

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance

Council – 23 March 2017

### WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES AND STATEMENT 2017/18

<b>Purpose:</b>	To set out the well-being objectives and well-being statement 2017/18 for the Council as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	<i>Delivering for Swansea Corporate Plan 2016/17</i>
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	To implement the requirements outlined within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Member, Legal, Finance and Access to Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
1)	The Council's 5 key priorities expressed in its current Corporate Plan 2016/17 are carried forward into 2017/18 as the Council's Well-Being Objectives.
2)	The Council's 'Well-Being Statement' for 2017/18 is approved.
3)	The work currently underway to review the Council's Well-Being Objectives continues after the local government elections with the newly elected Administration into 2017/18 with a new Corporate Plan published as soon as practicably possible.
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#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals for meeting the requirements set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the 'Act') for public bodies to set Well-Being Objectives.

1.2 In summary, the Act sets out:

- I. **The Well-Being Duty.** The Well-Being Duty requires public bodies to carry out sustainable development and encompasses two main obligations:
  - a. Deciding priorities – the duty to set ‘Well-Being Objectives’.
  - b. Meeting priorities – the duty to take ‘reasonable steps’.
- II. **Well-Being Statement (Public Bodies) / Local Well-Being Plans (PSB).** The duty to publish statements about Well-Being Objectives.
- III. **Annual Report.** The duty to report annually on progress toward meeting Well-Being Objectives.
- IV. **Progress.** National Milestones and Indicators.
- V. **Evidence.** Including the Future Trends Report.
- VI. **Accountability.** Auditor General Wales (Public Bodies) / Scrutiny (PSB).
- VII. **Supporting the Change.** Future Generations Commissioner.

## 2.0 Requirements for setting Well-Being Objectives

### 2.1 *Setting and Publishing ‘Well-Being Objectives’*

The Act sets out some specific proposals regarding Corporate Planning and the setting of objectives.

2.1.1 The Council must set and publish ‘*Well-Being Objectives*’ **no later than 31 March 2017**.

2.1.2 When setting its Well-Being Objectives, the Council must have regard to **all seven** of the national Well-Being Goals prescribed under the Act.

2.1.3 The seven national Well-Being Goals are summarised below. Their full description can be found at **Appendix A**:

- I. A prosperous Wales.
- II. A resilient Wales.
- III. A healthier Wales.
- IV. A more equal Wales.
- V. A Wales of cohesive communities.
- VI. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.
- VII. A globally responsible Wales.

2.1.4 The Council’s Well-Being Objectives must be designed to ‘maximise its contribution’ to achieving each of the seven national Well-Being Goals; and the Council must take ‘all reasonable steps’ (in exercising its functions) to meet them. The Goals are not to be considered a hierarchy (i.e. they are all of equal importance), but as an integrated set.

- 2.1.5 The Council will have to understand its current contribution to each of the seven national Well-Being Goals and seek to maximise that contribution through its Well-Being Objectives.
- 2.1.6 The Council will need to be able to explain in its *Well-Being Statement* (see para 2.3) why it considers that its Well-Being Objectives will contribute to the achievement of the seven national Well-Being Goals.
- 2.1.7 The Council must also have regard to evidence when setting its Well-Being Objectives. This evidence includes:
- *National Indicators* (when published) – *population* indicators comprising of data as it affects a community area (in this case a regional area, i.e. Wales); they are not performance indicators measuring the performance of the Council or any single organisation.
  - *A Future Trends Report* – published by the Welsh Government outlining predictions of likely future trends in social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
  - *The Assessment of Local Well-Being* – undertaken by (on behalf of) the Public Service Board (PSB).
- 2.1.8 The Council's Well-Being Objectives must be reviewed on an annual basis.

## **2.2 *Applying the Sustainable Development Principle – five key ways of working***

The Act puts in place a '*Sustainable Development Principle*', which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act.

- 2.2.1 The Sustainable Development Principle is based upon five key ways of working that the Council will need to apply (and demonstrate that it has applied) when setting its Well-being Objectives and setting out the steps it will take to meet them, as follows:
- I. *Long-Term* – the Council balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs. The Council's Well-Being Objectives must look ahead to the long-term at least 10+ years and up to 25+ years into the future.
  - II. *Prevention* – the Council when setting and taking steps to meet its Well-Being Objectives acting to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.
  - III. *Integration* – the Council considering how its Well-Being Objectives may impact upon each of the seven national Well-Being Goals, on its other objectives and on the objectives of other public bodies; action should be taken to minimise any detrimental impacts.

- IV. *Collaboration* – the Council considering how it can work with other public bodies, or with other parts of the Council, to meet its Well-Being Objectives.
  - V. *Involvement* – the Council involving people with an interest in achieving its Well-Being Objectives and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area that the Council serves.
- 2.2.2 The Council will need to set out in its Well-Being Statement why it considers that its Well-Being Objectives have been set in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle.
- 2.3 *Publish a Well-Being Statement in the Corporate Plan.***  
The Council must publish a *Well-Being Statement* in its Corporate Plan along with its Well-Being Objectives.
- 2.3.1 The Well-Being Statement must outline why the Council feels that each Well-Being Objective will see it maximise its contribution to the seven national Well-Being Goals.
- 2.3.2 The Well-Being Statement will also need to set out how the Council has applied the Sustainable Development Principle (the 5 ways of working) in setting and taking steps to meet its Well-Being Objectives.
- 2.3.3 The Council’s well-being statement for 2017/18 is attached to this report at **Appendix B**.
- 2.4 *Requirement to set ‘Improvement Objectives’***
- 2.4.1 Local authorities are still under an obligation under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set ‘Improvement Objectives’ as soon as is reasonable practical after the start of the financial year.
- 2.4.2 Guidance issued to local authorities by the WLGA following discussions with Welsh Government, the Wales Audit Office and Office of the Future Generations Commissioner states that to all intents and purposes well-being objectives and improvement objectives can be treated as one and the same and that one set of objectives would jointly discharge the separate duties to produce well-being objectives and improvement objectives.
- 3.0 PROPOSALS FOR 2017/18**
- 3.1 The Council’s current Corporate Plan 2016/17 *Delivering for Swansea* describes 5 key priorities:
- I. Safeguarding Vulnerable People
  - II. Improving Pupil Attainment
  - III. A Vibrant & Viable City and Economy
  - IV. Tackling Poverty
  - V. Building Sustainable Communities

3.2 Work is underway to review the existing Corporate priorities in light of the requirements set out within the Act. This includes:

- I. **An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) completed** on the current Corporate Plan 2016/17. The IIA seeks to: firstly, establish supporting evidence to show how the Corporate Plan demonstrates that the Council is maximising its contribution to the 7 national goals through its Well-Being Objectives (nee priorities); secondly, identify and seek to address gaps in our current priorities and Corporate Plan contributing to the national goals and provide options on how these gaps may be addressed.
- II. **Public survey** on the outcome from the IIA to help establish public and partner views, as part of the *Involvement* and *integration* principles, on how important to Swansea the Council's contributions are in terms of the 7 national goals. This was done through a survey on the Council's 'Have your say' section of the web page; staff and Members, PSB members, Community Councils and various representative groups / forums were sent the link to the survey. Further and more meaningful consultation, engagement and involvement with a diversity of citizens on reviewing our well-being objectives will need to take place following the local government elections in May 2017.
- III. **Service Plan diagnostic workshops** to help services map and evidence their contribution to the 7 national goals and to prepare and plan for changes to their service in order to maximise opportunities and to comply with the Act.
- IV. **Engaging with other public bodies** will need to be undertaken as part of the *integration* principle; to ensure that there are no adverse consequences for other public bodies from our Well-being Objectives and any proposals to revise them.

3.3 Other sources of evidence to inform the review and development of Well-Being Objectives are in varying states of availability. The Local Assessment of Well-Being is still under development. The Welsh Government has not yet published the results from the national set of population indicators established to support the Act.

3.4 The Administration elected following the Local Government Elections in May 2017 may wish to review and revise the existing corporate priorities, which will need to be done in line with the requirements set out within the Act.

3.5 For the reasons outlined above, the following course of action is proposed for 2017/18:

- I. That the Council's 5 key priorities expressed in its current Corporate Plan 2016/17 are carried forward into 2017/18 as the Council's well-being objectives.
- II. The 'Well-Being Statement' for 2017/18 attached at Appendix B is approved.
- III. The work currently underway to review the Council's priorities (Well-Being and Improvement Objectives) continues after the local government elections with the newly elected Administration into 2017/18 with reviewed well-being objectives (also discharging the duty to produce improvement objectives) and a new Corporate Plan published as soon as practicably possible.

#### **4.0 Equality & Engagement Implications**

- 4.1 This report has no immediate equality and engagement implications. The "Well-Being Statement" includes an explanation as to how the Council proposes to involve other persons with an interest in achieving its well-being objectives in reviewing its well-being objectives and that those persons will reflect the diversity of the population.
- 4.2 The Statement points out that Swansea was the first UK Council to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC will inform the Council's review of its well-being objectives and how children and young people will be involved and supported to participate.
- 4.3 The Well-Being Statement also describes how the Council's Equality Objectives will be considered during the review of our well-being objectives to identify how equality can support their achievement; an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to support this.
- 4.4 The Statement also sets out that in reviewing our well-being objectives, the Council will ensure this is done in accordance the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 This report has no direct financial implications.

#### **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 for each financial year the Council must set itself objectives for improving the exercise of its functions during that year ("improvement objectives") and further must have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers. By 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, the Council must set itself "Well-Being Objectives" as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers.

6.2 The WLGA, following discussions with the Welsh Government, Wales Audit Office and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, has issued advice to local authorities on statutory objective setting and reporting duties through the Local Government Measure 2009 and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015, in particular given the interpretation of statutory timescales and the implications of the local government elections in May 2017; para 3.5 outlines proposals to meet this requirement.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A - The 7 National Well-Being Goals prescribed by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015/16

Appendix B – *Delivering for Swansea* The City & County of Swansea's Well-Being Statement for 2017/18

**Appendix A – The 7 National Well-Being Goals** prescribed by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

Goal	Description of the goal
<b>A prosperous Wales</b>	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
<b>A resilient Wales</b>	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
<b>A healthier Wales</b>	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
<b>A more equal Wales</b>	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b>	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b>	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b>	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.