

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
22nd October 2014**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader**SUBJECT:** DRAFT Annual Performance Summary 2014

REPORT FOR: Approval

1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Annual Performance Summary (APS) 2014 and Annual Performance Evaluation (Technical Document) for approval. The report sets out the Council's achievements and performance against the commitments and measures that were in last year's forward-looking Powys Change Plan (2013-16), approved in March 2013.

1.2 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 creates an obligation on authorities to publish their performance report before 31st October each year.

1.3 The process for developing the Annual Performance Summary began with the completion of a series of performance evaluation grids (PEGs) detailing what we did, how we performed, who is better off and also what we did not do.

1.4 The PEGs were challenged by six scrutiny working groups during July. In order to help strengthen the challenge process this year, portfolio holders, directors and heads of service were invited to the workshops to hear the comments first hand and to provide direct responses to scrutiny as required. Scrutiny members identified a number of areas where they felt that the quality of information in the PEG's could be improved:

- In total, 157 comments/challenges and queries were raised as part of the six joint scrutiny workshops
- Heads of Service and officers have made necessary changes to the PEG's in response to 86 (55%) of the comments
- 56 (36%) of the comments were discussed and dealt with in the workshops and therefore have not resulted in any further changes being made to the PEG's
- 15 (9%) of the comments have not resulted in any changes to the PEG's as it was not considered relevant/ necessary by Heads of Service (where appropriate further detail has been included in the PEG tracker in response to general queries raised by Members)

1.5 The draft Annual Performance Evaluation 2014 (attached at Appendix A) has been developed using information from the final PEGs and has been developed in consultation with Management Team, Heads of Service and relevant officers. This sets out the technical and detailed information for each of the commitments and measures and is designed to meet our statutory requirements under the measure.

1.6 Last year the WAO identified a number of areas where the Council can strengthen its improvement reporting:

- The Report does not clearly evaluate the Council's progress towards achieving its improvement objectives, focussing on actions completed and new processes introduced rather than the outcomes these are achieving for citizens.
- Although a wider range of evidence is included in this year's Report, this does not yet amount to a comprehensive and balanced assessment of performance. There remains an over-reliance on numerical outputs and the extent of feedback from users is limited or anecdotal.
- The Report does not make the best use of comparative information.

1.7 Working with the Communications team we have developed the Annual Performance Summary which pulls key information from the APE, summarising the difference we have made in delivering on our key areas for improvement (see Appendix B). Aimed at the public, this summary version is easy to read and also addresses the concerns raised by our regulators. It focusses on 'what difference we have made' and draws out evaluations of how successful/ unsuccessful we have been in delivering each of our commitments.

1.8 The draft reports (Summary and Technical versions) were made available to Joint Chairs and Vice Chairs Steering Group on the 19th September 2014 and the process has accommodated feedback from members of the steering group where appropriate.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that County Council consider and approve the content of the DRAFT Annual Performance Summary 2014 and Annual Performance Evaluation to ensure the council meets its statutory obligations under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

2.2 The use of the 5Rs (Rooted, Relevant, Reasonable, Robust, Rounded) has emerged as a set of sound principles for undertaking effective self-evaluation and the council will need to continue embedding this in monitoring and review processes. On approving the document, County Council will be satisfied that the following criteria have been appropriately applied:

- Are the 'key achievements' identified collectively considered to be the most important/relevant ones to be published or are there others which should be included?
- Does the report provide an open, balanced and realistic self-assessment of performance?
- Is there sufficient appropriate data which demonstrates not only what and how much the council does, but also the difference the council is making in terms of outcomes?
- Is the document clear and does it provide the right level of information that would be meaningful and relevant to all audiences?

3. Powys Change Plan

3.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 sets out performance against last year's Powys Change Plan Stage 1 2013-16. It provides an assessment of the

authority's view of its success in achieving its improvement objectives for the period April 2013 – March 2014.

4. Options Considered/Available

4.1 n/a

5. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc.

5.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 gives an account of what the council has done during 2013-14 to embed its key principles – Equalities & Welsh Language and Sustainable Development. The summary will be published bilingually and will also be made available in large print, braille and audiotape on request.

6. Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

6.1 Progress in addressing Children and Young people's issues are covered as part of the Children and families section of the APS.

7. Local Member(s)

7.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 impacts with equal force across the whole County.

8. Other Front Line Services

8.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 focuses primarily on progress made against Powys Change Plan programmes.

9. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

9.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 outlines progress made against the 'Council' programme during 2013-14.

9.2 Legal - The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

10. Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc.

10.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014 makes specific reference to the council's commitment to deliver services in partnership where viable and outlines key partnership success during 2013-14.

11. Communications

11.1 The Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation will be published on the council's website. Hard copies of the public facing summary document will be made available in the council's main customer facing offices and shared with key partners. Publication of the report will be publicised via the council's facebook and twitter feeds. The reports will also be communicated internally to staff via the intranet and 'Connect' magazine.

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) notes the report.

12.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer): "I have nothing to add to the report".

13. Members' Interests

13.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the DRAFT Annual Performance Summary and Evaluation 2014.	To ensure the reports gives a balanced and open account of the council's performance during the 2013-14 financial year, against the activities and measures that were set out in the Powys Change Plan 2013-16 and that the council meets its statutory obligations as outlined in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Relevant Policy (ies):	Powys Change Plan 2013-16 STAGE 1		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	23 September 2014

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