 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Self-Assessment Report on 27 July 2026. The Committee suggested the report could be more concise and noted concerns about areas rated red in the Quarter 4 Corporate Performance Dashboard but the overarching aim had been judged as amber in the Self-Assessment and recommended that the narrative should more clearly explain the different measurement frameworks used, to improve transparency and understanding for Members and the public. These narratives are therefore being reviewed and improved before the final version is submitted to Cabinet and Council for approval in October.

Summary of Judgements for 2025-26

3.8 The draft self-assessment judgements are included in **Appendix 1** and are summarised below -

WBO1: A prosperous place with thriving communities	**GOOD (YELLOW)**
WBO2: Creating modern, seamless public services	**GOOD (YELLOW)**
WBO3: Enabling people to meet their potential	**GOOD (YELLOW)**
WBO4: Supporting our most vulnerable	**GOOD (YELLOW)**

3.9 The Use of Resources judgement has been evaluated as 'Good'.

3.10 The Governance judgement remains at 'Good'.

3.11 A summary of the performance information that supports the self-assessment is included at **Appendix 2**. This will give the Governance and Audit Committee a better understanding of the Council's performance against each Wellbeing Objective, Aim, PI and Commitment that underpins the self-assessment judgements. It should also give the Governance and Audit Committee additional reassurance about the fairness and accuracy of the process.

Next Steps

3.12 After consideration by Governance and Audit Committee, there will also be engagement on the draft document with -

• Trade unions through the Council's regular meeting programme.

• Town and Community Councils at the Town and Community Council Forum (TCCF).

• Partners and neighbouring local authorities at the Public Services Board (PSB).

3.13 After considering all feedback and making necessary amendments and improvements, the final draft self-assessment 2025-26 will be presented to Cabinet and Council in October 2026.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Wellbeing of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Wellbeing Objectives

5.1 This report reviews the following corporate wellbeing objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that form part of the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28:-

1. A prosperous place with thriving communities
2. Creating modern, seamless public services
3. Enabling people to meet their potential
4. Supporting our most vulnerable

5.2 The 5 ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act have also been included in the Council's wellbeing objectives. The ways of driving and measuring them is also contained in the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no specific implications of this report on climate change or nature. However, the self-assessment will help us assess the Council's performance on areas (Wellbeing Objective 1).

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no specific implications of this report on safeguarding or corporate parenting. However, the self-assessment considers the Council's performance on areas including safeguarding (Wellbeing Objective 4) and corporate parenting (Wellbeing Objective 3).

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Governance and Audit Committee:-

- Consider and provide views on the draft self-assessment report attached as **Appendix 1** supported by performance information in **Appendix 2.**

Background documents

None