

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	12 th November 2018
Report Author	Cherylee Evans
Service Area	Neighbourhood Services
Committee Date	20 th November 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Environmental Wellbeing

Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 We have set Wellbeing Objectives for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, and how we intend to achieve these objectives is set out in our plan 'Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community'. The focus of this Wellbeing Objective is the work we do with our communities to protect, enhance and promote the environment and countryside.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to providing excellent services by delivering key strategies and collaborating with a range of partners through joint working. In addition there are key projects that the Council will undertake to deliver this objective and contribute to the national wellbeing goals.
- 1.3 There are eight key delivery projects:
- Waste depot redevelopment incorporating furniture reuse facility;
 - In-house management of HWRC;
 - Green Flag status for Thomas Town Park;
 - Abercanaid School insulation;
 - Cyfarthfa High School lighting replacement;
 - Cefn Cemetery extension; and
 - Cyfarthfa Lake walls remedial works.
- 1.4 This report establishes the current position for the Environmental Wellbeing theme based on a set of key performance indicators and targets for improvement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The content of this report to 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 via 'business as usual' and key projects are:

- Collaborative Change Programme (Technical Report) - Not Published¹
- Corporate Asset Management Plan
- Carbon Management Plan – Not Published¹
- [Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Local Development Plan](#)²

3.2 The Council's contribution to achieving the seven wellbeing goals is outlined in our plan [[Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community](#)]. On the 4th of April 2018, Full Council approved a refocused version of the Plan. Details of the main changes to the plan are detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

3.3 The purpose of this report is to coordinate the performance and project information for the wellbeing objective *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.*

Legislative Context

3.4 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 seven Wellbeing Goals.

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

3.5 We must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle, which means that we act in a manner that seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are five ways of working that we need to do adopt in order to show that we have applied the sustainable development principle. The five ways of working are:

- Long Term
- Preventative
- Involvement

¹ This document has been approved but is not in the public domain

² The public consultation on the Deposit version of the LDP finished in September 2018. The plan is scheduled for public examination early 2019.

- Collaboration
- Integrated

3.6 ³The [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) specifies that we must seek to improve the wellbeing of people who need care and support, carers who need support and for transforming social services in Wales. The focus of this Act is on what matters to the person and how they can use their own strengths and resources to do those things, which is determined by an assessment that involves the person and the professional(s).

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

4.1 In Year 1 of Focus on the Future, Environmental Wellbeing had two separate wellbeing objectives. A combination of performance data and project delivery information was used to provide an end of year judgement for each wellbeing objective.

Wellbeing objective	Judgement
Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside	Good
Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets	Adequate

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

5.1 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

5.2. 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.

5.3 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 refocused Objective. As part of this workshop, 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.

³ Read the [essential guide](#) to the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- 5.4 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.

6.0 Our contribution

6.1 In Focus on the Future we have outlined the service area priorities that will focus on to achieve this objective:

- Waste Services;
 - Increase Recycling
 - Reduce Landfill
- Tackling Fly-tipping;
- Improving Street Cleansing;
- Air Quality Management;
- Carbon Management;
- Local development Plan;
- Biodiversity;
- Implementing of Open Space Strategy;
- Merthyr Tydfil Recovery Plan; and
- Maintenance of Parks and Green Spaces.

We have also identified the key projects to deliver this objective:

- Waste depot redevelopment incorporating furniture reuse facility;
- In-house management of HWRC;
- Green Flag status for Thomas Town Park;
- Abercanaid School insulation;
- Cyfarthfa High School lighting replacement;
- Cefn Cemetery extension; and
- Cyfarthfa Lake walls remedial works.

6.2 Key measure of performance

Each Chief Officer has developed a strategy on a page (SOAP) to show how they will measure their contribution to the Councils shared vision (see [Appendix 2](#) and [3](#)). The following table identifies the key performance indicators and targets that we will use to judge progress in achieving the wellbeing objective.

Key Performance Indicators	2016/17 MT	2017/18 MT	WA 2017/18	2018/19 (Latest available)	2018/19 Target
Reduce the level of NO ₂ to below the National Air Quality Standard annual mean of 40 µg/m ³ . (Twynyrodyn Air Quality Management Area)	36.0 – 48.5	In Progress	N/A	Levels within expected range for period	36.0 – 48.5

Percentage of fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 days*	100 (Rank 1 st)	100 (Rank 1 st)	95.08		
Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents	N/A	1.43	N/A	1.72	5
The percentage of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	97.01 (Rank 7 th)	97.2 (Rank 7 th)	95.8	N/A	100
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	65.09 (Rank 11 th)	62.74 (Rank 13 th)	62.67	59.97	Nat: 58 LA: 64
Percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill **	3.66 (Rank 9 th)	1.93 (Rank 9 th)	11.00		
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person	204.34	188	184	52.01	183
Number of Priority Open Spaces (out of 23 Priority Open Spaces) that meet or exceed the quality standard: Healthy, Safe and Secure.	7	6	Reviewed Annually (March)	Annual data - due March 2019	10
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumed by local authority buildings	15,808	11,758	20,085	4,560	11,406

*This measure has been replaced in 2018/19 by 'Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents'

**This measure has been replaced in 2018/19 by 'Kilograms of residual waste generated per person'

Delivery Projects

These projects represent key service developments that underpin improved service delivery and changes that support the delivery of our Environmental Wellbeing Objective. The following table identifies the progress made since the last reporting period of the Change and Wellbeing Board in October and the targets for the next steps.

Key		Successful delivery of the project/programme appears to be unachievable. There are major issues on project/programme definition, schedule, budget required quality or benefits delivery, which at this stage does not appear to be manageable or resolvable. The Project/Programme may need re-baselining and/or overall viability re-assessed		Successful delivery of the project/programme to time, cost and quality appears highly likely and there are no major outstanding issues that at this stage appear to threaten delivery significantly
		Successful delivery appears feasible but significant issues already exists requiring management attention. These appear resolvable at this stage and if addressed promptly, should not present a cost/schedule overrun		Project 100% complete and savings accrued

Project	Status	Progress	Next Steps	Projected End Date
Waste depot redevelopment incorporating furniture reuse facility		<p>Waste Depot Redevelopment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is continuing to progress and is running to schedule. The project end date is still January 2019 following the requirement for the fire risk assessment to be undertaken before applying for the licence. Grant has been received by Welsh Government which has paid for new machinery for the new site. This negates the need to organise the transfer of current equipment from the old site to unit 20 which will now be sold. Engineering works are due to be complete in December. <p>Furniture Re-Use Shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial scoping meeting has been held and a business case is currently in development. Phase 1 is complete – some bulky items 	<p>Waste Depot Redevelopment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement project as per implementation plan. Surrender leases on the Units and chase up anything outstanding i.e electric fence, cameras. <p>Furniture Re-Use Shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information for the business case. Finalise scope and assess options. 	Not noted

		<p>have been taken to Unit 5 instead of being taken to the civic amenity sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was initially envisaged that the re-use shop would be implemented when Waste move to Unit 20 but there have been delays therefore the timescales for the business case have been moved back to 2019. 		
In-house management of HWRC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is complete and the site is running well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lessons learnt log will be completed to identify any areas of concern and any considerations for future projects. • Close project. 	Not noted
Green Flag status for Thomas Town Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is in early stages. • Meetings taken place to discuss the action plan to support the Green Flag Application. • Visit by Green Flag organisation to assess shortfalls taken place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to progress with project and application. • Address shortfalls highlighted by Green Flag Organisation 	Application planned for January 2020
Abercanaid School insulation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work 95% completed with minor works to complete. 8 classrooms/spaces had larger radiators installed which will supply twice as much heat as previous. Extra insulation added in areas identified by thermographic survey. Will need to wait for a prolonged cold period so that thermographic survey can be repeated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor temperatures in classrooms and repeat thermographic survey in rooms where insulation was improved. 	March 2019
Cyfarthfa High School lighting replacement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting installation completed by 14th September. Early indications are showing a significant reduction in electricity use between September 17 and September 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor savings and use evidence as a case study on what can be achieved when funding is made available. 	March 2019
Cefn Cemetery extension		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, designs complete. Awaiting Welsh Government funding confirmation prior to tendering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to progress with project plan. Chase up funding from Welsh Government. Work with Procurement 	No scheduled end date until confirmation of funding from

			department to ensure compliance.	Welsh Government
Cyfarthfa Lake walls remedial works.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works are due to start on-site in January 2019, and should take between 10-12 weeks, depending on weather conditions. • Three methods of repair have been identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repointing the masonry wall • Fixing corrosion resistant steel mesh to the upstream face of the dam wall • Excavate and refill with clay material • Eels have been placed in the lake to feed on the smaller crayfish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a contractor in December 2018 	31 st March 2019

7.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

7.1 By monitoring key performance indicators, we will know things are better when:

- The air quality on Twynyrodyn Road improves;
- The local authority's CO2 emissions reduce by 3% from its buildings (per annum);
- Reported fly-tipping incidents on Council land are cleared within five days;
- The cleanliness of our streets improve;
- Our recycling rates improve and we landfill less waste; and
- Number of Priority Open Spaces (out of 23 Priority Open Spaces) that meet or exceed the quality standard: Healthy, Safe and Secure.

8.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

8.1 Carbon management plan to be reviewed and taken forward now that an energy engineer has been recruited. We will be engaging with Re-Fit Cymru to plan and carry out feasibility studies on energy efficiency projects which can then be carried forward for funding based on the savings to be made. Welsh Government have implied that legislation will be introduced in 2019 regarding carbon budgets and renewable energy targets being set for all Public bodies in Wales. There is uncertainty at the moment as to what will be included in this but the little information we have been given to date seems to be the implementation of a similar system to waste. If you fail to hit the targets given then fines will be issued per tonne of carbon over the target. More information will be given as soon as we receive it, but we may need an increase in resources in order to be able to comply. Most authorities are way ahead of this as they already have to supply most of the information under the old Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), where as we were never part of the CRC and therefore have never had to report our emissions in this way.

CHERYLLEE EVANS
CHIEF OFFICER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

COUNCILLOR KEVIN GIBBS
PORTFOLIO MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Appendix 1

Amendments following review and refocus of the Council's Corporate Wellbeing Plan: Focus on the Future – Wellbeing in our Community

Original Version	Refocused Version
<p><u>Themes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Start to Life • Working Life • ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING • Living Well 	<p><u>Themes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Start to Life • Working Life • ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING • Living Well
<p><u>Wellbeing Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: Developing the workforce of the future • Developing the environment and infrastructure for businesses to flourish • Communities protect, enhance and promote our natural environment and countryside • Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets • Developing safer communities • People have good physical and mental health • People live independently 	<p><u>Wellbeing Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals • 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 • Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside • People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.



OUR SHARED VISION

“ACTING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”

The Wales we want:

A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A globally responsible Wales
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The shared vision for Merthyr Tydfil to get there:

To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil’s position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys, and be a place to be proud of where:

People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions,
 People live, work, have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life,
 People visit, enjoy and return

How will Merthyr Tydfil CBC work?



Long Term



Prevention



Integration



Involvement



Collaboration

How will we work together to deliver the Our Shared Vision and achieve our goals?

Focus on the Future	PSB Wellbeing Plan	Political Priorities
<p>Best Start to Life 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.</p>	<p>Community Resilience and Wellbeing To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.</p>	<p>We will look after all our citizens by providing an affordable quality education and social care enabling everybody to lead their lives to their full potential.</p>
<p>Working Life People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil as an attractive destination.</p>	<p>Lifestyles, health and vulnerability To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.</p>	<p>We will encourage active lifestyles and promote wellbeing.</p>
<p>Environmental Wellbeing Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p>	<p>Economy and Infrastructure To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.</p>	<p>We will support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful environment and economy.</p>
<p>Living Well People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	<p>Tackling loneliness and isolation <i>(Cross cutting objective)</i> We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteers to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.</p>	

*Merthyr Tydfil ... a place to be proud of
 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council*

CHIEF OFFICER: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Contribution From:
 Waste Services
 Street Cleansing
 Property Services
 Environmental Health
 Planning and Countryside

Environmental Wellbeing

Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside

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

Promoting and supporting the use of renewable and low carbon energy

How will Merthyr Tydfil CBC work?

Integration Collaboration Long term Involvement Prevention



Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Target	Target
Reduce the level of NO ₂ to below the National Air Quality Standard annual mean of 40 µg/m ³ . (Twynrobyn Air Quality Management Area)	N/A	36.7 – 47.1	N/A	36.0 – 48.5	36.0 – 48.5	In Progress	36.0 – 48.5	Available in Q4	36.0 – 48.5	36.0 – 48.5	>40
Percentage of fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 days	100	94.74 (Rank - 15)	100	100 (Rank - 1)	100	100 (Rank - 1)					
Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents	N/A	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.43	5	1.79 (Q1)	5	5	5
The percentage of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	100	98.1	100	97.01	100	97.2	100		100	100	100
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	Nat:58 LA:58	61.58 (Rank - 9)	Nat:58 LA:61	65.09 (Rank - 11)	Nat:58 LA:64	62.74 (Rank 11)	Nat: 58 LA: 64	*61.55 (Q1)	Nat: 64 LA: 67	Nat: 64 LA:70	Nat: 64 LA:71
Percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	75.00	30.40	5.00	3.66	5.00	1.93					
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person	N/A	181.74	N/A	204.34	N/A	*188	183	47.29 (Q1)	179	174	160
Number of Priority Open Spaces (out of 23 Priority Open Spaces) that meet or exceed the quality standard: Healthy, Safe and Secure.	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	8	6	10	Reviewed annually (Mar)	12	14	16
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumed by local authority buildings	N/A	12,074	11,712	15,808	15,334	11,758	11,406	**34 (Q1)	11,064	10,732	10,410

* Local data provided – this data will not be verified by WDF until October 2019

** Q1 figure is very low as only one DEC has been submitted to date.