

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

7 OCTOBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's Annual Report 2014-15, 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 Council's improvement objectives (priorities) for 2015-16.

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 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 2014, the Council published its reviewed Corporate Plan for 2014-15. The Plan defined 58 commitments to deliver the six Improvement Priorities and identified 69 outcome-focused indicators for the financial year. Among the 69 indicators, 38 are specified as success measures, to evaluate "if we are collectively succeeding".
- 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 2014-15. It consists of two parts:
- Part one (Appendix A) evaluates the Council's performance against its commitments, success measures and budgets for the year. It also provides examples of the Council's key collaborative arrangements for 2014-15; a summary of key consultation and engagement activities and citizen feedback in 2014-15; a summary of the regulator's findings; and a summary of the improvement priorities the Council will take into 2014-15 and beyond.
 - Part two (Appendix B) provides detailed performance information about each of the 69 indicators defined by the Corporate Plan. This part also includes performance information about those statutory indicators that were not included in the Corporate Plan but the Council must collect.
- 4.2 The Council carried out to completion 47 (81%) of its 58 and missed only marginally in a further 11(19%). Targets have been set for 62 of the 69 indicators included in the Corporate Plan (the rest are new indicators without baseline data). Forty-four (71%) of the 62 indicators met their target, 9 (14.5%) were off target by less than 10% and 9 (14.5%) missed the target by more than 10%.
- 4.3 Of the 38 success measures, 28 (74%) achieved or exceeded the target, 7 (18%) missed the target by less than 10 percent, and 2 (5%) missed the target by more than 10 percent. (Data for one measure is not available.) The Council successfully managed both revenue and capital budgets, and achieved the savings target.
- 4.4 The Annual Report also evaluates the Council's performance against the 43 national indicators. In 2014-15 we were among the five local authorities in Wales that had improved the most, and among the nine that had performed the best.
- 4.5 This is an important document as it provides citizens and stakeholders with detailed information about the Council's performance as measured against the six improvement priorities. It also compares this information with that of all 22 Welsh local authorities across a range of services and highlights year on year trends.
- 4.6 Once approved, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. A summary of the report will be prepared that highlights for citizens key points in the Council's performance.

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 6 October, that Council approves the Annual Report 2014-15 (Appendix A and Appendix B).

Darren Mepham
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Yuan Shen
Corporate Improvement Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643224

E-mail: Yuan.Shen@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Corporate Improvement Team, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents

- Corporate Plan 2013-17
- The Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report (September 2015)