

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 10TH OCTOBER, 2024

REFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

“341 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT
2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 5th September, 2024 was presented by the Director of Place, the purpose of which was for Members of the Committee to consider this as part of a programme of consultation, with any views and recommendations for changes to the judgements or proposed areas for future focus being referred back to Cabinet (10th October, 2024) for their consideration prior to the Final Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report being considered by Governance and Audit Committee, Cabinet and thereafter presented for endorsement by Full Council.

A presentation was provided to the Committee, summarising the key points of this process. This ranged from the purpose of this process (“to embed a culture of evidence based and outcome focused performance, self-reflection and challenge to secure continuous improvement”) through to where the Council’s money comes from and how it is spent (funding came from multiple sources, as well as Council Tax and the majority of the budget focused on both education and social care), as well as next steps, self-assessment summary and ratings, and emerging areas for focus for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Following on from the presentation a number of comments and queries were made by Members of the Committee.

Councillor Hooper raised a number of queries and comments asking whether as well as “good” and “fair” as ratings for the self-assessment other terms or categories were available. He added that the self-assessment seemed to be more balanced than previous iterations but he still felt this was a political document and therefore should be presented by Cabinet Members as opposed to Directors. He also noted that there were no direct comparisons with previous documents or versions of the Annual Self-Assessment Report. In response the Chair referred to her part in the self-assessment and challenge process which she felt was robust and transparent. With regard to the self-assessment categories and ratings, the Director of Environment and Housing stated that he would share the relevant scoring and narrative terms used as part of this process which as well as including “good” and “fair” also encapsulated categories ranging from “excellent” through to “good”, “fair” and “poor”. On the comparison with previous iterations of the annual self-assessment process, the Director of Place referred Members to the slide in the presentation which showed the ADP performance assessment snapshot which did provide comparative data

such as actions against previous performance measures and direction of travel for these. Subsequently the Councillor suggested that the performance comparison was made clearer for the public and that once the annual self-assessment had been finalised and approved by Full Council, a clear and concise summary of this document should be produced for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan in order to make it as clear and accessible to them as possible.

Following on from Councillor Hooper's queries, the Chair asked how the self-assessment results would be presented to the public. The Director of Place stated that a summary document using various infographics could be used in order to help illustrate and make clear what the document was saying, including previous year comparisons with performance. Councillor Hooper made a further suggestion that the documentation should be aimed at, as well as the general public, to those residents within the Vale who would traditionally find accessing such documents difficult.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the following comments be referred to Cabinet as part of their consideration of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual-Self Assessment 2023/24:

- Once the Annual-Self Assessment has been finalised and approved by Full Council, that a clear and concise summary of this document be produced for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- For future consultations on the Annual-Self Assessment, the Council should reach out to the public and interest groups with more specific questions on communication and accessibility around this process, particularly with those groups that may find accessing written documentation, etc. challenging or difficult.

Reason for recommendation

To help inform Cabinet's consideration of, and the Vale of Glamorgan Council's approach to, meeting the performance requirements of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2023/24 (as per section 114 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)."