

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services K. Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:All Wards

Corporate Plan 2017-2022

Purpose of Report

1. To present the outcomes of the public consultation on the proposed well-being objectives.
2. To present the final version of the Corporate Plan for comment prior to the Plan being adopted by Council.

Background

Section 3(1) of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on the Council (amongst other public bodies in Wales) to carry out sustainable development.

Sustainable development is defined in Section 2 of the Act as “the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.”

Section 3(2) of the same Act requires the public body to:

- Set and publish well-being objectives that are designed to maximise the Council’s contribution to achieving each of the ‘well-being goals’;
- Take all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.

The first set of well-being objectives for the Council were required to be published by 1st April 2017. Cognisant of the impending local government elections, the former Council administration determined to set interim well-being objectives based on the extant Corporate Improvement Plan for the period to 30th September 2017. This provided for the current administration to be able to review the well-being objectives following the local government elections 2017 and to make changes as the new administration sees fit to reflect its own priorities.

Proposed Corporate Well-being Objectives

In July 2017, the Cabinet determined to consult on three proposed well-being objectives:

A public consultation exercise on the proposed well-being objectives has

Well-being Objective 1

To improve the well-being of children and young people

“giving all of our children and young people the best start in life and helping them to be the best they can be”

Well-being Objective 2

To improve the well-being of all adults who live in the county borough

“living a good life and ageing well”

Well-being Objective 3

To develop the local economy and environment so that the well-being of people can be improved

“Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe will be a vibrant and healthy place to live, work and spend our recreational time”

taken place over the summer. Enclosed at Appendix 3 is a report which summarises the activities that have taken place during the consultation period to obtain feedback from residents and wider stakeholders, together with the main points that were made by respondents. The final version of the Plan attached at Appendix 1 has been amended in light of the consultation responses received.

Improvement Objectives and Other Legal Duties

In addition to the requirements introduced by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the duty on the Council to secure continuous improvement of its functions and to set improvement objectives etc (Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009) remains extant.

Consequently, under each well-being objective, a set of improvement priorities have been identified to denote areas for priority focus over this administration. Following feedback provided by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in July, a set of key performance indicators has been identified against each improvement priority together with baseline information and the proposed improvement trajectory for the council term. The high level improvement priorities and key performance indicators are set out in the body of the Plan and are supported by a more detailed action plan (Appendix 2) which discharges other requirements in the legislation to both identify the steps we will take to deliver the priorities and also to demonstrate how the councils services and functions will seek to maximise their contribution to the seven well-being goals established in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Factors used to develop the well-being objectives

The following evidence and information has been drawn upon to create the final version of the Plan before Cabinet for approval and subsequently for endorsement by Council:

- a) Manifesto commitments of the majority group;
- b) Latest performance data of services and functions;
- c) The likely budget outlook;

- d) The well-being assessment produced by the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board;
- e) The content of the existing Corporate Improvement Plan to identify areas of work which need to continue into the next period;
- f) Key issues identified by senior officers as likely to require attention during the period – eg new legislative responsibilities; the impact of European Funding coming to an end etc;
- g) The well-being objectives published to date by Public Services Board partners; and
- h) The feedback received from members of the public, community groups, partner agencies and other stakeholders during the consultation period that took place over the summer 2017.

In developing the well-being objectives the Council has a duty to consider how it has embraced the sustainable development principle (Section 7(1):

- a) How short term needs have been balanced with the need to **safeguard the ability to meet long term needs**, especially where things done to meet short term needs may have detrimental long term effect;
- b) The need to take an **integrated** approach by considering how the well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals and how they impact upon each other or other public bodies' objectives;
- c) The importance of **involving** other persons with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population of the county borough;
- d) How acting in **collaboration** with any person could assist the Council to meet its well-being objectives, or assist another body to meet its objectives;
- e) How deploying resources to **prevent** problems occurring or getting worse may contribute to meeting the Council's well-being objective, or another body's well-being objectives

The Well-being Statement contained within the body of the Plan describes how the council has sought to do this in creating this version of the Plan. Publishing the Well-being Statement is one of the requirements in the legislation.

Monitoring and Review

The Corporate Plan, when finalised and approved will provide a new corporate framework that will be implemented through the business planning and performance management system.

On an annual basis, Council will need to formally report on the progress made in implementing the plan and the extent to which the objectives are being met. As part of the process of review, the well-being objectives must be reviewed and if necessary they must be revised.

Consultation

A period of public consultation was undertaken between 6th July 2017 to 8th September 2017 based on the consultation plan agreed by the Cabinet in July 2017. The feedback received is summarised in a consultation report included with these paper at Appendix 3.

Financial Appraisal

The financial outlook has been a key factor in developing the proposals. As more certainty is brought to the short to medium term financial provision, the proposals will be further reviewed and as part of the annual review process (or earlier) can be revised.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and

- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”

Equality of opportunity and the promotion of Welsh culture, traditions and the Welsh language have also been integrated into the well-being goals that are set out in the Act.

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at Appendix 4 for Members to review. The initial Equality Impact Assessment presented in July 2017 has been updated following the consultation period.

Workforce Impact

There are two principal impacts that have been identified:

- 1) How the Council, in its role as a major employer within the area can directly impact on the well-being objectives – eg there is a proposal that the Council develops more consistent opportunities to offer work experience/traineeship opportunities for people seeking working, in particular young people;
- 2) The implications for the size and capability of the Council’s workforce to ensure the delivery of the well-being objectives and the associated priorities and actions – this will be addressed in a corporate workforce plan in due course.

Legal Powers and Duties

This report sets out how the duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 placed upon the Council in respect of corporate planning have been discharged. The particular duties have been referenced in the body of this report.

This report also discharges the extant duty to secure continuous improvement of the Council’s functions and related duties to set improvement objectives, to compare performance over time and with other similar authorities and to consider whether the Council should exercise powers to collaborate which are set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Crime and Disorder Impact

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”.

There are a range of proposed actions set out in the Plan to ensure people are and feel safe. Those priorities are based upon evidence provided to the Community Safety Partnership and which were also published in the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Well-being Assessment.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2016 places a new general duty on local authorities to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increase the risk of violence against women and girls or, exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals incorporate actions to implement the joint Strategy prepared for this local authority area which are to be considered by elected Members in early September 2017.

Risk Management

The entries set out in the Corporate Risk Register have been reviewed to ensure relevant areas of work are reflected in the proposals set out in the Plan.

Recommendations

Having had regard to the Equality Impact Assessment provided with this report, the Cabinet is asked to:

1. Consider the feedback received from the public consultation exercise as summarised in Appendix 3 and the amendments made to the proposals consulted upon and which are presented with the final Plan for approval.

2. Subject to any amendments arising from consideration of the consultation responses, approve the Plan set out at Appendix 1 and the supporting document set out at Appendix 2.
3. Recommend the Plan to Council on 28th September for adoption.
4. Provide delegated authority to the Leader of Council to agree any changes to the Plan as a result of any comments received at Council on 28th September together with any other minor changes that might be necessary prior to the publication of the Plan.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To ensure the results of the public consultation exercise are fully considered and reflected in the final Corporate Plan and to meet legal duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as they relate to council corporate planning activities.

Appendices

Appendix 1 –Corporate Plan 2017-2022

Appendix 2 – Detailed Action Plan

Appendix 3 – Consultation Report

Appendix 4 – Updated Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, SPSF:1, SPSF2; SPSF3
- Corporate Improvement Plan Addendum 2017
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
- Draft Neath Port Talbot Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board – Well-Being Assessment
- Leader's address to Council, May 2017
- AMBU Health Board – Well-being objectives
- Mid and West Wales Fire Authority – Well-being objectives
- Natural Resources Wales – Well-being objectives

- Arts Council for Wales - Well-being objectives
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales – Well-being objectives
- National Library for Wales – Well-being objectives
- National Museum for Wales – Well-being objectives
- Public Health Wales – Well-being Objectives
- Sports Council for Wales – Well-being Objectives
- Velindre NHS Trust – Well-being Objectives
- Welsh Government – Well-being Objectives
- Cabinet Report – well-being objectives, July 2017

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