

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 23 rd November, 2017
Report Subject	Council Plan 2017/18 - Mid year monitoring
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan 2017/23 was adopted by the Council in September 2017. This report presents the mid-year monitoring of progress for the Council Plan priority 'Learning Council' relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Flintshire is a high performing Council as evidenced in previous Council (Improvement) Plan monitoring reports as well as in the Council's Annual Performance Reports. This first monitoring report for the 2017/18 Council Plan is a positive report, with 88% of activities being assessed as making good progress, and 67% likely to achieve the desired outcome. In addition, 65% of the performance indicators met or exceeded target. Risks are also being successfully managed with the majority being assessed as moderate (67%) or minor (8%).

This report is an exception based report and therefore detail focuses on the areas of under-performance.

Recommendations

1	That the Committee consider the Council Plan 2017/18 mid-year monitoring report to monitor under performance and request further information as appropriate.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2017/23 MONITORING REPORT
1.01	The Council Plan monitoring reports give an explanation of the progress being made toward the delivery of the impacts set out in the 2017/23 Council Plan. The narrative is supported by performance indicators and / or milestones which evidence achievement. In addition, there is an assessment of the strategic risks and the level to which they are being controlled.
1.02	This is an exception based report and detail therefore focuses on the areas of under-performance.
1.03	<p>Monitoring our Activities</p> <p>Each of the sub-priorities have high level activities which are monitored over time. 'Progress' monitors progress against scheduled activity and has been categorised as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED: Limited Progress – delay in scheduled activity; not on track • AMBER: Satisfactory Progress – some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track • GREEN: Good Progress – activities completed on schedule, on track <p>A RAG status is also given as an assessment of our level of confidence at this point in time in achieving the 'outcome(s)' for each sub-priority. Outcome has been categorised as: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED: Low – lower level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s) • AMBER: Medium – uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s) • GREEN: High – full confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)
1.04	<p>In summary our overall progress against the high level activities is: -</p> <p>ACTIVITIES PROGRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are making good (green) progress in 51 (88%). • We are making satisfactory (amber) progress in 7 (12%). <p>ACTIVITIES OUTCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a high (green) level of confidence in the achievement of 39 (67%). • We have a medium (amber) level of confidence in the achievement of 19 (33%). • We have a low (red) level of confidence in the achievement of 0 (0%).
1.05	<p>Monitoring our Performance</p> <p>Analysis of performance against the Improvement Plan performance indicators is undertaken using the RAG (Red, Amber Green) status. This is defined as follows: -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED equates to a position of under-performance against target. • AMBER equates to a mid-position where improvement may have been made but performance has missed the target. • GREEN equates to a position of positive performance against target.
1.06	<p>Analysis of current levels of performance shows the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 (65%) had achieved a green RAG status • 18 (25%) had achieved an amber RAG status • 7 (10%) had achieved a red RAG status
1.07	<p>There are no performance indicators (PI) relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee showing a red RAG status for current performance.</p>
1.08	<p>Monitoring our Risks Analysis of the current risk levels for the strategic risks identified in the Improvement Plan is as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 (2%) is insignificant (green) • 4 (8%) are minor (yellow) • 32 (67%) are moderate (amber) • 11 (23%) are major (red) • 0 (0%) are severe (black)
1.09	<p>The major (red) risks identified for the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee are: -</p> <p>Priority: Learning Council Risk: Sustainability of funding streams.</p> <p>The sustainability of grant funding remains a major risk. The Council has received within the last week, without prior intelligence from Welsh Government (WG), notification of an 11% cut to the Education Improvement Grant, resulting in a real term reduction of approximately quarter of a million pounds. This grant funds a range of posts within schools e.g. Foundation Phase Support Staff and central service delivery within the portfolio. There is very limited guidance available at the current time from WG to be able to strategically plan for the implementation of this cut. Additionally, other grants e.g. Small and Rural School grant which was made available this year do not appear on the grant schedule for 2018/19. The School Uniform Grant for year 7 pupils entitled to Free School Meals has also been withdrawn without prior notification, leaving a potential cost pressure for the Council or schools to absorb.</p> <p>Risk: Numbers of school places not matching the changing demographics.</p> <p>Reducing unfilled school places via school organisation change is an ongoing process. School change projects can take between three and five years from</p>

	<p>inception to delivery before reductions of unfilled places can be realised. This continues to be an ongoing process linked to the school modernisation programme. To supplement this the Council will continue to work closely with schools to consider innovative ways for reduction in capacity on a school by school basis (i.e. alternative use of school facilities by other groups) with the objective of meeting national targets of circa 10% unfilled places in all school sectors.</p> <p>Risk: Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance works in Education & Youth assets.</p> <p>Continuation of the School Modernisation programme is one of the strategic options available to address the repair and maintenance backlog. The programme continuation will also i) Support a reduction of unfilled places ii) Provide a more efficient school estate and concentrate resources on teaching by removal of unwanted fixed costs in infrastructure and leadership iii) Ensure that the condition and suitability of the school estate is improved. Additionally, future capital business cases will be submitted through the Council process to supplement the 21st Century Schools investment programme.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications for this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Council Plan Priorities are monitored by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees according to the priority area of interest.
3.02	Chief Officers have contributed towards reporting of relevant information.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Progress against the risks identified in the Council Plan is included in the report at Appendix 1. Summary information for the risks assessed as major (red) is covered in paragraph 1.09.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Council Plan 2017/18 Mid-Year Progress Report – Learning Council.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Council Plan 2017/18: http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-and-Democracy/Improvement-Plan.aspx</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton Telephone: 01352 702305 E-mail: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS																																													
7.01	Council 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 a Council Plan.																																													
7.02	Risks: These are assessed using the improved approach to risk management endorsed by Audit Committee in June 2015. The new approach, includes the use of a new and more sophisticated risk assessment matrix which provides greater opportunities to show changes over time.																																													
7.03	<p>Risk Likelihood and Impact Matrix</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="4" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Impact Severity</td> <td>Catastrophic</td> <td>Y</td> <td>A</td> <td>R</td> <td>R</td> <td>B</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critical</td> <td>Y</td> <td>A</td> <td>A</td> <td>R</td> <td>R</td> <td>R</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marginal</td> <td>G</td> <td>Y</td> <td>A</td> <td>A</td> <td>A</td> <td>R</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negligible</td> <td>G</td> <td>G</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Y</td> <td>A</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Unlikely (5%)</td> <td>Very Low (15%)</td> <td>Low (30%)</td> <td>Significant (50%)</td> <td>Very High (65%)</td> <td>Extremely High (80%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">Likelihood & Percentage of risk happening</td> </tr> </table> <p>The new approach to risk assessment was created in response to recommendations in the Corporate Assessment report from the Wales Audit Office and Internal Audit.</p>	Impact Severity	Catastrophic	Y	A	R	R	B	B	Critical	Y	A	A	R	R	R	Marginal	G	Y	A	A	A	R	Negligible	G	G	Y	Y	A	A			Unlikely (5%)	Very Low (15%)	Low (30%)	Significant (50%)	Very High (65%)	Extremely High (80%)			Likelihood & Percentage of risk happening					
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