



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**20 DECEMBER 2023**

### **WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES – *WORKING TITLE* THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030 FOR CONSULTATION**

#### **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the opportunity for the Joint Consultative Committee to contribute to the development of our new Corporate Plan from 2024/25 – 2029/30.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Joint Consultative Committee:

- 2.1 Provides feedback on the early draft elements of the new Corporate Plan and whether it sets out:
- a) A clear vision and purpose for the Council.
  - b) The right priorities/Well-being Objectives for the Council, namely
    - People and Communities
    - Work and Business
    - Nature and the Environment and
    - Culture and Heritage.
  - c) The principal actions within each Well-being Objective that will have the greatest impact to achieve the new Vision.
  - d) Clear commitments in respect of residents, staff and partners.
- 2.2 Notes the engagement on the four proposed Well-being Objectives and the high level priorities.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is a key element of effective strategic planning and financial and people management for the Council to put in place a Corporate Plan to ensure that it:
- Has a clear strategy and set of priorities for future years.
  - Informs and directs all the Council's associated strategies and policies.

- Can use this Plan to allocate its resources and ensure action plans are in place to deliver the agreed Well-being Objectives and achieve the outcomes that will make a difference to the people that live, work and visit the County Borough.
- Is well placed to take advantage of future opportunities and meet risks and challenges, particularly in the context of reductions to local authority funding, changes in demography and in the demand for services and legislation.

#### 4. **THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 4.1 The key elements comprising the draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030, attached at **Appendix 1**, seek to set the overall direction for the Council over the coming six years, describing its vision, purpose and ambition as the local authority for the County Borough.
- 4.2 The Council's proposed vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:  
***'People, communities, and business can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future'***.
- 4.3 The Council's proposed purpose and the reason why it exists is:  
***'To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners for people, businesses, and the environment to prosper'***.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Council is focused on the following four Well-being Objectives
- i. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
  - ii. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy.
  - iii. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
  - iv. **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.
- 4.5 The proposed elements with the Plan also include 'A well-run Council' and Commitments to our residents, staff and partners.
- 4.6 The new draft Corporate Plan will build on previous Corporate Plans and be a key part of the Council's budget and performance and delivery planning processes. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan must take into account the fact that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and the wider public sector continues to face significant financial and other challenges. Budgets are under extreme pressure and demands on our services increasing, particularly in light of the impact of increasing cost of living and the legacies of the Covid pandemic.
- 4.7 RCT is also facing...
- A growing and aging population, many of whom may experience poor health with complex care and support needs.
  - The need to attract investment, high quality jobs and support the green economy whilst addressing the skills gap.

- The likely impact on lives and the risk to homes and businesses from extreme weather events.
- The need to tackle inequalities in health, education, and work and improve life chances.
- Rising energy costs, uncertain energy security and higher prices because of supply chain disruptions.

4.8 The Corporate Plan will need to address the current and future challenges as well as meet a legal duty to develop and agree a Well-being Plan. As a consequence of the changing environment in which we are working, the new plan will need to have a greater focus on creating and strengthening community capacity and resilience so that people are better placed to take responsibility for their own well-being; will be more closely aligned with the sustainable development principles; embed climate change into the business of the Council; deliver additional social value through our contracts; and focus our attention on tackling health inequalities.

4.9 The work to date has been informed by feedback from a wide range of engagement activities from across the Council and its services over the last eighteen months, a review of progress over the life of the current plan and consideration of the current and future challenges we are facing. This early work formed the basis of initial engagement through the 'Lets Talk' platform '[Let's Talk about what Matters to You](#)', Cabinet and Managers planning discussions in July 2023 and engagement with staff on the 'Greenspace' channel'.

4.10 A second and more comprehensive engagement phase is currently underway. This phase includes wider engagement with staff and a wide range of other stakeholders and pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2024. The aim is to further develop the elements of the Plan to date, i.e. the Council's Vision, the Council's Purpose, Our Approach, four Well-being Objectives, associated high level priorities and our commitments to deliver a well-run Council as set out in Appendix 1.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY**

5.1 There are no specific equality and diversity and socioeconomic duties as a result of the recommendations within this report at this time. However, the Plan considers the socioeconomic issues within the County Borough and how these will be addressed. Work will continue as part of the further development of the Plan.

## **6. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT/INVOLVEMENT**

6.1 The elements that will contribute towards a new Corporate Plan have been informed by listening to and hearing what our residents of all ages, communities, partners, and staff have been telling us across a wide range of engagement activity. This approach will continue during the development of the plan and the associated actions.

6.2 It is proposed that the new Corporate Plan is approved by Council in conjunction with the approval of the 2024/25 budget in March 2024.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 The draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030 will be set within the context of the budget setting process for 2024/25. Any investments set out in the Plan will be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements to ensure that spending priorities are aligned, where appropriate, with the Well-being Objectives within the Plan.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Cabinet has responsibility for the overall strategic direction of the Council and for formulating the Corporate Plan and duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 9.1 This report proposes a new set of corporate priorities/Well-being Objectives which will drive the work of the Council between 2024/25 and 2029/30.
- 9.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act focuses on improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act makes public bodies, such as the Council, think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The proposed new Well-being Objectives and priorities strengthen the integration with Act. This will enable the Council to further embed the requirements of the Act into its arrangements and to demonstrate how it is meeting its statutory duties.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The Joint Consultative Committee is recommended to endorse the approach to date and the four Well-being Objectives, high level priorities and commitments contained within Appendix 1, in advance of more considered feedback during the period of engagement up to the end of January. This will include integration with other relevant resident engagement e.g. the 2024/25 budget consultation process.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Item:**

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