

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 11TH JULY, 2024

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 27TH JUNE, 2024

“168 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025-2030, PANEL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2024/25 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 6th June, 2024 was presented.

The report presented the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar for 2024/25 which outlined the activities that would be subject to consideration by Members throughout the year. The report also outlined how it was proposed to engage with Elected Members in shaping the processes, key plans and reports aligned to the Annual Performance Calendar to enable the performance requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LG&E) to be met and contributed to the national goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WCFG).

This year there were two additional aspects of the Performance Calendar that required consideration – the development of a new Corporate Plan and the arrangements for undertaking a Panel Performance Assessment (PPA).

The report set out the approach being taken to develop the new five year Corporate Plan 2025-2030 which would be published in April 2025. Work on a new Corporate Plan would include the development of new Well-being Objectives and a more outcome focused approach.

The report detailed the scope and indicative timetable for undertaking the Council's Panel Performance Assessment (PPA) in Autumn 2024. Introduced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act, the purpose of the PPA was to provide independent, external challenge to help inform the Council's improvement journey by building on its own annual self-assessment. The PPA would assess the extent to which the Council was meeting the performance requirements (that was, exercising its functions effectively, using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively and exercising good governance) and also presented the opportunity to consider work being undertaken as part of the development of the Corporate Plan 2025-30. It was proposed that the focus for the PPA concentrated on the changes being made and the approach being taken to deliver what was needed to make the Council more outcome and future focused and to increase the organisation's resilience.

The key findings and learning from the review of last year's Annual Self-Assessment approach were also detailed within the report as were proposals to further enhance the process in readiness for the 2023/24 self-assessment.

The Council's self-assessment covering the period 2023/24 would be published in December 2024. This timeline aligned with existing performance management arrangements and would enable key performance and governance related insights to be brought together throughout the year into a summary judgement on how well the performance requirements of the LG&E Act were being met.

Appendix A to the report contained information regarding the rolling programme of collaborative work with Members throughout the 2024/25 Annual Performance Calendar to develop their skills and knowledge and strengthen their involvement in shaping and refining the key plans, reports and processes that would support them in their key role of assessing whether the Council was achieving its Well-being Objectives, delivering value for money and improving the well-being of its citizens.

Councillor E. Goodjohn queried how would the Council ensure that the independent assessment would assist in the development of the new Corporate Plan. In reply, the Director of Learning and Skills stated that the proposed timetable was integrated in that it was planned for the PPA to be used to facilitate the Council in finalising the new draft Corporate Plan. Therefore, the Panel would be used as a form of confirmation that the Council was going in the right direction. Feedback from the Panel would be considered.

Councillor E. Goodjohn also queried what sort of discussions had the Council had with other Local Authorities. In response, the Director stated that in terms of the PPA, it was a new approach although a pilot had been carried out with one other Local Authority. Therefore, the Council was at the front of the assessment process and it was too early in terms of identifying lessons from other Councils. It was also important to note that each PPA would be particular to each local Council, particularly in terms of the inspection regime and framework.

Councillor Payne referred to the make-up of the PPA and noticed that there was representation from the Voluntary Sector. Councillor Payne commented that it would also be a good idea if there was representation from the Youth Council. In reply, the Director agreed with Councillor Payne and greater youth representation was something that Estyn had recognised and encouraged.

In reply to a query regarding what was the Council doing to ensure that the Self-Assessment fully considered the broad range of views raised by residents, the Director stated that a range of engagement activity was planned and those would be shared with the Committee outside of the meeting.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar 2024/25 and the proposed approach to engaging with Members be agreed.

(2) T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet, with particular emphasis on the Committee's request for there to be Youth representation on the Panel Performance Assessment.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.”