

Blaenau Gwent Annual Self-Assessment 2024/25

Blaenau Gwent Council looks to operate as a self-improving organisation, whereby there is a recognition of what has gone well, but, and most importantly, it recognises where improvements are to be made. Honest and open self-assessment is fundamental to realising our ambition.

The Council works to respond to the following questions in all the work that it undertakes:

- **Is the Council exercising its functions effectively?**
- **Is the Council using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively?**
- **Are the governance arrangements of the Council effective for securing continuous improvement?**

Our Self-Assessment provides an overview of the work that has been undertaken throughout 2023/24 and has been written to consider:

- **How well are we doing? Narrative of the activity that has taken place;**
- **How do we know? Qualitative and quantitative evidence provided; and**
- **What and how can we do better? Actions to implement over the coming years.**

Our self-assessment report is an aggregation of all self-assessment work undertaken over the previous year. Our report has been through a rigorous process to ensure it is informed by a wide range of evidence and that the conclusions being drawn are the right ones.

The focus of the Annual Self-Assessment is the Blaenau Gwent Council's Corporate Plan priorities, known as Well-being Objectives, and providing an assessment of how well the Council feels it has achieved against these during 2024/25 and the challenges to progressing these. We have also provided a review of our first year in working towards becoming an outstanding Council.

The Corporate Plan – Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 Reporting against our Well-being Objectives

The Corporate Plan 2022/27 commits the Council to 4 high-level ambitions that we are working to deliver on over the lifespan of Plan. These ambitions are reviewed on a regular basis and as schemes and projects are developed, form part of an annual delivery plan each year - moving our ambition into action. This approach is particularly important so that the plan can be iterative and agile and so that new initiatives, challenges, and

opportunities can be responded to, throughout the lifespan of the plan.

Our Annual Delivery Plan highlights the key activities we planned for 2024/25, in meeting our ambitions, as set out within our Corporate Plan, and aligned to the areas for improvement from last year's Self-Assessment. An overview of progress against each objective is set out below:

Corporate Plan Priorities 2024/25				
	Blue (action completed)	Green (action on target)	Amber (action off target with a route back to green)	Red (action off target significant concerns)
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	2	18	3	2
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	0	3	5	0
Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	1	7	5	0



An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	2	8	3	1
Total	5	36	16	3

Under each Well-being Objective is an annual delivery plan supported by operational business plans. Overall, for 2024/25, the majority of actions, contributing to the Well-being Objectives, have been achieved, however, we fully recognise that we still have a number of challenges to address and further work is to be undertaken to fully achieve each of our long term aims. The breakdown is:

- Completed (Blue) – 8%
- On Target (Green) – 60%
- Behind Target but with a plan to get back on track (Amber) – 27%
- Behind Target with significant concerns (Red) – 5%

A full report setting out in more detail the progress made against each of our Well-Being Objectives was received by Council in July 2025 and is available [here](#). The following section of this report highlights our progress over the last year, against a selection of key activities, under each of our 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

