

## Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty and Communities

### 1. Portfolio priorities/objectives

Anti-Poverty Portfolio Objectives	Indicators for success	Updated information						
<p>PO 1) The effective running of the Communities First Programme – Welsh Government's tackling poverty programme in communities</p>	<p>1. The funding allocation is spent appropriately within the financial year – with minimal underspend 2. The Programme is delivering its targets and achieving the required outcomes 3. The programme is actively engaging the residents of each of the cluster areas in activities</p>	<p>1. The total grant in 2015/16 was £2,844,812. Reducing the amount of underspend being returned to the Welsh Government has been a high priority. The total amounts being returned have been reducing dramatically.</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£558,418</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£204,689</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>£146,575</td> </tr> </table> <p>Measures are in place to monitor spend closely in 16/17 to ensure the grant is maximised.</p> <p>2. 2015/16 Performance measures for WG were on Target. For 16/17 submission and approval of a single Communities First Delivery Plan for Swansea, this focused the programme on supporting people to improve their employability skills. Projects have been aligned across the whole programme and including Communities for Work and LIFT) Performance Measures for 16/17 have been set in line with the new structure of the Communities First Programme. The new structure of Communities First has now been established against three themes working across the five clusters these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Engagement and Support Team</li> <li>• Readiness for Work Team</li> <li>• Communities for Work and LIFT Team</li> </ul> <p>3. A key themes of the programme now focussed on community engagements and involvement and a dedicated team put in place for 16/17 to ensure more people are engaged and supported to benefit positively from the programme, this team works across all five cluster areas.</p>	2013/14	£558,418	2014/15	£204,689	2015/16	£146,575
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<p>PO 2) To deliver the poverty strategies main actions over the next 12 months ensuring the Council is progressing towards</p>	<p>1. The Tackling poverty action plan milestones and activities are achieved 2. The performance management framework targets are being achieved</p>	<p>1. There are 23 Actions in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, 14 of these are underway and others will be developed over the next 6 months.</p> <p>These are not actions which will all be completed over a 12-18 month period. The life of the strategy and its delivery needs to be seen over a 5-10 year + period.</p> <p>One of the actions underway is the review of the Tackling Poverty Strategy. This is part of an ongoing Scrutiny Inquiry and further work will be</p>						

Anti-Poverty Portfolio Objectives	Indicators for success	Updated information
delivering the targets for 2017.		carried out over the next 6 months to review the strategy ensuring the findings of the Integrated Impact Assessment and the Scrutiny Inquiry feed into this process
PO3) Mitigating against the impact of Welfare Reform – particularly the introduction of Universal Credit	<p>1. Production and implementation of a Local Delivery Framework/action plan for Universal Credit</p> <p>2. Effective partnerships with other public and third sector providers supporting the roll out of Universal Credit and other reforms.</p>	<p>1. Delivery of the Local plan in readiness for the roll out of Universal Credit is ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roll out of Universal Credit has been delayed in Wales due to problems with Welsh translation and the digital service; however we expect these difficulties to be overcome during 2017.</li> <li>• There have been other major changes this year; with the reduction in the backdate of housing benefit from 6 months to 4 weeks; the removal of the family premium within the new claims for housing benefit and this Autumn the benefit cap will be reduced from £26,000 to £20,000 affecting around 300 households.</li> <li>• In 2017, there will be changes affecting benefit entitlement for families with 3 or more children, which will particularly affect those in low paid employment.</li> </ul> <p>2. The Welfare Rights Team continue to provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> tier service to staff of the City and County of Swansea and other statutory and voluntary organisations working in the area via their advice line. The Welfare Rights Team are now closely aligned to work with the Welfare Benefit Officers within Communities First to build on their knowledge and increase capacity</p>

## Other areas of responsibility:

### Third Sector Funding

#### (Swansea Change Fund and Community Action Transformation Fund)

Swansea Change Fund is the City and County of Swansea's Major Third Sector Grant fund. It is a mix of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and Grants awarded in an open competition round. The Fund is currently in its final year. A Third Sector Strategy is being developed in partnership with the sector itself as part of a refresh of the former Compact Agreement. This will inform how the Third Sector will be commissioned in the future.

Community Action Transformation Fund (CATF) - The Fund was created in 2014 to support the delivery of the aims of the Community Action strand. There have been 4 rounds to date. In particular, funding will be aimed at proposals from community groups to develop proposals to run Council services locally and/or facilitate the transfer of community assets.

## **Food Enterprise Update**

A decision has been taken to test the market and viability of the food enterprise by conducting a development phase 'pilot' project. Over the next 18 months, a 'chargeable' chilled meal delivery service will be created aimed at older people.

Using Can Cook Ltd.'s 'COOKED' meals product, production kitchens will be established and a Chef employed to produce meals in Swansea. A range of community projects and responses to tackling food poverty will also be developed as part of the pilot. A full business plan will be produced and additional sources of investment will also be identified and secured.

## **Grow Local 2016/17 - £20k**

The allocation for Grow Local Grants in 16 /17 is 20K . To date one award has been made for £3,000 awarded to the Swansea Community Growing Network. Enquiries have been made by 5 organisations and it is anticipated that they will make applications to the fund in the near future.

## **Allotments**

To support the transfer of management to enable future self-management, the Estates Team will work with Allotment Associations. It is anticipated that work will begin in autumn, once a vacant post in the team is filled. Day to day management continues to be provided by the Community Food and Growing Team.

## **Homelessness Prevention**

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 was implemented in April 2015 and introduced new homelessness prevention duties. Local Councils are now required to take 'all reasonable steps' to prevent homelessness for those who are at risk of losing their home, and to take all reasonable steps to relieve homelessness for those who are already homeless.

We continue to work with partners in the statutory and voluntary sector to maintain and improve our homelessness prevention services. Key areas of focus for the next 12 months are continued development of the private rented sector locally to offer good quality affordable accommodation as a housing solution to those who need it along with developing accommodation options for persons under 35 affected by upcoming reform of Welfare benefits.

## **Community Cohesion**

The Swansea Community Cohesion Leadership Group has set out a common vision and action plan to help address issues surrounding Community Cohesion within the City & County of Swansea. The key focus areas are to:

- increase the reporting and understand of hate crime
- increase the reporting and understand of modern slavery
- increase awareness and engagement of Gypsy and Traveller communities
- Increase evidence and awareness on immigration
- policies and services are responsive to community tensions