

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 19 June, 2017

Report of the Leader of the Council

Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Objectives and Improvement Plan Part 1 (Improvement Objectives 2017/18)

Purpose of the Report

1. The report draws to the Cabinet's attention the Council's Well-being Objectives and Improvement Plan Part 1 specifically relating to 2017/18, as directed by the Auditor General for Wales following his audit of the Plan.

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet endorse the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Improvement Plan Part 1 for 2017/18 ([Appendix 1](#)) for publication.

Reason for the Recommendation

- 1 To ensure the Council fully discharges its statutory duty to set and publish its Improvement Plan Part 1, outlining how it proposes to meet its Well-being and Improvement Objectives for 2017/18.

Background

2. In April 2016, Cabinet endorsed the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives and associated priority actions for 2017/18 as the Council's Improvement Objectives for 2017/18, for the purposes of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
3. The Council's Well-being Objectives (Improvement Objectives 2017/18) were also discussed and endorsed by all Scrutiny Committees (between 13th and 21st March 2017) and presented to Cabinet for final approval on 3rd April 2017.
4. The Council has recently received its Certificate of Compliance for the Improvement Plan 2017/18, which confirms that it has discharged its duties under the Measure. However, the Auditor General for Wales noted in his comments accompanying the Certificate that in adopting the Corporate Plan as our Improvement Plan, the Council has provided limited detail on the specific actions that it intends to take during 2017/18 to deliver its Improvement Objectives and how progress will be measured and subsequently assessed. This report provides these details.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. In response to the Auditor General's comments, additional work has been undertaken to bring together into one document: our Improvement Objectives for 2017/18; the relevant Corporate Plan priorities contributing to those Objectives, the specific actions we intend to take in year to meet those Objectives and the associated measures and targets to demonstrate our progress. It also outlines how we intend to report on our progress throughout the year.
6. [Appendix 1](#) contains the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Well-being Objectives and Improvement Plan Part 1 for the period 2017/18.
7. Pages 8-35 of the Plan ([Appendix 1](#)) provides further details on each Objective including: an identified Sponsoring Director with responsibility for ensuring progress is made in achieving our intended outcomes; a brief rationale for selection of the Objective; the specific actions we will take during 2017/18 in order to progress our identified priorities; and performance indicators and targets to measure our progress.
8. The Council is required to publically communicate its Improvement Objectives to all key stakeholders including Vale residents and partners. Following approval by Cabinet, publication of the Improvement Plan Part 1 will take place via a variety of media (including social media) which will ensure the Council is complying with this requirement. Hard copies will also be made available at the Council's main reception areas and libraries.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

9. In determining its priorities the Council has been mindful of the economic situation locally and nationally and taken into account legislation changes and government policy. Key Well-being Objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 and Service Plans either have resources committed to their achievement (Medium Term Financial Plan and annual budget review) or the likely prospect of such resources being made available in the period of the plan.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

10. Sustainability issues, reflecting the Sustainable Development principle introduced by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, have been taken into account as part of the process for developing our Wellbeing Objectives.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

11. The Council has a duty to identify and publish its annual Improvement Objectives and report progress against them.
12. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to set and publish Well-being Objectives by April 2017 that maximise its contribution to achieving the Well-being goals for Wales.

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. Activities to improve community safety are included in the Corporate Plan and one of the Well-being Outcomes is 'An Inclusive and Safe Vale' with a supporting objective 'providing decent homes and safe communities'. The Council's Performance Management Framework supports the delivery of actions associated with these objectives.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

14. An Inclusive and Safe Vale' is one of the Well-being Outcomes in the Corporate 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'. The Council's Performance Management Framework supports the delivery of actions associated with these objectives.

Corporate/Service Objectives

15. The Corporate Plan 2016-20 reflects the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and identifies 4 Well-being Outcomes and 8 Objectives for the Council. These promote improvements in the economic, social and cultural well-being of residents in the Vale of Glamorgan which in turn will contribute to achieving the Well-being goals for Wales.
16. The Council's Performance Management Framework supports the delivery of all of the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and Objectives.

Policy Framework and Budget

17. The Corporate Plan's Wellbeing Outcomes and Objectives and Service Plans form part of the Council's approved policy framework and a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

18. In line with the requirement to consult on our Well-being Objectives, we have sought input from the (then) Local Service Board, Town and Community Councils, voluntary sector organisations, local businesses and the general public via an online survey, local media advertisements and social media.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

19. All. The Council's Well-being Objectives (Improvement Objectives 2017/18) were discussed and endorsed by all Scrutiny Committees (between 13th and 21st March 2017) and presented to Cabinet for final approval on 3rd April 2017.

Background Papers

[Letter to Public Bodies: Local Authority Well-being and Improvement Duties](#)
[Corporate Plan 2016-20 Report - Cabinet 22 February 2016](#) and [Corporate Plan 2016-20 Corporate proposed Corporate Performance Measures 2016/2017](#)

Vale of Glamorgan Compliance Certificate - Improvement Plan Part 1

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Officers Consulted

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