



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 16TH JANUARY 2014

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 –
PROPOSED FORMAT**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement by SDAP of the proposal to amend the current Sustainable Development & Living Environment (SD & LE) Team Annual Report format to become a Corporate Sustainable Development Annual Report from 2013/14.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Welsh Government has recently confirmed that a “Future Generations Bill”, will be introduced in Summer 2014. This will require every local authority to formally report on their approach to sustainable development, and on progress they are making to become more sustainable.
- 2.2 It is proposed to amend the current Sustainable Development & Living Environment (SD & LE) Team Annual Report format to become a Corporate Sustainable Development Annual Report from 2013/14, as part of the process of reporting likely to be required by the new Bill

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Authority’s work on sustainable Development supports the following strategies:
- “Living Better, Using Less”, Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
 - Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan, 2013 - 2017.
 - Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009.
 - CCBC Corporate Improvement Plan 2009 – 2012.
 - Rural Development Plan.
 - Carbon Reduction Strategy.
 - Waste Management Strategy.
 - Corporate Travel Plan.
 - CCBC Strategic Equality Objective 3 - Physical Access.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Since 2006/07 the SD Team has produced an annual report highlighting the work on sustainable development issues by the SD Team and the groups and partnerships that it supports. Whilst this report includes many projects across the Authority that contribute to making the Authority more sustainable, it does not seek to provide a comprehensive report on the progress or otherwise that the Authority is making in terms of sustainable development. A

shift to a corporate SD report will require the SD Team to work with all Services to gather information and to report on priority areas.

- 4.2 In 2012 the Welsh Government consulted on a White Paper on proposals to legislate to put sustainable development at the heart of the Welsh Government and organisations delivering public services in Wales. The First Minister recently confirmed that the Bill, to be called the “Future Generations Bill”, will be introduced in Summer 2014.

Whilst there is currently no statutory requirement for the Authority to produce a report on its performance on sustainability, it is anticipated that this will form part of the new Bill. Our current reporting structure and format means that we are well placed to move to the type of reporting likely to be required by the new Bill. The SD Team is therefore recommending that for 2013/14 the SD Team Annual Report is replaced by an Authority wide Sustainable Development Report, that begins to pull together information from across the Authority as a first step towards becoming a report on the sustainability performance of the whole Authority

Proposed Structure

- 4.3 Work undertaken by the Welsh Local Government Association as part of its Sustainable Development Framework programme identified a potential model for a set of sustainability measures across economic, environmental and social dimensions. The methodology was influenced by CIPFA’s ‘Sustainability Reporting’ guidance, the Prince’s ‘Accounting for Sustainability Connected Reporting’ and, HM Treasury ‘Public Sector Annual Reports: Sustainability Reporting Guidance for 2011-12’. The aim of the model framework was to connect strategy with material sustainability issues. This work recommends structuring any reporting framework around an organisations priority areas for sustainable development.

- 4.4 CCBC has identified the following 7 priority areas:

- Understanding sustainable development
- Supporting the local economy
- Reducing Carbon emissions and adapting to Climate change
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Protecting the natural environment
- Improving health
- Governance

It is recommended that the 7 priority areas be used to provide the overall structure for the CCBC Sustainable Development Annual Report.

- 4.5 It is anticipated that a simple set of indicators will be developed based around the 7 priority areas. The table below includes examples of potential indicators. It is proposed, where possible, to use indicators that are already captured and measured by the Authority. Data on two of the indicators – “average level of understanding of SD by staff”, and “% of staff taking 30 minutes of exercise 5 times per week” have historically been measured by staff surveys. These surveys would need to be carried out every 2 years to continue to report on these indicators.

Priority Area	Indicator
1. Understanding sustainable development	Average level of understanding of SD by staff
	% Schools with Eco Schools "Green Flag"
2. Supporting the local economy	% Corporate spend with local businesses/SME's
	Time taken to pay invoices to local SME's (days)
3. Managing Carbon emissions and adapting to Climate Change	Emissions of CO2 from our corporate buildings (tonnes)
	Average SAP rating of local authority owned dwellings
4. Sustainable use of natural resources	% of Municipal Waste going to landfill
	Water consumption
5. Protecting the natural environment	% of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared in 5 working days
	% of total length of rights of way which are easy to use
6. Improving Health	Average number of days per year of staff sickness
	% of staff taking 30 mins exercise 5 times per week
7. Governance	% Residents satisfied with council services
	The gender of senior staff (% female)

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That SDAP endorse the proposal to amend the current Sustainable Development & Living Environment (SD & LE) Team Annual Report format to become a Corporate Sustainable Development Annual Report from 2013/14.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 There are no current statutory powers however this report is being produced in preparation for the proposed Welsh Government “Future Generations Bill”, which will be introduced in Summer 2014.

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Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
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