



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2015

**SUBJECT: END OF YEAR UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 6 (2014/15) -
IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR
HOUSING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WHO MAY
BECOME HOMELESS**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee with an end of year update on the progress made in 2014/15 against Improvement Objective 6.
- 1.2 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to establish and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office uses Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement.
- 1.3 In assessing the progress of an Improvement Objective, there is no criterion as to what constitutes success. Progress is normally summarised as being successful, partially successful or unsuccessful. This is largely a judgement call from those delivering the service and the council members scrutinising that judgement.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines progress made in 2014/15 against the Improvement Objective.
- 2.2 For the reasons outlined in section 4 of this report and the appended dashboard report, performance throughout the year is regarded by officers as being **partially successful**.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – help for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 3.2 Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales (Welsh Government, 2010) which sets out the national context on meeting housing need, homelessness, and housing-related support services.
- 3.3 Caerphilly Delivers (Single Integrated Plan, 2013): P2: “Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough.”
- 3.4 People, Property, Places: A Housing Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough provides the context for the provision of housing and related services in the county borough.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 In terms of what was successful:

- Strengthened the homelessness prevention service to respond to the challenges presented by the change in legislation.
- Provided advice and support to prevent people from becoming homeless and provided accommodation to those who were homeless.
- Hosting a specialist officer to support domestic abuse victims threatened with homelessness.
- Assisted landlords to comply with the relevant tenancy and equality legislation by producing guidance and providing training.

4.2 In terms of what was not successful:

- At a local level the review was not fully developed for the existing pre-release prison protocols with the prison service, as due to the complexity it was determined that this would be progressed at a national level. We are therefore actively working at a national level to achieve this.

4.3 Full details of progress against this Improvement Objective are included in Appendix 1.

4.4 Although the prevention of homelessness remains a priority for the Council, a decision has been taken by CMT/Cabinet not to include this as an Improvement Objective for 2015/16. It will, however, be a key priority in the divisional service plan with one of the aims being to reduce the use of B&B's for the placement of homeless persons and such use has reduced significantly.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An equalities impact assessment (EIA) is not needed because the issues covered in this report are for information purposes only, therefore, the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications directly associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The views of consultees have been included in this the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Scrutiny Committee Members consider the contents of the report and note progress in meeting the delivery of the Improvement Objective and agree with the judgement made in item 2.2.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To comply with the Local Government Measure 2009.

11. STATUTORY POWER

Local Government Measure 2009
Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

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Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive.
Cllr Hefin David, (Chair) Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
Cllr Sean Morgan (Vice-Chair) Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
Cllr David Poole, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing
Cllr David Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Performance & Asset Management.
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer.
Colin Jones, Head of Performance & Property Services.
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer.
Kenyon Williams, Private Sector Housing Manager.
Suzanne Cousins, Principal Housing Officer (Housing Portfolio).
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager
Ian Raymond, Performance Management Officer.
Phil Davy, Head of Programmes.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Improvement Object 6 Aspireview Dashboard Report 2014/15