
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	24 March 2020
Report By:	Aubrey Fawcett, Chief Executive	Report No:	PR/06/20/LMcV
Contact Officer:	Louise McVey, Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager	Contact No:	01475 712042
Subject:	Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report - Improvement Plan Progress Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) Improvement Plan.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Inverclyde Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) was submitted to Inverclyde Council on 29 June 2017 along with an Improvement Plan which was developed in order to address the recommendations made by Audit Scotland. The actions in the Improvement Plan have been absorbed into the Council's Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs).
- 2.2 It was agreed that the Committee would receive progress reports on the Improvement Plan approximately every 6 months. This is the fifth progress report to be considered by the Committee and brings together the updates on the improvement actions as reported in the Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan progress reports.
- 2.3 The current status of the 10 BVAR Improvement Plan actions is:

Status	Blue – complete	Red – significant slippage	Amber – slight slippage	Green – on track
March 2020	6	-	1	3

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee notes the progress made in regard to the BVAR improvement actions, as set out at appendix one.

**Aubrey Fawcett
Chief Executive**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The statutory duty of Best Value was introduced in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. The audit of Best Value is a continuous process that forms part of the annual audit of every council. Audit Scotland advises that the audit approach is proportionate, risk-based and is reflective of the context, risks and performance of an individual council. It also draws on intelligence from previous audit and scrutiny work.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council's BVAR report resulted in an improvement plan to enable the Council to address the recommendations made by Audit Scotland.
- 4.3 The recommendations in the report were:
- To progress community empowerment to the level that the Act requires, the Council will need to further develop the capacity of communities it is working with. It will need to raise awareness of the possibilities for communities, and look at the level of funding and staffing required to work with communities to progress initiatives including the transfer of assets and participatory budgeting (Action BV1).
 - The Council and its partners should use the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to develop a single set of outcomes which simplifies the strategic and planning framework (Action BV2).
 - The Council should develop more detailed workforce plans and longer-term forecasts of workforce numbers and skills required (Actions BV3 and BV7).
 - Actions to deliver strategic improvements should identify the difference they are expected to make to the overall strategic outcomes, with milestones at key intervals (Action BV4).
 - Key corporate initiatives such as City Deal projects and shared services should be reflected in updated corporate planning documents (Actions BV5 and BV8).
 - The Council should embed the recent introduction of directorate change management groups to prioritise, manage and monitor service improvement activity (Action BV6).
 - The Council has experienced delays in its City Deal projects. Councillors and officers should continue to focus significant efforts on developing these projects with private sector partners (Action BV9).
 - A detailed review of earmarked reserves should be undertaken with the new Council as part of the 2018-20 revenue budget development (Action BV10).
 - Councillors should consider continuing with the Members' Budget Working Group, given the financial challenges that exist and the key decisions that will need to be made following the May 2017 local government election (see paragraph 4.4 below).
 - All service review reports should be presented to councillors at the relevant service committee, in accordance with the Council's service review guidance. Councillors should also receive progress reports on service reviews (see paragraph 4.4 below).
- 4.4 In regard to the Members' Budget Working Group it was agreed unanimously by the Council to continue with this group, as recommended by Audit Scotland. Service review reports are reported to relevant service committees as they are completed. The timing of reporting of some service reviews is affected by the budget planning process.

5.0 BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS TO DATE

- 5.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is a full progress report on the improvement actions included in the BVAR Improvement Plan. Highlights of the activity which has been undertaken since the last progress report includes:

- The feedback from the six community events has informed the development of the Locality Action Plans. Two of the Locality Action Plans have been published and are available on the Inverclyde Council website, with the remaining plans following shortly.
- A new ‘council performance’ web page has been created, which can be found on the Council’s website. Each of the Council’s organisational priorities now has its own web page with performance information collated in the one place, taken from the SPI/KPI report and the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19. This purpose of this is to ensure that the public can find comprehensive performance information on the delivery of the Council’s priorities.

5.2 Members will be aware from previous progress reports that a number of the improvement actions are now complete:

- The new Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan was approved by the Alliance Board in December 2017. The LOIP has one set of strategic outcomes, the SHANARRI wellbeing outcomes and three strategic priorities. The LOIP Annual Report 2018/19 has been approved by the Alliance Board (BV2).
- Key corporate initiatives, such as City Deal and Shared Services are reflected in updated corporate documents, including the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, the LOIP Annual Report, Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan 2018/22 and the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19 (BV5 and BV8).
- All succession plans are now complete (BV3 and BV7).
- A full review of earmarked reserves has been completed (BV10).

5.3 Two additional improvement actions are now also assessed as being complete:

- Corporate Workforce Planning and Development is now embedded across the Council. The Council’s People and Organisational Development Strategy 2020-2023 was agreed in February 2020 which promotes Corporate Planning and Workforce Development.
- Change Management is now fully embedded across the Council.

5.4 The status of the 10 improvement actions is noted below:

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6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

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					

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no human resources issues associated with this report.

6.4 Equalities

Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	

NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

- (c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

6.5 Repopulation

A positive BVAR for Inverclyde Council contributes to the work of promoting Inverclyde as a good place to live and work.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The information contained within this report on progress has been provided by the relevant service.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

Appendix One: Actions to address BVAR recommendations

BVAR Improvement Action Plan

Ref no	Area of Directorate activity	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Who is responsible?	Progress update	Status 28/02/2020
BV1	The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	<p>The Council and the CPP are ready for the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, working with partners to deliver on the statutory requirements. Each element is in place across all Services.</p> <p>There are locality profiles and plans for the agreed localities across Inverclyde, mapping assets and issues, agreed with and led on by communities.</p> <p>Services/CPP partners and communities use these profiles to plan service delivery, targeting inequalities and working to reduce them</p> <p>All Inverclyde Alliance Partners are investing in building the capacity of communities so that</p>	<p>Respond to Scottish Government guidance.</p> <p>Bring the improving data analysis group together to gather information around the agreed localities</p> <p>Facilitate improved community engagement in the development of Locality Plans and community planning through Wellbeing Clusters and the development of more robust community engagement methods, including Place Standard</p> <p>Timescale: October 2017</p> <p>Set up working groups to cover each element, for example, legal, environmental, community learning and development, property etc.</p>	<p>Locality plans are available for Port Glasgow, Greenock East and Central and Greenock South and South West.</p> <p>Community Food Growing Strategy in Place</p> <p>A broader range and number of individuals and community groups are engaged and contributing to the development and delivery of Locality Plans and community planning.</p> <p>The Council is ready to manage participation request and asset transfer requests</p> <p>Communities are making full use of the Community Asset Transfer, Participation Request and Participation in Public Decision-Making elements of</p>	Steven McNab/Tony McEwan/ Gerard Malone	<p>The feedback from the 6 community events formed the basis of the Locality Action Plans. 2 of the Locality Action Plans have been published on the Inverclyde Council website, with the others following shortly. 2 locality groups have had meetings with dates established for the others throughout February and March 2020.</p> <p>A Food Growing Strategy will be published by 1 April 2020.</p>	 Green – on track

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		they may take full advantage of their rights set out in the Community Empowerment Act.	<p>October 2017</p> <p>Create a community food growing strategy. Awaiting guidance re timescales.</p> <p>Through the Community Engagement Network, highlight to the Alliance Board the resources required to effectively deliver on community empowerment/ engagement and capacity building, and make recommendations to the Alliance Board.</p> <p>December 2017 meeting of Alliance Board.</p>	the Community Empowerment Act.			
BV2	Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)	<p>Community engagement has taken place to help develop the new LOIP and to assess whether the current outcomes are appropriate.</p> <p>New Local Outcome Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Carry out a strategic assessment to inform the new LOIP, including engagement with communities</p> <p>Use locality profiles to inform development of the LOIP</p>	<p>Community Engagement taken place.</p> <p>LOIP produced and agreed by all partners.</p>	All LOIP Leads	<p>The new Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan was approved by the Alliance Board at its meeting on 11 December 2017. The LOIP has one set of outcomes, the wellbeing outcomes and 3 strategic priorities.</p> <p>A comprehensive Strategic Needs Assessment for Inverclyde has been developed and is appended to the LOIP.</p>	 Blue - complete

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		<p>agreed and being delivered.</p> <p>One set of outcomes is adopted by the Alliance and the Council.</p>	Timescale: 1 October 2017			<p>Work is ongoing to develop the Locality Plans.</p> <p>The Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report was approved by the Alliance Board in March 2019 and the Policy and Resources Committee on 6 August 2019.</p>	
BV3	Corporate Workforce Planning and Development	Continue to ensure workforce planning and development is integrated into CDIPs, risk registers and workforce plans are in place for service areas to address the key workforce challenges over the next 3 years and into the longer term.	<p>Analysis of workforce data and learning needs with a coordinated approach to WP and L&D solutions.</p> <p>Including future workforce requirements.</p> <p>March 2018.</p>	<p>WP and L&D activity is prioritised and needs are met through coordinated and cost effective approaches.</p> <p>Appropriate WP and L&D interventions are implemented to address key workforce challenges over the next 3 years.</p>	Steven McNab	<p>Corporate and Service workforce planning activity is now embedded across the Council. This ensures service workforce challenges are identified and plans put in place to address these. The Council's People and Organisational Development Strategy 2020-2023 was agreed in February 2020 which promotes Corporate Workforce Planning and Development.</p>	 Blue Complete
BV4	Measuring Impact on Outcomes	Inverclyde Alliance and Inverclyde Council are better able to demonstrate impact on outcomes, at various levels across services and programmes.	<p>Working with experts and other performance management specialists, processes will be developed to better measure impact on outcomes.</p> <p>By March 2018</p>	<p>In the next Best Value Assurance Report Audit Scotland are assured that Inverclyde is able to demonstrate impact on outcomes for all its children, citizens and communities.</p>	Steven McNab	<p>The SPI/ KPI report containing the refreshed framework was considered and approved by the Policy and Resources Committee its meeting in November.</p> <p>A new 'council performance' web page has been created, which can be found on the performance page of the council's website. Each of the council's organisational priorities has its own web page with performance information collated in the one place, taken from the SPI / KPI report and the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19.</p>	 Green – on track

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						<p>A performance summary in the form of infographics has also been developed and is also on each individual page. The aim of this is to provide performance information in a more user friendly format.</p> <p>Progress reports on the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan continue to be considered by the Alliance Board on a quarterly basis. An Annual Report detailing progress in the delivery of the Plan during 2019 and the achievement of outcomes will be prepared for the consideration of a future Alliance Board, with a potential mid-term review being carried out in 2020.</p>	
BV5	Key Corporate Initiatives	Key corporate initiatives are reflected in updated corporate documents, included as part of the review of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework.	When drafting the new LOIP and Corporate Statement, references to City Deal and shared services will be made. By March 2018.	The LOIP and Corporate statement make reference to City Deal and shared services.	Steven McNab	<p>The new Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan includes reference to City Deal and was approved by the Alliance Board on 11 December 2017.</p> <p>The new Corporate Plan 2018/22 was approved by The Inverclyde Council on 7 June 2018. City Deal was reflected in the Corporate Plan 2018/22 and updates are included in both the LOIP Annual Report 2018 and the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19.</p>	 Blue – Complete
BV6	Change Management	Services have been reviewed and where appropriate redesigned to ensure	3 Change Management Directorate Groups are established to	Savings are identified through change management process.	Ruth Binks/ Louise Long/ Scott Allan	Project now embedded and therefore complete	 Blue

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		they are fit for purpose, meet customer's needs and are efficient.	review progress on all change projects on a monthly basis. The Group will be chaired by the Corporate Director and consist of the DMT plus Finance & HR support. Heads of Service will be accountable for promoting change management projects and taking necessary action to ensure timeous delivery. Progress reports using a RAG status will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team. Once further work on Change Management is embedded with the new Council, in the summer of 2017, regular updates will be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee.	Change Management Directorate Groups meeting regularly. Bimonthly review of progress by the CMT using a RAG report.			Complete
BV7	Succession Planning	Develop and Implement a Succession Planning programme for the Council.	Develop and Introduce Succession Planning programme in	A Succession Planning programme will be developed and rolled out across the Council to	Steven McNab	All plans are complete.	● Blue – Complete

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			consultation with key stakeholders December 2017	support the Council's workforce meet future challenges.			
BV8	Environment and Public Protection – service wide	Appointment of a lead change officer and the production of a detailed Business Plan for shared services.	Through joint collaborative working and with partner authority and the successful development of the detailed Business Plan in Autumn 2017. Progress throughout 2018 was associated with achieving agreement across workforces in both Council and Council approaches. Action timeline for 2019 includes:- January 2019 Workforce Briefings Jan–March 2019 Workshops to identify: Early Wins Collaboration/Resilience/Efficiencies Opportunities for use of Technology	A staged approach for the detailed Business Plan reported to the joint Committee and tracked against timescales and targets	Lead change officer reporting through Chief Executive's Group and Corporate directors Scott Allan Gail MacFarlane	Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire have appointed a shared Head of Service to manage roads and transportation services in both councils. The development of resilience and shared services for Roads is in place. In October 2019 the Head of Service Roads and Transportation assumed responsibility for grounds maintenance, waste and fleet provision in West Dunbartonshire. In April 2020 this will extend to the equivalent services in Inverclyde. Further proposals for a shared strategic manager are being considered by Committee in March 2020. From 1 January 2020 West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde Councils have shared a Chief Auditor. Business planning in potential management changes to complement this arrangement are being undertaken for consideration by both councils.	 Green – on track

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			<p>Resource & Performance Issues</p> <p>Apr–Sep 2019 Service Proposals & Implementation</p> <p>May-Dec 2019 Develop Strategic Business Cases:</p> <p>Fleet/Waste/Greenspace/Street Scene</p>				
BV9	Regeneration	<p>Implementation of projects in respect of Inverkip road infrastructure</p> <p>Implementation of the projects to expand the quayside and delivery of a new visitor centre at Greenock Ocean Terminal</p> <p>Progress the Inchgreen project</p>	<p>Outline Business Cases will be presented to Environment and Regeneration Committee for approval</p> <p>OBC to be ratified by The Glasgow City Region Cabinet</p>	<p>Reports on progress will be delivered to the City Deal Project Board</p> <p>Project Monitoring Office – 4 weekly</p> <p>Inverclyde Council Environment & Regeneration Committee</p>	Scott Allan	<p>The Inverkip City Deal implementation timescale has been delayed due to programming issues associated with Scottish Power designing and delivery of the A78 road improvements. The anticipated site start date is late 2020.</p> <p>Ocean Terminal is progressing on site, the cruise ships berth will be operational by May 2020 and the terminal building will be open in April 2021.</p> <p>Inchgreen is progressing in part.</p>	 Amber – Slight slippage
BV10	Reserves	A full review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken and reflects the Council's medium term financial	Members' Budget Working Group will undertake review in September to December 2017 and any decisions will be	Report is available regarding the review of earmarked reserves and this complies with the	Alan Puckrin	Complete. A review has been undertaken and with write backs of £2.3million agreed by the Council on 21st December 2017.	 Blue - complete

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		priorities and challenges.	taken in February 2018 as part of the budget.	Approved Reserves Policy. Regular reporting of Reserves position to Committees and bimonthly review by the CMT.		Further decisions on the use of the Council's Reserves were taken in March, 2018.	