

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 20 February, 2017

Report of the Leader

Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment Report 2016 incorporating the Annual Improvement Report 2015/16: Progress against Proposals for Improvement

Purpose of the Report

1. The report informs members of the progress in implementing the proposals for improvement as included by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in their Corporate Assessment and further to the earlier report to Cabinet on 26 September 2016.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the content of this report and the progress being made against the Proposals for Improvement as outlined in the attached Implementation Plan.
2. That Cabinet notes the current position with reference to the Draft ICT Strategy and endorses the work undertaken to produce the Draft ICT Strategy having regard to ongoing progress on a Digital Strategy.
3. That a copy of this report is referred to Audit Committee for consideration.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To note progress against the Proposals for Improvement.
2. To note and endorse the position with regards to the Draft ICT Strategy.
3. To ensure that Audit Committee considers the report.

Background

2. A report was presented to Cabinet on 5 September 2016 which outlined the outcome of the Wales Audit office Corporate Assessment Report 2016 and the Annual Improvement Report 2015/16. On 26 September 2016 a further report was presented to Cabinet which included an Implementation Plan for responding to the 5 Proposals for Improvement in the Corporate Assessment. That report and the Implementation Plan also included references to Proposals for Improvement arising from the Financial resilience audit work undertaken during 2015/16. Cabinet on 26 September resolved that the report be noted and that a further report be brought to

Cabinet on the progress made against the Implementation Plan in meeting the Proposals for Improvement. (minute C3293 refers).

3. A copy of the report to 26 September 2016 Cabinet is attached at the following link [http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2016/16-09-26/Reports/WAO-Corporate-Assessment-Report-2016-incorporating-the-Annual-Improvement-Report-2015-16-Cabinet-Report.pdf](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2016/16-09-26/Reports/WAO-Corporate-Assessment-Report-2016-incorporating-the-Annual-Improvement-Report-2015-16-Cabinet-Report.pdf)
4. In outline, that report referred to the five Proposals for Improvement and set out the Council's position in relation to the same. Members will recall that the Proposals for Improvement related to Performance Management, Finance, ICT and Asset Management. The Proposals for Improvement arising from the WAO Financial Resilience Assessment included matters relating to financial planning, financial control and governance.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. The Implementation Plan (as updated) is attached at [Appendix A](#), refers to the progress made since September 2016 against the five Proposals for Improvement.
6. The following information is relevant:

Performance Management

- Two Proposals for Improvement related to Performance Management as detailed in the Implementation Plan at [Appendix A](#). Members will be fully aware that a considerable amount of work has been implemented over the last 12 months in relation to the Council's Performance Management Framework. In summary, the following is now embedded:
- The Corporate Plan is monitored on a quarterly basis by an overarching Corporate Health report presented to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- Specific quarterly performance reports for each of the four Wellbeing Outcomes are presented to the four re-focussed Scrutiny Committees.
- A sponsoring Director is responsible for each of the Wellbeing Outcome reports and the Corporate Health report.
- The reports are in a new format co-produced with Members and the Council's Corporate Management Team.
- An annual self-assessment report was presented for 2015 in January 2016 and the self-assessment report for 2016 will be presented to Cabinet in April of this year.
- A new set of Service Plans are currently being produced for consideration by Scrutiny Committees in March and Cabinet in April.
- The target setting process has been brought forward to be undertaken in conjunction with the production of the annual self-assessment and service planning process as requested by the WAO. Cabinet will consider targets for the coming year in April and these will then be monitored via the quarterly outcome focused reports.

Finance

- A Proposal for Improvement related to the need to include detailed savings reports as part of the wider budget monitoring process and that there should be an

identification of these savings proposals that relate to Reshaping Services. As a result, more detail is now included in budget monitoring reports and the same reports identify the progress made against Reshaping Services savings.

ICT

- A Proposal for Improvement related to the need to progress a vision and objectives for the service. This work has progressed and a draft strategy is attached at [Appendix B](#). Members are, however, asked to note that work is also being undertaken on a Digital Strategy. This work is essential to enable the Council to use technology to reshape our services and enable the delivery of services, the provision of information and efficient management of customer contact. As a consequence the ICT Strategy will need to reflect the ongoing work on digital services and is likely to be updated further in the very near future. It is recommended therefore that the Draft ICT Strategy is further developed to reflect the work on the Digital Strategy and both documents will be reported to Cabinet in the spring of this year.

Asset Management

- A Proposal for Improvement required the acceleration of the gathering of buildings and compliance data and thereafter rolling out compliance training. This work has been monitored by the Corporate Management Team and requires completion (Implementation Plan) by March 2017. Progress is being made in recording compliance data in relation to the Council's housing stock and the situation has also been monitored by the Council's Head of Audit Services.
7. In addition, the Proposals for Improvement relating to Financial Resilience have also been updated to reflect the current position.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

8. None over and above those identified in the report, although members will note that the Assessment process does relate to financial management.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9. None directly attributable to this report, although the Corporate Assessment does consider aspects of asset management.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

10. None over and above those identified in this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

11. None directly attributable to this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

12. None directly attributable to this report.

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. The report relates to the reputation and performance of the Council in delivering services and implementing the Corporate Plan.

Policy Framework and Budget

14. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

15. As the report is not ward specific, no ward member consultation has been undertaken.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. Corporate Performance and Resources.

Background Papers

WAO Corporate Assessment Report 2016 (incorporating the Annual Improvement Report 2015-18).

Cabinet Report 26 September 2016 Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment Improvement Report 2015/16: Progress against Proposals for Improvement.

Contact Officer

Rob Thomas, Managing Director

Officers Consulted

Corporate Management Team

Responsible Officer:

Rob Thomas, Managing Director