



CABINET – 22ND JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT: OUTCOME AGREEMENTS 2013 -16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet proposals for the new set of Outcome Agreements for 2013-16 that are entered into between Welsh Government (WG) and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Every three years Welsh Government (WG) offers local authorities the opportunity to enter into a set of agreements, the contents of which is chosen by the Council as their local improvements contribution towards national priorities. The agreements are worth £1.89 million per year or £5.7million over the 3-year period of the agreement.
- 2.2 W.G offered a “menu” of eight national priorities from which the Council was invited to choose five to develop into a more detailed set. After researching available initiatives where progress can be evidenced and involving a range of officer opinion, CMT proposed to progress the five agreements as noted below to be developed into the formal set to enter into the agreement with WG.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires authorities to put in place arrangements to improve. The outcome agreements whilst not specifically stated within the measure are part of an authority’s overall improvement arrangements.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The structure of the revised Outcome Agreement framework for 2013-16 comprises two distinct components: Part 1 - outcomes; and Part 2 – corporate governance. There is a requirement to choose 5 agreements for Part 1. A summary of those proposed by CMT and being finalised are provided in the table below.

WG Strategic Theme		Broad Outcome (chosen by Council)	Main Project/Programmes	What success will look like
1	Growth and sustainable jobs	Supporting the economy and business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bargoed town centre regeneration • Re-development, improved landscape /facilities and infrastructure to Newbridge town Centre. • Digital inclusion programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bargoed development will progress with the opening of new retail stores. • Newbridge town centre improvements will be further supported with the opening of the new institute and library late 2013. The Memorial Hall will re-open in Spring 2014 following restoration, creating potential employment and vitality and viability of the town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our tourism assets will be well attended and this will bring further resource into the economy. • Footfall will improve in our town centres and its infrastructure improvements will help increase our towns overall attraction • We will work with partners to secure and create job opportunities and improve skills as part of the digital inclusion programme so that people can get the skills in IT and online learning to enhance their job opportunities.
2	Education	Improving early years	Expansion of Flying Start programme	A decisive difference to the life chances of children aged under 4 years where the programme operates. The impact of poverty on the opportunities for children and families to learn and develop will be minimised.
3	Welsh homes / Supporting people	Welsh homes – improving quality	WHQS programme Fuel poverty initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver best quality home improvements scheme to our tenants as promised in our WHQS Offer Document. • 80% of tenants satisfied with their homes • The Community Improvement Fund will be used to make improvements to external surrounding • Homes will benefit from domestic energy improvements

4	Tackling poverty	Tackling worklessness and raising household income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport programme • Communities first programmes for digital employment skills and computers at home programme • Helping our residents make savings from housing tenancy support programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More young people are in sustainable employment via the Caerphilly LSB Passport Scheme • Communities' first digital skills programmes helps improve a range of skills for range of people including digitally excluded groups • Tenants / residents are supported through welfare reform, to mitigate the effects of worklessness and low income
5	Safer communities for all	Improving safety in communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and developing activities and interventions to deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) • Developing mediation service for victims of ASB • Promoting multi-agency domestic abuse services • Working with partners to address grass fires and arson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community • Residents are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have • Residents access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies when their need arises • Incidents of anti-social behaviour and the fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour (ASB) are reduced

- 4.2 The Performance Unit is finalising baseline performances and targets to fully complete the Outcome Agreement templates for final submission to WG and these will be available from PMU should members want to view the detail of the evidence and targets.
- 4.3 It should be noted that the evidence and targets for improvement are the most important part of the agreement as this is the only aspect that WG will judge authorities on. Action plans will be used for internal management and to provide reassurance that actions exist to delivery the agreement but the external focus will be on the robustness of the evidence chosen.
- 4.4 Advanced drafts of the agreements were sent to WG by 31st December 2013. WG accept that due to the late nature of their issued guidance the agreements are provisional at the close of the year, but the agreements must be refined and finalised no later than the end of January 2014.
- 4.4 Holistic progress against the Outcome Agreements will be reported periodically to Cabinet and additionally progress against individual Outcome Agreements will be reported periodically to appropriate Scrutiny Committees.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications of this report and its content, however some of the agreements chosen particularly support those within vulnerable and / or disadvantaged groups for example through the 'tackling poverty' agreement.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, although the success, or otherwise, of the Outcome Agreements will have financial implications of £1.89 m per annum.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Consultation with Directors and Heads of Service regarding the choice of agreements has been included in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agree the outcome agreements detailed above.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To enter into agreement of the 2013-2016 Outcome Agreements with Welsh Government.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 There is no direct statutory power for outcome agreements however Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires Authorities to put in place arrangement for improvement and outcome agreements would be part of any such arrangements.

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