
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	26 March 2024
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/12/24/RB/KB
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae	Contact No:	01475 712065
Subject:	Corporate Policy and Performance Update: February-March 2024		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report provides the Committee with an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to:

- Cyber Security and Resilience Annual Report.
- Gaelic Language Plan: Bòrd na Gàidhlig response to Implementation Report 2022/23.
- Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2022/23.
- Self-evaluation to support continuous improvement.
- International Women's Day 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the latest updates in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 A Corporate Policy and Performance update report is considered at every meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; the last such report was submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 6 February 2024.

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3.2 Cyber Security and Resilience Annual Report

3.3 The annual Cyber Security and Resilience Report was presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) updating the latest position regarding the Council's current resilience and security position. The Report noted that the Council has a strong and well-considered approach to cyber security. ICT is well-supported by Senior Council Officers and the CMT and delivers a multi-level approach to preventing cyber security incidents. ICT extends a cautious approach to network and infrastructure configuration to reduce the impact on the overall security of the systems it provides. It welcomes the scrutiny of external testing and audit processes. It noted that the Council had once again successfully completed Public Services Network Accreditation for 2023/24 and that the Council was meeting all current obligations to the Scottish and UK Government in terms of cyber security resilience and compliance actions.

3.4 Gaelic Language Plan: Bòrd na Gàidhlig response to Implementation report 2022-2023.

Following the submission of Inverclyde Council's Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Report 2022-23 on 24th May 2023, a formal response to the report was received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 25th January 2024. In its response, the Bòrd noted the following areas of good progress made by the Council:

- Developing the provision of community Gaelic classes;
- Developing options of sessions available to school pupils outwith the classroom setting;
- Sharing bilingual content on the Council's social media account.

3.5 Regarding areas for further development, the Bòrd has asked that the Council make further progress in creating bilingual content on the Council's website in order to give equal respect to both Gaelic and English. This action is being progressed by the Corporate Policy Team and Education Services.

3.6 LGBF 2022/23 update

3.7 The Improvement Service introduced a new approach to reporting LGBF data in spring 2023, with a move to an interactive online dashboard which provides access to the data and analysis at an indicator, service, family group and Council level at various points throughout the year. The Committee previously considered 2022/23 performance data for 38 LGBF measures, which were reported in the Inverclyde Council Annual Performance Report 2022/23. A dashboard refresh was carried out in February 2024, and benchmarking data for Inverclyde Council is now available for a total of 82 of the 102 measures within the framework.

3.8 A further and final refresh is expected in May 2024 and will include information on performance in relation to looked after children and the remaining outstanding pupil attainment data. An analysis of Inverclyde Council's performance across the whole framework will be presented to the first meeting of this Committee after the final data release and a dedicated Elected Member Briefing will be arranged to provide an additional opportunity for discussion and scrutiny.

3.9 Self-evaluation to support continuous improvement

The Council's self-evaluation framework, which was approved in March 2023, includes a commitment to carrying out a corporate self-evaluation on an annual basis, with a focus on areas of corporate risk or importance. The CMT has agreed that the next assessment will focus on the Council's performance in relation to the seven Best Value themes. To support this, a bespoke assessment framework has been developed for Inverclyde Council by the Improvement Service, which will be completed by Management Teams from Inverclyde Council and the HSCP. The aim of the assessment is to identify strengths and areas for improvement linked to the delivery of Best Value. The assessment will also help to address the recommendation within the Annual Audit Report 2022/23 that the Council should implement a process to report on overall Best Value achievement and delivery.

3.10 International Women's Day 2024

An event took place at The Watt Institution to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2024. An informative talk, delivered by the Council's Archivist, explored the real women behind stories of witches and witchcraft in Inverclyde and beyond. There was also an opportunity to explore the *Witches in Word not Deed* art installation. A British Sign Language Interpreter was present at the event. While attendance was free, people were requested to book beforehand. The event proved to be very popular, with tickets reserved well in advance.

4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the latest updates relating to the area of Corporate Policy and Performance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental and Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

5.5 **Strategic**

The matters referred to in this report are of relevance to the following Council Plan 2023/28 Theme:

Theme 3: Performance

- High quality and innovative services are provided, giving value for money.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 None.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.