



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	26 th March 2018
Accountable for Delivery	Cherylee Evans Mick Campbell, Stephen Thomas Sue Gow
Wellbeing Champion	Mark Anderton
Committee Date	Monday, 9 th April 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Environmental Wellbeing / EW1: Communities Protect, Enhance and Promote our Natural Environment and Countryside

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. We have set Wellbeing Objectives for Merthyr Tydfil CBC, and how we intend to achieve these objectives is established in our plan **Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community**.
- 1.2. This scrutiny report identifies the activities and services that we deliver to support communities to protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside.
- 1.3. The report focuses on specific wellbeing projects the Council is undertaking to deliver this wellbeing objective, whilst also contributing to the national wellbeing goals.
- 1.4. There are three wellbeing projects:
 - Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan;
 - Implementation of the Carbon Management Plan; and
 - Furniture reuse.
- 1.5. This report provides a judgment on the performance of the furniture reuse wellbeing project, however, updated information on the remaining two projects (Preparation of an

Air Quality Management Area Action Plan and Implementing the Carbon Management Plan) was not available at the time this report was published. Therefore, a verbal update and judgement will be given on these projects at Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny on 9th April 2018. It is also acknowledged that the impact on the Key Performance Indicators for 2017/18 will not be established until the data is verified and published later in the year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1. The content of this report be discussed and noted.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1. The Council is committed to delivering excellent services. It will do this by delivering its key strategies and through joint working with a range of partners. The key strategies that focus on delivering excellent services in Neighbourhood Services are:

- Collaborative Change Programme (Technical Report)
- Corporate Asset Management Plan
- Carbon Management Plan
- [Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Local Development Plan](#)

Legislative Context

3.2. The [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) specifies that we must work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by maximising our contribution to the Wellbeing Goals. We must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle (the five ways of working).

3.3. On 22 March 2017, Elected Members approved the Council's [Statement of Wellbeing](#). The document outlined the Council's wellbeing objectives and listed what the Council proposed to do to support an improvement in community wellbeing across the County Borough. The Statement also explained why it considers meeting these objectives will maximise our contribution to the achievement of the seven national wellbeing goals.

3.4. Work was then undertaken involving Elected Members, senior officers and other Council staff. Following a review of the findings of this work which was reviewed alongside the views of communities across Merthyr Tydfil collected through community engagement; the Council produced its local Wellbeing Plan for Merthyr Tydfil. [Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community](#) outlines how the Council would work towards achieving its wellbeing objectives.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1. An overview of the state of wellbeing in Cwm Taf was prepared in an assessment of wellbeing, which provides background information on wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. In addition, a population assessment was prepared to provide an overview of care and support needs of the people of Cwm Taf and the range of services required to meet those needs. The findings from the wellbeing and population assessment contributed to the development of the statement of wellbeing for Merthyr Tydfil.

Wellbeing Statement and Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community

- 4.2. In our wellbeing statement we set out the scope of each wellbeing objective and outline why we consider that meeting the objective will maximise our contribution to the achievement of the seven wellbeing goals.
- 4.3. Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community was approved by Elected Members at the Full Council meeting on 26 July 2017. The focus of this report is on the wellbeing objective:

Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside

People, proud of the area's outstanding landscape, regularly spend time outdoors in good quality, accessible greenspace. Communities help improve their local areas, learning new skills, building strong social bonds and helping wildlife flourish.

- 4.4. Our response to this objective reflects the work we do with our communities to protect, enhance and promote the natural environment and countryside. This is because research shows that a healthy natural environment and countryside provides multiple benefits for people and wildlife from improved air, water and land quality, habitat protection and enhanced biodiversity to beneficial implications for physical and mental health.
- 4.5. Throughout the first year of the plan, the Council has focused on the following components and their related outcomes to achieve this wellbeing objective:
- Minimise environmental damage through prevention of pollution;
 - Maximise efficient use of materials and resources by means of the waste hierarchy;
 - Developing good quality, biodiverse and connected green infrastructure and open spaces; and
 - Promoting and supporting the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

5.1. During year 1 of Focus on the Future, there were three projects identified to help deliver wellbeing improvements that would support the delivery of the wellbeing objective ***Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside***. This report provides an evaluation of those three wellbeing projects:

Project name	Project lead	Length of project	STATUS	Evidence to support the Status (maximum of 3 points)	Next steps (maximum of 3 points)
Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan	Sue Gow	18 mths. 01.01.17-30.06.18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ ▸ Verbal update in scrutiny. ▸ ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Verbal update in scrutiny.
Implementing the Carbon Management Plan	Mick Campbell			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Verbal Update in Scrutiny ▸ ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Verbal Update in Scrutiny
Furniture reuse	Stephen Thomas	Aug 17 – Jan 20	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Data reports to confirm items collected by Furniture Revival ▸ Collection crew feedback/ One stop shop feedback ▸ An area for re-use, including a shop and storage area has been included in the unit 20 Pre Application to Countryside and Planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Submit Full Planning application in April 2018. ▸ Promote the service through a variety of communication channels to increase public awareness and usage of the service.

Status	Delivery Confidence Definition
Blue	Completed
Green	Successful delivery appears likely with no major outstanding issues to threaten delivery
Yellow	Successful delivery appears probable but issues exists requiring management attention
Amber	Successful delivery is in doubt with major risks or issues in a number of key areas
Red	Successful delivery appears to be unachievable

5.2. This report provides a judgment on the performance of the furniture reuse wellbeing project, however, updated information on the remaining two projects (Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan and Implementing the Carbon Management Plan) was not available at the time this report was published. Therefore, a verbal update and judgement will be given on these projects at Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny on 9th April 2018. It is also acknowledged that the impact on the Key Performance Indicators for 2017/18 will not be established until the data is verified and published later in the year.

Key Performance Indicators	2016/17 Achieved	2017/18 Actual to Date	2017/18 Targets	
			LA	WG
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	65.09 (17955.55 / 27585.20)	63.39 (26456.34 / 41738.24) as at Q3	64.00	58
Percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	3.7 (1009.02 / 27585.20)	2.36% (493.14 / 20869.12) as at Q3	5.0	-
Percentage of fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 days	100 (1785/1785)	100 (1730/1730)	100	-
The percentage of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	97.0 (423/436)	96.85 (154/159)	100	-
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumed by local authority buildings	15808		15333	-

5.3. Following the presentation of a ‘Lessons Learned’ report looking back on the first year of delivery against the Plan, the findings identified three broad themes to deliver the necessary improvements:

- Streamline the scrutiny process
- Data quality
- Clearer reporting and information sharing

5.4. In response to these findings, Focus on the Future has been refocused to improve integration in order to deliver better outcomes and improve accountability. The refocused plan has a reduced number of objectives, down from nine to four, which sit under the four wellbeing themes.

Theme	Wellbeing Objective
Best Start	Children and young people have the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.
Working Life	People feel supported to develop their skills to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.
Environmental Wellbeing	Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.
Living Well	People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.

5.5. To positively prepare for this change, an Environmental Wellbeing workshop was held on 28th February 2018 to review the requirements of the change and collaboratively plan a response for the refocussed Objective. As part of this workshop:

5.6. The wording of the refocused objective was amended to “**Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside**”. We now make reference to the ‘environment’; this includes both the urban and natural environment, and not just the natural environment that has been stated previously.

- Following group consideration of the key response components required to meet the objective, it was agreed that the **four** original components remained, which are:
 - Minimise environmental damage through prevention of pollution;
 - Maximise efficient use of materials and resources by means of the waste hierarchy;

- Developing good quality, biodiverse and connected green infrastructure and open spaces; and
 - Promoting and supporting the use of renewable and low carbon energy.
- Attendees discussed how they could measure the impact of their services on the objective. A list of suggested performance indicators and KPIs was built and is currently being finalised to enable contributors to explicitly evidence how they are progressing the components and the overarching objective, whilst also positively contributing to the national wellbeing goals.

6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

6.1. By 2022, we want the work we are doing for this objective to make a positive impact on the wellbeing of the communities within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Therefore, the outcomes and targets will be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure that we are performing to the best of our abilities.

Key Performance Indicators	2017/18 Actual to Date	2017/18 Target		2018/19 LA Target
		LA	WG	
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	63.39 (26456.34 / 41738.24) as at Q3	64.00	58	67.00
Percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	2.36% (493.14 / 20869.12) as at Q3	5.0		5.0
Percentage of fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 days	100	100		100
The percentage of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	96.85 (154/159)	100		100
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumed by local authority buildings		15333		14873

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

7.1. A collaborative working group that is to include all officers contributing to the Environmental Wellbeing theme will need to meet to review the status regarding the performance indicators and KPIs to ensure the data collected is verifiable and available

for future update reports to Scrutiny Committees. From 2018-2019 onwards, the reporting of wellbeing projects will be made to the Governance Scrutiny Committee.

- 7.2. This collaborative working group will also consider where wellbeing projects would be required to strengthen the response to the Environmental Wellbeing objective. This will be planned for April to ensure that all officers contributing to the objective are clear on their roles and how their work supports the Council's vision.

CHERYLLEE EVANS
CHIEF OFFICER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

COUNCILLOR HOWARD BARRETT
CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	29 th April 2015	MTCBC Website
Statement of Wellbeing.	22 nd March 2017	MTCBC Website
Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community	26 th July 2017	MTCBC Website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No