

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 25TH APRIL, 2016

REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION) - 13TH APRIL, 2016

“ IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 1 (IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2016/17) (DEH) -

Committee received a report which sought endorsement of proposed Improvement Objectives for 2016/17.

The Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Cabinet on 22nd February, 2016 and by Council on 2nd March, 2016 following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The Plan set the Council's priorities for the next four years as well as its vision, values and wellbeing objectives. Work had been undertaken to ensure that these plans were aligned and reflected the priorities for the Vale of Glamorgan. These objectives were also reflected in service plans for 2016/17.

The proposed Improvement Objectives and associated actions for 2016/17 reflected the four wellbeing outcomes in the Corporate Plan, ensuring that the Council was focussing on the areas in need of the most improvement.

The annual Corporate Self-Assessment, had also informed Improvement Objectives for the same period along with the Council's Risk Register, consultation on the Corporate Plan priorities for 2016-20, current regulatory assessments and progress re existing Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

Five Improvement Objectives were proposed for 2016/17 as follows:

- Objective 1 (Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion)
- Objective 2 (Promoting Regeneration, Informing Growth and Employment)
- Objective 3 (Raising Overall Standards of Achievement)
- Objective 4 (Encouraging and Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles)
- Objective 5 (Deliver the Council's Transformational Programme, 'Reshaping Services' to Meet the Future Needs of Citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan, Within the Context of Unprecedented Financial Challenges).

The five Objectives comprised:

- Proposals for two new objectives which related to Objective 1 (Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion) and Objective 4 (Encouraging and Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles).
- Two amendments to existing objectives were proposed which related to Objective 2 (Promoting Regeneration, Economic Growth and Employment)

and Objective 3 (Raising Overall Standards of Achievement). Extending the area of focus for the Council in 2016/17 brought these in line with the broader objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20.

- It was also proposed that one current objective be carried forward into 2016/17 to reflect the continued focus on Reshaping Services to meet future needs of all Vale citizens (Objective 5).

None of the objectives applied specifically to this Committee although the work of the Committee contributed towards Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Appendix 1 to the report outlined the proposed objectives for 2016/17 and provided a rationale for each Objective.

It was a requirement that the Improvement Objectives and the proposed Objectives be published on the Council's Website from March 2016, inviting comments from the public. Scrutiny Committees were also consulted as would the other key stakeholders including the Local Service Board, Town and Community Councils, voluntary sector organisations and local businesses. Proposals would be made to Cabinet based on the findings from the consultation.

Challenging targets had been set against all measures for improvement reflecting the Council's commitment to continuously improve the services it provides to citizens of the Vale. At the same time, the Council was also mindful of significant financial and service demand pressures over the coming year and key targets and milestones for proposed Improvement Objectives had been set within this context. This meant that in some areas for example, it would be an achievement to maintain existing levels of service performance whilst absorbing reductions in funding, managing increasing service demand or both. Such issues would be taken into account during internal challenge of proposed Improvement Objectives and targets.

Improvement Objectives would be revised to reflect relevant Cabinet amendments and would be considered by Council on 27th April, 2016.

Having considered the contents of the report and the Improvement Objectives 2016/17, the general consensus was expressed that Committee found the outcomes to be good. Concern was expressed however, that the intended outcomes and the planned actions were inadequate and bore no resemblance to each other.

The outcomes, actions and measures were in separate lists that were not linked. It was felt that each action must have the relevant actions linked to it, and the progress measures should be specifically linked to the outcome or the action that they measure.

A Member expressed the view that nothing could be done until baselines had been established. Furthermore, the information contained in the Improvement Plan had left the Councillor baffled - it was important that the information be concise and clear.

Having considered the report it was

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the proposed Improvement Objectives for 2016/17 be endorsed and that Cabinet be informed of the view of the Committee that each Improvement Objective must be linked to its outcomes and actions.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure the Council identified key annual improvement priorities for 2016/17 in line with requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.”