

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	25/03/2019
Report Author	Andrew Mogford / Anne Powell
Service Area	Corporate Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	09/04/2019

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Prior to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council produced a Corporate Plan that was aligned to the regional Single Integrated Plan (SIP). The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 changed this to focus on the Wales We Want which is emphasised in seven Wellbeing Goals have been passed by Welsh Government.
- 1.2 Together with this Act stated the ways in which we should work to achieve the goals. These are known as the five ways of working, i.e. long term; preventative; involvement; integration and collaboration.
- 1.3 To embed this change, MTCBC has developed an 'Our Shared Vision' document. This makes the connections from the seven national Wellbeing Goals through to the local objectives and political priorities.
- 1.4 In the first year of implementing the Act (i.e. 2017/18) we monitored progress and recorded the lesson we have learned. This led to streamlining and refocusing governance arrangements before entering into the second year of implementation. The new governance arrangements have been monitored. As a result of this, strategies and priority projects are being reviewed. This will aid the corporate self-evaluation process (Reflecting on Performance) that is to be launched in 2019/20.
- 1.5 As in years one and two, and required by the Act, MTCBC has to fulfil its statutory duty and publish a Statement of Wellbeing and the Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Plan. The Statement of Wellbeing sets out our local Wellbeing

Objectives for the community over a five year period, 2017 to 2022; in other words this is why we are doing what we set out. The Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Plan goes into the detail of how and what we will do to achieve the Wellbeing Objectives.

- 1.6 To meet our statutory duty we will present the Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future documents to Council for approval on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The Statement of Wellbeing document is scrutinised in terms of how the Council is meeting its requirements against the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 2.2 The Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community document is scrutinised in terms of how the Council is meeting its requirements against the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Prior to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council produced a Corporate Plan that was aligned to the Single Integrated Plan (SIP). However, each Council, and indeed areas across Wales, were not necessarily working towards a common goal. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 changed this. Seven Wellbeing Goals for Wales have been passed for the 'Wales We Want'. These are: 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.
- 3.2 Together with this, the Act stated the ways in which we should work to achieve the goals. These are known as the five ways of working, i.e. long term; preventative; involvement; integration and collaboration. The Act also sets out the four pillars of wellbeing, namely: cultural, economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the people who live and work in the County Borough. The five ways of working and four pillars should be used when appraising options for change and in any work and/or projects going forward. They should also be used to challenge what is being done within service areas and offer the challenge around doing different things.
- 3.3 The Act requires each Public Services Board (PSB) and public bodies to work with communities to develop local objectives. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) and the Cwm Taf PSB have acted on this.
- 3.4 Approximately 24 months ago MTCBC released a Statement of Wellbeing and the Focus on the Future – Wellbeing in our Community 2017–2022 document. This was done following a substantial involvement and engagement exercise with the community. This was also done in view of the wider Cwm Taf area through the PSB. These documents and this approach replaces the Corporate Plan and SIP that was in existence prior to implementing the Act.
- 3.5 To embed this change, MTCBC has developed an 'Our Shared Vision' document (Appendix I). This makes the connections from the seven national Wellbeing Goals

through to the local and regional objectives and political priorities. This document is contained within one page and acts as an easy to understand guide. When considered with service area strategies and operational plans, a thread is created that can be extended down to individual tasks. This is set out in Appendix 2, where there is a clear line of sight through a 'golden thread' from our shared vision down to individual goals. This helps staff members see how they are contributing to MTCBC, the Act and in delivering the 'Wales We Want'.

## **4.0 WHERE WE WERE**

4.1 As alluded to above, the wellbeing objectives for Merthyr Tydfil were developed following involvement and engagement with the community. Elected members will recall that in last year's publication of the Focus on the Future – Wellbeing in our Communities 2017-2022, we refocused and streamlined nine objectives to four. These are:

- Best Start to Life Objective: 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
- Working Life Objective: 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
- Environmental Wellbeing Objective: Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside
- Living Well Objective: People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health

4.2 Elected Members will also recall that streamlined governance arrangements have also been implemented; with projects relating to each objective being monitored through the Council's officer-led Change and Well-being Steering Group and the Overview and Governance Scrutiny Committee receiving reports on each objective.

4.3 The new governance arrangements have been monitored. As a result of this, strategies and priority projects are being reviewed. This will aid the corporate self-evaluation process (Reflecting on Performance) that is to be re-launched in 2019/20.

## **5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

5.1 Following analysis of the lessons learnt document (year one) together with experiences over the last year, we have streamlined process to become more outcome focused. This has meant we have focused on capturing qualitative and quantitative examples of change (case studies).

5.2 Our four well-being objectives are monitored through scrutiny, with the Overview and Governance Scrutiny Committee receiving reports on each well-being

theme/objective to strengthen links (awareness in particular in the early stages of change) between strategies.

- 5.3 An operational toolkit is being developed. This links and explains our shared vision, well-being objectives, strategies on a page, operational plans and down to individual appraisals (called Focus on My Performance). This sets out the Council's 'golden thread'. This will form the basis on the Council's enhanced approach to continued self-evaluation (called Reflecting on Performance).
- 5.4 As in years one and two, and required by the Act, MTCBC has to fulfil its statutory duty and publish a Statement of Wellbeing and the Focus on the Future Plan. The Statement of Wellbeing sets out our local wellbeing objectives for the community over a five year period (2017 to 2022); in other words this is why we are doing what we set out. The Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Plan goes into the detail of how and what we will do to achieve the wellbeing objectives. Appendix 3 is the Statement of Wellbeing and Appendix 4 is the Focus on the Future document.

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

- 6.1 If approved by Council, the 'Statement of Wellbeing' and 'Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community' documents will be published in both Welsh and English and submitted to our regulators, this includes the Wales Audit Office and the Future Generations Commissioners Office.
- 6.2 The 'Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community' document will form the basis for service delivery and enable prioritisation. Appropriate internal governance arrangements will continue.
- 6.3 The Council's enhanced self-evaluation approach (called Reflecting on Performance) will be implemented.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

- 7.1 Discuss and obtain the views of the Joint Scrutiny Committee regarding the Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community documents.
- 7.2 Present the Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community documents to Council for approval on the 17th of April 2019. These documents will then be translated into Welsh before being published on the MTCBC website and sent to the regulators (Wales Audit Office) by the end of April 2018.

## 8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

8.1 The Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future documents set out the Wellbeing Objectives.

**ELLIS COOPER**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE**  
**AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Statement of Wellbeing (Version 1 – Year 1)	2017/18	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3299/20170824-statement-of-wellbeing-v2-en.pdf">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3299/20170824-statement-of-wellbeing-v2-en.pdf</a>
Statement of Wellbeing (Version 2 – Year 2)	2018/19	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3773/mtcbc-statement-of-wellbeing-april-2018-en.pdf">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3773/mtcbc-statement-of-wellbeing-april-2018-en.pdf</a>
Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community (Version 1 – Year 1)	2017/18	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3296/20170824-focus-on-the-future-2017-2022-en.pdf">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3296/20170824-focus-on-the-future-2017-2022-en.pdf</a>
Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community (Version 2 – Year 2)	2018/19	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3775/mtcbc-focus-on-the-future-april-2018.pdf">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/3775/mtcbc-focus-on-the-future-april-2018.pdf</a>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>

**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
--------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------	--	------------------------------

*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?*

<b>Focus on the Future</b>	<b>PSB Wellbeing Plan</b>	<b>Political Priorities</b>
<p><b>Best Start to Life</b> 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><b>Working Life</b> 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><b>Environmental Wellbeing</b> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p> <p><b>Living Well</b> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	<p><b>Community Resilience and Wellbeing</b> To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.</p> <p><b>Lifestyles, health and vulnerability</b> To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.</p> <p><b>Economy and Infrastructure</b> To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.</p> <p><b>Tackling loneliness and isolation</b> <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>	<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>We will encourage active lifestyles and promote wellbeing.</p> <p>We will support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful environment and economy.</p>

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

# How Does it Fit Together?

