

# **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

## **Cabinet Meeting: 22 February, 2016**

### **Report of the Leader**

### **Corporate Plan 2016-20**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Corporate Plan 2016-20.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Cabinet notes the changes to the plan following the consultation process and recommends any further amendments that are deemed to be required prior to final consideration of the plan by Council on the 2nd March 2016.

#### **Reason for the Recommendation**

1. To ensure the Council has an effective and up to date Corporate Plan which reflects the work being undertaken across the Council to improve the quality of life in the Vale of Glamorgan.

#### **Background**

2. The current Corporate Plan was approved in 2013. It sets out a vision for the Council up to 2017 and is structured around eight corporate priorities. In June 2015 Cabinet agreed that a review of the current plan should be undertaken and agreed a way forward and a timetable for the review (Minute C2822). On the 14th December 2015 Cabinet agreed a draft Corporate Plan for consultation which has been circulated to partners and been made available to the public via the Council's website (Minute C3011). Each of the Council's five Scrutiny committees considered the draft plan in January and the revised plan was then reported to Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 9th February 2016 for any further comments.
3. The draft Corporate Plan ([Appendix A](#)) sets the Council's priorities for the next four years as well as its vision, values and well-being objectives. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan outlines how the Corporate Plan is to be funded. Work has been undertaken to ensure that these plans are aligned and reflect the priorities for the Vale of Glamorgan.

## Relevant Issues and Options

4. Work on the new Corporate Plan began in September 2015 and the plan has been drafted in parallel with the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and during a time of significant and sustained pressure on public finances. The priorities for the next four years have been developed in full recognition of the financial climate and the achievability of the actions associated. There is also a recognition that in light of future budgetary decisions there will be a need to review and potentially amend the plan. Increasingly the Council will need to work with its partners and communities to identify alternative ways of delivering services.
5. The plan was drafted with due regard to the draft guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations Act issued by Welsh Government. The final guidance is still awaited.
6. The draft plan begins by setting the scene in terms of key facts and figures about the Vale of Glamorgan as an area, the Council as an organisation and the Council's vision and values. The plan details the factors that have influenced the new plan's creation which include:
  - information regarding what has been achieved through the Corporate Plan 2013-17
  - an overview of local needs e.g. demographic trends
  - available resources and the need to reshape services to meet future challenges
  - details of staff engagement activities
  - engagement with partners and residents
  - the importance of partnership working
  - the Council's duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
7. The delivery element of the draft plan is framed around four well-being outcomes and there are two well-being objectives to support each outcome. Workshops were held on each of the proposed well-being outcomes and these informed the development of the well-being objectives and associated actions.
8. The final parts of the plan demonstrate the Council's approach to strategic planning and recognition of the need to have robust arrangements in place. This is followed by details of actions which will support integrated planning and which will be instrumental to ensuring we have the foundations in place to promote sustainable development. Details of how the plan will be monitored are included towards the end of the plan.
9. During the consultation period work was undertaken to identify relevant measures linked to each of the well-being outcomes and to ensure that appropriate performance management arrangements are in place. Performance reports will be developed as part of the new performance management framework and used to monitor the delivery of the Corporate Plan outcomes and overall "corporate health".
10. The Act's draft guidance also states that "Public bodies must publish a statement about their well-being objectives at the same time that they publish their well-being objectives. To avoid duplication, both requirements should be contained in the Corporate Plan (or similar document)". A summary has been included at the end of the plan which gives an overview of the plan and which also meets the requirements of the well-being statement. It is intended that this will be a useful way of communicating the Corporate Plan with staff and other stakeholders.

11. The draft plan was presented to elected members at a member briefing session in December 2015. The draft plan was formally considered by all five of the Council's Scrutiny committees in January 2016 alongside the proposed new performance management framework.
12. External consultation was undertaken between 9th December 2015 and 20th January 2016. Vale of Glamorgan residents and relevant stakeholders were invited to submit comments on the draft Corporate Plan either online, in writing or via the Council's contact centre. To ensure that residents were aware of the consultation the project was promoted online and in the local press. In addition to this members of the LSB citizens' panel were invited by email to respond. Information about the consultation was also circulated to all voluntary organisations operating in the Vale by Glamorgan by Glamorgan Voluntary Services.
13. Amendments have been made to the plan in light of comments received and a copy of the feedback report is attached as [Appendix B](#). The feedback report details the comments made and any subsequent changes that have been made to the plan.
14. The on-line survey asked respondents for a view on the Council's proposed well-being objectives. 84% of respondents agreed that the objectives were worthy under the well-being outcome 'An Inclusive and Safe Vale'. 87% of respondents agreed that the objectives under 'An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale' were worthy and 77% of respondents thought the objectives under 'An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale' were worthy. Finally 87% of respondents thought the objectives under 'An Active and Healthy Vale' were worthy objectives for the Council to work towards.
15. Officers from the communications team held discussions with members of a local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender coffee morning group who meet on a monthly basis in Barry. Generally the group were happy with the proposals. They made specific reference to a number of issues that they have encountered and that they feel need to be addressed.
16. Officers from the communications team also attended a meeting with the Vale Youth Cabinet. The group were provided with an overview of the reshaping services programme to date and an explanation of the objectives identified within the draft Corporate Plan. The chair stated that the group were happy with the objectives identified. It was agreed that the Youth Cabinet would work closely with the relevant officers to produce a summary of the document which will be more accessible to young people. The Youth Cabinet also submitted a response to the online survey as a group.
17. The vast majority of respondents agreed with the objectives identified in the draft Corporate Plan. The joint Corporate Plan and budget consultation exercise also demonstrated that the Council should continue to look at new ways of delivering services and work closely with the local community. Comments were made regarding a wide range of services in terms of suggestions for priorities and improvements and this information will also be used to inform annual service plans. A number of comments were received with regard to tackling poverty being the responsibility of Welsh Government and not the Council; however this remains a priority for the Council to contribute to this important agenda. Overall the comments were supportive of the plan and the priorities identified e.g. on attracting businesses, improving transport and regeneration and encouraging tourism, providing services for those who are vulnerable, improving housing and education.

18. Many of the activities included in the Corporate Plan will be delivered over a number of years. The actions included in the Service Plans will set out year on year the activities that will be undertaken to achieve these objectives and monitoring of the actions will provide the foundations for an annual progress report on the Corporate Plan which will detail the outcomes achieved.
19. The revised plan was considered by Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 9th February 2016 who endorsed the draft plan.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

20. It is essential that the Corporate Plan is sustainable in financial terms and that the corporate planning process matches the financial planning process through the medium term financial plan and annual budgets. All actions included in the plan will need to have resources already committed to their achievement or the likely prospect of such resources being made available in the plan period to achieve the council's corporate priorities. Future reviews of the plan will need to take account of available resources.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

21. The Corporate Plan emphasises the Council's commitment to promoting sustainable development and our understanding of our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The many different aspects of sustainability (environment, economy, culture and social) are covered within the plan as well as how the Council will maximise its contribution to the well-being goals.
22. The implications of climate change are also reflected in the plan, for example, through objectives relating to flood management, shoreline management and carbon management.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

23. The drafting of the Corporate Plan has been undertaken with reference to the new duties placed on the Council under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

24. Activities to improve community safety are included in the draft plan and one of the well-being outcomes is 'An Inclusive and Safe Vale' with a supporting objective 'providing decent homes and safe communities'.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

25. The Corporate Plan will be published bi-lingually and has due regard to the Council's Strategic Equality Plan. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as [Appendix C](#). Further impact assessments will be undertaken of the individual projects within the plan as necessary.
26. 'An Inclusive and Safe Vale' is one of the well-being outcomes in the plan with a supporting objective 'reducing poverty and social exclusion'. There is also a well-being outcome 'An Aspirational and culturally vibrant Vale' with a supporting action 'valuing culture and diversity'.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

27. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's corporate objectives and work will be undertaken to ensure consistency with the Council's Improvement Objectives. Service Plans will also be reviewed to reflect the new Corporate Plan.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

28. The Corporate Plan will need to be approved by Council.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

29. Consultation included an on-line questionnaire, circulation of the draft Corporate Plan to a range of stakeholders including the Local Service Board, Vale 50+ Strategy Forum, Town and Community Councils, Youth Cabinet and Youth Forum and all five Scrutiny Committees.
30. To ensure the consultation is fully accessible to all Vale residents hard copies were made available on request and respondents were able to submit their views online, in writing and by telephone. There were also a number of face-to-face engagement sessions with community groups that represent residents with protected characteristics, as defined under the Equality Act (2010).
31. The Corporate Plan is relevant to all wards and individual member consultation was therefore not appropriate.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

32. The draft plan was considered by all scrutiny committees in January 2016 as part of the consultation process. Following the consultation the revised plan was referred to the Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources) prior to Cabinet and Council approval.

## **Background Papers**

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015  
Shared Purpose: Shared Future - (Draft) Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations Act (parts 1-4)  
Vale of Glamorgan Community Strategy 2011-21 and Delivery Plan 2014-18

## **Contact Officer**

Huw Isaac - Head of Performance and Development

## **Officers Consulted**

Corporate Management Team  
Operational Manager - Policy & Performance

## **Responsible Officer:**

Huw Isaac - Head of Performance and Development