

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Overview and Scrutiny - Monday 31st October**

### **Publica Annual Report**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 Cheltenham Borough Council is one of the four shareholder councils of Publica Group Ltd. As a shareholder Publica is required to report back on progress of work undertaken by the company on an annual basis via the company's Annual Report.

#### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 The purpose of the paper is to provide background information on the Publica Annual Report, and the process that sits behind it, to enable the committee to consider the report and then discuss it with Publica executives during the meeting

#### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1 Publica is a local authority company that was established in 2017 and is owned equally by the shareholder councils who are: Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

**3.2** Publica delivers a range of services on behalf of the shareholder councils' and Finance, HR, and ICT services to Cheltenham Borough Council.

**3.3** The company has a Board consisting of four Executive Directors, four Independent Non-Executive Directors, and one Non-Executive Director appointed by Cheltenham Borough Council who is Councillor Paul McCloskey.

### **The Annual Report 21-22**

**3.4** Publica produces an annual report for the business every year covering the period from September of the previous year to September of the current year. The Annual Report 21-22 was considered at the Shareholder Forum meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and sent to all CBC councillors as shareholders on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**3.5** Publica also produces a business plan each year which is agreed by the Publica Board and Shareholders. It sets out the strategic direction for the company and where it will focus its resources. The current business plan was published in May 2022, was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier this year and is [available on the Publica website](#).

**3.6** The purpose of the annual report is to highlight key achievements from the year in question and to update on progress against the company Business Plan.

**3.7** The report for this year includes key delivery against the Publica priorities set out in the business plan of:

- People: Being a 'Great Place to Work'
- Planet: How we are tackling climate change
- Place: Delivering for businesses and communities

- How we are supporting partner councils meet their financial challenges

#### **4. Next Steps**

**4.1** The Managing Director of Publica, Jan Britton, will be attending the meeting to discuss the annual report and answer any questions the committee may have.

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#### **Background Papers**

**Contact Officer**

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**Accountability**

Gareth Edmundson, Chief Executive