

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

21st March 2018

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Corporate Plan 2018-2022

Purpose of Report

1. To present a revised Corporate Plan for consideration and approval 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. In July 2017, the Cabinet determined to consult on three proposed well-being objectives:

A public consultation exercise on the proposed well-being objectives

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”

took place over the summer and following consideration of the consultation outcomes, Council subsequently approved the three well-being objectives in September 2017.

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 were identified to denote areas for priority focus over this administration, together with an initial set of performance indicators. Due to the tight timescale in which the Plan was created, officers undertook to further refine the detail of the Plan prior to the first review. That work has now been carried out and is reflected in the revised Plan attached. The process of review has also considered:

- Whether the well-being objective remain relevant;
- Latest performance data of services and functions;
- The Budget recently approved by Council and the likely budget outlook;
- The Well-being Plan recently prepared by the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board; and
- Changes in the Council's external environment.

The changes made to the Plan are principally presentational. There are no changes to the well-being objectives and no significant changes to the improvement priorities. Consequently, it is not considered that there is a need for further public consultation at this time as the Plan is substantially the same as the Plan approved by Council in September 2017.

The Well-being Statement contained within the body of the Plan describes how the Council has sought to embrace the sustainable principle and this is also one of the requirements in the legislation. There is no substantive change to the Well-being Statement that appears in this revised Plan compared with that approved by Council in September 2017.

Monitoring and Review

The Corporate Plan provides a new corporate framework that will be implemented through the business planning and performance management system. A new performance system (CAMMS) is in the process of being implemented and once fully established it is expected that this will make performance reporting more streamlined.

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.

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. As there is little change to that approved by Council in September, it is not considered necessary to consult further at this time.

Financial Appraisal

The financial outlook has been a key factor in developing the proposals.

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.

The Equality Impact Assessment that accompanied the Plan in September 2017 has been updated as part of the review.

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 were approved 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 revised Corporate Plan covering the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2022 and the associated Equality Impact Assessment.
2. Approve the Plan and recommend the Plan to Council for adoption.
3. Provide delegated authority to the Leader of Council to agree any changes to the Plan as a result of any comments received at Council together with any other minor changes that might be necessary prior to the publication of the Plan.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To ensure the revisions made to the Corporate Plan are approved, meeting 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 – 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 Plan 2017-2022
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
- Neath Port Talbot Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy
- Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board – Well-Being Plan
- 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

Officer Reporting:

Karen Jones, Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services, Tel: 01630 763284 e-mail: k.jones3@npt.gov.uk
