

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee
Date of meeting:	23rd November 2022
Location:	Council Chamber / Remotely Via Video Conference
Title:	Self-Assessment Report 2021/22
Purpose of the report:	For information to ensure the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee are updated on the progress of preparing the Self-Assessment Report 2021/22 including Annual Review of Performance and Well-being Objectives
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member	Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Democratic Services

Background

Part 6 of the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 replaces the old Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and introduces a new Self-Assessment based performance regime for Principal Councils. (The Guidance for Part 6 of the Act is attached as Appendix 1).

The new performance regime is intended to build and support a culture in which councils continuously seek to improve and do better in everything they do, regardless of how well they are performing already. It is the expectation of the Act that councils will always be striving to achieve more and seek to ensure best outcomes for local people and communities. One way of doing this is to continuously challenge the status quo and ask questions about how they are operating.

There are 5 specific duties for Councils introduced by the Act:

- Duty to keep performance under review
- Duty to consult on performance
- Duty to report on performance
- Duty to arrange a Panel Performance Assessment
- Duty to respond to a Panel Performance Assessment

The focus of self-assessment is on outcomes rather than process, and requires local authorities to take a different approach to assessing their performance than previously. This will require greater self-reflection.

Since May 2022, Ceredigion County Council has been undertaking the first round of Self-Assessment, in which the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee has played an integral part:

- On **15 June 2022** the Self-Assessment process that has been developed for use in Ceredigion was presented to the Committee. (The Council's approach uses a set of Key Lines of Enquiry or key questions to help focus on the requirement of the Local Government and Elections Act).
- On **29 July 2022** a workshop was held with the Committee to record Members' perspectives on Council performance and opportunities for improvement to feed into the Self-Assessment Matrix. (The Matrix is a table that captures all of the evidence, future challenges, proposed actions and scores).
- On **10 August 2022** a further workshop was held with the Committee to review the draft scores and Key Lines of Enquiry Matrix.

A full timetable of the activities undertaken in support of Self-Assessment in 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 2 for reference.

Current Position

Since then, the evidence collected has been used to produce the Self-Assessment Report which is attached at Appendix 3. This is the main output from the Self-Assessment process and sets out how the Council is currently performing and the actions it intends to take going forward.

The Self-Assessment Report for 2021/22 discharges the requirements of both:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – to set and review progress against our Corporate Well-being Objectives
- The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 – the duty to keep performance under review, consult on performance, report on performance, arrange a Panel Performance Assessment and respond to a Panel Performance Assessment.

The Governance and Audit Committee has a statutory responsibility to consider the Self-Assessment Report and make recommendations on the findings and the actions that the Council proposes to take. The Report was considered at its meeting on 27 September 2022 and approved the report to proceed to publication. No formal recommendations to change the conclusions or the actions that the Council intends to take were made. However, minor formatting amendments were requested and a number of points raised on how to improve the next round of reporting. These amendments have been made and are contained in Appendix 3. Following approval by Governance and Audit Committee the process of producing the 2021/22 Self-Assessment Report is now complete and cannot be amended further.

Next Steps

The Self-Assessment Report is scheduled to proceed to Cabinet on 6 December and Council on 15 December, before being submitted to Ministers, Estyn and the Auditor General for Wales, as well as being published on the website.

Recommendations (s): **To receive the Self-Assessment Report 2021/22 including the Annual Review of Performance and Well-being Objectives**

Reason for decision: **To ensure the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee are updated on the progress of preparing the Self-Assessment Report 2021/22 including Annual Review of Performance and Well-being Objectives**

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Part 6 Guidance
Appendix 2 - Timetable of activities undertaken to support Self-Assessment 2021/22
Appendix 3 - Draft Self-Assessment Report 2021/22

Corporate Lead Officer: Alun Williams (Corporate Leader Officer Policy, Performance and Public Protection)

Reporting Officer: Rob Starr (Social Care Reporting, Performance and Research Team)

Date: 1 November 2022