

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2023 REVIEWED FOR 2022-23

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2022-23 (**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:-**

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 to 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 (*the 2009 Measure*).

- 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 2009 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 and Elections (Wales) Act (*the LGE Act*) received Royal Assent on 20 January 2021 in the Senedd and will place new performance and governance duties on Local Authorities. These duties will change how we assess progress in achieving our well-being objectives.
- 3.5 Performance is now a continuous, organisation-wide self-assessment of how effectively a Council is operating, not only in terms of meeting individual objectives, but how it is delivering its functions, using its resources and governing itself. The evidence and the stakeholders involved in self-assessment will be much wider than the previous reporting requirements as prescribed in the 2009 Measure.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan has been refreshed for 2022-23. This follows a corporate planning process with Corporate Directors/ Heads of Service and through each Directorate's Departmental Management Team. The process was carried out between October 2021 and December 2021 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 Well-being objectives, aims and strategic priorities remain unchanged. Some commitments have been revised, and performance indicators to measure outcomes have been agreed. Where possible targets for 2022-23 have been set. COVID-19 continues to impact on the availability of data to set meaningful targets, and Welsh Government has also to agree how education standards will be measured.
- 4.3 To ensure a flexible approach to corporate planning, we have introduced an end of year target review to ensure all indicators have meaningful targets for 2022-23.
- 4.4 This plan replaces the current corporate plan. Delivery will be supported by the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and directorate business plans. Progress will be monitored through the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) process, which now includes a Position Statement at Q4. This will provide an overall judgement on performance against our well-being objectives.
- 4.5 Performance challenge will also take place at directorate management team meetings, and twice yearly at the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To meet the new performance duty of the LGE Act, The Governance and Audit

Committee now has a role in the assessment of performance which includes among other areas, the 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 22 February 2022 and for Council to approve on 23 February 2022 for publication by 31 March 2022.
- 4.8 Once approved, this Plan replaces the current Corporate Plan. It will be monitored through the Corporate Performance Assessment process, directorate management team meetings and this Committee.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. The Corporate Plan only sets out intended forthcoming programmes, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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 2022-23 for onward consideration at Cabinet and Council in February 2022.

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Background Documents: None