

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 JANUARY 2021

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2023 REVIEWED FOR 2021-22

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2021-22 (**Appendix A**) for the Committee to consider.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2018-2023, describes the Council's vision for Bridgend County Borough, our 3 well-being objectives and our organisation values and principles that underpin how we will work to deliver our priorities.
- 3.2 The Plan represents our contribution to achieving the 7 national well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA) and our improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
- 3.3 Under the WFGA, the Council is required to publish its Well-being Objectives by 31 March each year and to keep these under review. Under the Local Government Measure, the Council has to set Annual Improvement Objectives and publish these as soon as possible at the start of the financial year. Our Well-being Objectives are also our Improvement Objectives.

3.4 The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill is currently progressing through the Senedd and will place specific duties on Local Authorities. The latest draft guidance has been reviewed and the Corporate Plan 2018-23 revised 2021-22 has taken into consideration this guidance, as the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill will see the repeal of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 in 2021.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The Corporate Plan has been refreshed for 2021-22. This follows a corporate planning process with Corporate Directors/ Heads of Service and through each Directorates Departmental Management Team. The process was carried out between October 2020 and December 2020 to review progress, streamline the plan to focus on reviewing commitments and indicators and to further maximise our contribution to the national well-being goals, whilst recognising the current challenging environment.

4.2 As part of work undertaken to develop the Council's approach to recovery planning from Covid-19, the recommendations of the cross-party Recovery Panel set up with the aim of shaping, informing and advising Cabinet on the Council's recovery planning have been used to inform the review of the refreshed Corporate Plan for 2021-22.

4.3 Well-being objectives, aims and strategic priorities remain unchanged. Commitments have been revised and performance indicators to measure outcomes have been agreed. Where possible proposed targets for 2021-22 have been set.

4.4 In many cases, however, the targets that were set for 2020-21 have become meaningless or cannot be collected in the way anticipated, due to ongoing impact of Covid-19, for example lockdowns impacting on schools and the local economy. This has meant that setting a realistic performance indicator for 2021-22 has become more difficult and targets even more so. Therefore, some targets have been removed and we have reverted to measuring and establishing a new baseline. Where this is the case, these have been shaded in grey in **Appendix A**.

4.5 As part of the annual review, it is also proposed to extend the life span of the current Corporate Plan by one year to 2023. The rationale for this is that:

- Local elections have been pushed back by a year. They were expected to take place in May 2021 but are now being held in 2022. This enables any new administration to set its new Corporate Plan post election and ties the Corporate Plan to a 5-year cycle in line with the local election cycle.
- Public Services Board (PSB) are required to undertake an assessment of well-being 12 months prior to local elections. This assessment and the next Future Trends Report to be published in 2021-22 should be used to help inform a new Corporate Plan.

- 4.6 Financial information will be incorporated into the Plan when the Council's budgets are finalised for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 4.7 Any comments from the Committee will be considered when the reviewed Plan is finalised for Cabinet to consider at its meeting on 23 February 2021 and for Council to approve on 24 February 2021 for publication by 31 March 2021.
- 4.8 Once approved, this Plan replaces the current Corporate Plan. Delivery will be supported by the MTFS and directorate business plans. It will be monitored quarterly through the Corporate Performance Assessment process, directorate management team meetings and this Committee.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules**

- 5.1 The Council's Corporate Plan forms part of the Policy Framework.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken when the Plan was developed. Consideration was given to the potential impact on protected groups within the community and on how to avoid a disproportionate impact on people within these groups. Separate EIAs will be undertaken when proposals for carrying out the Plan are developed and implemented.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a framework for embedding sustainable development principles within the activities of Council and has major implications for the long-term planning of finances and service provision. The 7 well-being goals identified in the Act have driven the Council's three well-being objectives.
- 7.2 A well-being assessment of the impact of the Corporate Plan has been completed (**Appendix B**).

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Corporate Plan is closely aligned to the Medium Term Financial Strategy which sets out the resources for delivering the Council's Corporate Plan.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 That the Committee consider the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2021-22 for onward consideration at Cabinet and Council in February 2021.

**Mark Shephard**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**14 January 2021**

**Contact Officer:** Gill Lewis

Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

**Telephone:** 01656 643224

**Email:** [gill.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:gill.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal address:** Raven's Court  
Brewery Lane  
Bridgend  
CF31 4AP

**Background Documents:** None