



CABINET – 17TH JANUARY 2024

**SUBJECT: AUDIT WALES REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF
SETTING OF THE WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES AND
CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2028**

**REPORT BY: THE DIRECTOR FOR COPORATE SERVICES AND
EDUCATION**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Cabinet with Audit Wales examination on whether the Council set its new Well-being Objectives (Corporate Plan 2023-2028) within the sustainable development principle of the well-being duty.
- 1.2 The well-being duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires all public bodies to set well-being objectives that improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area.
- 1.3 The Council has a statutory duty to use the sustainable development (SD) principle, when setting its well-being objectives.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires all public bodies to set well-being objectives to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area.
- 2.2 The Council's well-being objectives were developed using the sustainable development (SD) principle, which is described as the 5 ways of working (para 5.2).
- 2.3 Audit Wales followed the process used to set the objectives as part of a national project, and have produced the appended report, 'Setting of Well-being Objectives – Caerphilly County Borough Council'. The report is from audit year 2022-23 and was issued December 2023
- 2.4 Audit Wales overall conclusion was ***“The Council has applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting its new well-being objectives but there is scope to strengthen monitoring arrangements”***

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the contents for the report provided by Audit Wales and make any comment on the Management Response, appended.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act places a statutory duty on public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives that maximise contribution to the well-being goals for Wales. Cabinet can be assured that the well-being objectives were set within the SD principle and that any recommendations for improvement will be addressed.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This report introduces the Audit Wales examination report, 'Setting of Well-being Objectives at Caerphilly County Borough' December 2023 – Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The Well-being Objectives have been set within the 5 ways of working which makes up the SD principle. These are:
- Long Term - the importance of balancing short term need, whilst looking and addressing the needs of citizen's long term
 - Prevention - acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse
 - Involvement - involving people with an interest in achieving the objectives
 - Collaboration - working with others to help meet long term challenges, maximising collective impact
 - Integration - how public bodies objectives impact on each other or support other goals, taking an integrated approach.
- 5.3 Audit Wales overall conclusion (page 6, Appendix 1) judges that "The Council has applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting its new well-being objectives but there is scope to strengthen monitoring arrangements"
- 5.4 The report details the main processes the Council undertook to arrive and approve the new well-being objectives.
- 5.5 The Report makes two recommendations for strengthening arrangements which are:
- R1-** The Council should ensure that its refreshed MTFS (Medium Term Financial Plan) shows how it will resource the delivery of its new WBO over the short, medium and longer term and to reflect any potential future financial risks to deliver them
- R2-** The Council should ensure its performance management arrangements provide effective monitoring, reporting and scrutiny of the progress being made on delivering its well-being objectives
- 5.6 In response to Recommendation 1, each well-being objective in the Corporate Plan has a section on how we will resource the objective. To satisfy the recommendation, as the MTFP further develops, we will have mechanisms in place to ensure there is alignment between the delivery of the WBO's and the MTFP. The Well-being

Objectives are reviewed annually, and part of that review will dovetail into the budget setting process, so that the two activities are managed collectively.

- 5.7 In response to Recommendation 2, we are developing the new Performance Reporting process for the WBO's including baselines, trend data and descriptors of the expected journey of performance data, so we can measure and evaluate progress. We have included this as an action within the Council's draft Annual Self-Assessment with a delivery date to complete by April 2024.
- 5.8 The Council's Management Response to the recommendations are at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 5.9 We are pleased that our regulators at Audit Wales worked in partnership with us by following the process over the year of development. The output recognises the work that went into setting the Well-being Objectives and agreed that this work followed the SD principle. We welcome the report and the recommendations for improvements, that we recognise will make our arrangements stronger as noted in 5.6 and 5.7.

5.10 **Conclusion**

The Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives 2023-2028 (Appendix 3) have been developed to be aspirational in improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our area, in partnership with other public services and partners and within the SD duty. The Audit Wales examination of how we set our Well-being Objectives summarises that, "*The Council has applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting its new well-being objectives but there is scope to strengthen monitoring arrangements*"

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 Resources to deliver the well-being objectives remain unchanged and if this changes outcomes or steps may need to change accordingly.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 No Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed for this report although individual assessments may have been made to support activity within the Well-being Objectives.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Each Well-being Objective within the Corporate Plan has a specific section on resources that set out how the Council intends to support the delivery of each.
- 8.2 Recommendation 1 recognises the need to ensure our MTFP reflects the resources needed to deliver our Well-being Objectives and this is particularly important in this challenging financial climate.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this Report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Any consultation responses have been included within this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and associated statutory guidance.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Audit Wales output – Examination of ‘Setting of well-being objectives –
Caerphilly County Borough Council’

Appendix 2 Management Response to the examination above

Appendix 3 Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives 2023-2028