

Civic Centre, Castle Street,  
Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN

Main Tel: 01685 725000

www.merthyr.gov.uk



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2018
Accountable for Delivery	<b>Alyn Owen</b> Chris Long, Zoe Thomas, Rhian Prosser, Ryan Barry, Kerry O'Donovan, John Sellwood
Committee Date	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2018

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Environmental Wellbeing 2 – Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets**

#### **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 set out in our plan **Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community**.
- 1.2. This scrutiny report will demonstrate how the activities/services we deliver will support the Council to protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets.
- 1.3. To demonstrate how, this report will focus on specific wellbeing projects the Council is undertaking to deliver this wellbeing objective, whilst also contributing to the national wellbeing goals.
- 1.4. The four wellbeing projects on which we are offering updates on are:
  - Urdd Sports Development Apprentice;
  - Provision of Welsh language workplace training opportunities;
  - Volunteering programme in the Cyfarthfa Heritage Area (Phase 1); and
  - Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Quarter: Continuing the Renaissance.

## 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 Economic Development and Physical Regeneration 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 Education are:

- Economic Growth Strategy (unpublished)
- Welsh Language Promotional Strategy (unpublished)
- Historic Environment Strategy (unpublished)
- Welsh Education Strategic Plan (unpublished)

### **Legislative Context**

3.2. The [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) specifies that public bodies must work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by maximising their contribution to the Wellbeing Goals. We must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle (the 5 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<sup>1</sup>, which provides background information on wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. In addition, a population assessment<sup>2</sup> 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.
- 4.2. Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community was approved by Elected Members at the Full Council meeting on 26 July 2017.
- 4.3. This report focuses on the following wellbeing objective:

### **Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets**

*Celebrating success, valuing our heritage, culture and language will strengthen our identity for future generations*

Our response to this objective reflects the work we do within our communities to use communities assets to deliver 'wealth and health' benefits. Evidence suggests that valuing our language, culture and heritage can bring improvements to the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

- 4.4. At the end of Year 1 of the Plan, the Council has focused on the following components in order to achieve our wellbeing objective:
  - Supporting existing community facilities and community-led developments;;
  - Supporting suitable tourism, leisure and recreation developments;
  - Promoting cultural and social activities within our communities; and
  - Promoting the Welsh language.

## 5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1. During year 1 of Focus on the Future, there were two wellbeing projects identified to help deliver wellbeing improvements that would support the delivery of the objective **Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets**. This report provides an evaluation of those four wellbeing projects:

---

<sup>1</sup> Information on the assessment of wellbeing is published on the [Cwm Taf Portal](#).

<sup>2</sup> Information on the population assessment is published on the [Cwm Taf Portal](#).

Project name	Project lead	Length of project	STATUS	Evidence to support the Status (maximum of 3 points)	Next steps
Urdd Sports Development Apprentice	Kerry O'Donovan	1yr <sup>3</sup>	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 4 after school and 3 community clubs being delivered weekly. There are an average of 150 children engaged weekly in these.</li> <li>• There are partnerships in place with Menter Iaith, Welsh and English medium schools, Active Merthyr Tydfil, the Youth Service and Merthyr Collage to provide opportunities to support and develop the Welsh Language.</li> </ul>	<p>The Urdd to work partnership with the following organisation to develop additional Welsh Language and bilingual opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Merthyr Tennis Club</li> <li>- Morlais Castle Golf Club</li> <li>- Afon Taf High School Athletics.</li> <li>- Holiday Provision at Afon Taf High School.</li> </ul>
Provision of Welsh language workplace training opportunities	Kerry O'Donovan	1yr	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh language training enrolments maintained over the year with low drop-out rate</li> <li>• Of the officers undertaking accreditation, 100% have successfully achieved a qualification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh language training for staff is now deemed 'business as usual'</li> </ul>
Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Quarter: Continuing the Renaissance	Chris Long / Rhian Prosser	5yrs	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects Appointed to design Schemes</li> <li>• EOI's received on key buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress with buildings</li> <li>• Phased approach plan agreed</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Phase 2 has been projected to last 12 months

Project name	Project lead	Length of project	STATUS	Evidence to support the Status (maximum of 3 points)	Next steps
Volunteering Programme at Cyfarthfa Heritage Area – Phase 1	Chris Long / Zoe Thomas	1yr	<b>YELLOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and Lessons learnt from previous programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit HLF application inclusive of activity plan for volunteers</li> </ul>

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 exist 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. The collective judgment for the performance of these four projects was judged to be **YELLOW**: Successful delivery appears probable but issues exist requiring management attention.

Key Performance Indicators	2017/18 Achieved
Number of participants attending sessions delivered by the Urdd Apprentice	Year-end data pending
Number of Local Authority staff registered for Welsh language classes	Year-end data pending
Percentage of staff achieving a Welsh language qualification	Year-end data pending
Restore 9 buildings within the Pontmorlais heritage Quarter during the 3 year project (2018/2020) <sup>4</sup>	N/A <sup>4</sup>

- 5.3. Following a request from Scrutiny Committee Chairs, a 'Lessons Learned' report was presented looking back on the first year of delivery of Focus on the Future. The findings identified three broad themes to deliver the necessary improvements:

- Streamline the scrutiny process

<sup>4</sup> The waiting list of interested parties for this project currently exceeds the funding available.

- 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 4 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.

Environmental Wellbeing 2 will form part of the refocussed Working Life objective moving forward from 2018/19.

To positively prepare for this change, a Working Life workshop was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to review the requirements of the change and collaboratively plan a response for the refocussed Objective. Contributors to the Environmental Wellbeing 2 objective attended this workshop to ensure they were part of the planning for the required change. As part of this workshop:

- The wording of the refocused objective was confirmed as **“People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination”**.
- Following group consideration of the key response components required to meet the objective; **five** components were identified. These are:
  - Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: developing the workforce of the future;
  - Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish;
  - Communities protect, enhance and promote our heritage and cultural assets;
  - Developing safer communities, and

- Supporting and accommodating those most disadvantaged in the housing market.
- 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, the overarching objective whilst also positively contributing to the national wellbeing goals.

## 6.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 6.1. As a collaborative working group, all officers contributing to the Working Life theme within the Plan will need to meet to review the status regarding the performance indicators and KPIs to ensure the data collected is verifiable and available to be included in future update reports to Scrutiny Committees. From 2018-2019 onwards, the reporting of wellbeing projects will be made to the Governance Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.2. This collaborative working group will also consider where wellbeing projects would be required to strengthen the response to the Working Life objective. This will take place in April to ensure all contributing to the objective are clear on their role within the group and how their work supports the Council’s vision on contributing to improving communities’ wellbeing.

**ALYN OWEN**  
**(CHIEF OFFICER**  
**(COMMUNITY REGENERATION)**

**COUNCILLOR GERAINT THOMAS**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION &**  
**PUBLIC PROTECTION**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		