

Theme	Corporate Self-assessment 2023/24
Theme B Resource, Planning & Management	<p>B16 – Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained strategies for workforce, finance, procurement, and assets in place, that are being managed to support wider agendas (spending for community benefit, social value, place shaping, housing shortages, and regeneration)?</p> <p>Update: This was a new question added to the Corporate Self-assessment (CSA) for 2023/24 and scored a 2/3. As such an Opportunity for Improvement has been identified and is detailed within in Section 11 of the Corporate Self-assessment report because as a Council, we have identified that we don't have comprehensive and maintained strategies. However, in regard to the Audit Wales Financial Sustainability report, which is about the future financial sustainability of the Council, the Council did present a balanced budget for 2024/25 and the CSA was based on the financial year of 2023/24 whilst highlighting Opportunities for Improvement for future years.</p> <p>The Audit Wales (AW) report stated that the Council was only able to present a balanced budget for 2024/25 after two rounds of substantial savings. The second round, which was unplanned, required £10 million in December 2023, of a total of £32 million planned in-year. The Council is aware that it is not feasible to identify savings in such a manner going forward, however, the need for the second round of savings was a direct result of the much lower than expected settlement from Welsh Government.</p> <p>Outcome of Review: Based on the existing scoring within the 2023/24 CSA report it is felt that no further update is required for this financial year. However, the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2024/25 will pick up and address the findings from the Audit Wales report.</p>
	<p>B19 – Are these strategies and supporting action plans sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future?</p> <p>Update: This question was reduced from a 3 to a 2/3 after the Members workshop and was identified as an Opportunity for Improvement within the CSA (Section 11) and also links to question B16.</p> <p>Outcome of Review: Based on the existing scoring within the 2023/24 CSA report it is felt that no further update is required for this financial year.</p>

	<p>B20 – Are there effective budget monitoring arrangements in place that offer value for money?</p> <p>Update: This question scored a 4 for the 2023/24 CSA as a balance budget had been set. As a consequence, this does not have an area for improvement. This was identified prior to the release of the Audit Wales report.</p> <p>Outcome of review: The CSA was a reflection on 2023/24 and therefore it is deemed no further update is required. However, the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2024/25 will pick up and address the findings from the Audit Wales report.</p>
Theme E Innovation & Change Management	<p>E35 Does the Council have a proven appetite for innovation and change management?</p> <p>Update: The score was reduced this year to a 3/4 from a 4, therefore identified as an Opportunity for Improvement.</p> <p>Outcome of Review: Based on the existing scoring of the CSA report it is considered no further update is required for this financial year.</p>
	<p>E36 How well has the Council implemented its chosen innovation and change programmes and projects against time, budget, risk identification, transition and performance objectives and targets? AMENDED IN 23/24</p> <p>Update: Scored a 4 for this question, same as previous year. Examples given were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful at securing external funding to deliver innovative projects including within the Energy Services, Regeneration and Countryside • Adult community Learning Partnership- significant expansion of provision – positive Estyn inspection. • Council Plan (2023-28) <p>The Council has a track record of change, and these changes are demonstrated in the ability to save £120m over the last ten years. The emerging transition programme now provides the evidence that was lacking at the time of the AW review.</p>

	<p>Outcome of Review: Based on the information already within the CSA for 2023/24 it is considered there is no requirement to update the report further .</p>
<p>Theme G Customer & Community Engagement</p>	<p>G49 How satisfied with services are residents including under-represented groups and how is this measured?</p> <p>Update: This was a new question for 2023/24 and scored a 2/3. This was an area for discussion at the CSA Members workshop in July 2024 and explanation given regarding the score of 2/3; as there is a need to improve the completion of Integrated Impact Assessments, the AW report on Service User Perspective and having more corporate oversight of the consultations to ensure we are considering the views of services and services users more. This has been identified as an Opportunity for Improvement in the CSA 2023/24 with a comment on Page 22 of the report providing an update on the development of a Consultation and Engagement hub;</p> <p>Development of the Consultation and Engagement hub is now live, so this will see improvements to gain an understanding how satisfied with services are residents including under-represented groups and how is this measured</p> <p>Outcome of Review: Based on the existing scoring of the CSA report for 2023/24 it is deemed that no further update is required.</p>
<p>Additional Query</p> <p>Theme D Organisational Leadership and Operating Models</p>	<p>D27 Is there strong and effective political leadership and influence (locally, regionally and nationally)? (amended 23/24)</p> <p>Query: More examples of Leadership – locally, regionally and nationally in addition to local group leader meetings</p> <p>Outcome of Review: This will be reviewed (and updated) within the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2024/25</p>