

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-16**

**FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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<b>Agenda Item 5</b>
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<b>The Council's draft summary of the Corporate Performance Report 2015/16</b>
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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the Council's draft summary of the Corporate Performance Report 2015/16 in accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1. Consider the draft summary (**Appendix 1**) and form a judgement on the extent to which it represents a fair and balanced summary of the full Corporate Performance Report 2015/16, as approved by Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1. The report to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 titled 'The Council's draft Corporate Performance Report 2015/16' set out the legal duty on local authorities in Wales to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (from hereon called the Measure).
- 3.2. This report sets out, amongst other things, that local authorities in Wales are required to meet this legal duty through the publication of priorities and action plans for achieving them by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, and make a public assessment of their performance by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> October following the end of the financial year to which the information relates.
- 3.3. In the case of Rhondda Cynon Taf, a combined document titled 'Corporate Performance Report 2015/16' was produced with the aim of meeting this overall legal duty. A draft of the document was reported to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on the

15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and subject to further amendment, an up dated version reported to and approved by Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

- 3.4. In addition to the above, the Measure recognises that the information included within documents such as a Corporate Performance Report may be detailed, lengthy and perhaps technical in parts, and are unlikely to attract wider readership in the communities that councils serve. For this reason, the Measure requires local authorities to produce a summary version of this information.
- 3.5. As a helpful guide for local authorities, the guidance to the Measure legislation states:
- *The content of any summary is for each authority to decide, but it should be fair and balanced, and should provide a general readership with:*
    - *an overview of the authority's priorities and improvement objectives;*
    - *a summary of how far they have been met in the past year and an assessment of whether they have improved outcomes for citizens;*
    - *a summary of improvement objectives planned or undertaken in the current year; and*
    - *details of how to obtain further information (for instance, copies of the full plan), how to provide any comments on the authority's performance, and how to influence the planning and delivery of an authority's services more generally.*
- 3.6 Other key requirements that local authorities must take into account when producing a summary include:
- It should be published in hard copy and on the internet, in Welsh and English, subject to the terms and conditions of each authority's Welsh Language Scheme;
  - Consider making it available in other languages which are commonly spoken in the area and in formats such as Braille, large print and audio, which are accessible to those with sensory disabilities; and
  - Ensuring that citizens and communities are aware of the existence of the full document and summary and have ample opportunities to obtain copies.
- 3.7 A full copy of the guidance can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

#### **4. DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16**

- 4.1 In line with the Measure and underpinning guidance, the Council has drafted a summary of its 'Corporate Performance Report 2015/16' (attached as Appendix 1). It should be noted that at this stage the draft version included at Appendix 1 sets out the 'information only' that is proposed to comprise the summary i.e. not a fully 'designed' version.
- 4.2 The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee are requested to review the content of the summary and form a judgement on the extent to which it provides a fair and balanced summary of the full Corporate Performance Report 2015/16.

4.3. Subject to the feedback of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, officers will finalise the summary and make it available on the Council's web-site by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Following this:

- The summary will be produced in hard copy, in Welsh and English, and distributed to front facing Council offices such as One4All Centres, Libraries, Day Centres and Communities First facilities, and circulated to external partners including South Wales Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the Health Board, Interlink, Community Councils and local community groups that the Council works with;
- Should a request be received for the full or summary document to be made available in alternative languages / format, this will be arranged on an 'as and when' basis.

4.4 Further to publication of the summary, the Wales Audit Office has a legal duty to audit the content, the results of which will be formally reported to Council later in the municipal year.

## 5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1. All councils in Wales have a legal duty under the Measure to publish priorities and plans for achieving them as soon as is reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year to which they relate, and also to make a public assessment of their performance for each financial year. Rhondda Cynon Taf has used its 'Corporate Performance Report 2015/16' to discharge this duty.

5.2. In addition, the Measure also requires all councils in Wales to produce a summary of its priorities and plans, and previous year's performance. In the case of Rhondda Cynon Taf a summary of the full 'Corporate Performance Report 2015/16' has been produced, in line with the guidance set out, with the aim of attracting as wide a readership as possible in local communities, with partners and internally within the Council.

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