



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	16 th February 2017
Report Author	Ewan McWilliams
Service Area	Performance
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	22 nd March 2017

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Preparation for the Wellbeing Duty - Wellbeing Objectives - Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The new duty on local authorities comes from the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which applies the duty to achieve the wellbeing goals using the sustainable development principle and involving people interested in achieving the goals.
- 1.2 In order to prepare for this requirement we must set and publish wellbeing objectives that are designed to maximise our contribution to each of the wellbeing goals and take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
- 1.3 This report outlines our proposed wellbeing objectives, and highlights how we have developed them through working with our communities and partner organisations to meet the requirements of the Act. As a public body, we must set our individual wellbeing objectives no later than the beginning of the financial year, **no later than 31 March 2017**.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The preparation for the Wellbeing Duty is noted.
- 2.2 The proposed Wellbeing Statement (and Wellbeing Objectives) for Merthyr Tydfil be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

National Context

- 3.1 National reports and evidence demonstrate why we need the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and why we need change across Wales.

"Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities, jobs and growth. To tackle these, we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make." Case for Change, [The Wales we want](#)

Wellbeing Goals

- 3.2 To help create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future we have the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Act, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2015, makes sure we are all working towards the same vision. These have been captured in the seven Wellbeing Goals:

1. A prosperous Wales.
2. A resilient Wales.
3. A healthier Wales.
4. A more equal Wales.
5. A Wales of cohesive communities.
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
7. A globally responsible Wales.

Wellbeing Duty

- 3.3 The Wellbeing Duty dictates that we, as a public body, must develop in a way that is sustainable over the long term, to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.
- 3.4 To do this we must set and publish wellbeing objectives to maximise our contribution to achieve each of the well-being goals, and taking all reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
- 3.5 When we set our wellbeing objectives and take steps (action) to meet our wellbeing objectives, we must demonstrate how we have applied the sustainable development principle, which is to:
1. Balance short-term needs with the need to safeguard long-term needs;
 2. Act to prevent problems occurring or getting worse;
 3. Consider how our wellbeing objectives integrate with others' wellbeing objectives;
 4. Act in collaboration to help meet the wellbeing objectives; and
 5. Involve people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

Continuous Improvement

- 4.1. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 applied the duty on all local authorities in Wales to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions by identifying their own priorities for improvement. This was achieved through our Corporate Plan, which presented our priorities for improvement.

Our Priorities for Improvement

- 4.2. Following needs assessment and a series of events with stakeholders and the public, the local authority established its priorities for improvement within its Corporate Plan from 2013 to 2017.

Raising Standards

Priority Area 1 – Raising standards of attainment

Improving Wellbeing

Priority Area 2 – Promoting Independence

Priority Area 3 – Meeting the needs of vulnerable children

Priority Area 4 – Active Lifestyles

Economic Growth

Priority Area 5 – Economic Development

Priority Area 6 – Employability

Developing a Sustainable Environment

Priority Area 7 – A sustainable environment

5.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

The Wales We Want

- 5.1 By 2017, we want to have made significant changes to the ways we work, so that what we do aligns with the expectations of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We will implement these changes by:
- Ensuring an ongoing programme of **involvement activity** is undertaken to offer increased opportunities to engage and work with communities across Merthyr Tydfil;
 - Ensuring the Local Authority's future planning balances meeting short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet **long-term** needs;
 - Ensuring that, wherever possible, functions delivered by the Local Authority **prevent** problems occurring or getting worse and help to meet the objectives;
 - Ensuring the Local Authority demonstrates an **integrated** approach (e.g.) how our wellbeing objectives impact upon the wellbeing goals; on other wellbeing objectives or the objectives set by other public bodies; and
 - Ensuring departments within the Local Authority **collaborates** both with other work areas within the organisation and with communities and external partner organisations to support achievement of the wellbeing objectives.

Wellbeing Duty

- 5.2 By 31 March 2017, we will be able to evidence the steps taken to gather and analyse information pertinent to the setting of clear wellbeing objectives for the Local Authority that demonstrates our contribution to the wellbeing goals. In particular, we must outline how we have applied the sustainable development principle, and how we have involved the people interested in achieving the goals.

6.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

Sustainable Development Principle

- 6.1 As a public body, the Local Authority needs to ensure that the way we work aligns to the sustainable development principle. We have applied the sustainable development principle when setting our objectives:



Involvement

The involvement of people who visit, live and work in Merthyr Tydfil as we carried out our wellbeing assessment. Local involvement was focused on understanding personal wellbeing and generating strength based intelligence by asking questions such as "What is good in your communities?" and "What would make your communities better?"



Collaboration

We collaborated with senior officers across the Authority when analysing the assessment information and developing the wellbeing objectives. This is helping us to grow awareness and practical experience of the 5 ways of working across services.



Integration

Integration of resources within the Authority to maximise the collective skills, knowledge and understanding to help build wellbeing objectives that are commonly understood.



Prevention

Reducing the possibility of silo working by involving all services that can contribute to the achievement of a wellbeing objective has helped us work better together, ensured a focus on prevention, and decision making that is more integrated and collaborative.



Long Term

Using the population projections for the county borough has helped ensure a focus on the necessary conditions required in the long term to grow and retain the working age population.

Wellbeing Objectives

- 6.2 In late 2015 Merthyr Tydfil and RCT LSBs and the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership agreed to an integrated approach to deliver the needs assessment requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.

Work began in April 2016. It was strongly felt that an integrated approach would provide a consistent and effective way to build an evidence base, whilst offering an opportunity to pool resources, knowledge and skills.

Building an understanding of people's wellbeing involved collecting data and evidence from a variety of disciplines. Turning this evidence into useful information required a fresh approach. Key to this approach was asking the question "what does this mean for wellbeing?" To answer this question required a significant amount of engagement with communities, stakeholders and service users, whilst making appropriate use of national and international research.

In addition, the Local Authority decided that it would be prudent to establish a measure of local wellbeing. The Performance Team began work on developing ways to measure wellbeing in October of 2016 and have been carrying out fieldwork since November 2016.

This engagement activity and fieldwork has produced knowledge that helped shape the wellbeing objectives, understand potential responses to improve wellbeing and set a wellbeing score for the population. In brief, our wellbeing objectives cover four main groups:

6.3 Best Start to Life

- Children get the best start to life
- Children and young people are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals

6.4 Working Life

- Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: Developing the workforce of the future
- Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish
- Creating high value jobs for Merthyr Tydfil

6.5 Environmental Wellbeing

- Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside
- Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets

6.6 **Living Well**

- Developing safer communities
- People have good physical and mental wellbeing
- People live independently

6.7 Our Wellbeing Statement, with a detailed description of each of our Wellbeing Objectives, is included in Appendix 1.

7.0 **ADDITIONAL LINKS**

Environment Duty

7.1 In March 2016 the Environment (Wales) Act came in to force. The Environment Act requires public bodies "to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions".

7.2 Inclusion of the proposed Wellbeing Objective "**Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside**" will provide the framework to discharge our Environment Duty.

Local Development Plan

7.3 A replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) is being prepared concurrently with the local wellbeing objectives. This has enabled strong integration between the processes, for example using common evidence. The replacement LDP is a key mechanism for delivering the local wellbeing objectives.

Economic Growth Strategy

7.4 The Local Authority is currently developing an Economic Growth Strategy. This has also provided a timely opportunity to align the Economic Growth Strategy to the proposed wellbeing objectives.

8.0 **HOW DID WE GET HERE**

Completed Projects

8.1 Undertaken a wellbeing and population assessment in Cwm Taf.

8.2 Undertaken community engagement in Merthyr Tydfil.

8.3 Analysis of all information to draft proposals for wellbeing objectives.

9.0 **WHAT DO WE DO NEXT**

9.1 Translate and publish our Wellbeing Statement and Wellbeing Objectives by 31st March 2017.

9.2 Begin the process to develop our Corporate Plan (Local Wellbeing Plan) that will be brought to Full Council in June 2017, alongside the preferred strategy for the Local Development Plan and the Economic Growth Strategy. In our Corporate Plan we will show how we will take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives. This is the second part of the Wellbeing Duty and will also enable us to discharge the Environment Duty.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There is no immediate financial implication to be considered. However, we will need to align the Medium Term Financial Plan to the Local Authority's Wellbeing Objectives. This will take place through the development of the Corporate Plan.

11.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

11.1 A Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment on the outcomes and principles from the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan is not applicable. This is because the proposals in this report will set the new strategic framework for the local authority, effectively replacing the outcomes and principles in those plans, which is the basis of the impact assessment.

12.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for this report. It has been found that a full assessment is required. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

GARETH CHAPMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR BRENDAN TOOMEY
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Wellbeing assessments	January 2017	Local Server
Wellbeing engagement	February 2017	Local Server
Equality Impact Assessment	February 2017	Local Server
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?	No	

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.