

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

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

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR A MORGAN**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 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 Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider progress to date in respect of the Council's approach to the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.2 Agree to formally adopt the Council's Corporate Plan priorities as the Council's Well-being Objectives for 2017-18.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, agree that the Council's obligations to publish Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, are also served by the Council's Well-being Objectives.

#### **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 important to acknowledge and respond to the Council's responsibilities as an individual public body.

## 4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council is currently contributing to the Public Service Board's requirement to improve to improve the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the area by:
- Contributing to a Well-being Assessment, which has been challenged, completed and agreed by the constituent public bodies, the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017](#) and the Public Service Board on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and full Council this evening.
  - Setting objectives to maximise the area's contribution to the seven national Well-being goals as set out in the [Council's Corporate Plan](#)
  - Taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
- 4.2 The Public Service Board's Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf will be published in 2018. This Plan will emerge from the Cwm Taf 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. At its meeting on [2 November, Cabinet](#) agreed that until the Public Service Board's Well-being Plan is published in 2018 we can continue to do more to maximise what we already do to meet the Well-being of Future Generations Act whilst not creating additional bureaucracy.
- 4.4 This Act has already been acknowledged by the Commissioner as the 'common sense Act'. Indeed, the Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner have made it clear that duties to set and report on well-being objectives should not be treated as separate from any objectives that guide and steer the actions and decisions of organisations. In addition, they have also set out that planning and reporting processes should be aligned and integrated.

## 5. **CURRENT POSITION**

- 5.1 The Council's duties as a public body under the Well-being of Future Generations 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 Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015;
  - Respond to the Future Generations Commissioner as and when appropriate.
- 5.2 At a recent meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board, the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner indicated that she is looking for public bodies to identify a **small number** of Well-being priorities which promote collaboration, prevents problems happening, builds community capacity and puts the citizen at the centre of

service delivery both now and in the future. The Commissioner used the example of the fourteen well-being objectives, recently published by the Welsh Government in its plan '[Taking Wales Forward](#)', as being excessive.

- 5.3 In February 2016 the Council agreed its Corporate Plan, [The Way Ahead 2016-2020](#). The Corporate Plan was informed by the priorities and concerns of residents and set out the Council's vision, three key strategic priorities and associated measures of success.
1. *Economy - Building a strong economy;*
  2. *People - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone;*
  3. *Place - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.*
- 5.4 The plan sets out how the Council will tackle the key challenges it faces today and also how it is investing in the future by building sustainable communities. This was further reinforced by [Cabinet in March 2016](#), which set out how the Council is investing in our infrastructure to support the aspirations and priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.
- 5.5 The three key strategic priorities of the Council also met the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to publish the Council's Improvement Objectives and were set out in the Council's Corporate Performance Report 2016-17.
- 5.6 Positive progress in the delivery of the Council's priorities can be seen in the [quarterly performance monitoring reports](#) and the end of year position will be reflected in the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2017-18 later this year.
- 5.7 Each of the Council's three priorities contribute to one or more of the seven national Well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act i.e.
1. A more prosperous Wales
  2. A resilient Wales
  3. A Healthier Wales
  4. A more equal Wales
  5. A Wales of cohesive communities
  6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
  7. A globally responsible Wales
- 5.8 We can already evidence some good examples of working within the five Sustainable Development principles which contribute to improvements to the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the area. Examples include the new '@Home' integrated assessment service which helps people to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital, and make a safe and timely return home; and also our commitment to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal programme in which ten local authorities have agreed to work together to bring about an economic and social step-change in the Cardiff Capital Region through improved transport, supporting innovation, an improved digital network, developing skills, supporting

enterprise and business growth, and through housing development and regeneration.

- 5.9 However, as agreed by Cabinet in [November 2016](#), until the Public Service Board's Well-being Plan is published in 2018, we will continue to ensure that the Council's processes enable it to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, without creating additional bureaucracy.
- 5.10 With this approach in mind, the Corporate Plan is being continually tested against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We consider that by setting out the vision, priorities and targets to improve the lives of people that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf, we are already taking steps to improve the Well-being of our residents and have a solid platform from which to build.
- 5.11 It is likely that the Council's arrangements to meet, monitor and report the requirements of the Act will develop over time as will the understanding of all parties, including the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government. In the meantime, like all public bodies implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act, we know we must do more to address the weaknesses we have identified, e.g. strengthening our processes to fully and consistently address the Sustainable Development principles and providing a greater emphasis on other matters such as the Welsh language and biodiversity. These areas will be developed further in the action plans that will deliver the Council's priorities in 2017/18.
- 5.12 Taking account of the above and our progress to date, we believe that the Council's existing priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan are consistent with the Sustainable Development criteria currently required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act and should be formally adopted and recognised as the Council's Well-being objectives.
- 5.13 This year, the Council must also publish its Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. Improvement Objectives need to reflect the key strategic priorities of the Council and to all intents and purposes, Well-being objectives and Improvement Objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on these key objectives, the Council can discharge its duties under both areas of legislation

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 None

**9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Well being of Future Generations Act 2015.  
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

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

- 10.1 This report 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**

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