

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016

REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH):  
11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016

“ IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 1 (IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2016/17)  
(DSS) –

The Committee’s views were sought in relation to the proposed improvement objectives for 2016/17.

The Corporate Plan was a key means of the Council complying with the Local Government Measure 2009, which required the Council to set improvement objectives annually and to demonstrate continuous improvement.

The Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016 and by Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016 following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The Plan set out 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 Council. These outcomes would also be reflected in service plans for 2016/17.

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

Five improvement objectives had been proposed for 2016/17, which were as follows:

- Objective 1 (reducing poverty and social exclusion)
- Objective 2 (promoting regeneration, economic 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 the following:

- 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 would bring these in line with the broader objectives as 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).

Objective 4 applied specifically to this Committee, however, the work of the Committee would also contribute towards Objectives 1, 3 and 5. Appendix 1 to the report outlined proposed objectives for 2016/17 and provided a rationale for each objective. The measures to be undertaken to make a difference were identified, including a sponsoring Director with responsibility for ensuring the achievement of key outcomes.

A Committee Member commented that this represented a new way of working for the Committee, particularly in relation to public health issues. With regard to the new suite of performance indicators that had been identified for the purpose of monitoring, the Member alluded to the amount of work previously undertaken by the Committee to ensure that measures were relevant. He went on to state that it would be his preference if performance was compared on the basis of the top quartile in Wales as opposed to the Welsh Average. He mentioned that some of the data provided was not current and so he considered that to date there was a lack of information which would make it difficult to set performance targets. He also had some reservations because some of the indicators were not fully outcome based.

The Chairman agreed with the comments made by the Member and he highlighted that even Welsh Average figures were currently not available.

In response to these comments, the Director of Social Services stated that there were some inevitable tensions between the need to make quick progress with the new approach in readiness for the new performance year and the fact that the Council was trying to adopt a new objective where work was needed to define how this would be measured. Even where measures had been proposed, there were data gaps. In his opinion, it would be helpful to have further dialogue with local Public Health officials. With their help, the Directorate may be able to design some very relevant indicators to which the Council was able to contribute. This would be in keeping with the Population Needs Assessment which was being undertaken by the new Regional Partnership Board in the new financial year as part of its responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and which Public Health had been asked to take a key role. Given the process for approving the Improvement Objectives, there was still an opportunity to refine how the Council would monitor progress.

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** Cabinet be informed that the Scrutiny Committee, at this stage, does not endorse the proposed Improvement Objective 4 for 2016/17.

#### Reason for recommendation

Due to concerns about the proposed performance indicators for use in measuring how progress to achieve Objective 4 will be monitored.”

Attached as Appendix - [Report to Scrutiny Committee \(Social Care and Health\) - 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016](#)