

**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Service Transformation & Business Operations**

Council – 24 August 2017

CORPORATE PLAN 2017/22

Purpose:	To publish a Corporate Plan containing the Council's Well-Being Objectives in line with the requirements set out within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and statutory guidance relating to Public Bodies
Policy Framework:	<i>Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future</i>
Consultation:	Cabinet Member, Legal, Finance and Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) That the Corporate Plan 2017/22 is adopted.
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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 (WFG Act) for public bodies to set and review our Well-being Objectives and publish them in a Corporate Plan.

1.2 In summary, the WFG Act sets out a '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'.

2.0 Requirements for setting Well-Being Objectives

2.1 The Council must set and publish '*Well-Being Objectives*' **no later than 31 March 2017**.

2.2 When setting its Well-Being Objectives, the Council must have regard to **all seven** of the national Well-Being Goals prescribed under the Act. These goals are attached at Appendix B.

2.3 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.

2.4 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).

2.5 The Council's Well-Being Objectives must be reviewed on an annual basis.

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

2.7 The Sustainable Development Principle is based upon 5 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 within the Corporate Plan, as follows:

- *Long-Term* – the Council balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
- *Prevention* – the Council when setting and taking steps to meet its Well-Being Objectives acting to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.

- *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.
 - *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.
 - *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.
- 2.8 The Council is required to publish a *Well-Being Statement* in its Corporate Plan along with its Well-Being Objectives.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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.
- 3.0 Meeting the requirements by 31st March 2017**
- 3.1 The Local Government elections in May 2017 made it difficult to review and revise the corporate priorities and publish a new Corporate Plan before the end of March 2017.
- 3.2 A report at Cabinet on 16th March approved the following course of action.
- That the Council's 5 key priorities (Well-Being and Improvement Objectives) expressed in the Corporate Plan 2016/17 were carried forward into 2017/18 until the local government elections in May 2017.
 - That the 'Well-Being Statement' for 2017/18 would be published outlining the work already undertaken and underway to review our priorities (Well-Being and Improvement Objectives).
 - That the work that was then underway to review the Council's priorities (Well-Being and Improvement Objectives) would continue with the newly elected Administration into 2017/18 with a new Corporate Plan published as soon as practicably possible.
- 3.3 The Council's Well-Being Statement containing the Council's interim Well-being Objectives for 2017/18 was subsequently approved at

Cabinet on 16th March 2017 and published before the end of March 2017.

- 3.4 In its Well-Being Statement, the Council undertook to review its Well-being Objectives and publish this Corporate Plan following the local government elections in May 2017.

4.0 Well-being objectives and Corporate Plan 2017/22

- 4.1 The review of the Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives was undertaken by consulting with local people and by assessing the evidence outlined in para 2.4. The Council's equality objectives, including Welsh language, and Policy Commitments were also considered.

- 4.2 The Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives (and Improvement Objectives) were revised for 2017/22 following this review as follows:

- Safeguarding People from Harm.
- Improving Education & Skills.
- Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure.
- Tackling Poverty.
- Transformation & Future Council development.

- 4.3 The Corporate Plan describes the steps being undertaken to meet the Well-being Objectives and contribute to the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Act.

- 4.4 The Plan also sets out how the Council is maximising its contribution to the Well-being Objectives and national goals through the way in which the Council works, which is in line with sustainable principles outlined in para 2.7.

- 4.5 A copy of the Corporate Plan 2017/22 is attached at Appendix A.

5.0 Equality & Engagement Implications

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan was screened for relevance for an EIA. The screening determined that a full EIA was necessary. The draft EIA determined that the Plan would have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics, as well as other positive impacts on equality, and that there were no concerns identified. A copy of the EIA is attached at Appendix C.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 This report has no direct financial implications.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 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 1st 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; para 3.0 and 4.0 outlines how the Council has worked to meet this requirement in light of the issues described in para 3.1. There is the possibility that Welsh Government may not be satisfied with the measures taken by the Council to comply with its statutory obligations under the WFG Act. However, all local authorities in Wales are likely to be encountering the same constraints.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Corporate Plan 2017/22.

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

Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment.