



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

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**29 JANUARY 2024**

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

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**AUTHOR: Paul Mee**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to enable Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to pre- scrutinise and to shape the new draft Corporate Plan from 2024/25 – 2029/30. The draft Plan provides a vision for the County Borough in 2024 and sets out draft Well-being Objectives and priorities for the following six years.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Form a view on the draft Corporate Plan 2024-30 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 priority/Well-being Objective that will have the greatest impact to achieve the new Vision.
- 2.2 Considers whether the plan is sufficiently ambitious and balanced given the financial challenges facing the Council both now and in the future.
- 2.3 Notes the wide ranging engagement activity currently being undertaken.
- 2.4 Notes the strengthened alignment with the Sustainable Development principle as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



### **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.

3.2 In March 2020, the Council approved its Corporate Plan – '[Making A Difference 2020-2024](#)'. This period coincided with unprecedented events; local events from Storms, Dennis, Ciara and Jorge and the local response to the global Covid 19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the Council has continued its focus on the three priorities set out in the Plan of: PEOPLE: PLACES and PROSPERITY. Whilst managing the significant challenges arising from the response and recovery to these events and latterly the support for people fleeing Ukraine and the Cost of Living Crisis, we have made good progress in delivering what we set out to achieve and have also invested over £450M to deliver improvements across our three priorities areas.

3.3 Our progress in delivering our priorities has been reported to and monitored by elected Members in quarterly and regular reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees. Consideration of this information also forms an integral part of the evidence considered in the Council's annual Self-Assessment, most recent of which for 2022/23 was considered by [Governance and Audit Committee](#) and [Joint Consultative Committee](#) both in December 2023 and [Council 17 January](#) 2024.

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

4.1 The new draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030, attached at **Appendix 1**, seeks to build on the progress of the previous Corporate Plan(s) and has



revisited its vision, purpose and ambition as 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 which also meet the Sustainable Development Principle which *'seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'*...
- 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 new draft Corporate Plan will continue to 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 the light of the impact of increasing cost of living and the legacies of the Covid pandemic.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 The Corporate Plan addresses these current and future challenges as well as meeting a legal duty to develop and agree a Well-being Plan. As a consequence of the changing environment we are working in, the new plan has a greater focus on creating and strengthening community capacity and resilience so people are better placed to take responsibility for their own well-being; is more closely aligned with the Sustainable Development principle; has embedded climate change into the business of the Council; is delivering additional social value through our contracts and focussing our attention on tackling health inequalities.
- 4.8 The draft Plan has been informed by feedback from a wide range of engagement activities from across the Council and its services over the last eighteen months and which will continue until early February, 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 was the basis of initial engagement through the 'Let's Talk' platform '[Let's Talk about what Matters to You](#)', feedback from the Cabinet and Managers planning discussions in July 2023 and engagement with the staff on the 'Greenspace' channel'.
- 4.9 Our continuing engagement, also includes staff, statutory and not statutory partners, networks, businesses and also through the RCT Councillors' newsletter in December 2023, drawing attention to the '[Continuing To Talk About What Matters to You](#)' online engagement. This online engagement comprised the Council's draft high level Vision, four proposed Well-being Objectives and associated high level priorities and Commitments to residents to deliver a well-run Council, included in Appendix 2.
- 4.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is requested to review the draft new Corporate Plan for 2024-2030 and form a view on the extent to which it sets out:
- A clear vision and purpose for the Council;
  - The Well-being Objectives/priorities for the Council, in terms of People and Communities; Work and Business; Nature and the Environment and Culture and Heritage;
  - The priorities within each Well-being Objective that will have the greatest impact to achieve the new Vision;
  - Embeds the impact of Climate Change into the work of the Council;

- A focus on financial sustainability and the four pillars of Sustainable Development as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, i.e. Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being;
- A sufficiently ambitious agenda for change and improvement;
- How the Council is maximising its contribution to the 7 national well-being goals.

4.11 For Members' information, the feedback provided by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 18 March 2024

## **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 This draft Corporate Plan has 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. This approach will continue during the development of the plan.

6.2 It is proposed that the Corporate Plan is approved by Council in conjunction with the approval of the 2024/25 budget in April 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 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 AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 This report proposes a new set of corporate priorities 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 Actions within the draft Corporate Plan 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 it's statutory duties and integrating with the work of our partners including in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board's Well-being Objectives set out in the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-28](#).

## **10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 This is an early draft of the Council's new Corporate Plan for 2024-30.
- 10.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been assigned responsibility to form a view on the new draft Corporate Plan, the feedback from which will be reported to the meeting of Cabinet in March 2024 before finally being considered by full Council in April 2024.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**29 JANUARY 2024**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Item:**

**THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030  
FOR CONSULTATION**

**Background Papers:**

**Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030**

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