

CABINET MEETING

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 13 October 2015
Report Subject	Annual Performance Report 2014/15
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Performance Report for 2014/15 reviews our progress against the Improvement Priorities as detailed in the Improvement Plan 2014/15.

The report reflects the overall good progress that has been made against our priorities and the high level of confidence we have in achieving the desired outcomes. It also shows that we managed our risks well, with only one remaining at a high level at year end.

Performance against the Improvement Plan measures was also positive with 64% achieving or exceeding target and 59% showing improved performance on that achieved in 2013/14.

Comparison nationally using the National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) and Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) revealed 46% of indicators achieved or exceeded target and 63% showed improved or sustained performance. Our performance was better than the Welsh average in 62% of indicators and we ranked in the top three for 20%.

RECOMMENDATION

1	To endorse the 2014/15 Annual Performance Report for publication.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT
1.01	The Annual Performance Report (the report) meets the statutory requirement to publish an Improvement Plan as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure (2009) (the Measure). The report must be published by 31st October each year. The purpose of the report is to account for the organisation's previous year's performance against its Improvement Priorities.
1.02	The requirements of the Measure are met through the "forward looking" document; the Improvement Plan 2014/15. This sets out the strategy and priorities for the Council. The second statutory requirement of the Measure is met by this Annual Performance Report, which reviews progress on commitments made in the previous year.
1.03	The Annual Performance Report must be approved by the full Council prior to publication.
1.04	<p>The Annual Performance Report for 2014/15 reviews our progress against the Improvement Priorities as detailed in the Improvement Plan 2014/15. This assessment takes into consideration assessments of our performance for each of the Improvement Priorities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress against key actions and projects• Progress against identified risks and challenges• Performance indicator outturns (target and trend analysis)• Regulatory, audit and inspection activity
1.05	<p><u>Progress against Key Activities</u></p> <p>Overall good progress has been made against the 2014/15 Improvement Plan priorities and there is a high level of confidence in the achievement of desired outcomes. The report summaries progress against the key activities supporting the priorities as follows:</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are making good progress in 63% (50).• We are making satisfactory progress in 34% (27).• We are making limited progress in 2% (2). <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have a high level of confidence in the achievement of 79% (62).• We have a medium level of confidence in the achievement of 20% (16).• We have a low level of confidence in the achievement of 1% (1).

1.06	<p><u>Progress against Risks and Challenges</u></p> <p>Good progress was made in managing our risks. Analysis of the year end risk levels for the 79 strategic risks identified in the Improvement Plan is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47% (37) are low • 52% (41) are medium • 1% (1) is high
1.07	<p><u>Performance Indicator Outturns</u></p> <p>The report summaries our performance against the Improvement Plan measures and also nationally using the National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) and Public Accountability Measures (PAMs).</p> <p>Improvement Plan Measures</p> <p>Assessment of actual performance against target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64% (75) achieved or exceeded target • 27% (32) missed target but within an acceptable margin • 9% (10) significantly missed target <p>Assessment of actual performance compared with the previous year's performance (trend):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59% (58) Improved • 11% (11) Maintained the same level of performance • 30% (30) Downturned <p>NSIs and PAMs</p> <p>Good performance was achieved nationally; 46% (18) of NSIs and PAMs achieved or exceeded target and 63% (29) improved or maintained the same level of performance on that achieved in the previous year. In addition, in 62% (28) we achieved performance that was better than the Welsh average (median). This represents an improvement on 2013/14, where our performance was better than the median in 52% of indicators.</p> <p>For 2014/15, we were the 'top' performer in 13% (6) of indicators and ranked in the top three for 20% (9).</p>
1.08	<p>The Local Government Performance Bulletin for 2014/15 was published 2nd September 2015 by the Local Government Data Unit (link to bulletin). Analysis of the bulletin has been undertaken and Chief Officers have prepared responses to the findings.</p>
1.09	<p><u>Regulation, Audit and Inspection Activity</u></p> <p>The Wales Audit Office publishes an Annual Improvement Report (AIR) each year on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. The AIR published in March 2015 for Flintshire included the findings and recommendations from the Corporate Assessment.</p> <p>Overall the Auditor General concluded that:</p>

	<i>“The Council’s track record suggests that it is likely to respond positively to the internal and external challenges it faces and make arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2015-16.”</i>
1.10	The statutory requirements of the Measure are met through a concentration on the Council’s Improvement Priorities.
1.11	The report will be available via the Council’s website. Paper copies can be generated as required and the supporting documents which provide the more detailed information will be available as ‘hyperlinked’ documents. A summary of the report will be included within the emagazine ‘Your Council’.
1.12	A special meeting of County Council has been arranged for 20 October 2015 to request approval of the report for publishing.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications within this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Annual Performance Report must be approved by the full Council before publication.
3.02	<p>Consultation is undertaken throughout the year by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees reviewing the quarterly performance reports.</p> <p>A report on the full year’s progress against the Improvement Plan 2014/15 was presented to Cabinet in June 2015.</p> <p>Audit Committee received a report detailing the year end risk assessment in June 2015.</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	An assessment of the risks identified in the Improvement Plan for 2014/15 has been made within the Annual Performance Report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Annual Performance Report 2014/15</p> <p>Appendices to the Annual Performance Report: Appendix A – Improvement Plan Risk Summary Appendix B – Improvement Plan Measures Data Table Appendix C – NSI and PAM Data Table Appendix D – Table of Collaborative Activity</p>

	Appendix E - Glossary
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Improvement Plan 2014/15</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicki Robarts Performance Team Leader</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 701457</p> <p>E-mail: vicki.c.robarts@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Annual Performance Report: accounts for the organisation's previous year's performance against its Improvement Priorities. It must be published by 31st October each year.
7.02	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.
7.03	Local Government (Wales) Measure (2009): A measure of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision about arrangements by local authorities and other authorities in Wales to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions; to make provision for community strategies; and for connected purposes.
7.04	National Strategic Indicators (NSIs): set by Welsh Government, these performance indicators are used to measure the performance of local authorities at a national level, focusing on key strategic priorities.
7.05	Public Accountability Measures (PAMs): a set of "outcome focussed" performance indicators that reflect those aspects of local authority work which local authorities agree are considered to be important in terms of public accountability, e.g. recycling, educational attainment, etc.
7.06	Performance Indicator (PI): a type of performance measurement used to evaluate the success of an organisation or of a particular activity in which it engages.
7.07	PI Outturn: the actual performance achieved for a performance indicator.
7.08	PI Target Analysis: comparison of actual performance compared with the target.
7.09	PI Trend Analysis: comparison of actual performance for the year with the previous year(s) performance.
7.10	Improvement Plan Measures: the performance indicators or milestones used to evaluate the success of activities in the Improvement Plan.

7.11	Wales Audit Office (WAO): works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.
7.12	Audit General for Wales: Appointed by the Queen and independent of government the Auditor General for Wales is the statutory external auditor of most of the Welsh public sector.
7.13	Annual Improvement Report (AIR): is publicised by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. It brings together, with the co-ordination of other inspectorates such as Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW), a picture of the Council's delivery and evaluation of services and it's planning of improvement for the coming year.
7.14	Corporate Assessment: WAO's assessment of the Council's arrangements that enable progress and transformation, and that support continuous improvement and good performance.