

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report on | Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2023 to 2024 |
| Date of Meeting | Thursday 6 th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | J Mc Guckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement |
| Contact Officer | L Jenkins, Corporate Performance & Quality Officer |

| | | |
|---|-----|--------------------------|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | X |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To consider Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for period 2023-2024. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | The 2014 Local Government Act places a general duty on the Council to "...make arrangements to secure continuous improvement..." in the exercise of its functions. |
| 2.2. | Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (hereby referred to as "the Act") requires council to publish an 'improvement plan' setting out its plans for discharging its duties under sections 84(1), 85(2) and 89(5) of the 2014 Act for a financial year. Paragraph 45 of the statutory guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (Local Government Circular 21/2016) indicates that the publication of an improvement plan should take place by the end of June each year. Council refers to the 'improvement plan' as set out in the legislation and guidance as Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan). |
| 2.3 | Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking forward the general duty on improvement, requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives. This requirement on consultation falls from section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 i.e. (requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published). |
| 2.4 | In order to comply with section 92(4) of the Act, each year the Council develops an annual Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), containing improvement objectives, associated activity and outcomes for citizens and local communities. The plan also includes the statutory performance indicators and standards as outlined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, as well as Council's Corporate health indicators (measures). |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>A letter regarding a new PIP publication date was issued on the 11th of May 2023 to all Council Chief Executives by Anthony Carleton; Director of Local Government Housing Regulation, Department for Communities, (the letter and associated paper was presented to June Policy and Resources Committee 2023). DfC stated that given the need to consult and taking account of the upcoming local government elections on 18th May 2023, some concerns have been raised as to whether there would be sufficient time to have PIP plans approved by councils by 30th June. The Department had decided to move the suggested publication date for all Councils' Performance Improvement Plans as set out in paragraph 45 of the guidance, that is, for 2023, councils will be required to have their performance improvement plans published by 30th September 2023 at the latest.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>There is no statutory duty to consult on the improvement plan, but rather the improvement objectives. The four new improvement objectives proposed for 2023 to 2024 went out for public consultation from Monday 27th February to Friday 21st of April 2023. The consultation told us that each objective received significant support. When reviewed, respondent commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed. An "Outworking's Report", relating to the public consultation, was presented to June Policy and Resources committee meeting.</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>The process of developing the Council's improvement objectives involved engagement between Senior Management, Assistant Directors, Heads of Service and the Strategy and Engagement Team. A self-analysis exercise was undertaken by Council to review the previous year's draft improvement objectives to establish their continued relevancy for the period 2023/24. The exercise was undertaken in order to ensure that the improvement objectives were based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thorough, evidence-based understanding of the communities Council serves, • Local needs and Council's capacity to address those needs. • Improvement objectives correspond directly with the council's priorities for improvement in the hierarchy of plans, and • The context of the current economy • Short, medium and long term needs of the Council • Many drivers and enablers both external and internal relating to improvement |
| 3.4 | <p>Senior management, were content with the review of the proposed improvement objectives. The rationale for each improvement objective, associated links to the Community and Corporate Plan were considered and approved by elected members as a focus for continuous improvement at their Policy and Resources committee meeting 9th of February 2023 and thereafter were ratified at the February Council meeting. The proposed improvement objectives will form the basis of Council's performance improvement plan (PIP) for 2023/24 – (refer to table 1 below).</p> |

Table One - Proposed Improvement Objectives 2023-2024

| Proposed Improvement Objectives 2023/2024 | |
|--|--|
| 1 | Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action |
| 2 | We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them |
| 3 | To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and environment |
| 4 | We will contribute to the on-going regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people |

3.5

Together with additional commentary provided from the public consultation, the Council has developed its 2023-2024 Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) around the four objectives (refer to Appendix One Performance Improvement Plan 2023 to 2024). This is the third year that the four improvement objectives appear in Council's performance Improvement Plan, having been reviewed in December 2022 into January 2023, and having been refreshed and updated from April 2023 onwards. A variety of services across the Council are involved in ensuring the delivery of aligned, activities and measures, which are contained within the PIP plan to meet the four improvement objectives, as well as statutory and corporate performance indicators.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial: N/A

Human: N/A

Risk Management: N/A

4.2 Screening & Impact Statements

Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A

| | |
|------------|---|
| | Rural Needs Implications: N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | That members consider and approve the Council's Corporate Performance Improvement (PIP plan) Plan 2023-2024 to 2024-2025. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix One: Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2023-2024 to 2024-2025 |