



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PLAN AND IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2015/16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) will use these Improvement Objectives to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement and following that, the level of actual improvement that is achieved for the citizens of Caerphilly. Additionally in June 2014 the Council published a Corporate Plan which detailed its longer term priorities and aspirations and this plan, duly reviewed, will be the vehicle for publishing the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.
- 1.2 The Council is required to set or review their Improvement Objectives annually to ensure they remain relevant and current. This report details the outcome of this process and identifies the Cabinet recommended set of Priorities and Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires each authority to publish priorities for improvement called Improvement Objectives.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Objectives must be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and although not explicitly stated in the Measure, the informal expectation is to publish no later than the end of the first quarter (June 2015). Although there is no requirement to publish a corporate plan, this is the chosen vehicle for publishing the Council's Improvement Objectives and its longer-term priorities and so the Corporate Plan (*Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan*) must also be published before the end of June.
- 3.2 The Improvement Objectives for 2014/15 were assessed and reviewed as part of the process of setting the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16. The review asked the following questions to establish the objectives for 2015/16:
 - Relevance - Is this area still relevant where there is an 'unmet' need?
 - Consultation – are these still what the citizens want?
 - Funding – Does the Medium Term Financial Plan affect whether some of these activities can still be delivered? Has external (central government, home office etc) funding affected the delivery of these objectives?
 - Is there any new legislation, demographic or other changes that need to be taken into account?

- 3.3 Following the initial assessment and selection, a public consultation exercise was carried out to test the relevance of the selection and to gather public feedback on the proposed set. We asked whether respondents agreed with the proposed Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 and how important respondents thought the Improvement Objectives suggested were? This exercise also gave those who responded an opportunity to say what they felt was missing from the initial selection. The responses from the consultation activity for 2015/16 are summarised in the draft Corporate Plan (Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan)
- 3.4 Below is a summary of each Improvement Objective proposed for 2015/16, following the assessment and consultation described above. The Council's statutory responsibility is to publish a full description of each Improvement Objective and its outcomes (what difference do we aim to make) and this is available in full in the draft Corporate Plan (Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan)

Improvement Objective 2015/16		Outcomes
IO1	To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels
IO2	Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to under achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify groups of learners that are vulnerable to under achievement academically and work proactively to remove the barriers to learning to raise their aspirations and increase their opportunities to succeed
IO3	Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the lifestyles of our local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well being. To reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that health and well being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.
IO4	Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take steps to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint and inform and assist others in the borough to do the same. The overall long-term objective is to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint by 45% by 2019
IO5	Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to ensure all council homes meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard helping to improve the quality of life for our tenants. Create long-term arrangements to help sustain local jobs, offer skills development and training opportunities and deliver wider community benefits

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group who fall under one of the protected characteristics or wider issues as shown in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan.

4.2 Equalities and Welsh Language issues are crosscutting themes and to varying degrees, the Council's seven Strategic Equality Objectives support the implementation of each of the Improvement Objectives.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan against the Improvement Objectives shows there are no cuts that will adversely affect their delivery at this time.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated into this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet approve the draft Corporate Plan that details the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 and recommend them to Full Council (9th June 2015).

9 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to agree and publish its Improvement Objectives as soon as possible after the financial year.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – *Draft Corporate Plan*