

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

2nd NOVEMBER 2016

COUNCIL'S RESPONSE AS AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC BODY TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR A MORGAN

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report updates Cabinet on the steps taken by the Council as an individual public body, to address its responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generation Act 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Consider the content of the Policy Statement in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 2.2 Agree the approach to the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.3 Review and challenge the Council's self assessment of the Corporate Plan – '*The Way Ahead*' against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.
- 2.4 Agree to update the Corporate Plan, for any Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 requirements as part of the annual review of the Plan in April 2017.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and actively participating in the development and delivery of Well-being plan as part of the Public Service Board, it is also important to acknowledge and respond to the Council's responsibilities as an individual public body.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Steps are already being taken to address the Council's contribution to the Public Service Boards requirements to improve the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural wellbeing of the area by:
- Contributing to a Well-being Assessment, currently being undertaken;
 - Setting objectives to maximise the area's contribution to the seven national Well-being goals;
 - Taking reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
- 4.2 The Public Service Board's Well-being Plan will be published in 2018. This Plan will emerge from the Well-being Assessment and will provide the overarching strategic framework to which the corporate strategies of the partners will align.
- 4.3 However, the Act also applies to the Council as an individual public body.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Council's duties under the WFG Act are to: "Carry out Sustainable Development, in other words work to improve the Economic, Social, and Cultural well-being of Wales". In carrying out Sustainable Development, the Council must:
- Set and Publish Well-being Objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the seven national Well-being goals; and
 - Take all reasonable steps in exercising our functions, to meet those objectives;
 - Publish an annual report showing progress;
 - Scrutinise decisions in line with the requirements of the WFG Act;
 - Respond to the Future Generations Commissioner as and when appropriate.
- 5.2 As set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and its Corporate Performance Report, the Council's vision priorities and principles already support the seven national Wellbeing goals. Also, we can already evidence some good examples of working within the Sustainable Development principles.
- 5.3 However, until the PSB's Well-being Plan is published in 2018, we can continue to do more to maximise what we already do to meet the WFG and not create additional bureaucracy. This Act has already been acknowledged by the Commissioner as the 'common sense Act'.
- 5.4 To simplify the implementation of the Act as far as possible for all Members and officers, we have sought to set out a clear policy statement in respect of the implementation of the Act. Appendix 1 sets out a proposed Council Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 Policy Statement which:
- Provides managers and staff with a transparent approach and consistent information about the Council's approach to the WFG Act;
 - Provides elected Members with information and the assurance that the Council is meeting its WFG requirements without creating additional burdens;

- Provides the WFG Commissioner and the Regulator with assurance that the Council is meeting its statutory requirements;
- Sets out the Council's intention to continually test the Council's Corporate Plan and its priorities to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the Act and take steps to strengthen if required.

5.4 The first test of the Council's Corporate Plan against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is attached at Appendix 2. The areas recommended for an update are not fundamental issues but relate to a need to provide greater emphasis on some matters such as the Welsh language and biodiversity.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. CONSULTATION

Not required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

None at present.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

Well being of Future Generations Act 2015.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP/FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Is fundamental to being able to address and evidence the seven national Well-being goals and the five ways of working as set out in the Well being of Future Generations Act.

11 CONCLUSION

The Council is making positive progress in meeting its duties as an individual public body as required by the Well-being Future Generations Act.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

None

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