



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	3 rd April 2018
Accountable for Delivery	Alyn Owen Chris Long Rhian Prosser Cheryl Jones Chris Hole
Committee Date	17 th April 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Working Life 2 – Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish

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 improve the environment and infrastructure in order to support business to flourish.
- 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 three wellbeing projects on which we are offering updates on are:
 - Relocation of Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station – Phase 2;
 - Active Travel – Phase 1; and
 - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

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- Economic Growth Strategy (unpublished)
- [Local Development Plan](#)¹
- [Rural Development Plan](#)
- [Regional Transport Plan](#)

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

¹ The Local Development Plan is currently under review and is out for public consultation

- 4.1. An overview of the state of wellbeing in Cwm Taf was prepared in an assessment of wellbeing², which provides background information on wellbeing in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. In addition, a population assessment³ 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:

Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish

Development that integrates regeneration with sustainable urban design improves the built environment and strengthens the natural environment.

Our response to this objective reflects the work we do within our communities to develop the environment and infrastructure which facilitates the growth of communities, attracts inward investment and supports a resilient local economy.

- 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:
- People have access to flexible, integrated and sustainable transport options;
 - Suitable previously developed land that delivers a diverse supply of housing;
 - Strengthening and diversifying the local economy; and
 - Parents and carers have flexible childcare options.

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 **Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish**. 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
Relocation of Merthyr Tydfil	Chris Long / Rhian	1yr ⁴	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required Welsh Government deadlines met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Await feedback from Welsh Government

² Information on the assessment of wellbeing is published on the [Cwm Taf Portal](#).

³ Information on the population assessment is published on the [Cwm Taf Portal](#).

⁴ Phase 2 has been projected to last 12 months

Bus Station (Phase 2)	Prosser				
Active Travel Routes (Phase 1)	Chris Long & Cheryl Jones	1yr 6 months	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation completed All required Welsh Government deadlines met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further consultation pending 16th April 2018
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	Chris Hole	1yr 6 months	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation undertaken and feedback analysed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Exercise completed Initial discussion around business support to childcare providers undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further discussion re: the next steps re: sector support to be scheduled.

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. The collective judgment for the performance of these 3 projects was judged to be **AMBER**: Successful delivery is in doubt with major risks or issues in a number of key areas.

Key Performance Indicators	2017/18 Achieved
Number of departures from Merthyr Tydfil Central Bus Station annually ⁵	178,294
Total spaces available during Term Time – Family Information Service	1,859

⁵ As the project progresses, further measures linked to the practical relocation of the Bus Station will be identified and the relevant data captured to demonstrate the impact of the work

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
- 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.

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

5.5. To positively prepare for this change, a Working Life workshop was held on 9th 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

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council’s Constitution?		