

# Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

(Includes Well-being of Future Generations, Protected Characteristics, Welsh Language, Socio-economic Disadvantage, Sustainability and Biodiversity, Consultation/Engagement and Data/Evidence)



Before completing this Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), please refer to the corresponding **guidance document**, which provides essential background information.

An IIA MUST be completed for:

- Any Council / Cabinet report.
- Any strategic decisions being taken where due regard is required to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.
- Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
- Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.

This IIA helps to support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation. This IIA must be completed at the start of any project or proposal.

<b>Title of Report / Project:</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan Update – Financing the Recovery, Transformation and Improvement (RTI) Plan				
<b>Officer completing IIA:</b>	Steve Jones				
<b>Lead Officer / Project Manager:</b>	Steve Jones				
<b>Service:</b>	Finance				
<b>IIA completion date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021				
<b>Type of proposal: (please place an X in the relevant box)</b>	Policy	x	Strategy		Plan
	Practice		Restructure		Procedure
	Other (please identify):				
<b>Give a brief description of the proposal including the aims, and any links to relevant reports or documents:</b>	<p>The proposal relates to the financing of the Recovery, Transformation and Improvement (RTI) Plan. This is a crucial link to the Improvement and Assurance Board's work.</p> <p>In supporting the RTI Plan it is critical to determine the finance required to enable the successful delivery of priority outcomes within an affordable financial envelope.</p>				

**1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives**

**Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives?**  
 How does your proposal help to deliver any or all of the Council's Well-being Objectives?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Best Start to Life -</b> 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.	X			The proposal is a major contributing factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council thus enabling the continued delivery of essential Council services. Investment includes monies linked to the Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) Strategy.	Continued robust financial management and monitoring of performance in achieving specified desired outcomes..
<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 an attractive destination.	X			The proposal is a major contributing factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council thus enabling the continued delivery of essential Council services. Investment includes monies linked to Economic Recovery and the Commercial Programme.	Continued robust financial management and monitoring of performance in achieving specified desired outcomes..
<b>Environmental Well-being -</b> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.	X			The proposal is a major contributing factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council thus enabling the continued delivery of essential Council services. Investment includes monies linked to Environmental Wellbeing through Neighbourhood Services Recovery.	Continued robust financial management and monitoring of performance in achieving specified desired outcomes..
<b>Living Well -</b> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel	X			The proposal is a major contributing factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council thus enabling the continued delivery of essential Council services.	Continued robust financial management and monitoring of performance in achieving specified desired outcomes..

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Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.				Investment includes monies linked to Social Services Resilience.	

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section ‘Data and Evidence’):**

Over the 5 year period 2021/22 to 2025/26, the proposal invests £749,000 supporting the ‘Best Start to Life’ wellbeing objective, £734,000 supporting the ‘Working Life’ wellbeing objective, £499,000 supporting the ‘Environmental Wellbeing’ wellbeing objective and £1,113,000 supporting the ‘Living Well’ wellbeing objective. In addition, investment in cross cutting themes such as Governance, Healthy Organisation, Digital Transformation and supporting delivery of the RTI Plan total £1,370,000 and also contribute in supporting the four priority wellbeing objectives.

## 2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

### Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how any proposals improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, whilst also looking to the future, planning for the long term and ensuring that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Please consider the national well-being goals when completing this section.

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working when developing the proposal?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
<b>Long Term</b> - Thinking and planning for the long term, balancing short term and long term needs.	Effective and efficient financing of the RTI Plan will enable the delivery of the outcomes included within the Plan and is fundamental to the long-term sustainability of the Council.	Achievement of outcomes monitored. Before proposal supported the investment had to demonstrate either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A financial return</li> <li>○ Avoidance of future costs</li> <li>○ Service resilience</li> <li>○ Risk mitigation</li> <li>○ Improved performance</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b> - Preventing problems occurring or getting worse.	By addressing key questions such as 'avoidance of future costs', 'service resilience', 'risk mitigation' consideration is given at inception to investing to prevent or mitigate potential problems.	As above
<b>Integration</b> - Impact on our well-being objectives, national well-being goals and the well-being objectives of other public bodies.	Proposal supports investment in Council wellbeing objectives of 'Best Start in Life', 'Working Well', 'Living Well' and 'Environmental Wellbeing' which in turn integrate with national objectives.	As above
<b>Collaboration</b> - Acting in collaboration with others inside and outside the Council.	The RTI Plan was developed in collaboration with WG, Improvement and Assurance Board, Elected Members, Employees, Third Sector stakeholders.	As above
<b>Involvement</b> - Involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and who reflect the diversity of our communities.	Financing of the Plan has involved engagement with Elected Members and Improvement and Assurance Board.	As above

### Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

Member workshops to consider specific elements of the RTI Plan.

Member Workshop to consider financing of the RTI Plan.

Monthly presentations to the Improvement and Assurance Board in progress against RTI Plan specified outcomes.

### 3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

**Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?**

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Age</b> - People of all ages.			X	Neutral impact since investment proposals are not discriminatory towards any protected characteristic.	Financing proposals to support the delivery of the RTI Plan enables the achievement of outcomes across all wellbeing objectives benefitting all protected characteristics.
<b>Disability</b> - People with disabilities/long term conditions.			X	As above	As above
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> - People whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth.			X	As above	As above
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b> - People who are married or in a civil partnership.			X	As above	As above
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> - Women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave.			X	As above	As above

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Race</b> - People from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds.			X	As above	As above
<b>Religion or Belief</b> - People with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs.			X	As above	As above
<b>Sex (Gender)</b> - Women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender.			X	As above	As above
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual.			X	As above	As above
<b>Welsh Language</b>					
The Welsh Language Wales Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.					
<b>Welsh Language</b> - Opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh language, treating the Welsh language no less favourably			X	As above	As above

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
than the English language, compliance with Welsh Language Standards, links with internal and external Welsh Language strategies.					

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):**

All proposals contribute to the delivery of wellbeing objectives and are non-discriminatory.

#### 4. Socio-economic Disadvantage (Strategic Decisions)

##### Does your proposal impact/deliver better outcomes for those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

The Socio-economic Duty places a responsibility on the Council to have 'due regard' to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. This duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality at the heart of key decision-making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services.

Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on socio-economic disadvantage for service users, employees and/or the wider community? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? What steps will be taken to reduce inequalities of outcome? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Low Income/Income Poverty</b> - Unable to afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport, other essential items etc.			X	RTI Plan investment addresses all wellbeing objectives but has no specific impact on this socio-economic disadvantage category.	This proposal deals with financing the RTI Plan only. The RTI Plan itself will further consider socio-economic issues within specific workstreams and as the Plan is further developed and refined.
<b>Low and/or No Wealth</b> - Enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.			X	As above	As above



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Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Material Deprivation</b> - Unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies etc.			X	As above	As above
<b>Area Deprivation</b> - Where you live e.g. rural areas, and where you work e.g. accessibility of public transport.			X	As above	As above
<b>Socio-economic Background</b> - Social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income.			X	As above	As above
<b>Socio-economic Disadvantage</b> - What			X	As above	As above

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Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged?					

##### Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

The RTI Plan investment supports the delivery of the RTI Plan benefitting the whole community.

## 5. Consultation and Engagement

### What consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken to inform the development of the proposal?

There may be a legal requirement to consult in some instances, or a legitimate expectation that consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, the Gunning Principles must be adhered to.

- The proposals are still at a formative stage.
- There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'.
- There is adequate time for consideration and response.
- 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.

Please consider: Protected Characteristic groups, those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, communities and places of interest, other stakeholders, forums, community groups and community councils. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Consultation and Engagement	Has consultation and/or engagement been undertaken on the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Briefly describe any recent or planned consultation and/or engagement exercises, paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles. Please identify when the consultation and/or engagement took place or will take place, or why it is not required.	Who was consulted/engaged with? Was sufficient information provided to allow an informed decision on the proposal to be made? What were the key findings of the consultation and/or engagement? Have these findings been taken into account? Is further consultation and/or engagement required?
	Undertaken	Due to be undertaken	Not required		
Requirement for consultation and/or engagement to be undertaken, or a legitimate expectation that it will take place.			X	Consultation not required since the investment is an enabler in achieving desired outcomes within the RTI Plan.	Internal engagement has been undertaken with CMT, Cabinet and Improvement & Assurance Board.

### Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

Not applicable

**6. Data and Evidence**

**What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal?**

Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultation or engagement exercises, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and reports, future trends, horizon scanning, business plans etc. Consider the sources of evidence from all of the sections in your explanation.

Data and Evidence	Has data and evidence been used in order to inform the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.		What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? What have been the key findings of this data and evidence? Has this data and evidence helped to inform the proposal?	How has the data and evidence helped to inform the proposal? If the data and evidence did not support the proposal, why was this? Have there been any gaps identified? If so, what steps will be taken to cover the identified gaps?
	Yes	No		
Data and evidence used in order to inform the proposal.	X		Investment submissions from workstream Lead Officers. Proposals challenged against key questions by CMT and Cabinet. Affordability of proposals assessed.	The data and evidence have provided assurance and confidence to CMT, Cabinet and Improvement and Assurance Board that scarce financial resources are being allocated to priority areas in enabling the delivery of desired outcomes.

**Sources of evidence to support the above:**

Assessment of investment proposals against key questions.

**7. Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems**

**How does your proposal impact on Biodiversity and therefore the resilience of Ecosystems?**

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 we must seek to maintain and enhance Biodiversity within the proper exercise of our functions. In doing so, we must also seek to promote the resilience of Ecosystems.

Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems	What is the expected impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box.				Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity? How do you know when this has been achieved?
	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral		
To maintain and enhance Biodiversity (and therefore promote the resilience of Ecosystems).				X	The proposals support achievement of RTI Plan outcomes but do not specifically relate to biodiversity.	Potential to further consider when RTI Plan further refined.

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):**

Not applicable

## 8. Summary

As a result of completing this IIA, please identify below;

- The number of positive, negative or neutral scores for the Council's Well-being objectives, the sustainable development principles, protected characteristics including Welsh Language and Socio-economic disadvantage.
- If consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken, is due to take place or is not required.
- If data and evidence has been used in order to inform the proposal.
- If the proposal maintains, enhances or reduces the resilience of ecosystems.

The table below should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable
<b>1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives</b>	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4
<b>2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul>	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
<b>3. Protected Characteristics</b> (including Welsh Language)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
<b>4. Socio-economic Disadvantage</b>	0 of 6	0 of 6	6 of 6
<b>5. Consultation and Engagement</b>	<b>Undertaken</b>	<b>Due to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<b>6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>
	1 of 1		0 of 1
<b>7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems</b>	<b>Maintained</b>	<b>Enhanced</b>	<b>Reduced</b>
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<b>Summary</b>			
<b>The main positive impacts are:</b>	The investment proposals support the delivery of the RTI Plan in the achievement of desired outcomes benefitting the whole community within an affordable financial envelope.		
<b>The main negative impacts are:</b>	None identified.		

**9. Actions**

**Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts identified in the Summary section above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?**

Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better inform this proposal e.g. whether further consultation is required or more data and evidence is required to better inform the proposal.

<b>What are you going to do?</b>	<b>Estimated completion date</b>	<b>Who will be responsible?</b>	<b>Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc.</b>	<b>Progress</b>
No changes required.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**10. Version Control**

**The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of the development of the proposal and decision making process, and then honed and refined throughout to strengthen and shape the proposal. This section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time.**

Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have delivered the sustainable development principles.

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>

**11. Monitoring and Review**

**The implementation and the impact of the proposal should be monitored and reviewed throughout the development of the proposal.**

Please identify how the proposal will be monitored and reviewed as it progresses, including the implementation of any amendments identified.

<b>How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal and any amendments be monitored?</b>	Exact details to be determined but will be through the Transformation Programme.
<b>When will the proposal be reviewed? How frequently will this take place?</b>	To be determined
<b>Who is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the proposal?</b>	CMT

**12. IIA Approval**

<b>IIA Approved by:</b>	Steve Jones	<b>Job Title:</b>	Chief Finance Officer	<b>IIA Approval date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
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