

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

22 FEBRUARY 2022

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2023 REVIEWED FOR 2022-23

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet endorsement of the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2022-23 (**Appendix A**) prior to submission to Council for approval.

#### 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 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 organisational 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 performance duties of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021.
- 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 and Election (Wales) Act 2021 the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations under the performance duties of the Act.

- 3.4 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on 20 January 2021 in the Senedd and places new performance and governance duties on Local Authorities. These duties will change how we assess progress in achieving our well-being objectives. The evaluation of performance is now a continuous organisation wide self-assessment of how effectively a council is operating, not only in terms of meeting well-being 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 Wales Measure 2009.

#### **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 through each directorate's departmental management team. The process was carried out between October and November 2021 to consider any emerging priorities as part of COVID recovery, to take account of any external regulator feedback, and to streamline the commitments and performance indicators to ensure a strategic focus on achieving our well-being objectives.
- 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 continues to impact on the availability of data to set meaningful targets, and Welsh Government has yet to confirm how education standards will be measured.
- 4.3 To ensure a flexible approach to corporate planning, there will be a target review undertaken in July 2022, based on 2021-22 full year performance to ensure all indicators for 2022-23 have meaningful targets.
- 4.4 On 12 January 2022, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the revised draft Corporate Plan. The Committee made no recommendations in terms of amending the current Plan.
- 4.5 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 quarter 4 – which will provide an overall judgement on performance against our well-being objectives. Performance challenge will also take place at directorate management team meetings, and twice yearly at the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.6 To meet the new performance duty of the LGE Act, Audit and Governance committee now has a role in the assessment of performance and governance which includes among other areas, assessment of performance of our well-being objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

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

5.1 The council's Corporate Plan forms part of the policy framework.

### **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 and is included as **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 that sets out the resources for delivering the council's Corporate Plan.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That Cabinet endorse the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2022-23 and recommend it to Council for approval on 23 February 2022.

**Mark Shephard**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**22 February 2022**

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**Background Documents:** None