



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	25 th March 2020
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Service Area	Change & Performance
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	22 nd April 2020

*To: Mayor, Ladies and
Gentlemen*

Statement of Wellbeing & 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 into legislation.
- 1.2 Together with this, the Act states the ways in which we should work to achieve the goals (sustainable development principle). These are known as the five ways of working i.e. long term; preventative; involvement; integration; collaboration. To embed this change, MTCBC's 'Shared Vision' document makes the connections from the seven national Wellbeing Goals through to the local objectives and priorities.
- 1.3 This Corporate Wellbeing Plan has developed year on year as a result of lessons learned. As we moved from year one to year two of implementation, lessons learned demonstrated that our original processes would benefit from refocus. This led to streamlining the initial nine wellbeing objectives to four. The rationale for this was to remove some of the naturally occurring siloes, whilst also sharpening governance arrangements.
- 1.4 The Council's Statement of Wellbeing reaffirms 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's been set out in the Focus on the Future Plan. This Plan goes into the detail of how and what we will do to achieve our wellbeing objectives. On refocus of the Plan in readiness for year four implementation, there has been no evidence to

indicate there is a need to change or amend the four themes and corresponding wellbeing objectives.

- 1.5 Over the past years, the impact of austerity has impacted heavily on communities across the County Borough.
- 1.6 To ensure that consideration is given to how the Council can help people tackle poverty in all service areas and to positively respond to the feedback received during scrutiny meetings during 2019/2020; we have integrated the former draft Tackling Poverty Strategy into the Corporate Wellbeing Plan. This feedback has come through at Council and Cabinet meetings together with several officer meetings. Interestingly this point was identified as a barrier in workshops conducted by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) as part of their work testing progress against the Working Life – Skills and Employment and Best Start – Flying Start themes. This has enabled us to identify the current scope of support available to communities whilst also supporting the identification of any gaps or areas of need which we should consider moving forward.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

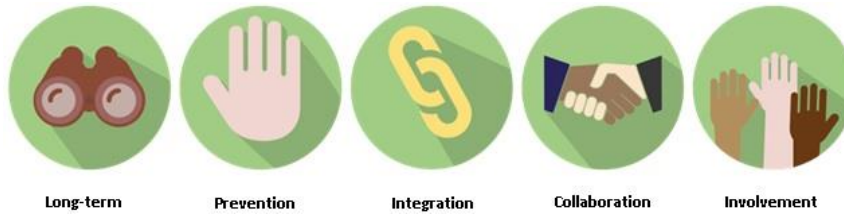
- 2.1 The 'Statement of Wellbeing' and 'Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community' documents be approved.

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 regional Single Integrated Plan (SIP). However, each Council, and indeed areas across Wales, was not necessarily working towards a common goal.
- 3.2 Upon receiving Royal Assent, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 passed into law. The Act introduced seven wellbeing goals. These national goals are:

The 7 National Wellbeing Goals						
A Prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A Healthier Wales	A More Equal Wales	A Wales of Cohesive Communities	A Wales of Thriving Welsh Language & Culture	A Globally Responsible Wales

- 3.3 The Act states the ways in which we should work to achieve the goals by placing a duty on public bodies to work using the sustainable development principle, also known as the five ways of working:



The five ways of working should also be used to test what is being done within service areas and offer the challenge around doing different things. This methodology has been used as part of the Council's corporate self-evaluation process during 2019/2020. Additionally, it is for this reason that our integrated impact assessment ensures all these factors are assessed against each report that is presented to Cabinet and Council.

- 3.4 The Act requires each Public Services Board (PSB) and Council to work with their communities. As a core member of the Cwm Taf PSB, the Council undertook substantial involvement and engagement activities with our communities to identify community need and developed a joint needs assessment. This assessment provided the core evidence that supported the Council to develop its wellbeing objectives.
- 3.5 As the Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future documents were being developed, the Council's 'Our Shared Vision' document was revised and refocused to reflect the changed position.
- The Statement of Wellbeing sets out our local Wellbeing Objectives for the community; i.e. **why** we are doing this.
 - The Focus on the Future document goes into the detail of **how** and **what** we will do to achieve our wellbeing objectives.
 - The Shared Vision document outlines how the Council's wellbeing objectives align and complement the PSB's objectives and the priorities set out by Cabinet.
- 3.6 The first iteration of the Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future was approved by Council on 11th July 2017, with subsequent refocussed iterations approved annually.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 At the end of the first year of implementation a number of lessons were learned. Evidence demonstrated that the four themes contained within the plan were working well however, there were some elements which required refocusing to ensure improved deliverability and reduction of duplication. The areas identified are listed below:

4.1.1 Evidence and stakeholder feedback suggested operating with nine

wellbeing objectives had been a barrier to the ways in which teams worked on occasions. Review showed evidence of Officers were having to report on activities at multiple meetings where they were contributing to more than one wellbeing objective; this took them away from delivering their projects, services and activities and this needed to be addressed and the situation improved.

Discussions at Corporate Management Team identified that by reducing the number of wellbeing objectives from nine to four; the structure would enable the Council's response to the realigned wellbeing objectives to be restructured to ensure that, though the scope of the wellbeing objectives was now broadened, the response was not diminished but realigned to meet the identified needs.

4.1.2 Each wellbeing objective had been taken to a related scrutiny committee on a rolling basis in the first year. The scrutiny committees involved were:

- Learning & LASCYP;
- Regeneration & Public Protection;
- Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning; and
- Social Services.

The four committees received updates on each of the nine wellbeing objectives on multiple occasions over a five month period. This frequency of reporting added additional pressure to officers as well as adding items to already congested Committee Work Programmes. Following discussion and review with key stakeholders, it was agreed that moving forward thematic reports on the wellbeing objectives would be presented annually to the Governance scrutiny committee. Some of the key wellbeing activities would be picked up for closer scrutiny by the remaining four scrutiny committees as part of their Work Programmes.

4.2 When presenting the refocused Statement of Wellbeing and Focus on the Future documents for review and approval at Council (17th April 2018), these proposed amendments to governance arrangements were outlined and all were approved. The changes to governance arrangements were actioned with immediate effect.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

5.1 The Council has just completed its third year of implementing the Corporate Plan. The wellbeing themes and objectives remain unchanged from the third year to the fourth year of the Plan. These are set out below.

Theme	Wellbeing Objective
Best Start to Life	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	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	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

- 5.2 Streamlined governance arrangements have been implemented with each wellbeing objective being monitored through annual thematic reports to the Governance Scrutiny Committee. This Committee is made-up of the Chairs of all scrutiny committees which has enhanced the ability to ask diverse and sector-specific questions to provide assurance to scrutineers across the scrutiny function. This provides assurance that the plan is being implemented appropriately and progress is being made against the outcomes within it.
- 5.3 Findings from the Council’s self-evaluation process has been used as a source of evidence when developing the plan going forward. Additionally, the plan will now be used as a tool to ensure that service priorities continue to align with Council objectives and priorities.
- 5.4 As required by the Act, MTCBC has to fulfil its statutory duty and publish a Statement of Wellbeing and the Focus on the Future Plan. Before this is done, officers will once again refocus the plan, as expected through continuous improvement. The key findings from the refocusing exercise has incorporated and considered feedback received from Governance Committee Members and officers from across the Council. This feedback has enabled us to make a number of changes within the plan; details of these changes can be found in **Appendix 1**. The Statement of Wellbeing can be found in **Appendix 2** and the Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community document in **Appendix 3**.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 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. These include the Wales Audit Office and 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 to be delivered, monitored and assessed.
- 6.3 The Council’s enhanced self-evaluation approach will continue to be implemented.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no specific financial implications identified in this report. Any financial implications arising from the delivery of the plan will be reported to Cabinet/Council as appropriate, including potential options for funding.

8.0 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 <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impacts are concerning the local well-being objectives and five ways of working under the Act.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts.</p>			

Appendix 1 – You Said, We Did

Appendix 2 – Statement of Wellbeing

Appendix 3 – Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our community

ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.