

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

2nd NOVEMBER 2016

COUNCIL'S RESPONSE AS AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC BODY TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR A MORGAN

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report updates Cabinet on the steps taken by the Council as an individual public body, to address its responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generation Act 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider the content of the Policy Statement in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 2.2 Agree the approach to the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.3 Review and challenge the Council's self assessment of the Corporate Plan – '*The Way Ahead*' against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 2.4 Agree to update the Corporate Plan, for any Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 requirements as part of the annual review of the Plan in April 2017.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and actively participating in the development and delivery of Well-being plan as part of the Public Service Board, it is also important to acknowledge and respond to the Council's responsibilities as an individual public body.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Steps are already being taken to address the Council's contribution to the Public Service Boards requirements to improve the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural wellbeing of the area by:
- Contributing to a Well-being Assessment, currently being undertaken;
 - Setting objectives to maximise the area's contribution to the seven national Well-being goals;
 - Taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
- 4.2 The Public Service Board's Well-being Plan will be published in 2018. This Plan will emerge from the Well-being Assessment and will provide the overarching strategic framework to which the corporate strategies of the partners will align.
- 4.3 However, the Act also applies to the Council as an individual public body.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Council's duties under the WFG Act are to: "Carry out Sustainable Development, in other words work to improve the Economic, Social, and Cultural well-being of Wales". In carrying out Sustainable Development, the Council must:
- Set and Publish Well-being Objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the seven national Well-being goals; and
 - Take all reasonable steps in exercising our functions, to meet those objectives;
 - Publish an annual report showing progress;
 - Scrutinise decisions in line with the requirements of the WFG Act;
 - Respond to the Future Generations Commissioner as and when appropriate.
- 5.2 As set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and its Corporate Performance Report, the Council's vision priorities and principles already support the seven national Wellbeing goals. Also, we can already evidence some good examples of working within the Sustainable Development principles.
- 5.3 However, until the PSB's Well-being Plan is published in 2018, we can continue to do more to maximise what we already do to meet the WFG and not create additional bureaucracy. This Act has already been acknowledged by the Commissioner as the 'common sense Act'.
- 5.4 To simplify the implementation of the Act as far as possible for all Members and officers, we have sought to set out a clear policy statement in respect of the implementation of the Act. Appendix 1 sets out a proposed Council Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 Policy Statement which:
- Provides managers and staff with a transparent approach and consistent information about the Council's approach to the WFG Act;
 - Provides elected Members with information and the assurance that the Council is meeting its WFG requirements without creating additional burdens;

- Provides the WFG Commissioner and the Regulator with assurance that the Council is meeting its statutory requirements;
- Sets out the Council's intention to continually test the Council's Corporate Plan and its priorities to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the Act and take steps to strengthen if required.

5.4 The first test of the Council's Corporate Plan against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is attached at Appendix 2. The areas recommended for an update are not fundamental issues but relate to a need to provide greater emphasis on some matters such as the Welsh language and biodiversity.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. CONSULTATION

Not required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

None at present.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

Well being of Future Generations Act 2015.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP/FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Is fundamental to being able to address and evidence the seven national Well-being goals and the five ways of working as set out in the Well being of Future Generations Act.

11 CONCLUSION

The Council is making positive progress in meeting its duties as an individual public body as required by the Well-being Future Generations Act.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

None

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Policy Statement in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

The purpose of this statement is to set out the Council's approach to the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015, in respect of its statutory responsibilities as an individual public body.

Within the terms of the WFG Act, the Council has responsibilities within the Public Services Board as an active partner in the development and delivery of the Well-being Plan, to be published by April 2018. However, the Council is also listed as an individual public body subject to the Act. The Council will meet its individual duties by making sure it is maximising its contribution to the seven national well-being goals and publishing well-being objectives that demonstrate how services are doing so. The Council must plan and make all decisions based on the five ways of working set out in the WFG Act, i.e. the 'sustainable development principles'.¹

The Council's Corporate Plan '*The Way Ahead 2016-20*' sets out a vision for 'a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all', with a focus on meeting the challenges ahead. '*The Way Ahead*' also sets out the Council's commitment to meeting the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

The requirements of the WFG Act apply to all corporate and service functions of the Council. It is the Council's belief that the commitments of the Act are best met by ensuring that its requirements are integral to, and not separate from, the Council's business. The Council is already changing its processes which reflect these commitments e.g. in setting the Council's Improvement Priorities, strengthening governance and performance processes.

By setting out the Council's position in respect of the WFG Act, this policy statement further demonstrates the Council's commitment to meet the Act, as well as providing a transparent framework for Elected Members and staff. It will also give the Future Generations Commissioner and the Wales Audit Office assurance that officers and elected Members are seeking to embed the Act into our working practices.

It is likely that the Council's arrangements to meet, monitor and report the requirements of the WFGA will develop over time as will the understanding of all parties, including the Commissioner's Office of Welsh Government and Wales Audit Office.

The Cabinet is responsible for ensuring the Council meets the duties of the Act; however, embedding the sustainable development principles into service planning, commissioning, delivery and monitoring is the responsibility of all staff. Elected Members are expected to support and challenge this process to ensure the Council is delivering for future generations.

The Council will:

- Apply the 'spirit' of the WFG Act to Council processes to ensure the requirements of the WFG Act are fully embedded and avoid any additional burden to the leadership, management and governance of the Council.
- Meet the requirements of the WFG Act through our corporate planning processes, including reporting and monitoring arrangements, in ways that align with and/or strengthen the Council's existing processes.

¹ Please see the *Essentials* guide to the Well-being of Future Generations Act for more details:
<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

- Respond to the WFG by providing necessary information and training to officers and Elected Members.
- Be an active participant in Public Service Board arrangements.
- Continually test the Corporate Plan and its priorities to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the Act and strengthen if required.

CONSIDERING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Sustainable Development Self Assessment of the Council’s Corporate Plan ‘The Way Ahead 2016-20’

In implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Welsh Government has set a high level vision for Wales, made up of seven well-being goals that the Council, and other public bodies in Wales, must work towards to secure the long-term well-being of Wales. The Council must also show how we are maximising our contribution towards these seven goals through our work. The Council is also required to demonstrate that in everything we do we consider the five ways of working outlined in the Act, i.e. the Sustainable Development principles.

Five Ways of working	Seven National Well-being Goals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future 2. Working together with other partners to deliver objectives 3. Involving those with an interest and seeking their views 4. Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse 5. Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Prosperous Wales A Resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales

The Council is well placed to meet our individual duties, in both considering the five ways of working and contributing to the seven well-being goal. There are already good examples in place across the Council to which we can point. However, we now need to build on this positive platform. We will do this by:

- applying the ‘spirit’ of the WFG Act to Council processes to ensure the requirements of the WFG Act are fully embedded and avoid any additional burden to the leadership, management and governance of the Council.
- meeting the requirements of the WFG Act through our corporate planning processes, including reporting and monitoring arrangements, in ways that align with and/or strengthen the Council’s existing processes.
- responding to the WFG by providing necessary information and training to officers and Elected Members.
- being an active participant in Public Service Board arrangements.
- continually testing the Corporate Plan and its priorities to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the Act and strengthen if required

This assessment forms the first formal test of the Corporate Plan and its priorities. The aim is to establish the extent to which the Plan is already meeting the requirements of Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, i.e. how the work it is directing, is seeking to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf, now and for future generations. This assessment also sets out what needs to be done to further strengthen these arrangements in the Corporate Plan in 2017.

In summary, this Assessment shows how the Council

- is contributing to the seven well-being goals;
- is maximising their contribution to the seven well-being goals;
- has considered the five ways of working (sustainable development principles).



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Part one – How the Council has considered the ‘Five Ways of Working’

<p>5 Ways of Working</p> <p>Sustainable Development Principle</p>	<p>How is this way of working already reflected in the Corporate Plan 2016-20?</p>	<p>What needs to be included in the Corporate Plan to fully reflect the requirements of the Act in 2017/18?</p>
<p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p><i>We are required to look beyond the usual short term timescales for financial planning and political cycles and instead plan with the longer term in mind, (guidance says at least 10 years, but preferably 2)</i></p>	<p>A key principle of the Plan is <i>‘Building a sustainable County Borough’</i>, which involves keeping the County Borough working and moving in a way that avoids creating problems for future generations. This principle has a particular focus on stimulating economic growth and creating jobs.</p> <p>The Plan also includes the principle of <i>‘Living within our means’</i> – which is about making difficult decisions now to avoid passing financial problems on to the next generation.</p> <p><i>Priorities Ambitions:</i> <i>‘Redesigned local services – integrated and efficient’</i> reflects that public services are changing and we need to look to the future to understand the most efficient models.</p>	

5 Ways of Working Sustainable Development Principle	How is this way of working already reflected in the Corporate Plan 2016-20?	What needs to be included in the Corporate Plan to fully reflect the requirements of the Act in 2017/18?
Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	<p>One of the key principles of the Plan is <i>'Helping communities to help themselves'</i> which involves working with the voluntary and community sector to encourage communities to step forward and take on new roles in providing local services and solutions.</p> <p>This also involves working with Welsh Government to ensure that poverty programmes are refocused to maximise their impact.</p> <p>Priorities / Ambitions: <i>'Redesigned local services'</i> will mean residents can access services they need without having to negotiate different agencies; and increased collaboration can drive innovation in the way services are delivered e.g. as already seen with the Joint Education School Improvement Services / Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.</p> <p>Within the priority to create <i>'more involved and resilient communities'</i>, an action includes <i>'build stronger partnerships with community groups'</i>.</p>	
<p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p><i>Who are the stakeholders who will be affected by the Plan? How will they be involved? Are they representative of the diversity of the area which is served?</i></p>	<p>A key principle of the Plan is <i>'Helping communities to help themselves'</i>.</p> <p>Priorities/Ambitions: <i>'More involved and resilient communities'</i> is about greater community participation, engagement and involvement through <i>'RCT Together'</i>. The Council will work with residents to increase self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on statutory services and make the best possible use of community strengths to tailor services to need.</p>	
Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	A key principle of the Corporate Plan is <i>'Providing essential services well'</i> – reflecting the need to focus on good outcomes from the service and spend where the need is greatest.	

5 Ways of Working Sustainable Development Principle	How is this way of working already reflected in the Corporate Plan 2016-20?	What needs to be included in the Corporate Plan to fully reflect the requirements of the Act in 2017/18?
<p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p><i>‘Focuses on how the Plan balances any competing impacts on people, economy and environment under the Wellbeing Goals below. Also the impacts the Plan may have on other organisations.’</i></p>	<p>Priorities/Ambitions: ‘Redesigned local services – integrated and efficient’ outlines an approach to public services to pool resources, share staff / assets, manage demand and thereby provide quality services. Within the priority to create ‘more involved and resilient communities’, an action includes ‘co-ordinate and improve the support we give to communities’, suggesting integration with other supporting bodies.</p>	<p>The plan needs to reference consideration of any negative consequences of the four principles on other organisations and competing demands within the system.</p>

Part 2 – How the Council is contributing to the seven national Well - being goals

National Well-being Goal as set out in the WFG Act	How do the priorities/ambitions of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 reflect the National Goals?	If the priority/ambition does not currently contribute to the National Goal, is there a way to reflect this in 2017/18?
<p>A prosperous Wales ECONOMY <i>'An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can. • Children and young people will receive a great start in life. • There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages. • The local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill. • Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created. • Work in a way that makes the best and most sustainable use of our limited and decreasing resources – more co-ordinated commissioning by the Council. 	<p>The plan needs to reference how improved transport infrastructure will contribute to/benefit a more prosperous Wales.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales -PLACE <i>'Maintain and enhance biodiversity with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and have the capacity to adapt to</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill. • Parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents. • Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In referencing the local environment, consideration of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity that supports ecological resilience.

National Well-being Goal as set out in the WFG Act	How do the priorities/ambitions of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 reflect the National Goals?	If the priority/ambition does not currently contribute to the National Goal, is there a way to reflect this in 2017/18?
<i>change e.g. climate change’.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to better management of all of our green spaces, including maintaining/enhancing biodiversity. • A reference to relationship between responsible physical regeneration and maintaining a functioning ecosystem.
<p>A healthier Wales - PEOPLE <i>‘A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximized and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.’</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & social care services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes. • Rhondda Cynon Taf’s schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can. • Children and young people will receive a great start in life. • There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages. • Parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents. • Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more explicit reference to the impact of education and employment on a healthier Wales needed. • Explicit link between physical regeneration, housing improvement and health needed.
<p>A more equal Wales - PEOPLE <i>‘A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & social care services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes. • Rhondda Cynon Taf’s schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can. • Children and young people will receive a great start in life. 	

National Well-being Goal as set out in the WFG Act	How do the priorities/ambitions of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 reflect the National Goals?	If the priority/ambition does not currently contribute to the National Goal, is there a way to reflect this in 2017/18?
<i>circumstances).</i> '	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages. • Customer services will be intuitive and flexible, with increased user satisfaction. 	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities - PEOPLE <i>'Attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & social care services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes. • Children and young people will receive a great start in life – ref. to safeguarding. • Parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents. • Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and residents feeling safe. • Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created – ref. to town centre regeneration, housing schemes etc. • Customer services will be intuitive and flexible, with increased user satisfaction. 	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language PLACE & PEOPLE <i>'A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & social care services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes – residents will be more active and healthy, benefiting from improved leisure facilities, visiting our theatres, libraries and heritage sites. • Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can. • Parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents. • Customer services will be intuitive and flexible, with increased user satisfaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reference to Welsh language education in the priority around schools is needed.
<p>A globally responsible Wales PLACE <i>'A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social,</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill. • Work in a way that makes the best and most sustainable use of our limited and decreasing resources. 	

National Well-being Goal as set out in the WFG Act	How do the priorities/ambitions of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 reflect the National Goals?	If the priority/ambition does not currently contribute to the National Goal, is there a way to reflect this in 2017/18?
<i>environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.'</i>		