Coventry City Council

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee   20 December 2017
Cabinet   9 January 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director approving submission of the report:
Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected:
Not applicable

Title:
Council Plan 2017/18 Half-Year Performance Report

Is this a key decision?
No

Executive summary:

The Council Plan is Coventry City Council's corporate plan. It sets out the Council's strategic direction and priorities for the city: the Council seeks to promote the growth of a sustainable economy; is committed to reform so that everybody, including our most vulnerable residents, can share in the benefits of the city's growth; underpinned by a Council that enables communities to solve local problems, at a time when the Council has to deliver its priorities with fewer resources.

This 2017/18 half-year performance report sets out the progress made towards the Council Plan from April to September 2017. The report uses indicators, contextual information, and comparative information to describe and explain how performance of the city and the Council compares to previous years, and to other places.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to:

1.   Consider the Council's performance this half-year, as set out in the performance report.
2.   Identify any issues they may wish to raise to Cabinet.
3.   Identify areas that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee or other Scrutiny Boards may wish to address as part of this year's scrutiny work programme.

Cabinet is asked to:

1.   Consider any recommendations from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.
2.   Approve the performance report.

3. Consider the Council's performance this year and identify areas that they wish to address in further detail.

List of appendices included:

Appendix I – Council Plan 2017/18 Half-Year Performance Report
Appendix II – Performance Management Framework
Appendix III – Table of Indicators

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

Council Plan www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/
Previous performance reports www.coventry.gov.uk/performance/
Council Plan performance indicator open data https://smarturl.it/CovPerformanceData
Performance management framework https://smarturl.it/PMF

Composite liveability measure www.coventry.gov.uk/cclm/
Composite liveability measure (maps) https://coventry-city-council.github.io/cclm/

Equality objectives www.coventry.gov.uk/equality/
Statement of accounts www.coventry.gov.uk/statementofaccounts/

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

Yes – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 20 December 2017

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Council Plan 2017/18 Half-Year Performance Report

1.   Context (or background)

1.1   The Council Plan is Coventry City Council's corporate plan. It sets out the Council's vision and priorities for the city. The current plan is for the period 2014 to 2024, and was last revised in July 2016.

1.2   The Council seeks to promote the growth of a sustainable economy; is committed to reform so that everybody, including our most vulnerable residents, can share in the benefits of the city's growth; underpinned by a Council that is enabling communities to solve local problems, at a time when the Council has to deliver its priorities with fewer resources.

1.3   The 2017/18 half-year performance report (Appendix I) sets out the progress made towards the Council Plan from April to September 2017. The report uses indicators, contextual information, and comparative information to describe and explain how the performance of the city and the Council compares to previous years, and to other places. Where possible, the report compares progress with previous years; and where previous data is unavailable, the data forms the baseline against which to measure future progress.

1.4   More details, including a publication schedule, trends, comparator data, progress reports, maps, additional infographics, and references, is available on the Council's information and statistics hub at www.coventry.gov.uk/infoandstats/. Open data is also published on GitHub at https://smarturl.it/CovPerformanceData.

1.5   The Council's priorities are delivered through strategies aligned to the Council Plan; as set out in the performance management framework. As part of the performance management process, leadership teams within each directorate and the corporate leadership team have been involved in ensuring that strategies and priorities are aligned to the overall Council Plan.

1.6   This report also includes data that set out the impact and progress made this year for groups with protected characteristics as set out in the Council's equality objectives, and towards the Council's Marmot (health inequalities) agenda.

2.   Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1   The Council Plan performance report is currently measured using **67** indicators. At half year, **31** indicators improved or stayed the same; **13** indicators got worse; we can't say for **7** indicators; and progress is not available for the remaining **16** indicators either because they are indicators updated less frequently or because data is not currently available. This means, at half year, **70%** of directional indicators (excluding can't say or not applicable) have improved or stayed the same. The number of indicators without any progress update is to be expected at half-year. This progress has been made in the context of continued and sustained reduction in the overall resources available to the Council – with the Council receiving £107m less core government grant in 2017/18 than the equivalent figure it received in 2010/11.

2.2   The performance report not only sets out how the Council is performing towards its priorities, but also, as many of the Council's key priorities have an equality dimension or address an inequality caused by social deprivation, the report also sets out how the Council is addressing these inequalities. Detailed progress updates illustrating the Council's progress towards its equalities objectives and Marmot priorities (health inequalities) are discussed at relevant Cabinet Member meetings as appropriate.

2.3 Members are asked to consider the Council's performance towards the Council's priorities as set out in the performance report, and to identify areas and issues to be addressed through relevant work programmes, boards, and committees.

2.4 The Council's performance management framework (Appendix II) sets out how the Council plans and organises its resources to achieve its vision and priorities. Responding to the Council's digital strategy to "maximise the value in our data and information", officers have introduced new methods to improve transparency and good governance through streamlining the timeliness of performance reporting, including:

- **online digital performance dashboards** built on a balanced scorecard of metrics with some indicators kept up-to-date with data from the Council's data warehouse – meaning that up-to-date performance information is made available instead of through formal performance reports; and
- **publishing more datasets online as open data**, in particular, where data is frequently requested through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, backed by a publication schedule – improving the experience for the public and significantly reducing the time spent by officers to respond to bespoke information requests.

2.5 Such changes may have implications on the way Cabinet (and other committees) currently sign-off performance reports. The intention is for officers to continue to develop some of the current ideas and thinking around performance management and target-setting, and will work with elected members over the year with a view to introduce a revised performance management framework for 2018/19 onwards.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The Council has consulted with employee representatives, community and interest groups, and partner organisations to help the Council achieve its equality objectives.

3.2 Where appropriate, this report uses residents' perceptions to help understand residents' views of the Council and the city. These are typically collected through surveys, for instance, the household survey.

3.3 Taking into consideration feedback from elected members through discussion at Cabinet, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and meetings with the Council Leader and the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Chair, this half-year report introduces:

- longer-term trends and comparisons, not just with the previous half-year / period, but over a longer time frame; and
- more explanation about why certain indicators are used.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The Council regularly monitors and reviews its performance as set out in the performance management framework (Appendix II). It also publishes regular updates about the performance of the city and the Council on the information and statistics web pages at www.coventry.gov.uk/infoandstats/.

5.   Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1   Financial implications
       There are no financial implications for this report.

5.2   Legal implications
       The single data list sets out a list of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government. In addition, the Government's local government transparency code sets out the minimum data that local authorities should be publishing; the frequency it should be published; and how it should be published. There is no requirement placed on local authorities to publish a report on its performance or any requirement on the Council to publish performance on any particular measures.

       Coventry City Council does so as it is committed to providing information that helps the Council work together with neighbours and partners, fulfilling its Council Plan priorities; and sees it as good practice to do so.

6.   Other implications

6.1   How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key priorities?

       The performance report sets out the progress made towards the Council Plan, that is, the Council's key priorities. The performance management framework sets out how the Council plans and organises the resources at its disposal to achieve the vision and priorities, as set out in the Council Plan.

6.2   How is risk being managed?

       The performance report helps the Council manage risk by measuring and reviewing progress in relation to the priorities of the Council Plan. It identifies areas where we are making good progress, areas where progress is not as expected, and areas where the Council needs to take corrective action.

6.3   What is the impact on the organisation?

       The Council Plan impacts on the whole organisation. Effective performance management arrangements at all levels will help to ensure that the Council's priorities are delivered.

6.4   Equalities / EIA

       The Council's performance management framework and reporting arrangements must have due regard to the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This includes the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; to meet the needs of people regardless of their background; and to encourage all people to participate in public life, or in other activities where their participation is low.

       The Council considers the majority of the key priorities set out in the Council Plan as equality objectives. This contributes to meeting the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

6.5   Implications for (or impact on) the environment

       Progress is measured through air quality measures, energy use, and carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations

Whilst this report reflects progress against the Council's priorities, it also includes actions and measures where the contribution of partners is essential to their delivery.

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