

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET REPORT
15 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE
HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
KAREN JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: ALL

Draft Addendum to the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19 containing Improvement and Well-being objectives for the period 1st April 2017 – 30th September 2017.

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Council for adoption, the Addendum to the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19, which contains the Council's improvement and well-being objectives (attached at Appendix 1).

Executive Summary

2. Since 1st April 2010, to meet the statutory requirements contained within the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Council has set and published annual improvement objectives within the Council's annual Corporate Improvement Plan "Rising to the Challenge".
3. The recently introduced Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 now requires 44 public bodies in Wales to set and publish well-being objectives, by 31st March 2017, which show how each public body is working to achieve the vision for Wales set out in seven well-being goals. The Act also puts in place a "sustainable development principle" and we must demonstrate how we have embraced this principle in both the setting of the

objectives and in the actions we have identified we will take to achieve those objectives.

4. To ensure the Council meets the statutory requirements that remain extant under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (including discharging its improvement planning duties over the period April – September 2017) and the new statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Cabinet gave approval on 7th December 2016, to roll-over the current six corporate improvement objectives (now referred to as improvement and well-being objectives) as contained in the existing Corporate Improvement Plan “Rising to the Challenge” 2016-2019 and to update the improvement activities that underpin each objective for the period 1st April to 30th September 2017.
5. In light of the Local Government elections in May 2017, Cabinet also gave approval to delay the publication of the Council’s next Corporate Plan until September 2017. This will provide the new Administration with the opportunity to review the objectives and establish its own programme for the term of the Council.
6. This Addendum will ensure the Council meets the statutory requirements that remain extant under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (including discharging its improvement planning duties over the period April – September 2017) and the new statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Background

7. From 1st April 2010, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 introduced a number of new legal duties upon local authorities in Wales, which included the requirement for every local authority to prepare a forward looking plan detailing its improvement objectives for that year.
8. The Council, since 2010, has met this statutory requirement via the publication of the Council’s Corporate Improvement Plan which is published annually soon after the start of every new financial year.

9. The Council's current Corporate Improvement Plan "Rising to the Challenge" 2016-2019, was adopted by Council on the 11th May 2016, and outlines the actions we intend to take to further progress the following six improvement objectives set by the Council's political administration following the local government elections in May 2012.



Our six priorities for improvement are:



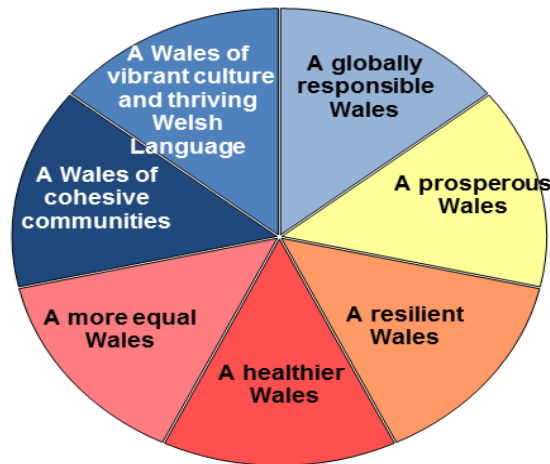
10. However, over the last year or so, the Welsh Government has introduced a number of new legislative requirements for public bodies and local authorities to comply with which will change the way we plan and deliver services from April 2017 onwards.
11. **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, now and in the future. The Act requires the Welsh Government along with 43 other specified public bodies (including all local authorities) to ensure that, when making their decisions, they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

Sustainable Development

12. To do this, the Act puts in place a "sustainable development principle" and any reference in the Act to a public body doing something "in accordance with the sustainable development principle" means that the body must act in a manner which seeks

to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Well-being Goals



13. To ensure the 44 public bodies are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place the above seven well-being goals for Wales. They are a set of goals and the Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two.

Well-being Duty

14. The Act also places a “well-being” duty on the 44 specified public bodies which requires all the public bodies to set and publish objectives (“well-being objectives”) that are designed to maximise that body’s contribution to achieving each of the above well-being goals. These objectives will show how each public body is working to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the above well-being goals. Public bodies must then take action to make sure they meet the objectives they set.
15. The Act requires the well-being objectives to be set and published by public bodies within one year after the Act is commenced (so no later than 31 March 2017). The Act also states when

publishing the well-being objectives, a public body must also publish a well-being statement

Addendum

16. The Addendum (attached at Appendix 1) has been produced to ensure the Council meets the statutory requirements that remain extant under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (including discharging its improvement planning duties over the period April – September 2017) and the new statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Financial Impact

18. There will be no additional financial impact attached to the roll-over of the Council's current six improvement objectives as any financial impacts have been identified as part of the Council's budget setting and planning process for 2017-2018 and have been incorporated into revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2017-2018.

Equality Impact Assessment

19. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed last year during the development of the Council's current Corporate Improvement Plan "Rising to the Challenge" 2016-2019. As there is no significant change in the improvement activity being rolled over for the 6 month period (1st April – 30th September 2017) in respect of people with protected characteristics, a new Equality Impact Assessment is not required. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed during the development of the Council's next Corporate Plan (to be published September 2017).

Workforce Impacts

20. As part of the budget setting process for 2017/2018, the Council is currently operating a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. Overall, the current budget assumes that there will be up to 50 staff leaving under ER/VR, the impact of which will reduce the number of jobs within the Council.

Legal Impacts

21. The publication of this Addendum will ensure the Council discharges its statutory duties still extant within the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the new statutory duties contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Risk Management

22. Any associated risks have been identified on the Council's Corporate Risk Register and mitigating actions are being implemented and monitored by Senior Management Teams.

Recommendations

23. It is recommended that:
 - (a) Council adopt the draft Addendum to the existing Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19.
 - (b) The Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services is given delegated authority in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive to make any further changes that are necessary prior to final publication and which do not materially change the content of the Addendum.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

24. To ensure the Council discharges its statutory duties which are still extant within the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the new statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
25. To support the Council in discharging its duty to be efficient, transparent and accountable to local people and to observe high standards of corporate governance.

Implementation of Decision

26. The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period

Appendices

27. Appendix 1 - Draft Addendum to the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19

List of background papers

28. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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