

INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	17/12/2019
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Service Area	Change and Performance
Committee Date	07/01/2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

CHANGE PROGRAMME

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update relating to the recommendations that were approved and deferred at the Council meetings of the 17th and 23rd of October 2019. The proposals taken to Council on these dates were identified and developed through the Corporate Sustainability work-stream as part of the MTCBC Change Programme.
- 1.2 The MTCBC Change Programme is governed by the Change and Well-being Programme Board (CWPB). The operational delivery of identified change programmes and projects is monitored via the MTCBC Change and Well-being Steering Group (CWSG).
- 1.3 The approved recommendations are monitored and supported by members of the CWSG. Progress updates are provided monthly. The first monthly review, has shown that progress is being made in line with anticipated timescales.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report provides an update relating to the recommendations that were approved and deferred at the Council meetings of the 17th and 23rd of October 2019. The proposals taken to Council on these dates were identified and developed through the Corporate Sustainability work-stream as part of the MTCBC Change Programme. This work-stream was designed to address the budgetary requirements of the Council (estimated to be approximately £8.2M at that point in time based on the information available). It was not developed in isolation however. The MTCBC Change Programme was originally made up of 11 work-streams (this was later refocused to become 8 work-streams), namely: Corporate Sustainability;

Governance (first phase scope complete); Communication (merged with Process Efficiency); Income; Education (built into business as usual); Children Looked After and Transition; Process Efficiency; Land Use and Carbon Management; Personnel; Leisure Trust; Poverty Programme. The principles from these work-streams were used to develop the proposals in the Corporate Sustainability work-stream, hence the different nature of savings (e.g. income opportunities, staffing changes, etc.).

3.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 3.1 The proposals from the Corporate Sustainability work-stream were challenged by the Council's Senior Leadership Team, at informal Councillor workshops and by the Joint Scrutiny and Audit Committees prior to being presented at Council on the 17th and 23rd of October 2019.
- 3.2 From the 18 recommendations presented to Council on the 17th October 2019, 14 were approved and 3 deferred (0 were withdrawn; 1 was rejected).
- 3.3 From the 24 recommendations presented to Council on the 23rd October 2019, 12 were approved and 3 deferred (2 of which were deferred by Cabinet) (7 were withdrawn by Cabinet (plus one part of recommendation 2.1); 2 were rejected). It should be noted that recommendation 2.1 contained several elements.

4.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 4.1 The MTCBC Change Programme is governed by the Change and Well-being Programme Board (CWPB). The CWPB is chaired by the Interim Chief Executive. The MTCBC Change and Wellbeing Programme works alongside the Budget Board to address the financial requirements of MTCBC. The operational delivery of identified change programmes and projects is monitored via the MTCBC Change and Well-being Steering Group (CWSG).
- 4.2 The approved recommendations are monitored and supported by members of the CWSG. Progress updates are provided monthly. It should be noted that recommendation 2.1 from the Council report of the 23rd October 2019 was actioned immediately due to these being budgetary adjustments. All except one staffing related projects are green. One is amber based on some of the mitigation actions are no longer feasible. This business case will be reviewed in relation to the current risk and budgetary requirements. This approach allows MTCBC to make informed decisions to best suit the Council moving forward in considering the current position. Following the first review period all of the non-staffing projects are green. Monitoring will continue on all projects with updates and potential escalation being taken to the CWPB. The total savings approved following both meetings was approximately £2.4M.
- 4.3 An information update report is set to go to Council in December 2019 regarding progress on the deferred items from the 17th and 23rd October 2019. This is summarised below:

- 4.3.1 Recommendation 2.3 (17th October 2019) – Saving 2020/21: £28,464 - The funding of the Taf Bargoed Warden and vehicle via the ‘Friends of Taff Bargoed’ Micro Hydro lease agreement, be approved – Negotiations between MTCBC and the ‘Friends of Taff Bargoed’ are taking place. These negotiations are regarding the terms of the lease. It is anticipated that this work will be finished in February 2020 and will then be brought back to Council.
- 4.3.2 Recommendation 2.4 (17th October 2019) – Saving 2020/21: £21,854 - The removal of the Toilet Attendant/Litter Picker post working at Cyfarthfa Park and re-negotiation of the SLA with the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust be noted – This forms part of the on-going engagement with the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust.
- 4.3.3 Recommendation 2.16.1 (17th October 2019) – Saving 2020/21: £22,379 - The establishment of MTCBC as a cashless Council (i.e. the Council does not accept cash payments across all services and estate), be approved – This proposal is going to public consultation following purdah. It should be noted that recommendations 2.16.2 and 2.16.3 will follow from the outcome of 2.16.1.
- 4.3.4 Recommendation 2.9 (23rd October 2019) – Saving 2020/21: £46,000 - The closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre one day a week and reduction of daily opening hours by three in the summer months be approved – Proposals as to which days to best close the locations have been developed. The opening and closing times are being developed. Once complete this will be taken back to Council. It is anticipated that this will be taken back to Council early in the New Year.

5.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- 5.1 It is important that the approved and deferred recommendations from the 17th and 23rd October 2019 are concluded within the set timescales to ensure savings are realised and staffing issues addressed.
- 5.2 The MTCBC Change Programme is being refocused. Following this and a review of capacity across MTCBC, the sustainability of the Council can be addressed.
- 5.3 The actions from the recent review by John Gilbert should be addressed and feed into the refocussing of the Change Programme.

6.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 6.1 Deliver of approved recommendations from the 17th and 23rd October 2019.
- 6.2 Refocus the Change Programme including actions from the recent review by John Gilbert.

7.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

7.1 This report concerns an update on the Change Programme following the approval of recommendations from the Council meetings of the 17th and 23rd October 2019. Each of these projects will have their own independent impact assessments.

The table below identified the summary from the Integrated Impact Assessment.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The main positive impacts are against the well-being objectives and sustainable development principles. Projects are aligned to meeting the well-being objectives. Forward plans and projects are to be delivered via the 5 ways of working.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts.</p>			

ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
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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