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Date: 3rd October 2018

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Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach on Tuesday, 9th October, 2018 at 5.00 pm to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy Harrhy'.

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Mayor's Announcements.
- 3 Presentation of Awards.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



4 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

5 Council held on 5th June 2018. 1 - 8

6 Council held on 17th July 2018. 9 - 20

To receive and consider the following report from the meeting of Cabinet held on 3rd October 2018.

7 Annual Performance Report 2017/18. 21 - 76

To receive and consider the following reports: -

8 Notice of Motion - The Phase Out Of Plastic Products 77 - 82

9 Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2017/18. 83 - 110

10 Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 - Annual Monitoring Report 2018 (including the 4th Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report). 111 - 122

11 Review of Community Council Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements. 123 - 126

12 Proposed Membership Increase - Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). 127 - 138

13 To receive and to answer questions received under Rule of Procedure 10(2). 139 - 140

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All Members And Appropriate Officers

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COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 5TH JUNE 2018 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor M. Adams - Mayor
Councillor J. Simmonds - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Mrs E. Aldworth, A. Angel, P.J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, L. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, C. Cuss, W. David, M. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, Mrs C. Forehead, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, A. Higgs, M. James, L. Jeremiah, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mss E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. . Whittle, T. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski

Together with:-

C. Harray (Interim Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director of Communities), J. Morgan (Trading Standards, Licensing and Registrars Manager) D. Marr (Deputy Monitoring Officer - Cardiff Council), L. Lane (Interim Monitoring Officer), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. She advised that electronic voting would be used for the final agenda item, other decisions would be made by show of hands.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Andrews, D. Cushing, Ms E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, A. Hussey, V. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B. Jones, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen and Mrs M.E. Sargent.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to his attendance at the Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and referred to upcoming Mayoral engagements and duties over the course of the next few weeks.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Interim Chief Executive announced that in line with the commitment made to reduce the number of interim appointments a series of Appointments Committee meetings had been held and the following executive appointments made; Mrs Rhian Kyte as Head of Regeneration and Planning, Ms Lynne Donovan as Head of People Services, Mr Marcus Lloyd as Head of Infrastructure and Mrs Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy. Further to this Mr Robert Tranter had been appointed to the post of Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer and Mr Richard Edmunds to the post of Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services. Members were advised that the two remaining appointments would be made by September 2018.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Chief Constables' Commendation Award

The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing recognised the achievements of Mrs Karen Morris, Service Manager - Adult Services who had received the Chief Constables Commendation Award for her work on an initiative to incorporate Mental Health Professionals to the operators' team in the Gwent Police Call Centre. Using triage methodology vital information can now be quickly accessed, complex needs identified and appropriate referrals made, reducing the number of individuals in police custody or under section. This Service Level Agreement was the first of its kind and was heralded as a beacon of good practice.

The Chief Constable of Gwent Police Julian Williams presented the award to Mrs Karen Williams who came forward to be recognised for her outstanding achievement.

Caerphilly Churches Night Shelters

The Cabinet Member for Homes and Places recognised the work of the Caerphilly Church Night Shelters in providing much needed emergency accommodation for rough sleepers during periods of extreme cold weather. Over the winter months of 2017/18 over 600 bed spaces were provided, with some service users taking up opportunities to access housing and employment via a partnership approach. In recognition of their commitment and compassion representatives from Elim Baptist Chapel, Pontllanfraith, St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Bethany Baptist Chapel, Risca, The Salvation Army, Risca, Argoed Baptist Chapel, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Newbridge, The Oasis Centre, Cefn Forest, Crosskeys Methodist Church, Crosskeys and Mount Pleasant Church, Blackwood come forward to receive the gratitude and appreciation of Council for their achievements.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors J. Roberts, G. Kirby and E. Stenner expressed a personal interest in Agenda Item No.9 – Notice of Motion – Relocation of the Caerphilly DWP Offices and Councillor L. Binding declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Notice of Motion – Relocation of the Caerphilly DWP Offices. Details are minuted with the respective item.

6. SPECIAL COUNCIL – 28TH MARCH 2018

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Special Council held on 28th March 2018 (minute nos. 1-6)

7. COUNCIL – 17TH APRIL 2018

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 17th April 2018 (minute nos. 1-16)

8. NOTICE OF MOTION – TO SUPPORT THE LUCY’S LAW NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN AND OUTLAW THIRD PARTY PUPPY FARMING

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillors E. Stenner and supported by Councillors S. Morgan, L. Phipps and C. Cuss in relation to Lucy’s Law National Campaign to Ban and Outlaw Third Party Puppy Farming: -

“Caerphilly County Borough Council adds its support to the Lucy’s Law Campaign to ban and outlaw third party puppy farming. That Caerphilly County Borough Council will add its name to the growing list of supporting organisations and will proactively highlight the campaign to our residents across the Council Borough. This Council requests that the Leader of the Council Cllr David Poole writes to UK Government, supporting the call for urgent action.”

The report which detailed the Notice of Motion had been presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 1st May 2018 and the comments of the Scrutiny Committee were outlined. Members were advised that the Scrutiny Committee unanimously endorsed the Notice of Motion and recommended its acceptance by Council.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate agreed that everything that can be done should be done to eliminate this practice, furthermore they would like to see enabling legislation for the licensing of breeders of all animals.

It was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion be supported and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the Notice of Motion and its request to support the Lucy’s Law National Campaign to ban and outlaw third party puppy farming be supported;
- (ii) the campaign be proactively highlighted to the residents of the County Borough;
- (iii) the Leader of the Council to write to UK Government supporting the call for urgent action on this matter.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION – RELOCATION OF THE CAERPHILLY DWP OFFICES

Councillors J. Roberts, G. Kirby and E. Stenner declared a personal interest in that they are Members of the PCS Trade Union.

Councillor L. Binding declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that he is a Member of the PCS Trade Unions and currently works in one of the Offices under considerations for relocation and left the Chamber when the matter was discussed.

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor D.V. Poole and supported by Councillors J. Pritchard, B. Jones, S. Morgan, C. Gordon, C. Cuss, E. Stenner, L. Phipps, N. George and P. Marsden, in relation to the proposed relocation of the Caerphilly DWP Offices. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without first being discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee: -

“Caerphilly County Borough requests the UK Government to reconsider the relocation of the Caerphilly DWP Offices and to enter into meaningful discussions with the PCS Trade Union. We further request that the Welsh Government supports the PCS’s position.”

Members expressed concern with regard to the impact of the relocation on town centres across Wales, not only in terms of loss of footfall and but ongoing regeneration plans. Reference was made to the lack of an equalities impact assessment in relation to DWP staff, particularly those with caring responsibilities. Further concerns were expressed with regard to the feasibility of moving 600 staff outside reasonable mobility criteria, coupled with the loss of well paid jobs from the various areas. Reference was made to the FDA Union and their possible contribution in objecting to the proposal. Further to this, Members referred to the role of the Public Service Board and their collaborative work to improve the quality of life and that this was being undermined by central government decision making.

Possible traffic issues were discussed, in terms of the influx of cars and the impact this would have on already busy interchanges and the Member felt the need for a Traffic Impact Assessment should be included in any letter sent. It was also felt that more information was needed from central government on any business risk evaluation undertaken prior to the sending of any correspondence. Although it was accepted this additional information would add weight to the correspondence, the delay required for the collation of this additional information was expressed as a concern and the importance of responding as quickly as possible was emphasised by other Members.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate it was moved and seconded that the Notice of be supported and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the Notice of Motion be supported;
- (ii) this Council writes to UK Government to request the reconsideration of the relocation of the Caerphilly DWP Offices and enter into meaningful discussions with the PCS Trade Union;
- (iii) this Council writes to Welsh Government to request that they support the PCSs’ position.

10. LICENSING AND GAMBLING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2018/19

Consideration was given to the report which recommended increases to licensing/registration/permit fees under the Gambling Act 2005 for the next financial year and outlined fees centrally set under the Licensing Act 2003.

The report had been presented to the Licensing and Gambling Committee on the 31st May 2018 and the comments of that Committee were outlined. It was noted that in future years the Licensing and Gambling Committee would take the decisions in respect of fees which are set locally without further reference to Council.

Members were referred to the recommendations contained within the Officers report and were advised that the Licensing and Gambling Committee had proposed an additional recommendation that the Welsh Local Government (WLGA) be asked to approach the Government to take the appropriate action for local authorities to set the level of fees charges in connection with the Licensing Act 2003.

Following due deliberation it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officers original report and the aforementioned additional recommendation of the Licensing and Gambling Committee be approved and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons given in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the level of fees proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 for 2018/19 (as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report) and the fee for Temporary Use Notices (as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report) be approved;
- (ii) the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003 (as set out in Appendix 3 of the report) and for the majority of gambling permits and associated charges (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report) be noted;
- (iii) it be noted that in accordance with the existing powers contained in the terms of reference for the Licencing and Gambling Committee, for future years the decisions in respect of fees which are set locally will be made by the Licensing and Gambling Committee without further reference to full Council;
- (iv) the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) be asked to approach the Government to take the appropriate action for local authorities to set the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003.

11. TAXI AND GENERAL LICENSING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2018/19

Consideration was given to the report which recommended general licensing/registration/permit fees for the next financial year.

The report had been presented to the Taxi and General Committee on the 31st May 2018 and the comments of that Committee were outlined. It was noted that in future years the Taxi and General Committee would take the decisions in respect of fees which are set locally without further reference to Council.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which detailed the proposed level of fees for 2018/19. The Officer confirmed that all statutory consultations include the posting of notices had taken place and advised that delegated powers were also being sought to allow the Taxi and General Committee to consider any objections received in response to the aforementioned consultation process.

Clarification was sought in relation to checks and balances procedures to ensure the accuracy of the proposed fees. The Officer confirmed that the level of fees had been set using the fee calculator toolkit devised by the All Wales Licensing Expert Panel and reflected what was needed in order to cover the costs of providing the service. Reassurances were provided that the fees were reasonable and proportionate to the cost of the processes associated with the licensing regime. They could not be set a level that would make a profit or deter certain businesses from operating in an area.

A concern was expressed with regard to the proposed level of increase on Taxi Vehicle and Driver Licenses given the additional running costs for those businesses in terms of fuel and insurance. A similar concern was also expressed in relation to Street Trading fees and the Officer confirmed the rationale behind the proposed levels.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained in the Officers report be approved and by a show of hands and in noting there were 7 against and 5 abstentions this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons given in the Officer's report: -

- i) The proposed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licences for 2018/19 be advertised and the Taxi and General Committee be given delegated powers to consider any objections received and to determine the fees to be charged and the date on which any variations should come into force;
- (ii) it be noted that in accordance with the existing powers contained in the terms of reference for the Taxi and General Committee in future years the decisions in respect of fees set out in this report will be made by the Taxi and General Committee without further reference to Council.

12. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSES TO THE STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER

Consideration was given to the report which sought Council approval for the proposed response to the consultation on the Welsh Government Green Paper 'Strengthening Local Government Delivering for People'.

Members were advised that three options had been proposed within the Green Paper, Option 1 – Voluntary Merger by 2022, Option 2 – A phased approach with early adopters merging by 2022 and all other authorities by 2026 and finally Option 3 which proposed a single comprehensive merger programme by 2022. From a Caerphilly perspective the Green Paper proposed the merger of this authority with Newport City Council. The Officer referred Members to Appendix 1 of the report which detailed the consultation questions and the proposed responses.

Members expressed their support for the consultation responses and expressed their concerns in relation to the proposed merger with Newport City Council. It was felt that the proposal would benefit neither the residents of Caerphilly or Newport and that larger did not necessarily mean better. Reference was made to the successes demonstrated working on a regional footprint and the opinion was expressed that this rather than reorganisation was the future for local government. The possible impact on the City Deal was discussed particularly in terms of deliverability under the proposed reorganisation. The wisdom of moving forward a costly reorganisation process during a time of austerity was also questioned.

Members agreed that there seemed to be no robust financial assessment of costs or benefits as a result of reorganisation and it was felt that this authority was in a strong enough position

to be sustainable without merging. Reference was made to the possible impact on service delivery especially in light of the decisions taken by many local authorities to out-source services, services that Caerphilly had retained. Members also referenced the negative affect on staff morale that a forced merger would undoubtedly bring not the mention the loss of efficiency over a number of years while the merger process was being undertaken.

An opinion was then expressed that there were too many authorities under the present system with many poorly managed and underperforming and the Member referenced poor performance in terms of educational achievement, business growth, regeneration and poverty. The Member felt that local government required rationalisation and modernisation.

Members placed on record their thanks to Kath Peters, Policy Manager for the hard work in preparing the consultation responses.

Following consideration of the report and the responses contained in Appendix 1 it was moved and seconded that they be endorsed and submitted to Welsh Government and by means of electronic voting and in noting there was 1 against this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons given in the Officer's report the proposed response to the consultation on the Welsh Government Green Paper 'Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People be endorsed.

13. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10 (2)

There were no questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2018 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR

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Agenda Item 6



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 17TH JULY 2018 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor M. Adams - Mayor

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Angel, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, L. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, M. Davies, K. Dawson, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, Miss E. Forehead, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, R.W. Gough, L. Harding, D. Havard, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, Mrs B.A. Jones, S. Kent, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), J. Carpenter (Council Tax & NNDR Manager), D. Lucas (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), D. Marr (Deputy Monitoring Officer - Cardiff Council), L. Lane (Interim Monitoring Officer), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. **WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publicly available in live and archive form via the Council's website. She advised that decisions would be made by a show of hands for agenda items 5-9 and by way of the electronic voting system for items 10-11.

2. **WELCOME – NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Interim Chief Executive referred to the recent appointment of Richard (Ed) Edmunds as Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services, and Robert Tranter as Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer, and welcomed them to their first meeting of Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Dix, C. Elsbury, Mrs C. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, D.T. Hardacre, D. Harse, A. Higgs, M.P. James, V. James, G. Johnston, G. Kirby, Mrs G.D. Oliver, B. Owen, Mrs D. Price and J. Simmonds (Deputy Mayor).

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting, including a number of concerts and the Armed Forces Day 2018 commemorations. Members were invited to let the Mayor know of any forthcoming events that may be of interest, and he expressed his pleasure at meeting local residents and carrying out his mayoral duties on behalf of the Authority.

5. PETITION

The Mayor received a petition presented by Councillor K. Etheridge, on behalf of local residents of Blackwood, which requested that enforcement action be taken in respect of unauthorised parking in the area. The Mayor advised that enforcement action is currently within the remit of Gwent Police and indicated that it would be referred to the appropriate section of the force for action.

6. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Commonwealth Games Athletes

Members were informed of the successes of several athletes from across the county borough who represented Wales at the recent 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia. Hollie Arnold from Ystrad Mynach won the gold medal in the F46 javelin event, Lauren Price from Bargoed won the gold medal in the women's 75KG boxing final, and Peter Creed from Caerphilly competed in the first round of the men's squash event. Marc Wyatt from Caerphilly took the gold medal at the Games with his bowls pair partner Daniel Salmon, and Kyran Jones from Pengam competed in the boxing event.

All the participating athletes were congratulated on their inspirational achievements. Marc Wyatt and Kyran Jones, who were in attendance on behalf of their teammates, came forward in order for their success to be recognised by Council.

Fochriw Primary School

Members were informed of several recent awards achieved by Fochriw Primary School. Mrs Sharon Pascoe (Headteacher) was recently awarded 'Teacher of the Year' at the Primary Science Teacher Trust Awards, which recognises her innovation and creativity in teaching science, her contribution to developing science in the school and beyond, and the support she offers to colleagues across the borough in this regard.

Additionally, in 2017 Fochriw Primary was the first school in Wales to receive the Primary Science Quality Gold Mark for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths curriculum and were recently Regional Welsh Government Enterprise Troopers winners and national finalists for the school's entrepreneurial work, 'The Worry Dolls of Fochriw Primary School.' As well as receiving these many awards Fochriw Primary have also produced a book "The Boy Who Rode a Sheep to School".

Mrs Pascoe, together with a selection of governors and pupils from Fochriw Primary School came forward to be congratulated by Members on their achievements, and for their commitment and dedication to be recognised by Council.

Caerphilly Youth Service – Youth Work Excellence Awards 2018

Members were informed that two projects within the Caerphilly Youth Service were recently shortlisted for Welsh Government's Youth Work Excellence Awards 2018. The Youth Service's Basement project were runners-up for the Promoting Equality and Diversity Award for their work with the Authority's Young People's LGBTQ+ group. Meanwhile, the Youth Service's Targeted Outreach Team won the Making A Difference award for their work with young people, which is of particular note as the winner is decided by a specially constituted group of young judges from across the country.

Representatives from the Caerphilly Youth Service came forward to receive the award and were congratulated by Members on their achievement.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In referring to Agenda Item No. 10 (To Reaffirm Council Tax Determinations to Disapply Discount in Respect of Unoccupied Dwellings), the Interim Monitoring Officer advised that any Member with a current interest in an unoccupied and furnished/unfurnished property may wish to declare a personal and prejudicial interest and leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillors Mrs E. Stenner and Mrs T. Parry declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 10 on this basis. Details are minuted with the respective item.

8. ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – 10TH MAY 2018

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Annual Meeting of Council held on 10th May 2018 (minute nos. 1-22).

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION – THE POTENTIAL OF HYDROGEN IN THE DECARBONISATION OF TRANSPORT IN WALES

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor P.J. Bevan and supported by Councillor C.P. Mann. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillor Bevan requested in his Notice of Motion that:-

- (i) Council note the report 'The Potential of Hydrogen in the Decarbonisation of Transport in Wales', which was published by Simon Thomas AM (as appended to the Notice of

Motion);

- (ii) Council note the Welsh Government's stated intention to build on existing skills and expertise to lead in the UK in hydrogen research and development and investment;
- (iii) Council calls on the Welsh Government to hold discussions with local authorities, businesses, researchers and bodies about holding a key event to convey Wales's ambition in relation to the hydrogen economy to a worldwide audience and to trigger the development of a comprehensive hydrogen economy strategy.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate, it was moved and seconded that its content be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the Notice of Motion be supported.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ‘THANK YOU’ AND ‘EVERY ONE REMEMBERED’ CAMPAIGNS

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor A. Whitcombe (Armed Forces Champion) and supported by Councillor J. Bevan and Councillor J. Simmonds. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillor Whitcombe requested in his Notice of Motion that:-

“Caerphilly County Borough Council confirm their support for the Royal British Legion Thank You Campaign in remembrance of the 1.1 million Service men and women who gave their lives in World War 1 by highlighting the ‘Every One Remembered’ initiative to commemorate every one of them by the end of 2018”.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided by the Member in support of the motion, and following due debate, it was moved and seconded that its content be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the Notice of Motion be supported.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CADET REPRESENTATIVES

Consideration was given to the report, which asked Council to consider the appointment of three Cadet Representatives, one from each of the Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, and Royal Navy Sea Cadets, for the remainder of the 2018 calendar year.

It was noted that the appointment of Cadet Representatives will recognise the historic centenaries occurring this year; the RAF100 celebrations, commemorating 100 years since the inception of the RAF, and 100 years since the end of conflict in the First World War. The Cadet Representatives will be invited to attend events at the request of the Mayor and will be supported in their role by the Armed Forces Champion. The appointments will allow the Authority to recognise the contributions made by the armed forces, and young people, to community life in the county borough.

Members voiced their support for the proposals and suggested that subject to approval of these positions, the representatives be invited to a future meeting of Council in order to be formally recognised for their efforts. It was confirmed that suitable arrangements could be made in this regard.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the appointment of three Cadet Representatives (one from each of the Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, and Royal Navy Sea Cadets as nominated by their respective force) for the remainder of the calendar year, to time with the 2018 centenary celebrations be endorsed on the following basis:-

- (a) Cadet Representatives be invited to attend events at the request of the Mayor, who will be supported by the Armed Forces Champion;
- (b) Cadet Representatives be asked to attend in the company of a parent/guardian or adult volunteer representative of the relevant cadet force for safeguarding purposes;
- (c) Cadet Representatives be provided with braids or badges as appropriate to their branch of the services;
- (d) The Gwent Armed Forces Liaison Officer to assist with liaison with the cadet forces in the selection process;
- (e) The Mayor's Office to assist with invitation to relevant events.

12. CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL – JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the report, which outlined proposals to establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCDC), and had been presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 26th June 2018.

Members were advised that the CCRCDC Joint Cabinet recently agreed draft terms of reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and equal representation from all 10 local authorities, with one member plus a substitute from each authority. It was also agreed that Bridgend Council would host the JOSC. Details of the proposals for establishing the Joint Scrutiny Committee, together with details of the draft terms of reference, were appended to the report.

Council were also referred to the covering report which outlined the recommendations of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee in regards to the establishment of the JOSC, nomination of a non-executive Member and substitute Member to represent the Authority on this committee, whether to consider if a senior salary should be applied if the nominated Member were to be appointed as Chair of the JOSC, and to note that it will be a decision for each of the ten authorities if it wishes to establish the proposed JOSC.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's covering report be approved, subject to an amendment to nominate Councillor J. Ridgewell as the non-executive Member to represent the Authority on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and Councillor C. Elsbury as the substitute Member,

and to recommend that a senior salary payment not be applied if the nominated Member were to be appointed as Chair of the JOSOC.

Members welcomed the proposals in view of the growing momentum surrounding the City Deal, but suggested a need for greater cross-party involvement in the JOSOC in order to provide consistency across the lifespan of the project. Clarification was sought on the scope to apply a senior salary payment and it was explained that the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) states it is a matter for constituent councils to decide if a salary will be paid to chairs of JOSOCs (which will be the responsibility of the respective local authority).

Following discussion of the report, and subject to the foregoing amendments and by a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed that the following recommendations be approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the proposal to establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal be supported;
- (ii) Councillor J. Ridgewell be nominated as the non-executive Member to represent the Authority on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, and Councillor C. Elsbury be nominated as the substitute Member;
- (iii) a senior salary payment not be applied if the nominated member is appointed as Chair of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (iv) Council note that it will be a decision for each of the ten authorities if it wishes to establish the proposed Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

13. TO REAFFIRM COUNCIL TAX DETERMINATIONS TO DISAPPLY DISCOUNT IN RESPECT OF UNOCCUPIED DWELLINGS

Councillors Mrs E. Stenner and Mrs T. Parry declared a personal and prejudicial interest, (being the owner or executor of an unoccupied dwelling) and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Council approval to reaffirm two council tax determinations in respect of unoccupied dwellings: one made by the Council's Finance Committee on 7th April 1998, and the other made by Cabinet on 18th May 2004.

It was noted that the determinations made were in respect of a discretionary power provided by Section 12 of The Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992. This power enables local authorities to remove the statutory default 50% discount on the amount of council tax payable that would otherwise apply to unoccupied dwellings which are not exempt (i.e. to charge 100% rather than 50% of the standard amount). Members were asked to note that Section 12 does not relate to any premium legislation in respect of council tax that was recently introduced by Welsh Government.

Officers explained that correspondence was recently received from a council tax payer which led to a review of the decision-making processes undertaken in 1998 and 2004. External legal advice was sought which noted that the determinations were not made by full Council and, in order to remove any ambiguity, recommended that full Council should reaffirm the decisions. As a result of that advice, Council were asked to reaffirm the determinations as detailed in the report.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the determinations to allow a nil discount to continue to be applied in respect of each of the prescribed classes of dwellings contained within The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended), be reaffirmed, namely:-

Class A, which comprises every dwelling –

- (a) of which there is no resident;
- (b) which is substantially furnished; and
- (c) the occupation of which is prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.

Class B, which comprises every dwelling –

- (a) of which there is no resident;
- (b) which is substantially furnished; and
- (c) the occupation of which is **not** prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.

Classes A and B do not include:

- (a) any dwelling which consists of a pitch occupied by a caravan or a mooring occupied by a boat;
- (b) in relation to which a person is a qualifying person (liable for council tax) in his capacity as a personal representative if –
 - i. no person is a qualifying person in any other capacity, and
 - ii. either no grant of probate or letters of administration has been made, or less than 12 months have elapsed since such a grant was made; and
- (c) where a qualifying person in relation to that dwelling is a qualifying person in relation to another dwelling which is, for him, job-related.

Class C, which comprises every chargeable dwelling –

- (a) which is unoccupied; and
- (b) which is substantially unfurnished.

14. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH DRAFT REGENERATION STRATEGY – A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS 2018-2023 SUPPLEMENTED BY THE DRAFT CAERPHILLY BASIN MASTERPLAN

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Council approval of 'A Foundation for Success as the Regeneration Strategy for the period 2018 to 2023, and the Caerphilly Basin Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan up to 2021 and as a tool for guiding regeneration activity in the wider Caerphilly Basin area.

Members were reminded that on 14th March 2018, Cabinet resolved to approve the draft version of 'A Foundation for Success and the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan for the purposes of a formal six-week public consultation process, which was carried out between 26th March and 9th May 2018. In total, 22 representations were received for 'A Foundation for Success' and 422 representations were received on the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan.

The responses raised a wide number of issues and their consideration along with an officer view on recommendations for change were set out in the Combined Report of Consultation appended to the report. As a result of responses received, a number of changes to both documents were proposed, which were set out in the Combined Report of Consultation and

also the amended versions of 'A Foundation for Success' and the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan appended to the report.

The report sought the Council's agreement on the proposed changes to both documents and also sought approval of the amended 'A Foundation for Success' as the Council's Regeneration Strategy and the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Local Development Plan up to 2021. Subject to these documents being approved, both the previous Regeneration Strategy (People, Business, Places) and the Caerphilly Town Centre Action Plan 2011 would be superseded.

It was explained that in order to make bids for funding and to deliver projects the Council will need to assess and prioritise proposals in a fair and equitable manner. To assist in this a Project Prioritisation Assessment Toolkit has been prepared which assesses how projects meet the strategic objectives of City Deal. The Toolkit, which has been considered by the Regeneration Project Board, was also appended to the report. Decisions on the prioritisation of projects need to be made swiftly and governance procedures need to reflect this, with the proposed governance procedure for the consideration and prioritisation of projects set out in the report.

It was noted that the Regeneration Strategy, which is underpinned by the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, will identify how to make the county borough more prosperous, healthier, resilient and equal, and will set priorities that align and enhance regional work and are readily capable of being realised. This will include harnessing the many opportunities arising from the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal to strengthen the economy, reduce poverty, and raise levels of prosperity across the county borough.

It was moved and seconded that recommendations 10.1 to 10.5 of the report be approved, with the inclusion of an additional recommendation 10.6, in that the Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass included in the Regeneration Strategy proposals be reconsidered at the appropriate time under the review of the Adopted Local Development Plan or the Strategic Development Plan (whichever is applicable).

During the course of the ensuing debate, clarification was sought on the monitoring of regeneration strategies and how their outcomes are identified. It was explained that the Regeneration Strategy is part of a set of regeneration plans for the county borough that form part of the City Deal regeneration scheme, which is monitored via reviews carried out by a number of bodies including Welsh Government and HM Treasury. It was confirmed that at a local level, any regeneration strategies would be considered by the relevant scrutiny committee and any recommendations thereafter forwarded to Cabinet/Council for approval. A Member referred to child poverty levels across the county borough and Officers emphasised that it will take time to address this particular area but that it will be collectively tackled via a regional approach as part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

Discussion took place regarding the Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass and several Members voiced their opposition to its inception. In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that any revision of the Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass would take place upon the review of the Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) or production of the Strategic Development Plan. Members debated the merits of the proposed additional recommendation to review the inclusion of the Bypass in the Regeneration Strategy moving forward and a request was initially received for the addition to be withdrawn. However a recorded vote for the additional recommendation was subsequently requested in accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.5 (1) and, in view of this, the motion to withdraw the additional recommendation was retracted.

A query was received on the feasibility of removing the proposed Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass in its entirety from the Regeneration Strategy in light of the consultation results and level of public opposition to its creation. Officers explained that the Regeneration Strategy

has been written in the context of the Adopted LDP, which remains as Council policy until 2021 or until superseded by a regional Strategic Development Plan. The Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass is also contained in local transport plans and the Air Quality Action Plan. Therefore the appropriate mechanism for reviewing the Bypass in through the Adopted LDP. It was explained that withdrawing the proposed Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass at this time could be misguided, because the Adopted LDP remains Council policy in regards to safeguarding travel routes, and therefore it would be more prudent to review this during the Adopted LDP review.

Members welcomed the proposed Regeneration Strategy and Caerphilly Basin Masterplan and the range of economic and health benefits and investment opportunities that these will potentially bring to the county borough. Members also placed on record their thanks to the Officers involved in developing the Regeneration Strategy and Caerphilly Basin Masterplan and acknowledged the extensive level of work involved in the preparation of these documents.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, and having moved and seconded that recommendations 10.1 to 10.5 be approved, the vote took place by way of the electronic voting system, and in noting there were 2 against, the motion was declared carried by the majority present.

Having moved and seconded additional recommendation 10.6, the recorded vote requested in accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.5 (1) was then taken by way of the electronic voting system.

FOR THE MOTION

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, M. Adams, C. Andrews, J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, A. Collis, S. Cook, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, M. Evans, Miss E. Forehead, N. George, C. Gordon, L. Harding, D. Havard, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, J. Pritchard, R. Saralis, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, T.J. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski (38)

AGAINST THE MOTION

A. Angel, M. Davies, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, Ms J. Gale, R.W. Gough, C.P. Mann, T. Parry, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, L.G. Whittle (13)

ABSTENTIONS

L. Binding, S. Kent, J.E. Roberts (3)

The motion was declared carried by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the contents of the Combined Report of Consultation be noted and the resultant proposed changes recommended in Appendices 2 and 3 to both 'A Foundation for Success' and the Caerphilly Basin Masterplan be agreed;
- (ii) the 'A Foundation for Success' as the Regeneration Strategy for the County Borough for the period 2018 to 2023 (which will supersede the previous regeneration strategy, 'People, Business, Places' that expired in 2013) be approved;

- (iii) the Caerphilly Basin Masterplan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan Up To 2021, and as a tool for guiding regeneration activity in the wider Caerphilly Basin area (which will supersede the Caerphilly Town Centre Action Plan adopted by the Council in June 2011), be approved;
- (iv) the Project Prioritisation Assessment Toolkit set out at Appendix 6 be approved as the basis for the assessment of regeneration projects and assigning their relative priority;
- (v) the governance procedure for the prioritisation of regeneration proposals contained in paragraph 4.32 of the Officer's report be agreed;
- (vi) the Caerphilly South Eastern Bypass included in the Regeneration Strategy proposals be reconsidered at the appropriate time under the review of the Adopted Local Development Plan or the Strategic Development Plan (whichever is applicable).

15. QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Consideration was given to the following Question under Rule of Procedure 10(2). In accordance with the revisions to the constitution, the answer is also provided.

(i) TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

- (1) To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with the recent unfilled and deletion of the Assistant Town Centre Manager Post would he provide re-assurance and detailed reasons that all the front line services to all the Town Centres, High Street and Retailers will not be reduced and each town will be protected equally.
- (2) To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to provide the terms of reference, timescale and implications of any re-structure in regard to the Town Centres, and how this will affect retailers, and define what consultation has been undertaken with Town Centre Management Committees in each location in this regard and in relation to question 1.
- (3) To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to provide a list of services he proposes to reduce, and stop following the removal of one full time post, and will he reconsider this decision within the interests of our Town Centre, and list the consultation undertaken with the local elected members in the Towns and Wards affected prior to this decision being implemented.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR SEAN MORGAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY.

Question 1 – Answer

There has been no decision taken at this time to delete the post of Assistant Town Centre Manager. As any post becomes vacant a decision must be taken in terms of whether or not to fill that post as part of the ongoing work on the Medium Term Financial Plan. The current post holder is in post until 5th August 2018. With regard to the services delivered to all of the Town

Centres this question is far reaching as our services are provided by a multitude of staff across many service areas and are not restricted to the work of the Town Centre Management Team (e.g. street cleansing, waste collection, highways maintenance)

Question 2 – Answer

The restructure that is being undertaken is for the whole of Regeneration & Planning and will be undertaken in order to be implemented in readiness for the next financial year. There will not be any consultation with retailers or the town centre management committees concerning the Planning & Regeneration Restructure.

It is worth noting however that the dynamics of town centres are altering from what was once almost a purely retail function to a much greater mixed tenure of lifestyle café/bars, bespoke service centred businesses, entrepreneurial start-ups and offices. This change in dynamic will have to be reflected in the reorganisation of the business team structure.

Question 3 – Answer

At this point in time a decision has not been taken to delete the post. I would however make the point that many difficult decisions will have to be made moving forward if we are to meet MTFP obligations.

The Town Centre Manager has been in discussion with the Head of Service and additional resources within Planning & Regeneration have been identified to take on some of the functions currently undertaken by the Assistant when that post becomes vacant. I would however request that Members be mindful that the Town Centre Management Team will reduce in the short term, although I am confident that we will continue to provide an excellent service, as far as we are able, given the reduced resources for this service.

16. COUNCILLOR ARIANNA LEONARD

Prior to closing the meeting, the Mayor gave a warm welcome to Councillor Arianna Leonard on her return to Council following a period of maternity leave.

The meeting closed at 6.37 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2018, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR

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COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

-
- 1.1 The attached report is due to be considered by Cabinet on 3rd October 2018. The recommendations of Cabinet will be reported verbally to Council on 9th October 2018.
 - 1.2 Members will be asked to consider the recommendations of Cabinet.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendix Report to Cabinet on 3rd October 2018

CABINET - 3RD OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the Authority's Annual Self-Assessment called the Annual Performance Report for 2017/18 and to seek the views and approval of Cabinet prior to its presentation to Council on the 9th October 2018 and publication by 30th October 2018.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and an important part of the Council's performance framework. The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance.
- 2.2 In addition, the report must show how the council performed against the Well-being Objectives it set itself for 2017/18.






3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires each authority to set and publish Well-being Objectives. It is a requirement of the Act that our objectives will have a positive impact upon the social, economic, environmental or cultural well-being of the area or community concerned. In particular our set of objectives must collectively contribute to:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to publish its Performance Report no later than the 30th October each year. The Performance Report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Upon approval by Council, the report will be published on the Council's internet site and made available in hard copy at key council offices and libraries.

- 4.2 The report includes the Leader and the Interim Chief Executive's summary of the year, financial statements, progress and achievements made against our 5 Well-being Objectives, and performance summary comparison against national Public Accountability Measures for 2017/18 for Local Authorities.
- 4.3 Detailed reports and dashboards of the Council's performance against its Well-being Objectives were scrutinised at this year's performance scrutiny meetings. These will be placed on the internet at the same time as the Performance Report to provide more detail and keep the report to a manageable size; as such the main report provides key points of the performance of the Well-being Objectives.
- 4.4 What does the Annual Performance Report tell us?**
- 4.4.1 In accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009 the Annual Performance Report is focussed on, but not limited to, the council's delivery of its Well-being Objectives and the report reflects that.
- 4.4.2 The council's Well-being Objectives (WBOs) for 2017/2018 were judged as:

WBO	Description	Status
WBO1	To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts	Successful 
WBO2	Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to under achievement	Partially Successful 
WBO3	Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough	Successful 
WBO4	Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint	Partially Successful 
WBO5	Investment in council homes to transform lives and communities	Partially Successful 

The judgements above were made based upon whether the individual WBOs had delivered the outcomes set. The judgements were scrutinised and validated via each individual scrutiny meeting held across autumn 2018.

WBO1 was judged as successful within this term because all actions were delivered and of the 11 performance indicators used to show improvement, 9 exceeded target. In particular the indicators that were used to judge what difference we were making, showed that we generated savings of £903,508 for tenants as a result of face to face support.

WBO2 was judged as partially successful because we delivered all our actions and even though we have made a real difference to those involved, we were not satisfied that we had achieved the standards that we want. Some of our performance information which we use to monitor progress showed a mixed picture. This objective has been incorporated into the new Corporate Plan to remain a priority for the next 5 years.

WBO3 was judged as successful because of the 6 measures used to monitor 'how well did we do', all 6 exceeded target. The latest data published by Public Health Wales showed an improving picture for Caerphilly county borough residents, for example the gap in years in the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth of males between the most and least deprived in the county has reduced. The healthy life expectancy gap in males reduced from 18.6 years to 13 years. For females, whilst the gap in overall life expectancy has increased by 0.2 years, the gap in years for healthy life expectancy has reduced by 1.6 years.

WBO4 was judged as partially successful because whilst there was some success (3 out of our 5 measures exceeded their targets) and some of the action plan was completed, our actions and measures are part of a longer-term strategy and will be ongoing for a number of years.

WBO5 was judged as partially successful. Progress has been made, particularly with the number of homes becoming compliant with external and internal works, however it is highly likely that this objective will remain as partially successful until the full programme has been completed.

Performance Data 2017/18

- 4.4.3 There are several ways to view national data, either by performance against past performance, performance against other authorities, or movement up and down the rankings. For example, some indicators although having moved down or staying at a low ranking have still improved year-on-year, or performance may decline but can still improve within the all Wales ranking. As such Performance Appendix 2 shows how well we have improved year-on-year and within the all Wales context.
- 4.4.4 Of the 20 National indicators, **18** were used as a comparison to create the national picture across Wales. **8** of the 18 indicators are in the upper quarters and **10** are in the lower quarters when compared to the rest of Wales. In summary 30% (**6**) improved on performance year-on-year, and 40% (**8**) deteriorated year-on-year, 30% (**6**) could not be compared with the year before, because they were new. Social Services measures are not included as the Welsh Government has not yet decided to publish them.
- 4.4.5 In the main, indicators within the all Wales ranking have had limited movement compared to last year, with those indicators in the lower quarters staying there and those that are in the upper quarters continuing to do well. The ranking and position in comparison to the rest of Wales for 2017/18 is shown below:

Key

Upper Quarter	Middle Upper Quarter	Middle Lower Quarter	Lower Quarter
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Public Accountability Measures quarter & ranking positions over 3 years	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
PAM001: The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence	17	20	20
PAM006: The percentage of year 11 pupils at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority who achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		18
PAM007: Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools	21	17	16
PAM008: Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	22	20	21
PAM009: Percentage of year 11 leavers known not to be in education, training or employment (NEET)	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		20
PAM010: The percentage of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	9	8	9
PAM011: The percentage of reported fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days	3	2	3
PAM012: Percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		1

PAM013: The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months during the year through direct action by the local authority	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		11
PAM015: The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant	17	17	21
PAM016: The number of visits to Public Libraries during the year, per 1,000 population	6	4	11
PAM017: The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1,000 population	15	16	20
PAM018: Percentage of all planning applications determined within required time periods.	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		14
PAM019: Percentage of appeals against application decisions dismissed	New PI to the PAM set for 2017/18		5
PAM020: The percentage of principal (A) roads, that are in overall poor condition	17	18	18
PAM021: The percentage of principal (B) roads, that are in overall poor condition	10	8	6
PAM022: The percentage of principal (C) roads, that are in overall poor condition	10	11	11
PAM023: The percentage of food establishments which are 'broadly compliant' with food hygiene standards	6	12	13
PAM030: The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated bio wastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	8	7	Available October
PAM031: The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	4	10	Available October

Details of Caerphilly county borough's performance in comparison with other local authorities in Wales for all 20 indicators can be found on the internet or at www.mylocalcouncil.info

4.4.6 The 2017/18 Well-being Objectives were closed in April 2018 and the Council formally adopted a new set of Well-being Objectives for the period 2018-2023 within its Corporate Plan. The first year of progress against the 2018-2023 Corporate Plan will be reported in the summer of 2019.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

5.1 This report provides performance information against the Council's 2017/18 Well-being Objectives. The objectives were set in consideration of the '5 ways of working' within the sustainable development principle which are;

- Involve
- Collaborate
- Long term
- Integrate
- Prevention

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 includes 'fairness' in its definition of improvement. The legislation also requires organisations to consider 'fairness' when setting priorities. There are equalities implications to consider in the publishing of the Council's Performance Report and the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied. The report will be available in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards and in different formats on request.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct Personnel implications arising from this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The Performance Report has been collated via contributions made by all Directorates across the Council. All relevant Heads of Service have contributed and been consulted. All other comments resulting from consultation have been incorporated into this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council they accept the Annual Performance Report 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 There is a statutory duty on the authority to publish the Performance Report by the 30th October each year.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Author: Ros Roberts, Performance Manager, Performance Management
Consultees: Richard (Ed) Edmunds, Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Cllr. B. Jones, Cabinet Member for Performance, Property and Asset Management
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Communities and Leisure
Shaun Couzens, Head of Housing
Mark Williams, Head of Property
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager

Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager
 Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer - Equalities and Welsh Language
 Shaun Watkins Principal Personnel Officer, Social Services
 Dave Roberts, Principal Finance Officer, Corporate Services
 Stephen Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:

Committee	Date	Title of Report
Education for Life (WBO2)	3 rd July 2018	Well-being Objective 17/18.
Health and Social Care Well Being (WBO1 & WBO3)	11 th September 2018	Well-being Objective 17/18 year end update.
Regeneration and Environment (WB04)	18 th September 2018	Well-being Objective Annual Report Year end 17/18
Policy and Resources (WBO5)	2 nd October 2018	Well-being Objective 5 Investment in council homes to transform lives and communities - end of year report 17/18

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Performance Report 2017/18

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Leader of Council, Cllr. David Poole

As the Leader of one of the largest local authorities in Wales, whenever I'm provided with an opportunity such as this to pause and reflect and consider the many achievements made over the last 12 months together with what lies ahead, I'm always impressed by the scale and diversity of what we have achieved.



The 2017/18 financial year was certainly an interesting and challenging year. A few of our key achievements include:

- Our ambitious 21st Century School programme is delivering huge benefit across the county borough.
- The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal continues to make good progress and I will continue to ensure that Caerphilly's economic opportunities are maximised through this collaborative approach.
- Significant progress continues to be made in the delivery of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme, with around £145 million having been invested in improving the condition of our council homes to date.
- We have also played our part in protecting our most vulnerable residents, with our social services team receiving positive inspection outcomes, which demonstrate the quality level of care and support our residents receive day in, day out.

It is impossible to list all our achievements and aspirations in such a limited space, but these are just a flavour of some of the key issues that we are involved with at present.

In the wider context, Local Government continues to struggle with the continued period of austerity and having previously made in excess of £80m of savings over recent years. The continued need to find further significant savings whilst maintaining our services is proving a very difficult challenge and is very much the focus of our current thinking.

My Cabinet colleagues and I have embarked upon a whole-encompassing journey of improvement and we recognise that in order for us to move forward we need a clear vision and a robust set of priorities that sets the tone for the whole organisation.

Forming a key part of this approach is the recent development of our new 'Cabinet Commitments' which set out 7 key pledges that will help us shape the way we deliver services in the future. This is a bold move and we are aware that we must be fully accountable by living up to these commitments in everything we do.

We have also adopted a new set of financial principles which will guide and influence the authority's decision-making process as we navigate the tough financial times that lie ahead.

We are also radically rethinking the way we deliver services to our communities. The council recognises that we can no longer do things the way we have always done in the past. Therefore we need to completely review our service provision, in order to meet the changing requirements of our communities.

A key part of this process will be engagement and consultation, so we plan to hold a series of conversations with our communities as they are instrumental in helping shape this new approach to public service delivery.

We are also considering the development of new 'community hubs' that will provide residents with the services and facilities they require in the heart of their own communities.

These are challenging but exciting times and there is a tangible feeling throughout the council that we are finally moving forward again after experiencing a difficult past few years.

I'm proud to be at the helm of this authority and I'm committed to making Caerphilly Council one of the leading local authorities in Wales, serving our residents and ensuring our communities remain resilient for our future generations.

Cllr. Dave Poole
Leader



A Year in Summary 2017/18

From our interim Chief Executive Christina Harrhy

The past year has once again brought with it many challenges and achievements, which have all been set within the context of further reductions to our budgets as part of the ongoing austerity the UK continues to face. Since 2008/09 the Council has reduced its budgets by £82m and over the next 5 years a further £41m of savings will be required. The Council therefore needs to ensure we remain sustainable and able to provide the many services we currently provide to our citizens each and every day. We have set up a Business Improvement Portfolio, which is looking forensically at what we do and how we can do it differently. A number of key areas have already been identified which we will develop over the next 12 months.



Earlier this year, the Council approved its Corporate Plan which sets out clearly our key priorities, which we will focus upon delivering over the next 5 years. These are:

1. Improve education opportunities for all.
2. Enabling employment.
3. Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being.
4. Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment.

5. Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
6. Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

We have already begun to make some progress with these priorities.

Earlier in the year full Council approved the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal joint working agreement as one of the 10 Councils in South East Wales that make up the CCR.

The City Deal includes an investment of £1.2 billion, which will be used to improve the economic performance of the region. For each pound of investment, we intend to lever in 4 times that amount from the private sector.

This investment will focus upon a number of themes, including the development of an integrated transport system to ensure people are able to travel across the region. The Welsh Government recently announced the successful bidder who will deliver the South Wales Metro, which will bring new trains and increased frequencies to rail services across the region, including the Rhymney line over the next few years. Other investment themes include: support for innovation and digital infrastructure, developing skills and helping people back into work, promoting enterprise and business growth and wider regeneration activity in our valley communities, thereby helping to deliver 25,000 new jobs across the region. The activities we intend to focus upon across the region were set out in more detail in the Business Plan which all 10 councils recently agreed.

Plans are already being made to develop a housing investment fund to unlock sites that are currently unviable, particularly in the northern Heads of the Valley areas. A regional skills proposal is also being developed which aims to offer thousands of apprenticeships. Plans are also in place to improve Cardiff Central Station so that the station can absorb the additional trains which will be operated as part of the new "Metro" proposals for the valley rail lines.

We are also working to develop a strategic development plan that will supersede our local development plan. This plan will consider major infrastructure on a regional basis, ensuring the county borough and region are equipped with the required housing and employment infrastructure to support economic growth. The City Deal represents a very exciting opportunity for the county borough, its residents and businesses and we intend to maximise the benefits it can bring.

Following a lot of consultation, the Council recently published its new Regeneration Strategy 2018-2023 which sets out our plans to regenerate the county borough, focussing upon economic, environmental and social interventions. Working with Welsh Government a number of "growth hubs" across the county borough have been identified, which we intend to use to lever Welsh Government and other grant funding in order to deliver our growth plans.

The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan also sets out some exciting proposals that will anchor Caerphilly and the county borough as a whole as a key player and destination across the Cardiff Capital City Region.

The Council is investing over £200m in its housing stock, undertaking significant improvements to the internal and external fabric to over 10,000 Council properties to ensure that they meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). We are progressing well and are confident that we will meet the Welsh Government completion date of 2020. Areas are being completely transformed through this work which is complemented with local regeneration schemes that aim to improve the local area. Areas such as Lansbury Park in Caerphilly are looking very different as a result of this investment and the feedback from our tenants has been very positive.

The needs of our older population and those who are vulnerable are served really well by our dedicated social services team. A number of key pieces of national legislation have been introduced over the last 12 months which has triggered a number of changes to how we work. We know that the future demands for the service are significant and over the next year we will be looking at how we can work more closely with colleagues in the Health service to ensure fully integrated services.



We were pleased to welcome the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, to formally open our new 4-18 year Idris Davies School in Rhymney early in 2018. This school is the latest result of the £56m 21st Century schools investment programme working with Welsh Government. We are currently consulting upon our future school investment programme which if approved, will bring further investment and improvements to our education provision over the next few years.

We have continued to work closely with Head teachers and their staff, together with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to drive up educational attainment standards. This does not happen overnight, but some positive changes are now beginning to emerge. This is certainly an area we will continue to focus upon over the next few years, as giving our children the best start to life is of paramount importance to us.

The road network across the county borough is our biggest asset and back in June 2017 we saw temperatures in excess of 30 degrees Celsius across the country. These high temperatures returned in the summer of 2018 and caused some of our newly surfaced roads to melt. During February 2018, we also experienced some of the coldest conditions felt for many years, which was accompanied by the deepest snow fall since 1982. Staff across the council responded exceptionally well, keeping the county borough safe and mobile during the inclement weather. Members of the public were very appreciative, and this was reflected in the significant number of positive comments received on social media.

In autumn 2017 we began work on the Pwll-y-Pant roundabout in Caerphilly. This is the most strategic junction we have in the county borough, serving hundreds of

thousands of vehicles every day. The introduction of major roadworks on the roundabout brought many complaints and after listening carefully to the local business community, the construction programme was completely redesigned to ensure the impact upon the community and businesses was minimised wherever possible. We are aiming to complete the works before Christmas 2018.

Over the past year we have been working closely with residents to support them with their recycling. Whilst our overall recycling performance is very good (currently at just over 66%), we continue to have a problem with high levels of contamination caused by residents placing wrong items in their recycling bin. When this happens, the recycling processing contractor rejects the recycling and it costs the Council hundreds of thousands of pounds to treat each year. So we are focussing really hard on reducing the contamination, as we simply can't sustain the levels of contamination any longer. Staff visited over 50,000 properties over the last year to offer advice and answer any questions, and we will continue with this approach over the next few months whilst a review of the service is undertaken by elected members and officers.

We are currently seeking the views from the public regarding our proposals for the future sports and active recreation service. The 10 year strategy sets out the full range of services we provide to support active living. Following the outcome of the consultation, the Council's Cabinet will consider the views obtained and decide how the service will be delivered. Our outdoor space is such an important asset to us. In recognition of the high standards that we maintain, six of our parks and open spaces (including one cemetery) retained their "Green Flag" status.





During 2017/18 1.89 million tourists visited the county borough, a 4.5% increase on 2016 figures. This activity supported 1645 jobs and contributed towards the overall economic impact of tourism in the area of £128.1million.

A number of events were hosted across the county borough, including the Caerphilly 10k, which took place in hot temperatures with local residents using their garden hoses to hose down competitors with some much needed cool water as they passed by. Just under 2,500 registered for the run.

A maximum of 700 entries were received for the 2k fun run - totalling just under 3,200 competitors, which is a record to date. We also host the 3rd largest 10k in Wales!

12,000 residents and visitors took to the streets of Caerphilly as the town hosted South Wales Armed Forces Day for the second time.

There was an impressive military parade through the town centre, a poignant Drumhead Service on the Owain Glyndwr Playing Fields, followed by a variety of family fun activities. The highlight of the afternoon was a Battle of Britain Spitfire fly-past.

In July the annual Velothon cycle race returned to the roads across the county borough, welcoming some of the world's best professional cyclists as well as thousands of recreational riders and charity fundraisers.

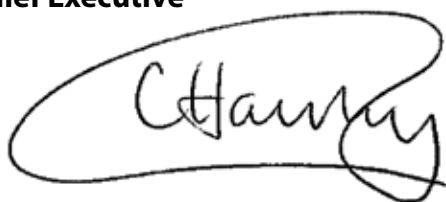
We also hosted a visit from HRH Prince Charles to Llancaiach Fawr in July to open a new exhibition. The Prince was met by local school children and escorted throughout his visit by staff who explained how the museum has been transformed and returned to how it originally was in 1645.

Over the last year the ongoing “local government reorganisation” discussion with Welsh Government continued. The Welsh Government set out their proposals in a “Green paper” that would have seen the number of local authorities in Wales reduce from 22 to 10 over the next few years. As part of these proposals, a merger between us and Newport Council was set out. These proposals have now been withdrawn and we have given a commitment along with all other councils across Wales to work with Welsh Government to develop and deliver reform for local government in Wales.

A Welsh Government bill will be brought forward in the autumn of 2018 to define the relationship between Welsh Government and local councils and collectively we will look at how our organisations can work together to drive forward reform. We certainly welcome this as we already work in collaboration with many partner organisations.

I hope this summary has provided you with a “snapshot” of what has been delivered for Caerphilly citizens over the last year. This really has been a collective achievement with every member of staff focused upon making a positive impact and difference to the county borough. Together we provide over 600 services each and every day and we are constantly reviewing and refining our approach to ensure we continue to deliver valued, cost effective and efficient public services for the people of Caerphilly.

Christina Harrhy
Interim Chief Executive



Summary Progress of our Well-being Objectives 2017/18

We reviewed our objectives in some detail at the start of 2018 and decided we needed to renew and refresh them based upon what citizens told us following the detailed consultation undertaken as part of the local assessment of our well-being.

As a result we have published a new Corporate Plan for 2018-2023 with new Well-being Objectives, further details of which you can find on the Council's website.

We are therefore now closing our 2017/18 objectives. The next few chapters will tell you how we performed against them and whether we think they have been successful or not. This judgement is always reviewed, challenged and checked with the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

More detailed information on each Well-being Objective's action plan and targets are available on the Caerphilly County Borough Council website.

1. TACKLING POVERTY BY MAXIMISING INCOME by helping people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts - **was Successful**



2. IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL LEARNERS particularly those that are vulnerable to achievement - **was Partially Successful**



3. CLOSE THE GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR RESIDENTS between the most and least deprived areas in the borough, by promoting the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle - **was Successful**



4. CARBON MANAGEMENT by reducing our Carbon Footprint by taking steps to reduce the Authority's Carbon Footprint and inform and assist others within the borough to do the same - **was Partially Successful**



5. INVESTMENT IN COUNCIL HOMES TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES by taking steps to ensure the physical standard and condition of our housing stock, be improved and maintained to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), helping to improve the quality of life for the people who live in those homes - **was Partially Successful**



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 1

Tackling poverty by maximising income by helping people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts

We chose this because

In our previous plans and reports we talked about how poverty harms people’s prospects and damages their long-term future. It also places a burden upon public resources and services. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty. Common causes of problem debt are job loss, illness and relationship breakdown. Many are vulnerable to falling into problem debt following such life events, as too few have the financial resilience to cope. We know for example that problem debt can impact on good mental health, relationships, education and general well-being. The past few years has seen an unprecedented increase in the use of food banks in Wales. Energy prices have also risen, for those on low incomes this can be difficult. Those in poverty are more likely to be on prepaid meters, and can pay up to £253 more per year than those paying by direct debit.

How we performed

Although national indications (such as foodbank use) continue to grow across the UK, we have judged ourselves successful against this objective because we completed all of our actions and more importantly, our performance measures improved from last year. We visited more tenants to advise them with their financial planning and because of this we were able to help them access benefits and generate savings of just under £1million on their behalf.



*BBC Source - Trussell Trust

Across Wales **98,350 three-day food bags** were given out from **April 2017 to March 2018** and **35,403** were to children. 29% of referrals were because people on low incomes or benefits were unable to make ends meet.*

At **May 2018**, the dual fuel index was **9.7% higher than its 2015 level**. The electricity index is **19.7% higher** and the gas index is **0.1% higher****

** Ofgen



£903,508 savings generated for tenants

as a direct result of face to face support to mitigate the effect of welfare reforms.

We **visited 444** council tenants and provided them with advice regarding energy saving measures and energy use.

We visited almost **2000** council tenants affected by welfare reforms in their own homes and provided them with advice and support to minimise the impact of the changes.

We **referred 51** council tenants for money and debt advice as a direct result of face to face support on the impact of welfare reforms.

We supported **supported 1640** people to access the benefits they are entitled to. This included Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Attendance Allowance and access to cheaper utility costs.

Other ways in which we tackled poverty include making use of the Welsh Government tackling poverty programmes. For example the 'Supporting People' programme helped a further 1730 people to access the benefit they are entitled to and 620 children benefited from Flying Start Childcare provision.

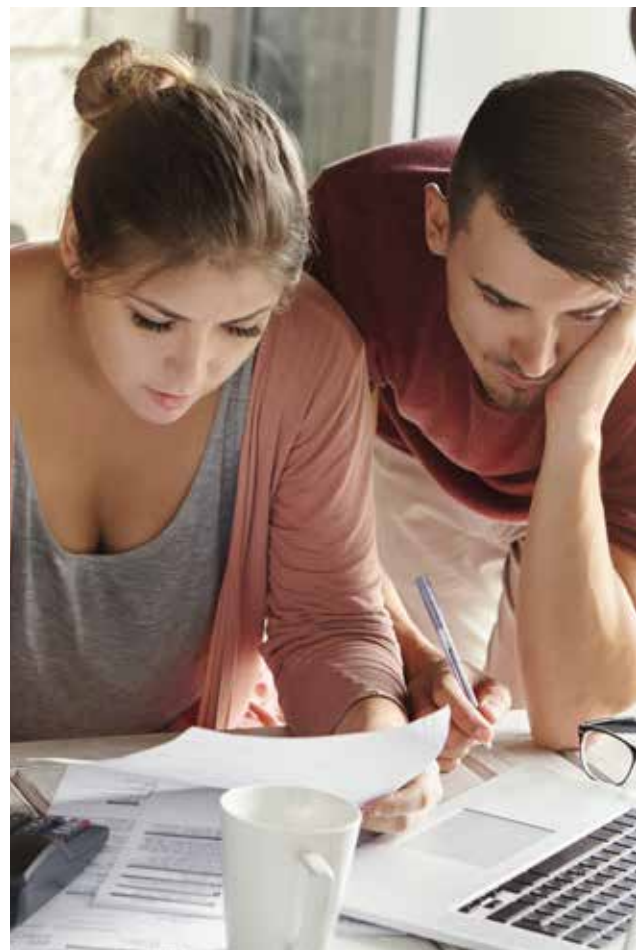
Childcare is often a barrier to parents returning to employment. During 2017/18 we were designated an early implementer local authority for the free Childcare Offer. To date 120 parents have signed up to deliver the offer, and up until March 31st 2018 374 children have accessed placements. Parental feedback has indicated this has made a significant difference to parents in low income working households.

Our Free School Meals take up for Secondary schools was 64 % of eligible pupils, which was a 1% reduction on last year, however due to inclement weather there were some school closures. Despite this, we maintained a performance of 73% take up of Free School Meals at Primary schools against a target of 70%. We continue to focus on maintaining and improving 'take up' so that children can have good quality nutritionally balanced food at no cost to themselves. This can save a family £427 over a school year.



Where are we now?

We know that many of the potential causes and national initiatives such as the introduction of 'Universal Credit' are beyond the control of any one local authority. The work of the Welsh Government funded Anti Poverty Programmes continue (although their funding structure is changing) and our staff continue to visit people daily to help them access relevant benefits to reduce their fuel costs. As this has become part of the 'day job' we are no longer keeping it as a 'stand alone' objective, but rather moving parts of it into our longer term corporate plan. We also recognise we need to be more strategic and are working on plans with our partners to, for example, access apprenticeships to get people into employment to help them out of poverty.



CASE STUDY

CONFIDENT WITH CASH (CWC): This project works with families on an individual basis through home visits and gives them the financial knowledge, skills, and confidence to improve their circumstances. A Welfare Benefits advisor can also assist with ensuring that a family has the correct financial entitlements.

The Situation: A couple with 3 children were struggling; mum has mental health issues, and had issues with budgeting. Rent arrears of £1600 were identified and the landlord was about to go to court for eviction.

There were also £550 gas and electricity arrears and £1500 water rates arrears. Understandably the couple were exceptionally worried and stressed, and whilst it wasn't an option they wanted, felt they would be better off financially if they separated and mum claimed benefit as a single parent.

The clients were referred by a Senior Education Welfare Officer as the children were consistently late for school.

What we did: We worked with the family and analysed their budget and identified where the family could make savings and cut down on their non priority debt. A Customer Assistance Fund application was made for water. Gas and electric arrears were negotiated at a more affordable rate of £5 each per week. No formal arrangement was in place for the repayment of rent arrears, so the project worker arranged for a standing order to be set up for weekly rent plus the arrears.

Outcomes: Gas and Electric arrears are now being covered, along with rent being paid by standing order, therefore court action for eviction was prevented. The children had been late for school as the client was dropping their partner off to work then taking the children to school.

The children were enrolled in breakfast club, so they would be dropped off first therefore, the partner would be on time for work, the couple are staying together. They say they are feeling more confident about the future. The landlord also said that had it not been for the involvement of the CWC project, there would have been court action for eviction and they are pleased that the rent payments are being made on time and the arrears are decreasing.



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2

Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those that are vulnerable to achievement

We chose this because

We aimed to address the gap in attainment between vulnerable children and young people and others who are more disadvantaged so that all our young people can benefit from the best education, by promoting more equal opportunities and removing barriers specific to this group of our citizens.

Our aim is that “every child should have the best start in life and the opportunity to achieve success as a young person and as an adult”. In achieving this we recognise that small groups of children and young people can face more challenges than others. Vulnerability in education can be determined by a number of different factors including deprivation. It can also be determined by whether the child or young person has an additional learning need, or is a looked after child. Our data identified that there is a performance gap between those within these groups and that of the overall population. We wanted to undertake some intensive work in this area to try and reduce that gap, and ensure that all young people are provided with appropriate opportunities to help them achieve success, both in the classroom and beyond.

How we performed

We think we were partially successful because we delivered all our actions and even though we have made a real difference to those involved, we are still not satisfied that we have achieved the standards that we want. Some of our performance information which we use to monitor progress shows a mixed picture with

some data not showing an improvement on last year. The exam results achieved for academic year 2017/18 will not be reported until late Autumn /Winter of 2018. Therefore we are not able to judge at this point in time if attainment has improved. However for the academic year 2016/17 some key results were:



Higher number is preferred

- % of pupils in receipt of free school meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 2 was 78.90%, down from 80.80% in 2015/16.



Higher number is preferred

- % of pupils in receipt of free school meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 3 68.50%, up from 65.10% in 2015/16.



Higher number is preferred

- % of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification was 1.2%, compared to 1.10% in 2015/2016.



Lower number is preferred

- The percentage of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification was 1.2%, last year was 1.10%.





Lower number is preferred

- 2 out of 25 pupils that were 'looked after' left school without approved external qualification, training or work based learning. This equates to 8% which is an improvement on 2015/16 result of 18%.



Higher number is preferred
**

- % of year 11 pupils who achieved a level 2 threshold including GCSE grade A*- C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics was 49% (982 pupils out of the 1966 on roll at the time of the annual census).

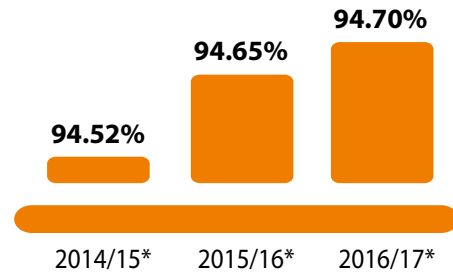
** Cannot be compared to last year as the method of counting changed.



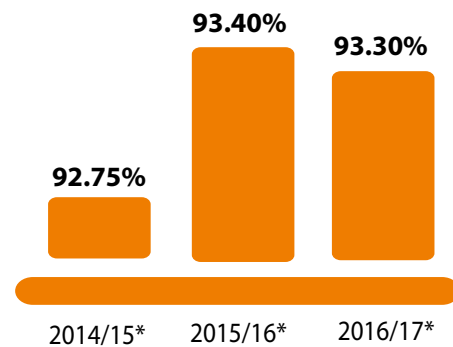
Year 11 leavers not in education training or employment - there were **1,959** year 11 leavers **50** were known not to be in education, training or employment.

Attendance is critical factor in obtaining good academic results. Research has shown that in the early years of a child's life, non attendance (approved by parents) can become a pattern that establishes a poor attitude to school. We have improved attendance at Primary school and have broadly maintained it at Secondary school, but there is more to do. There is more about this in our Corporate Plan 2018-2023 under our new Education objective.

PAM/007
% of pupil attendance in primary schools



PAM/008
% of pupil attendance in secondary schools



* Academic year

All schools have established targets for summer 2018, and undertaken intervention work with support from both local authority and Education Achievement Service (EAS) staff to improve on a range of measures. This result will be reported to our scrutiny members later in the year or very early in 2019.

Previously there were different ways for families to access support from different agencies, each organisation had different forms, different processes and different levels of waiting times. In collaboration with our partners we set up a Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) which streamlined all documents and processes, for example the use of just one form has reduced the previous

bureaucracy and given people a central point of contact. This contact helps identify, in a quicker way, what service is the best fit for the family and is now being widely used by schools to refer people to preventative services. The current work has focussed on finding joint projects and joint funded posts across grant funding streams to enable wider access to support, to widen the access to families and offer continuity for the most vulnerable families.

The current local work has focussed on finding joint projects across grant funding streams to enable wider access to support, and joint funded posts to widen the access to families and offer continuity for the most vulnerable families.

An important project this year and for the future is the Children First project which, to date, has been working to provide improved learning opportunities within the Lansbury Park area of the St James ward. The work is to identify their needs and co-produce solutions with the community to make an impact for children and young people. This is very important because the community must be part of identifying the solutions they need and not be 'done too'. The initial engagement and mapping phase is concluding and moving towards planning and implementation, which is why this is partly completed and remains an action in the Public Services Board 5 year Well-being Plan. The family support worker has had some initial success in delivery of parenting programmes across the age range with positive feedback for increased confidence of both parents and children. This work will progress in more detail as we move into 2018/19.

We are jointly working with The Parent Network to develop a social enterprise called 'Parents Engaging to Raise Aspirations' project, known as PETRA. The Hengoed parent forum was the first group, 3-4 years ago, to work with an author and illustrator to create their own children's book 'Petra'. Since then other small groups of parents started to work with authors and illustrators and received training on storytelling, construction of stories, and specific topic areas, such as dementia, loan sharks, speech, language and communication, transgender issues and so forth. The purpose is to develop aspirations, skills and confidence to bring books into their homes, communities, schools and libraries and in so doing, change the future for our children.

During this time the project has created over 40 books including some for older adults. The project is essentially a literacy project that brings many wider benefits including social community benefits like peer support, friendship, resilience, as well as more individual development, such as confidence, self-esteem, literacy skills, and increased aspirations to try other things like volunteering, training or applying for jobs.

Parents came together as strong support for each other and their new story telling skills, confidence and love of books has developed an enthusiasm in other parents and in their children. This is improving parental and child literacy and has shown significant outcomes for families to date. The Welsh Book Council has commissioned four books to be sympathetically translated and will distribute these across Wales.

CASE STUDY

FAMILIES LEARNING TOGETHER:

The purpose of this project is to support families to develop their literacy, numeracy and promote early language development through groups in the community and through individual sessions in the home.

The project allows the whole family to gain in confidence & skills, and enables parents to support their children at home and school.

Main issue: The family were referred by Social Services into Families Learning Together. The children were on the Child Protection Register and the family needed support from a variety of services.

The project was asked to provide home sessions to work with the youngest child who was in Year 2 of Primary school (age 6). She needed literacy support and the parents needed to gain ideas in how to support their children. The school initially reported that the parents didn't complete any homework including spelling and reading practice.

Work carried out: A tutor was appointed to the family. They worked closely with the social worker and the class teacher to build a scheme of work to benefit the family.

The main focus of support was literacy but it was evident that the family needed support with a number of soft outcomes.

The tutor planned activities that focused on supporting the targets from the class teacher, the dietician and social services.

Outcomes: The family have bonded well as a unit and engaged well throughout the programme. Initially the parents lacked confidence and were reluctant to participate in sessions. With regular and consistent support they soon overcame their worries and are now working well with the tutor on a weekly basis.

The youngest child has shown significant improvement in skills, with the class teacher reporting the improvement and confidence of the child during a recent meeting. The child is now working towards an Outcome 6 (Foundation Phase).

The feedback received was that "Kathryn the tutor is a very helpful and kind person. She is easy to talk to, she tries to help in any way she can. Everyone will be lucky to have Kathryn to help them.

She has helped my daughter and myself loads, more than I ever thought possible and without her we wouldn't have come as close as a family. We will miss her when the term is over, I cannot thank her enough."



Where are we now?

Parts of this objective has been carried forward into our Corporate Plan 2018-2023 but have been made wider to cover more aspects. For example often Education is judged solely on the exam results, when the work that goes on is much wider (as the case study shows) and there are often complex areas around quality of life, aspirations, health and well-being, homelessness and so forth. Although nationally we are judged on exam results we wanted to focus on other things, for example what help can we give for those who don't or can't follow a traditional education path?

What about getting young people into training and employment? What does automation mean for the skills we are trying to teach now? What about the learning environment (the actual bricks and mortar), how do we make that better? All these questions have led us to widen our education objective actions for 2018-2023, and whilst it still has a strong focus on helping vulnerable learners we are closing this specific objective and picking up these aspects in the new 5 year objective.



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 3

Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough by promoting the benefits of a active and healthy lifestyle

We chose this because

The main intention of this priority is to improve the lifestyles of our local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being. In turn this will reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the more advantaged.

Our vision is that Caerphilly county borough is a better place to live, work and visit. This must be for all residents. This is a long-term aim as residents living in areas of high deprivation have statistically significantly higher levels of ill-health including death from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, death from lung cancer, diabetes, mental illness and respiratory disease. Data released from Public Health Wales (2011) covering the years 2001-2005 and 2005-2009 showed health inequalities across the county borough that were alarming. Data provided in 2016 showed an improving picture, but there were still health inequalities.

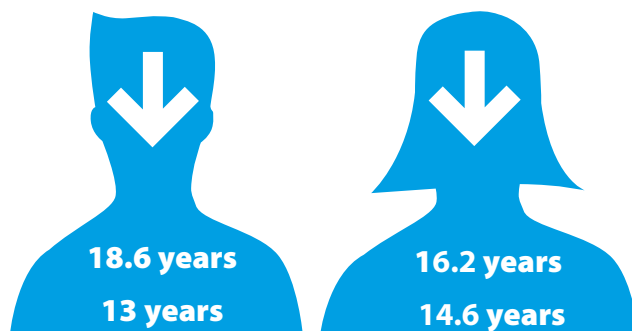
How we performed

Although the Public Health indicators show there is more to do, we believe our objective was successful because for both Wales as a whole and in the county borough, health in general is improving. The objective to reduce

the gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas has been achieved to date.

People are living longer and mortality rates from cancer and heart diseases are reducing. Since the publication of this objective the latest data released in 2016 by Public Health Wales shows an improving picture for Caerphilly residents. Data from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales will provide evidence to show if our residents' health is improving further.

Healthy Life Expectancy



Males

The gap in healthy life expectancy in Caerphilly for Males has **reduced from 18.6 years to 13 years** between the most and least deprived areas.

Females

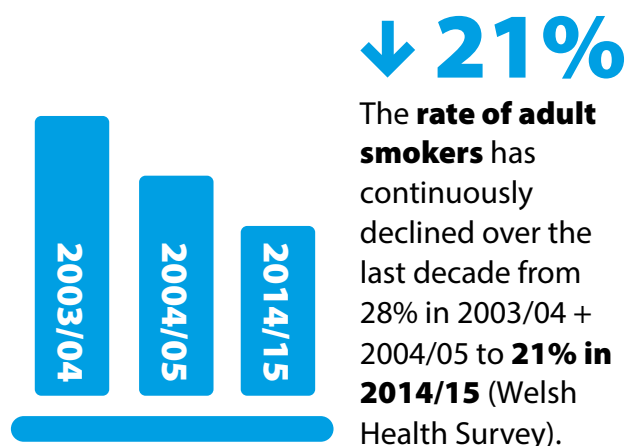
The gap in healthy life expectancy in Caerphilly for Females has **reduced from 16.2 years to 14.6 years** between the most and least deprived areas.

Unhealthy lifestyles arise, at least in part, due to the inequalities in the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live and work and there is still much work to be done to reduce these inequalities. It is important to note that there has been a reduction in resources for this work and significant change to programmes since this objective was set, so we need to keep an eye on this to see that progress is maintained.

One main outcome we wanted to achieve was to reduce smoking rates, and the proportion of adult smokers have steadily decreased over the last decade.

There has been collaborative, system wide action to reduce smoking prevalence across the county borough over recent years. Initiatives delivered at a local level are vital to see any successful reduction in smoking. Crucial work delivered, via a collaborative nature, within Caerphilly county borough includes:

- Illicit/illegal tobacco enforcement.
- Underage test purchases.
- Support to stop smoking via Help Me Quit including targeted support to:
 - pregnant mothers/parents.
 - pre operative patients/individuals with lung disease/individuals with mental health conditions.
 - those living in the most disadvantaged areas.
- Parenting Programmes.
- Welsh Network of Healthy Schools.
- Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme.
- Smoke Free Playgrounds, Schools, Childcare Settings and Hospitals.
- Smoke Free premises & Youth Service interventions.



The way this data is collected has now transferred into the National Survey for Wales

The first round of the National Survey for Wales (NSW) indicated that our prevalence rate has reduced further to 18%, but it is not possible to compare the two sets of data as the NSW uses different definitions and a smaller sample size. Future data will be available from the new National Survey for Wales. Smoking prevalence projections show an ongoing decline although the Welsh Government’s Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales (2012) set a target to reduce adult smoking to 16% by 2020. Achieving this target remains very challenging and will require an ongoing, collaborative effort by all partners if it is to be met.

As part of unhealthy lifestyles one of our actions was to help reduce obesity by launching an initiative called ‘The Daily Mile’ with one simple aim - to help children get fit by walking or running for 15 minutes a day. It encourages children to be more active and helps them understand the benefits of physical and mental health & well-being. This is gaining momentum across our schools and the Gwent region. Since the launch of the Daily Mile in 2017 more than 50% of our infant and primary schools have adopted this initiative.



8500
Over 8500 **pupils** taking part in **regular exercise** as part of their daily routine.

More schools are due to start the Daily Mile in September 2018. We have one of the highest participation rates in Wales. This initiative is now embedded into the core work of both our Healthy Schools team and Sport Caerphilly.

We supported Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and Public Health Wales (PHW) to implement the Living Well Living Longer programme (LWLL) across the county borough. Delivery of this programme was completed in 2016/17. Over 8,700 residents were invited to attend a cardiovascular risk assessment, “a midlife MOT” at 32 local venues in the county borough’s most deprived communities. Just under 4000 residents attended with 514 receiving further support to access onward interventions to improve their health.

We have also worked in partnership with ABUHB, PHW, Sport Wales, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councils in a large scale change programme in the Heads of the Valleys area, which has targeted females aged 14-40 with the aim of securing behaviour change to improve physical activity. This programme has been very successful with some excellent results where individuals have started, and maintained or grown a range of physical activity initiatives in their own communities.

An important part of this overall work is increasing residents knowledge in health literacy as this is about people making good choices and to do this they need to have the

right information. Part of this is to start early where we can support children and young people to have the best start in life. The last 12 months included:



All of the secondary schools identified as eligible for the Public Health Wales programme ‘JustB’ engaged in school based prevention programme for Year 8 (12+13 year olds) students to discuss the risks of smoking and the benefits of being smoke free. 8 schools have received “What’s in a cigarette” workshops delivered by the Healthy Schools Team.



The Healthy Schools Team delivered two ‘cooking together’ sessions for teachers (**30 delegates attended**). This upskills staff to deliver healthy cooking sessions within the school environment. In addition to the training, **all schools have received healthy cooking in the classroom resources.**



6 schools (all teaching staff) received **sex and relationships education (SRE) training** and all relevant resources needed to deliver a comprehensive SRE programme.

ADDITIONALLY

45 45 schools received **hygiene training sessions**.

17 17 delegates attended an **Eating Disorders awareness** training session.


3 3 schools have received a **wellbeing workshop** with high attendance.

1 1 school had all pupils attend **Helmet Safety training**.

Measures	Result
Number of settings that have completed the Healthy & Sustainable Pre-Schools Scheme.	17 (target 5)
Number of schools achieving the final phase of the Health Schools Scheme - 'the Welsh Government's National Quality Award'.	9 (target 9)
Number of childcare settings in Healthy Early Years Scheme - schools.	74 (target 50)
% Schools that have achieved Healthy Schools accreditation at phase 3.	98% (target 95)
% of schools working towards the National Quality Award.	80% (target 20)

The Caerphilly Healthy & Sustainable Schools Scheme and the Healthy and Sustainable Early Years Scheme are achieving their Welsh Government targets in 2017/18.

Whilst different projects like the 'Daily Mile' have been successful, there is still a lot more to do particularly to reduce obesity, as the following information shows:-



26%
5 or more days

% Physically active on 5 or more days in the past week - Age standardised percentage of adults - **Caerphilly 26%**. This has decreased from 28% in 2010/11.

This is lower than the rest of Gwent and the Wales average.

26% 

% of Adults who reported **eating five or more fruit and vegetables** the previous day **26% decreasing** from 29% in 2011/12.

63% 

% of Adults who are overweight or obese in Caerphilly is **63%**. This is the **highest rate in Gwent** and higher than any region in England.

27% 

% Children aged 4/5 years categorised as overweight or obese in Caerphilly is 27%. **This is higher than the Gwent average** and higher than any regions in England.

Where are we now?

Unhealthy lifestyle choices are significantly higher in more deprived areas and this creates risk factors that could impact upon the health of our residents especially smoking, obesity, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet.

It is a priority of Welsh Government (Fairer Outcomes for All 2011) that by 2020 we need to improve healthy life expectancy for everyone and close the gap between each level of deprivation by an average of 2.5%.

There is still a long way to go to reduce these inequalities and this is why data from the Caerphilly County Borough Area Assessment of Local Well-being 2017 has been used to review and redirect this objective, focusing on the areas we can have the most impact.

The renewed focus will look at our role in providing a supportive environment for residents to make healthy choices and to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 4

Carbon Management - Reduce our Carbon Footprint by taking steps to reduce the Authority's Carbon Footprint and inform and assist others within the borough to do the same

We chose this because

Our climate is undergoing changes partly as a result of green-house gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. One of the most prevalent GHG's is carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is emitted from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. We have over 480 sites which produce carbon emissions and an annual carbon emission in excess of 26,000 tonnes. We have an obligation to take steps to reduce and minimise our carbon emissions and strongly consider the associated negative impact on our environment. This objective has been set within the sustainable development principles as long-term and our carbon reduction actions extend over multiple years. Some 'invest to save' schemes have a payback under 10 years, but a technology lifespan of up to 30 years.

Our objective was broken down into four sections under:

- Good housekeeping.
- Invest to Save.
- Design and Asset Management.
- Renewable Technology.



How we performed

We believe this was partially successful because two of our five key actions were not fully completed, for example a trial of electric vehicles was delayed. However we exceeded targets for 3 of our 5 key indicators and carried out 104 awareness raising activities. We carried out training to 31 schools, such as boiler controls training (for greater energy efficiency) and carried out awareness raising on minimising water usage, all of which are building blocks to good energy and water conservation techniques.

We continued to reduce our carbon emissions as our Invest to Save projects reduced carbon emissions by 61 tonnes per year.

In 2017/18 we made £161k available for implementing three medium scale photovoltaic (PV) schemes (solar panels) at Tredomen Buisness and Technology Centre, Risca Leisure Centre and Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence.

So far we have up to 19 revenue generating schemes rated circa 594kW, saving in excess of 267 tonnes of carbon each year. Our solar panel schemes will reduce electrical consumption from the national grid, reduce carbon emissions and safeguard the premises against future price increases.

8 years Installed PV arrays estimated to **pay back within 8 years** and will continue to offset grid electricity consumption for **20+ years**.

51 tonnes The annual carbon emission saved for the 3 sites is calculated to **51 tonnes**.

20 years We will claim **Feed In Tariff** for 20 years. (Helping to offset anticipated electricity cost increases making our buildings more economical long term).

Through a funding mechanism (available to public bodies nationally) **we invested in energy efficient LED lighting** for our Head Office and used local contractors to install and provide local employment. **Anticipated annual carbon savings are 84 tonnes** and **188,046kWh**. The scheme will pay for itself in within 8 years.

Our everyday actions consume energy and produce carbon emissions, such as driving, flying and heating buildings. Carbon offsetting is used to compensate for our emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere.

Carbon off-setting also reduces our annual carbon taxes which are currently priced at £17.70 per tonne. All of the schemes we chose are designed to deliver the following:

- Drive down carbon emissions.
- Drive down utility costs.
- Drive down carbon taxes.
- Improve the working and teaching environment.
- Create better understanding of carbon and water management generally.
- Aim to meet internal and national targets for carbon reduction.

We have installed multiple overnight slow electric vehicle charging power points at our depots and head office. The Meals on Wheels service trialled an electric vehicle last summer and feedback was very positive.

We secured funding to install one or two additional 'fast charge' power point units at Penallta House. This will further support the services using electric vehicles, as they will be able to top up charges during the day as well as using the slow charge points overnight.

We are working towards electric vehicles for both our fleet and pool cars and are promoting the use of pool bikes for short work based journeys for staff to commute to and from work.

CASE STUDY

We have closed four older schools and replaced them with two new “state of the art buildings” (Idris Davies Primary and Islwyn High) which are significantly more energy efficient, with high levels of insulation, LED lighting throughout and both have their own solar panels and energy management systems.

For example, Islwyn High is providing net energy and carbon savings compared to the two older schools it replaced, there are some periods when the building draws no electric from the electricity grid.



In addition to our larger scale PV projects, tenders were submitted for small scale PV systems of up to 4kW to be installed on 21 schools. However, due to funding and logistics. Only 17 installations took place, which has an overall carbon saving of approximately 32 tonnes per year. These will be used to teach school pupils about sustainable energy.

Where are we now?

The risk going forward is that funding is a challenge to support projects and not all projects reviewed were progressed, as we rejected six possible projects based on poor or low levels of payback criteria.

This objective is not going forward in its current form as sustainability and climate change continue to be mainstreamed within other priorities. For example, carbon reduction is a consideration within our new Housing and Transport objectives. Work continues with electric vehicles, greater use of bikes, reduction in carbon through less energy use and a significant awareness raising programme. Furthermore, we are focusing on the priorities that people said were important to them within the new Corporate Plan.



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 5

Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities by taking steps to ensure the physical standard and condition of our housing stock, be improved and maintained to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard helping to improve the quality of life for the people who live in those homes

We chose this because

The long-term affordability of housing; the effects of low incomes, fuel poverty and improving the quality of housing in the social sectors, are some of the main challenges facing the Authority. Affordable and safe housing is important beyond bricks and mortar, the benefits that community focused housing programmes can bring in terms of cost savings, income generation and local economic development can be overlooked. The potential role of housing within poverty elimination programmes is beginning to have greater recognition and this is shown in the connections to our 'tackling poverty' objective. Decent, affordable housing is important to families and fulfils a basic human need for shelter, but also contributes to the well-being of both parents and children. Studies show that children in stable housing do better in school and are less likely to experience disruption in their education due to unwanted moves. Good housing can reduce stress and lead to fewer physical and mental health problems, so there are many benefits to our citizens in having this as a priority. Getting housing right addresses demand across the whole of the public sector.

Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is a major flagship programme that is a boost to the local economy. We set an ambition that money spent improving homes would benefit more than bricks and mortar,

but provide wider regeneration benefits, for example sustain local jobs and offer skills development and training opportunities.

How we performed

We believe this objective was partially successful because we made reasonable progress during the year with our investment programme to meet the WHQS for all our social housing stock by 2020.

This investment has also been used to target support for local businesses, training, employment and the local economy as a whole, as well as improving standards within our tenants' homes.

However due to the complexity of home improvement works required, the programme is being delivered in a phased approach, which does not target 'whole home units' in one go, and so, we were not able to deliver 'whole home compliance' in the early programme years.

As this method of works progresses and overlaps (area by area), there will be an incremental and noticeable increase in 'whole home unit compliance' as we approach the latter years of the programme.

Internal works have progressed well and are in-line with the planned programme but external works experienced slippage over the

past 3 years due to a number of difficulties such as resource and materials availability, availability of contractors (contractor performance and a contractor going out of business), accessibility to properties in a timely manner and bad weather conditions such as snow in December 2017 and March 2018. Positively, liaison and tenant satisfaction for internal works continues to be good with good customer satisfaction rates, however, liaison and tenant satisfaction for external works has not been as good due to complexities experienced with delays in service delivery as noted above.

INTERNAL WORKS

72%

72% of **housing stock** is now up to the WHQS = **7806** properties



89%

Satisfaction with internal works

Out of approx 4000 surveys sent out 1800 were returned.

1800 returns

Out of approx 4000 sent out there have been **approx 1800** **surved returns**

The Council has a housing stock of

10,785 homes and **13,000 tenants**

EXTERNAL WORKS

46%

46% of **housing stock** is up to the WHQS = **4969** properties

70%

Satisfaction of external works (based on responses between Sept-Dec 17)

Approx **267 surveys** were sent out, 79 returned 55 were satisfied

Our **Planned Investment** of £166million

£166m

In addition to the mainstream WHQS improvements programme, additional home 'adaptations' have taken place in recent years and we have completed 1,713 adaptations to meet specific needs of the tenants since the programme started in 2013.

These include for example; bathroom conversions, ramps, specialised kitchens such as Royal National Institute of Blind People 'Visually Better' kitchens and bathrooms for tenants with a visual impairment, and installation of electrical appliances such as lifts.

CASE STUDY

The Situation: Rowan Place is an estate situated in the north of Rhymney located within the Twyn Carno 1 Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Twyn Carno 1 is the second most deprived area within the Caerphilly county borough, and according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014, lies within the top 10% of the most deprived LSOAs in Wales in relation to income, employment, health, education and community safety. It ranks as sixth within the overall index.

Rowan Place was an area characterised by high levels of anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse and short-term tenancies. The immediate environment was poor, with residents having very little personal outdoor space. The outdoor space that was available comprised of unused and neglected grassed areas, parking and thoroughfares which were closed to prevent criminal behavior, but later became a magnet for litter and anti-social behaviour.

One particular area on the estate had become seen as a 'no go zone'. It had become home mainly to transient single people and families with particular challenges, including antisocial behaviour, criminal records, drug and alcohol issues, which led to potential tenants refusing offers of accommodation and resulted in a large number of empty properties. As well as encouraging anti-social behaviour, these 'long-term' void properties also had a negative impact on the aesthetics of the area. The estate had 80 properties, with a large proportion (48) being flats.

What did we do: Enhanced WHQS improvements were carried out to council tenants' homes in Rowan Place; this included new kitchens, bathrooms, heating upgrades, electrical rewires, new roofs and external wall insulation. Investment from Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places.

Tackling Poverty fund also enabled external works to be undertaken to private homes in Rowan Place, thereby reducing fuel poverty for all whilst also improving the aesthetics of the whole estate. The local community were heavily engaged throughout the regeneration programme and played a key role in decision-making around wider environmental improvements on the estate.

Rather than simply undertake a home improvement programme in Rowan Place, the council's Housing Division saw this as an opportunity for much wider regeneration of the area. It also recognised that collaboration with partner agencies was key if the investment being made was to be maximised in order to deliver wider benefits to the local community and leave a lasting legacy.

The additional funding from Welsh Government was used to refurbish the Hafod Deg Resource Centre on Rhymney High Street; creating a community hub providing a range of services to help address the socio-economic issues experienced locally.

New approaches were used to market vacant flats on the estate, including the use of 'Rightmove'. A 'sensitive letting policy' was also introduced for the area to ensure a balanced mix of occupants and a more sustainable community.

The benefits were:

- 4 apprenticeships and 10 new employment opportunities in the construction phase.
- 72 homes benefitting from improved energy efficiency via new boilers and the installation of external wall insulation.
- 79 people supported into employment via Lift and Communities for Work support programmes.
- 180 people have undertaken employment related courses (including grounds maintenance in Rowan Place and via a 'Men in Sheds' project delivered from Hafod Deg).
- 345 categorised as economically inactive have benefitted from the services based at Hafod Deg.
- An estimated 15 people accessing services provided by Gwent Specialist Substance Misuse Service (GSSMS).
- 18 initiatives aimed at improving access to education and training.
- 57 initiatives aimed at promoting greater health and well-being.
- 8 initiatives aimed at specifically supporting young people.
- 370 accessing Citizens Advice Bureau outreach services.

Findings of a consultation event carried out after completion of the programme at Rowan Place was that;

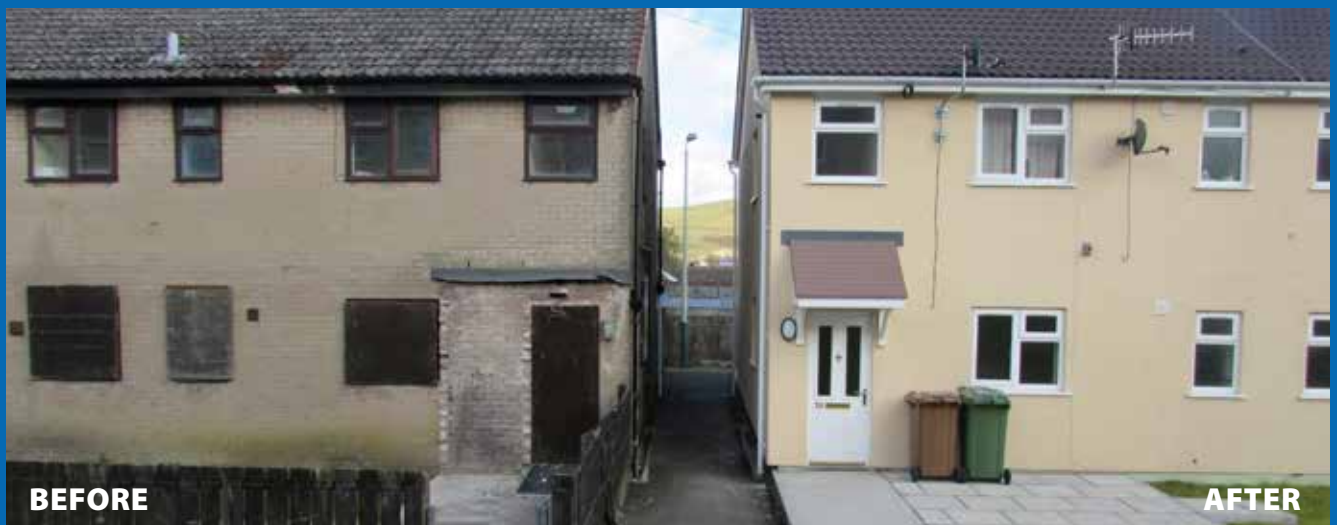
71% of residents said they were very satisfied overall with the improvements; the remaining 29% said that they were satisfied.

100% of residents at the event said that they felt better about Rowan Place since completion of the improvement programme.

100% of those who responded said that the improvements had made a difference to their day to day lives.

79% of residents who attended the event stated their energy bills had reduced as a result of external improvements.

93% of those who responded said that anti-social behaviour had reduced in Rowan Place since the regeneration programme was carried out.



The WHQS programme continues to be financially viable, with some borrowing likely to be required towards the end of the programme. Since the start of the WHQS programme, to the end of 2017/18 financial year, our planned investment was £166million and we have spent in excess of £110million.

In delivering home improvements, we have thought about improvements to localised environments and wider communities surrounding the homes. The WHQS Environment Programme will see approximately £10million invested in council estates throughout the borough, for example with a series of clean-ups, public furnishing refurbishments, communal bin storage facilities and additional parking spaces in some areas.

In 2017, the Wales Audit Office completed a programme review and provided a series of recommendations to the Council, which are now being addressed to further improve programme delivery. As a result we set an action plan and have made good progress in completing this.

Where are we now?

The programme remains challenging, but improved progress achieved throughout 2017/18 (with some new arrangements introduced to ensure momentum) has improved the opportunity to deliver the full WHQS programme and meet the standard by 2020.

We have kept this objective and it now forms a smaller part of our new Well-being Objective in our Corporate Plan 2018-2023. The new objective is more holistic and makes connections with wider community benefits, from providing apprenticeships to how we help people to keep their tenancies through a range of work to improve mental health, fuel poverty, access to benefits and promoting affordable homes.



Performance Comparisons 2017/18

Every year all 22 Authorities across Wales submit a set of data called PAMs (Public Accountability Measures) to Data Cymru. Data Cymru compile this information to help authorities compare their performance. Not all measures can be compared as the way they are counted can change year-on-year. There are 20 measures of which 18 can be compared at the time of publishing.



8 of Caerphilly's 18 PAM indicators are in the upper quarters when compared to Wales, some of those include:



1st in Wales for successfully preventing 75.7% of the 570 households threatened with homelessness from becoming homeless.



3rd in Wales for clearing fly tipping reported by residents across Caerphilly in 5 working days. We remain in the top quarter with 99.8%.



6th in Wales for the condition of our principal B roads at 3.6%. Across Wales 4.3% of all B roads are overall poor condition.



9th in Wales as 96.4% of our inspected highways were of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness, compared to an All Wales Average of 95.8%.



Although our number of visits to libraries moved **down from 4th place to 11th** it remains in the upper quarter.



10 of our 18 PAM indicators that can be compared are in the lower quarters when compared to other authorities across Wales, some of those include:



21st in Wales for Secondary school attendance which is 0.8% below the All Wales Average of 94.1% (although primary attendance moved up one place to 16th).



21st in Wales down from 17th for the average number of calendar days it took to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant. (292 days against an All Wales average 213)



***20th in Wales** down from 16th for the number of visits to our local sports & leisure facilities per 1,000 population.
* Centre closures due to refurbishments.

Social Services indicators are not included as the Welsh Government has not yet decided to publish performance data as they are new and subject to validation checks across all authorities.

Every year we analyse our performance of this data set to see where improvements can be made. You can view more performance information in a range of different views at www.mylocalcouncil.info

Managing your Money 2017/18

The Council is the largest employer in the area with 8,767 staff providing approximately 600 services to our communities. We also maintain 826 buildings, including 89 schools, 10 leisure centres and 18 libraries. These vital public services are funded from the Council's Revenue and Capital budgets, which for 2017/18 totalled £434million.



The Council plans and approves its budgets on a 5-year financial planning cycle, which takes account of historical trends and spending patterns, national and local initiatives and access to multiple funding sources, some of which change year-on-year.

Due to the ongoing programme of austerity and increasing demand for a number of services, the financial position for local Government has been very challenging in recent years. During the period 2008/09 to 2017/18 the Council has delivered savings of £82.16m to address reductions in funding and inescapable cost pressures. This has not been an easy task; however, the Council has approached the challenge proactively and prudently and previously agreed a number of financial planning principles to help guide its decision-making.

These principles have recently been refreshed and are now as follows:

- We will seek to protect services for the most vulnerable whilst continuing to evaluate all other services.
- We will limit the impact of cuts on front-line services where we can whilst continuing to reduce expenditure and explore opportunities to generate new sources of income.
- We will adopt a longer-term approach to financial planning that considers the impact on future generations.
- We will need to accept that we will not be able to maintain existing levels of service but will introduce more innovative ways of working through the use of emerging technologies.
- We will engage with our communities to understand their needs and explore options to deliver some services through collaboration, partnerships, community trusts etc. to ensure that communities remain resilient and sustainable in the longer-term.

In 2017/18 the Council received a small increase of 0.12% in the funding it receives from the Welsh Government (WG), however it also had to deal with a range of additional unavoidable cost and service pressures.

As a consequence of these pressures, the Council agreed savings totaling £9.046m for the 2017/18 financial year. The savings were selected on the basis that they would have a limited impact on front-line services and would protect the priorities agreed by the Council.

Where does our money come from?

The majority of the money that the Council receives comes from the Welsh Government in the form of a Revenue Support Grant.

Added to this is the money we collect from our residents and businesses in the form of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates). The table below shows the income received for the 2017/18 Financial Year.

Income	2017/18	
	Budget £m	Actual £m
Revenue Support Grant	205.96	205.96
Business Rates	57.67	57.67
Council Tax	60.40	62.02
Contribution from Reserves	1.40	1.40
Total (£m)	325.43	327.05

How do we spend our money?

Revenue	2017/18	
	Budget £m	Spend £m
Corporate Services	66.83	59.16
Education & Lifelong Learning	124.76	124.63
Communities	44.01	43.44
Social Services / Public Protection / Policy	89.73	89.52
Total (£m)	325.43	316.75

96.9%

2017/18 the Council collected 96.9% of the Council Tax due during the year.



£1.62m surplus

Council Tax collection has generated an overall surplus of £1.62m for 2017/18.

Arrears over typical 3-year period has a **collection rate of 99.5%**, which means that the vast majority of residents do pay in full.

The Council manages two main categories of expenditure i.e. **revenue** (everyday running costs for services) and **capital** (specific costs for updating and maintaining key assets and implementing major new projects).

For the 2017/18 financial year the councils' revenue budget was £325.43million. During the year budget holders have been mindful of the continuing programme of austerity and expenditure has been curtailed in a number of areas to support anticipated savings requirements for future years. This prudent approach has resulted in a number of savings being achieved in advance and underspends therefore being higher than would normally be the case.

The reported revenue budget underspend for 2017/18 was £8.68million. This includes an underspend of £4.07million for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is a separate statutory ring-fenced account representing the rent paid to the Council for its housing stock and the expenditure to fund the upkeep of these properties.

The HRA underspend will be carried forward into 2018/19 and used to partially fund the £200m investment being made by the Council to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2020.

2017/18 saw an overspend of £0.29m for schools; this has been funded from accumulated school balances held from previous financial years.

Capital Expenditure varies year-on-year and budgets are allocated from specific funding sources. The table below provides a summary of capital budgets and capital expenditure for the period 2017/2018.

Capital	2017/18	
	Budget £m	Spend £m
Education	13.81	11.94
Highways	11.4	6.23
Housing Stock (Public)	53.57	42.21
Private Housing Grants	3.95	2.42
Social Services	3.51	0.28
Community & Leisure	3.52	1.00
Other	19.33	6.25
Total (£m)	109.09	70.33

The 2017/18 capital underspend of £38.8m is mainly due to delays in progressing schemes and this funding has been carried forward into the 2018/19 financial year to enable schemes to be completed.

Full details of the 2017/18 underspend for the Authority is available on our website www.caerphilly.gov.uk

How we are working towards improved equalities and the well-being of our Future Generations

After an intense development period, this year the Public Services Board (PSB) launched its five year Well-being Plan of which we are a key partner along with other public sector bodies. The Plan sets out objectives that are designed to improve the county borough for its residents and maximise how the Caerphilly PSB contributes to the well-being goals for Wales.

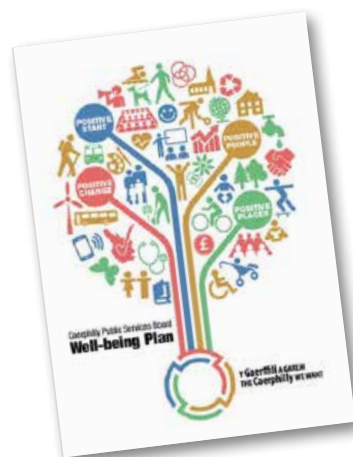
The Well-being Plan has 4 themes, Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places. We have developed a Delivery Plan which details what actions we will put in place to deliver on these overall themes.

There are 4 building blocks called Enablers, these are things that are a means to an end or a way of working to help deliver sustainable actions. The 4 Enablers are:

1. Working together - across all partner organisations to minimise duplication and share resource and join up work for the best outcome for the public.
2. Communications and engagement - so we jointly communicate and share messages.
3. Procurement and commissioning - to ensure we work together to get value for money across joint purchasing and maximising community benefits wherever possible.
4. Asset management - making best use of all our joint assets and in ways that reduces energy use.

There are 5 Action Areas for cross public sector delivery:

1. The Best Start in Life - investing in the early years of a child's life.
2. Volunteering and apprenticeships - develop a co-ordinated programme of volunteering and establishing an all age apprenticeship programme.
3. Good health and well-being - improve joint working with an emphasis on prevention of current and future health challenges.
4. Safer, resilient communities - support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient and help them to help themselves, support housing partners to deliver sustainable homes, create safe and confident communities.
5. Protect and enhance the local natural environment - protect and promote our natural environment, encouraging community involvement and removing barriers to accessing green spaces.



We are now building our action plans and will be reporting on how we are delivering on these actions and more importantly the difference they are making.

Following the launch of the Plan, our priority now for the next 2 years is to focus upon harnessing the culture within the organisation to maximize the '5 ways of working' (below) and embed them fully into decision making. This will include delivering a wide range of training and development opportunities for people to embed the sustainable principles within their thinking.

The 5 ways of working are:

1. Involvement
2. Collaboration
3. Long Term
4. Integration
5. Prevention

Other work this year has focused on reducing carbon emissions and there is more about how we have progressed in our Well-being Objective 4.

Additionally we are carrying out activities like offering free breakfasts during National Bike week, to encourage staff to give commuting to work by bike a go.

Environmental Health have supported National Clean Air Day for staff cycling/walking or using public transport to commute to work. It all helps to encourage people to try other forms of commuting.

We have electric bikes (and normal bikes) available on our Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme, this has recently been relaunched with Cycle Solutions, our new provider.

We are working towards integrating electric vehicles into our fleet and have trailed electric pool vehicles. We have pool bikes for short work based journeys along with shower and storage facilities.

We started a partnership with Sirhowy Valley Honeybee Company, ourselves and Ynysddu Primary school and introduced an interactive beehive as a way to educate people through eco schools about the importance of bees as pollinators.

More bee hives have been put of the roof of the Council Head office at Ty Penallta and in 2017 they celebrated their 1st Birthday.



CASE STUDY

The resident honey bees at Caerphilly County Borough Council’s headquarters, Penallta House, celebrated their first anniversary in their home.

We worked with the Sirhowy Valley Honeybee Company to help increase the bee population in the county borough, helping to fight the impact climate change has upon them. As part of this commitment, the 80,000 honey bees that were moved to the grounds of Penallta House in August 2017 were re-located to the roof of Penallta House. Re-locating the honey bees to the roof of Penallta House will give the bees the opportunity to forage for plants in the local area and ensure the hives stayed safe and secure. The bees will fly up 3 miles away from their hive and each bee visits approximately 3,000 flowers in a single day, continuously visiting the same area until the nectar is finished.

The bees have improved the grounds of Penallta House through pollinating the resident plants and foliage and produced approximately 50lb of honey, which is sold to staff at Penallta House. The honey jars are returned and recycled to be used again by the Sihowy Valley Honeybee Company, which is a social enterprise.*

As part of the project, ‘bee awareness’ workshops have also taken place to educate staff on the importance of bees and life inside the hive, as well as know how to behave around the bees.

**A Social enterprise is a business that changes the world for the better. Like traditional businesses they aim to make a profit (or can be non-profit making), but it’s what they do with their profits that set them apart by reinvesting or donating them to create positive social change.*



Equalities Update 2017/18

We have and continue to work on improving our provision of greater Welsh Language choices and are progressing well on the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy. We enrolled 141 new learners and ran over 135 courses, both taster and long-term courses. We will be updating our Recruitment and Selection Guidance to give clearer information to managers when recruiting around undertaking a Welsh language Skills Assessment to employ a greater number of Welsh Language speakers.

In 2017/18 we lost 31 Welsh speaking members of staff at a time when we would ideally increase the number of Welsh speaking staff to help us deliver services. However on a positive note there is a slight increase in the number of people accessing Welsh language training, up from 59 to 74. The number is increasing significantly so far for 2018/19.

We occasionally receive complaints about the use of Welsh language, and these are used to make improvements. For example we received a complaint about Library signage and tannoy announcements which breached two of the Welsh Language Standards. The Library Service have now audited all their signage and replaced any non-compliant ones and ensured that all tannoy announcements to the public are now bilingual.

Another area of improvement was the electronic subscription to gov.delivery email bulletins. We asked subscribers to inform us of their language preference and now have a list of Welsh subscribers, which has increased by 101.9% over the last year. We currently have 319 subscribers who want to receive communication in Welsh and this number is increasing.



We have celebrated a number of significant dates;

- Pride Cymru (August 2017)
- Diwrnod Shwmae (October 2017)
- Black History Month (October 2017)
- Holocaust Memorial Day (January 2018)
- LGBT History Month (February 2018)
- International Women’s Day (March 2018)

In addition to the Welsh language we have provided a diverse range of training and education in topics such as, Anti Slavery, British Sign Language, equalities awareness, Mindfulness and Prevent (counter-terrorism programme to prevent radicalisation).

The Education Equality Index run by Stonewall is the only nationwide tool which is used to benchmark progress of ensuring measures are in place and positive steps are being taken to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans young people living in the local community. It is a great way to demonstrate good practice but also to realise and understand the gaps where improvement is needed.

Caerphilly County Borough Council’s first submission to the Education Equality Index was in 2016 where we received special recognition for the work we had done to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools. It also saw us ranked in 1st position out of the 10 Welsh local authorities that submitted a return and 21st in the UK.

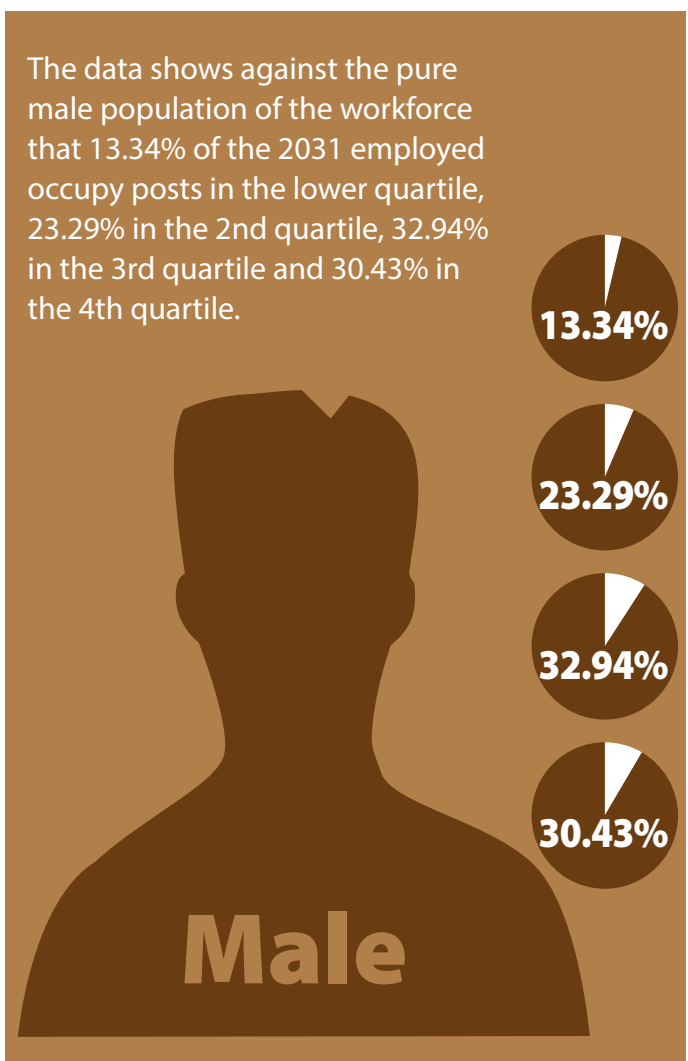
For 2017 we maintained 1st place position out of the Welsh local authorities and also maintained our position of 21st in the UK for the second year.

For more information you can visit www.stonewall.org.co.uk

Gender Pay Gap Statement 2017

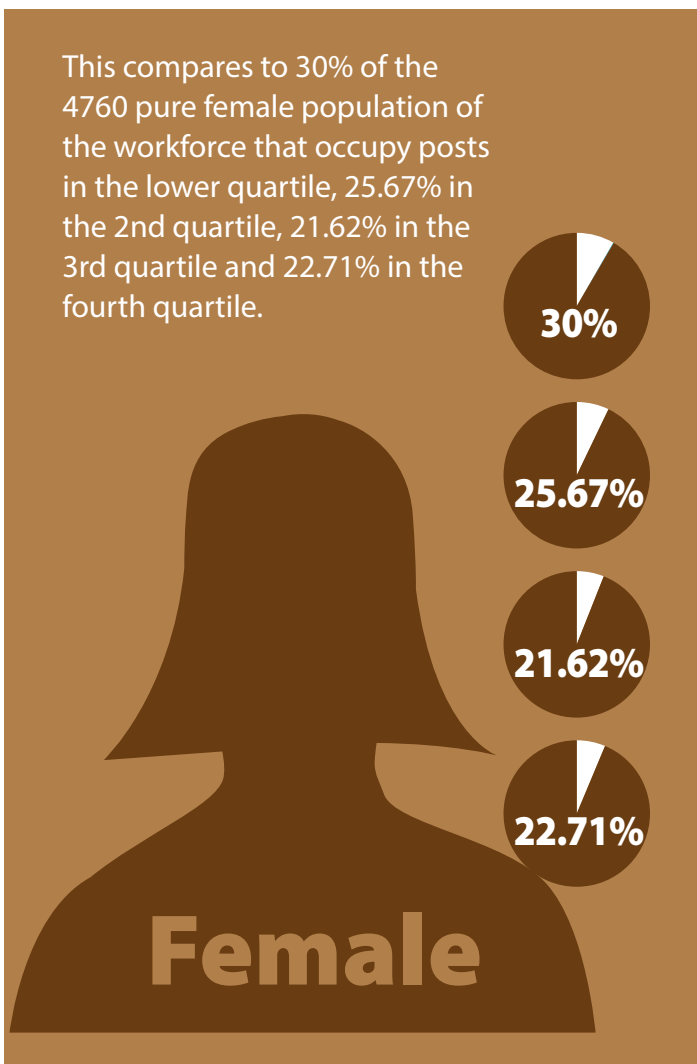
This year was the first year government legislation required organisations to publish their pay by gender and our first statement was published at the end of March 2017. The data identified that there are significantly more women than men occupying posts in every quartile of the data due to the predominantly female workforce of the Council.

The Council is confident that its gender pay gap does not stem from paying male and female employees differently for the same or equivalent work.



The gender pay gap is the result of roles in which male and females currently work and the salaries that these roles attract. Our gender pay gap is reflective of the causes of the gender pay gap at a societal level. For example, research has identified that although parents are increasingly flexible, the responsibility of childcare still falls disproportionately upon women. It is a fact within this data that the vast majority of part time posts are held by females and that these are the posts that attract salaries in the lower quartiles.

To view the full statement please visit our website www.caerphilly.gov.uk.



Disability Access Work Programme

This year we spent £104,000 on a number of different projects as listed;

- **Leisure Centres** - £13,000 including improved access into Swimming pools.
- **Education** - £52,000 including Automatic Doors and Ramps.
- **Countryside** - £13,000 which includes Accessible Picnic Benches.
- **Parks** - £5,000 contribution towards Accessible Toilets within Morgan Jones Park.
- **Community Centres** - £8,000 accessible toilet improvements.
- **Social Services** - £13,000 included improved external access works and handrail improvements.

To monitor our progress towards greater inclusivity we produce an Equalities Annual Plan and an update on the Welsh Language through progress reports every year. This can be found on our website www.caerphilly.gov.uk.



What our regulators told us

In the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Improvement Report for 2017/18 (issued August 2018) our regulators concluded “The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement”.

During the course of the year the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations, however there were a number of proposals for improvement in the “Scrutiny: Fit for Future?” report. This is noted below.

April 2017 - Review of the Council’s published plans for delivering on improvement objectives. *WAO noted the Council has complied with its statutory improvement planning duties.*

November 2017 - Annual Assessment of Performance Audit *WAO concluded that the Council had complied with its statutory reporting duties and there were no proposals for improvement.*

December 2017 - Annual Audit letter 2016/17 *WAO concluded we had complied with our responsibilities relating to financial reporting and had appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy and efficiency and effectiveness of our use of resources.*

July 2018 (Review 2017/2018) Scrutiny: ‘Fit for the Future?’ report *WAO concluded that the Council values its overview and scrutiny function but for it to improve and meet future challenges, members need more focussed training, development and support to better understand and undertake their scrutiny roles effectively.*

WAO made three proposals including providing more training and development opportunities for members.

There are three outstanding Performance Audits that are part of the audit work programme for 2017/18, and these will be completed after this report goes to publication. They are:

- A service user perspective review, which sought the views of over 500 tenants and leaseholders on their satisfaction with the quality of services they received from the Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme. This is due to be published September 2018.
- Local work on providing constructive feedback on our Business Improvement Board and how we are delivering on our major programmes. This is due to be concluded in December 2018.
- A follow up on whether we are meeting our commitments to deliver on our Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme to upgrade Council homes to the standard. This is due to be concluded February 2019.

The WAO will report on these pieces of work in their next Annual Improvement Report and we will report on the outcomes within our next Performance Report.

The proposals for improvement and recommendations are monitored twice a year at the Council’s Audit Committee. All our reports can be found at **www.audit.wales**

How to contact us and how you can be involved

Your views and opinions on the content of our performance reports and the priorities that we set each year are important to us. We welcome your input so that we can continue to provide meaningful information that helps inform you of the service focus, ensuring that we are working on the things that are important to making a difference to you, our citizens and our communities.

You can contact us by:
Email: PMU@caerphilly.gov.uk or via the Council Performance webpage and follow the instructions on screen.

Alternatively, please contact:

Ros Roberts
Performance Manager
Corporate Performance Management Unit
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Penallta House
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7PG

Tel: 01443 864238
E-mail: roberr@caerphilly.gov.uk



You can contact us via social media



You can get involved in many ways. Please have a look at our website. www.caerphilly.gov.uk



For more information, please contact:

Liz Sharma
Consultation & Public Engagement Officer
Penallta House,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed.
CF82 7PG

Tel: 01443 864354
Email: sharme@caerphilly.gov.uk

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COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – THE PHASE OUT OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report, and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor has agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor C. Mann and is supported by Councillors T. Parry, J. Roberts and S. Scriven.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to Council for consideration.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision making roles and responsibilities which will impact on future generations.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 Councillor C. Mann requests in his Notice of Motion that Council:-
- (i) Council notes the huge problem posed by plastic pollution on a world scale – materials which will remain intact for hundreds if not thousands of years.
 - (ii) Council further notes the huge amount of plastic items being ordered on a regular basis by the authority – 116,000 over a recent four-month period.
 - (iii) Council resolves to re-visit its procurement practices with a view to phasing out plastics where a sustainable alternative is available. These substitute products should be brought in over a maximum timescale of five years.
- 4.2 The following information is provided in relation to the notice of motion.
- 4.3 The Council has established a Project Group ('Group') which consists of Officers from Communications, Catering, Environmental Health, Facilities, Procurement and Waste Management together with representation from Welsh Government, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP Cymru) and Eunomia Research. Titled the "Plastics Challenge" the Group are considering the following:

- key issues;
- impacts;
- problematic plastics;
- the waste management context;
- avoiding unintended consequences; &
- waste prevention and alternatives.

4.4 The Group are currently analysing data and products in relation to the Council's Catering provision including plastic cutlery, packaging and consumables (pots, takeaway containers etc.). The aim will be to reduce the use of single use plastic and optimise the recycling, treatment recovery and reprocessing of such materials, in essence 'managing plastics more sustainably'. This process will include supply chain engagement, prioritisation: quick wins and medium to long term objectives via action plans. This approach can also be adopted and rolled out to other commodities in the future.

4.5 The Council are also actively involved in a number of other initiatives which involve 'managing plastics more sustainably' such as (but not limited to):

- the Programme of water course environmental clean ups with government agencies and the community volunteer network;
- the statutory cleansing service which clears over 1000 tonnes of plastic every year;
- the weekly kerbside recycling service which collects over 20, 000 tonnes (60% of which is plastic) for reprocessing;
- the support for a new venture producing non plastic packaging for the food on the go sector (non plastic straws, cups, trays etc.); and
- the development of the network of public recycling facilities across the County Borough plus the development of plastic and other recycling facilities in Council offices and other Council owned establishments.

4.6 The Council's Procurement Strategy 2018-2023 has the 'Environment' as a specific Strategic Theme together with individual Goals. This section of the Strategy states "The Council will recognise environmental issues and address them through the procurement process and procedures. We will strive to develop the procurement function in a way that balances economic and social values in equal measure, embracing sustainable development and putting The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 at the heart of all procurement decisions. The Well-being and Future Generations Act defines Sustainable Development in Wales as: "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals". We will do all we can to help the Council in its efforts to balance the five ways of working needed for Public Bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals set out in the Act."

Reasons for the Motion

4.7 In order to reduce plastic pollution.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The Notice of Motion is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the act as it complies with the rules and regulations of the Council's Constitution which sets out a clear framework for how the Council operates in particular decision making responsibilities which will consider the positive and negative impacts on future generations, long term resilience, economic, environmental and social capital.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific equalities implications that directly affect the Council arising from the report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There has been no consultation undertaken.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion outlined in paragraph 4.1 above and make an appropriate recommendation.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 11.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Author: Emma Sullivan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion

NOTICE OF MOTION

To consider the undermentioned Notice of Motion standing in the name of County Borough Councillor Colin Mann supported by Councillor Jon Scriven and Councillor John Roberts

PHASE OUT PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Council notes the huge problem posed by plastic pollution on a world scale – materials which will remain intact for hundreds if not thousands of years

Council further notes the huge amount of plastic items being ordered on a regular basis by the authority – 116,000 over a recent four-month period

Council resolves to re-visit its procurement practises with a view to phasing out plastics where a sustainable alternative is available. These substitute products should be brought in over a maximum timescale of five years

Councillor Colin Mann
Councillor Jon Scriven
Councillor John Roberts
Councillor Teresa Parry

From: Cllr. Parry, Teresa
Sent: 24 September 2018 12:33
To: Sullivan, Emma
Subject: FW: Plastics motion

Hi Emma

Could you please add my name to the Plastics motion from Colin Mann, see below.
Teresa

Cllr Teresa Parry

Cynghorydd Sir - Hengoed | County Councillor - Hengoed
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

☎ 01443 814826

✉ parryt@caerphilly.gov.uk

From: Cllr. Scriven, Jon
Sent: 20 September 2018 10:04
To: Sullivan, Emma
Subject: Plastics motion

Good morning Emma, can you add my name to the motion please

Thank you

Cllr Jon Scriven

Cynghorydd Sir - Pen-yr-heol | County Councillor - Penyrheol
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

☎ 02920 880106

✉ scrivj@caerphilly.gov.uk scrivj@caerffili.gov.uk

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COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The attached report was presented to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 11th September 2018. The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with the key messages that have been identified in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017/18. The report sought the comments of Members prior to its submission to Full Council and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- 1.2 The Director informed Members that this is his ninth Annual Report which complies with Part 8 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and contributes to all of the Well-being Goals contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. He explained that the guidance allows little room for manoeuvring and must be user friendly. The report provides an opportunity for the Director to reflect on what has been achieved in 2017-18 and also what needs to be done in 2018-19 and beyond. He gave an overview of the areas covered with particular reference to the financial pressures affecting the public sector and Local Government that have been well publicised in 2017/18. Social Services in Caerphilly overspent by around £150,000 against a budget of over £80m, this represented an over spend of approximately 0.2%. Reference was made to the aging population which means that demands for services with an increase in the number of complex cases with older people that require large packages of care are more expensive. In addition, due to changes in employment legislation the cost of buying many of these services has increased significantly. Children's Services has seen a significant increase in the number of children brought into its care consequently, costs in this area have also increase significantly.
- 1.3 It was explained that these financial pressures have been managed in recent times by not filling vacant posts and reducing numbers of administrative staff. However, ongoing pressures in terms of numbers, complexity and costs mean that very difficult decisions are going to have to be made on how services are prioritised and delivered from this point on. Recruitment and retention of staff across Social Services is increasingly difficult, areas such as Children's Services and Mental Health have always been challenging, and areas such as Domiciliary Care are becoming equally challenging. This is a national issue affecting local authorities.
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Committee noted that the Welsh Community Care Information Systems (WCCIS) was implemented in February 2018. This national IT system will allow 22 Local Authorities and 7 Health Boards in Wales to share information.
- 1.5 Members discussed the report in detail and in particular the 2017/18 performance measures. The figures relating to reablement in Adult Services were considered and it was explained that promoting quality of life and empowering people to return home following periods of reablement is a priority. In terms of Children's Services, Members requested comparative data from the previous year and also comparisons against other Local Authorities across Wales. Officers confirmed that if the information is available it will be provided to Members following the meeting. Clarification was sought on the Departments Priorities for 2018/19. Officers confirmed that the Department intends on delivering the nationally recognised 'Collaborative Communication' training to all front line teams in Children's Services which

focuses on enabling families to identify outcomes and solutions to difficulties for themselves. In line with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, staff will have 'what matters conversations' with services users with emphasis on 'needs'. It is also intended to work with colleagues in Health to embed care navigation training and principles of place based working in GP surgeries. A Member queried one of the priorities for 2018/19 and the rolling out of 'My Mates Scheme' across the borough. It was explained that supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships is a priority. This Scheme is a friendship project for people with disabilities, run by Monmouthshire County Council. The unique and transformational project is led by members who strive for independence and equality. The project helps people with disabilities form confident friendships and live "with passion and purpose". Members queried why they were not aware of this scheme as they felt they could assist in promoting the project to the wider community. It was suggested that one avenue for promoting this could be through the Cabinet Member's Statement as this is distributed and published on the Council's Website prior to each Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

- 1.6 A Member referenced Dementia Friends Training and queried if consideration has been given to rolling this out to Sheltered Housing establishments. Officers advised that this is being considered as the Council is committed to developing dementia friendly communities so people can be supported to participate in normal activities of daily living such as shopping, banking and eating out. The Council is committed to ensuring all services are dementia friendly. Clarification was sought in relation to Care Packages and if information is measured if existing care users are taken back in to hospital. It was explained that a care package exists for 2 weeks. If the patient is hospitalised for longer than this period, then the package is closed down and the hours are re-allocated. It was emphasised that no patients are discharged from hospital without a package of care in place.
- 1.7 Following consideration of the report, the Heath Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended the Annual Director's Report of Social Services 2017/18 to Council.

Author: Amy Dredge, Committee Services Officer – 3100

Appendix Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2017/18



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11TH SEPTEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18
REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Council of the key messages that has been identified in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Director Of Social Services for 2017/18.
- 1.2 To request Scrutiny Committees comments on the content of the report prior to its submission to Council and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Part 8 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) requires Directors Of Social Services to publish an annual report about the exercise of the local authority's social services functions. The attached report has been written in a format that is compliant with the requirements of the SSWBA,

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report is compliant with Part 8 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- 3.2 Caerphilly Social Services contributes to all of the Well-being Goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The attached report is the ninth Annual Director's Report for Caerphilly County Borough Council. The report is an opportunity for the Statutory Director Of Social Services to provide a summary of how effective Caerphilly County Borough Council delivers Social Services to its citizens.
- 4.2 As previously stated the report for 2017-18 has been written in a format that is compliant with the SSWBA.
- 4.3 The report has a significant emphasis on well-being and highlights some of our priorities for 2017-18. Our progress against these priorities will be a significant part of the annual report for 2018-19.
- 4.4 The report highlights the increasing pressure on social care services in the Borough, both from a financial perspective and in terms of the complexity of need.

5. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The delivery of Social Services by Caerphilly County Borough Council contributes to all of the Well-being Goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and also supports the well-being objectives of other public bodies. The service operates in a manner that is in accordance with sustainable development principle as set out in the Act. The Annual Report evidences the emphasis on collaboration, for example, with the establishment of the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board and a Population Needs Assessment which will inform Area Plans. Caerphilly Social Services are also active partners in Gwent wide partnerships developing integrated approaches to supporting children and young people.
- 5.2 Service users are involved in how services will be developed and delivered in the future through surveys, contract monitoring processes, Elected Member rota visits, complaints and compliments, consultation events and feedback from Inspections. The Annual Report focusses on performance in 2017/18, but takes a longer term view as well in considering the challenges that lie ahead and how services are being developed now to meet them. The promotion and maintenance of independence is a guiding principle for the service and is reflected in the emphasis on prevention.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 In order to produce the annual report information is taken from a wide variety of sources including the Directorates self-evaluation, feedback from regulators and our complaints and compliments policy. This feedback has been incorporated into the annual report where relevant.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Scrutiny Committee comment on the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017/18.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Statutory guidance requires the Corporate Director Social Services to present the Annual Report to Council for their endorsement.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Local Government Act 2000.
Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Dave Street – Corporate Director Social Services & Housing

Consultees: Councillor Carl Cuss, Cabinet Member for Social Care & Wellbeing
Social Services Senior Management Team
Corporate Management Team

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services 2017-18.
(To be circulated electronically and hard copies made available at the meeting).



CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18



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1. Introduction

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017-18 in respect of Caerphilly County Borough Council. The purpose of the report is an opportunity for me to reflect on what has been achieved in 2017-18 and also what needs to be done in 2018-19 and beyond.

The financial pressures affecting the public sector and in particular Local Government are well publicised in 2017/18. Social Services in Caerphilly overspent by around £150,000 against a budget of over £80m, this represented an overspend of approximately 0.2%.

Whilst we know that an aging population means that demands for our services will increase, there have been several other factors that have had a significant impact on our ability to stay within our budget.

- Complexity of cases - as well as increasing number of older people requiring our services, our ability to keep people in their home for longer means that they require increasingly large packages of care that are obviously more expensive.
- Costs of Services - changes in employment legislation in Wales means that the cost of buying many of the services has increased significantly.
- Looked After Children - like almost all Local Authorities in Wales Caerphilly CBC has seen a significant increase in the number of children brought into its care. These increased numbers together with a lack of availability of suitable accommodation has seen costs in this area increase significantly.

Additional monies allocated to Social Services by the authority has meant that up until now we have been able to manage these pressures by not filling vacant posts and reducing our numbers of administrative staff. However, ongoing pressures in terms of numbers, complexity and costs mean that very difficult decisions are going to have to be made on how we prioritise and deliver services from this point on.

Whilst financial pressures are a significant challenge there are other issues emerging that are proving just as problematic. There are parts of the social care workforce where recruitment and retention of staff are increasingly difficult. Whilst areas such as Children's Services and Mental Health have always been challenging, we are now seeing areas such as Domiciliary Care becoming equally challenging. This is a national issue affecting local authorities, the independent sector and the voluntary sector. One of the consequences of this is providers of services are having difficulty in providing packages of care, especially when they are required at short notice.

In addition the independent sector market is increasing fragile. Increasing employment costs and the financial squeeze on local authority budgets has meant that there have been instances where the authority has been handed back and the authority has had to find alternative provision.

In February 2018 we implemented the Welsh Community Care Information Systems (WCCIS). This is a national IT system that when implemented will mean information can be shared across all 22 Local Authorities and 7 Health Boards in Wales. We all know that one of the main barriers to Agencies working together has been our ability to share information. WCCIS will remove this very significant obstacle.

In my Annual Report for 2016/17 I referenced our progress in implementing our Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act. One of the key components of the Act was the increasing momentum to integrated regional working between Local Authorities and Health Boards. Over the past 12 months a lot of progress has been made in establishing the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board. To help determine the priorities for the Board a population needs assessment, an area plan and an annual report has been produced. These can be found on the Regional Partnership Board Website www.gwentrpb.wales

In January 2018 the Council changed some of its responsibilities of some of its Senior Managers. As a result Social Services and Housing have been brought together under my management. This is a very timely move as we know that one of the major challenges of our aging population is ensuring people live in suitable accommodation. I am looking forward to maximising the opportunity that bringing these two parts of the Local Authority together will bring.

2. Director's Summary of Performance

Welsh Government is in the process of a major review of the performance measurement framework for Social Care. Caerphilly is fully engaged in supporting this review with key officers attending workshops and steering group meetings. In the absence of a national performance framework, we continue to capture local performance information and some key measures are detailed below:

2017-2018 Performance Measures

Adult Services:

Measure	Results
% of adult protection enquiries completed within 7 days	92.61
The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over	5.65
% of adults who completed a period of reablement and have a reduced package of care and support 6 months later	35.56
% of adults who completed a period of reablement and have no package of care and support 6 months later	64.44
The average length of time adults (aged 65 or over) are supported in residential care homes	157.67
Average age of adults entering residential care homes	83.06
% of adults who have received advice and assistance from the information, advice and assistance service and have not contacted the service for 6 months	90.31

Children's Services:

Measure	Results
% of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales	93.39
% of children supported to remain living within their family at 31 st March	Post-populated from the LAC census
% of looked after children returned home from care during the year	Post-populated from the LAC census
% of re-registrations of children on local authority Child Protection Registers (CPR)	2.40
The average length of time for all children who were on the CPR during the year	268.58
% of children achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2	59.72
% of children achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 4	5.33
% of children seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after	75.58
% of children looked after at 31 st March who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement	100
% of looked after children who have experienced 1 or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the year to 31 st March	10
% of looked after children on 31 st March who have had three or more	Post-populated from the LAC

placements during the year	census
----------------------------	--------

Care Leavers:

Measure	Results
% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care	51.16
% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care	60.78

Maintaining and indeed improving performance at a time of financial constraints is going to be hugely challenging and mean some careful choices will have to be made in terms of those areas where improved performance are necessary and other where maintaining current levels of performance will be an achievement in their own right.

3. How are People Shaping our Services?

Caerphilly Social Services is committed to making sure that people are able to make their voice heard, whether this is about how services will be developed and delivered in the future or whether it is about a service they are receiving now. Some examples of how we do this include, undertaking surveys, contract monitoring processes, Responsible Individual visits, complaints and compliments, consultation events and feedback from Inspections.

Welsh Government requested all Local Authorities to undertake a survey of 25-30% of citizens who were in receipt of a Care and Support Plan as at September 2017. The results for Caerphilly were:

Adult Services:

- ✓ 87% said I live in a home that supports my well-being.
- ✓ 77% said I feel safe from any kind of abuse, physical harm or from falling both inside and outside my property.
- ✓ 74% said I had the right advice and information when I needed it
- ✓ 83% said I am happy with the care and support I have had.

Children's Services:

- ✓ 89% said I live in a home where I am happy.
- ✓ 81% said I feel I belong in the area where I live.
- ✓ 92% said I feel safe, for example cared for and safe from anyone who can hurt you or treat you badly both inside and outside your home.
- ✓ 77% said I have received the right information and advice when I needed it.

Carers:

- ✓ 84% said they knew who to contact about their support
- ✓ 70% said they had the right information and advice when they needed it
- ✓ 87% said they had been involved in decisions about how the care and support was provided to the person they care for.
- ✓ 75% said I feel supported to continue in my caring role.

Periodic engagement meetings are held with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) involving the Senior Management Team and the Cabinet Member. Key activity during 2017/18 has included:

Children's Services:

- National review of Care Planning for Looked After Children and Care Leavers – completion of a Self Assessment in January 2018 with a follow up 'Challenge session' with CIW in April.

Adults Services:

- Joint Inspection with Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) of Community Mental Health Team for the south of the borough positive feedback received , action plan in place to address areas for improvement
- Annual inspection of all registered services for domiciliary and long term care within the borough were completed

All the reports for the above inspections were positive and although they identified areas for further development as opposed to areas of non compliance, they all recognised the good progress

being made across service areas. All reports are available to view on the Inspectorate web site <http://ciw.org.uk/our-reports/?lang=en>

Caerphilly Social Services receive complaints and compliments about services we provide. Swift and effective complaints handling is the standard and as a result the majority of issues are able to be resolved as early as possible.

During 2017/18, the Directorate received 118 Stage 1 complaints. 39 (33%) related to Adult Services, 76 (64%) related to Children's Services, and 3 (3%) related to Service Strategy and Business Support. This is contrary to previous years where there has always been a fairly even distribution across Adult and Children's Services.

The Customer Services Team record whether complaints are upheld, partially upheld or not upheld. This enables the Directorate to note any themes and trends from the findings to improve future practice and identify any isolated incidents of poor practice that may require attention. Of the 118 Stage 1 complaints received, the following outcomes were recorded:

- 3 complaints are ongoing and yet to conclude
- 11 complaints were closed due to the matter being resolved early or through signposting to other processes e.g. Legal proceedings
- 4 complaints were upheld
- 5 complaints were partially upheld
- 95 complaints were not upheld

The Directorate received just one request to progress complaints to Stage 2 formal investigation. This is a 66% reduction on the previous year when there were 3 Stage 2 Investigations. The Stage 2 request related to a Children's Services matter and was not upheld.

In addition, 8 customers contacted the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). This is a decrease of 43% on 2016/17. Of the 8 that progressed:

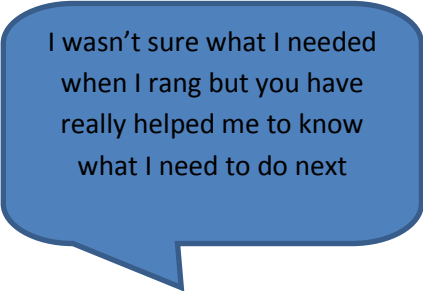
- 1 closed at the local enquiry stage as the PSOW could find no reason to investigate
- 5 closed after the PSOW was satisfied the Directorate had managed the complaints process appropriately
- 2 progressed to full investigation, the outcomes being; one, relating to a historical case in 2011 was upheld and the other was not upheld.

4. Promoting and Improving the Well-being of Those We Help

Quality Standard 1 – Working with people to define and co-produce personal well-being outcomes that people wish to achieve


Throughout 2017/18, Caerphilly's Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service have continued to have 'meaningful conversations' with service users, their families and carers about what really matters to them in line with the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act. IAA staff have received additional training supported by Welsh Government and delivered by the Institute of Public Care (IPC). 'Meaningful conversations' start with IAA staff the first time someone contacts us. These conversations are strengths based, working with people to regain or maintain their independence and utilising their own skills and networks to achieve their desired outcomes wherever possible. It is important to acknowledge that the majority of contacts for Children's Services are from professionals and as a result the 'what matters' conversations with the child and / or their family are unable to take place until an assessment for Care and Support has commenced.

A guiding principle for Caerphilly Social Services is the promotion and maintenance of independence. For Children's Services, this means supporting families to stay together and maintaining children within their homes and communities wherever it is safe to do so. This is underpinned by timely assessments of need and creative solutions being sought to help keep families together. 98% of our assessments were completed within the statutory timescale.



I wasn't sure what I needed when I rang but you have really helped me to know what I need to do next

Whilst some families may have a negative view of Children's Social Services to start with, we ensure that children, young people and their parents and carers are fully involved in the assessment process and that they help to shape and influence their plan for care and support. Working in this way helps to improve working relationships over time.



The support I received has kept the family together – I can't thank you enough

We have continued to implement the new national citizen's wellbeing database called DEWIS so that people can have quick and easy access to information directly from a website rather than having to make a call to Social Services and/or speaking to a professional where they may prefer not to. We have appointed a lead officer to further progress the development of DEWIS.

As stated in the previous section, there are a number of good examples of consultation being undertaken with children, young people and their families. To ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in consultations or purely making their views known all children have access to an Independent Advocate who can support them in meetings to ensure their voices are heard.


Within Adult Services, where people require a face to face assessment from our Assessment Care Management Teams, we look to keep the person at the centre, developing outcome focused care plans which service providers can use to develop personal plans which reflect the individuals choices and preferences moving away from time and task based activities.

In our residential homes we have been working on individual service plans called “This is me”. These plans are developed over time as staff get to know the residents and reflect the individual person.

During 2017/18, 95% of adults who received advice and assistance from the IAA did not contact the service again within the next 6 months. This is a positive message as it suggests that the advice and assistance received helped to retain their independence, choice and control.

We continue to make use of our assessment beds which are located in Ty Clyd and Ty Iscoed residential homes. These beds help to prevent people going to hospital unnecessarily and enable them to be discharged in a timely manner.

Supporting people to remain or regain their independence is a key objective for all who work within Social Services. In 2017/18 85% of adults who completed a period of reablement had no package of care and support 6 months later. This is a positive outcome.



The staff have been wonderful and the care I have received has meant I have been able to return to my own home

How we addressed our priorities for 2017/18:

- Continue to embed the ‘meaningful conversations’ and outcome focused care planning – *the IPC training has assisted us to ensure IAA staff feel skilled and confident to engage with citizens*
- Continue to support and develop DEWIS to ensure it becomes the ‘go to’ site for people to access information in order to ‘help themselves’ – *we have appointed a dedicated lead officer to promote and further develop the use of the system*
- Caerphilly will lead on the procurement of a Regional Advocacy Service to meet the requirements of the National Advocacy Framework for children and young people – *the regional service became fully operational in July 2017*

What are our priorities for 2018/19?

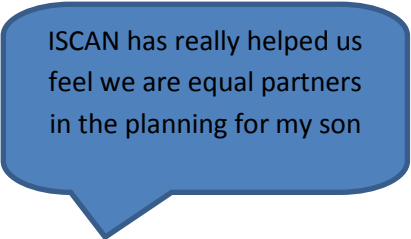
- Deliver the nationally recognised ‘Collaborative Communication’ training to all front line teams in Children’s Services which focuses on enabling families to identify outcomes and solutions to difficulties for themselves.
- Work with colleagues in Health to embed care navigation training and principles of place based working in GP surgeries
- Further development of the DEWIS system

Quality Standard 2 – Working with people and partners to protect and promote people’s physical and mental health and emotional well-being

Caerphilly recognises the importance of working with people and our partners to improve outcomes for children and young people and this will continue to be a priority for us going forward.

Caerphilly are active partners in the Gwent wide Children and Families Strategic Partnership which is prioritising the development of integrated approaches to supporting children and young people including therapeutic support for Looked After Children, support and accommodation options for young people leaving care and the continued investment in the Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) Model across the Health Board footprint.

The Gwent wide Attachment Trauma Service has been offering advice, consultation and training to Caerphilly social work teams with the aim of supporting children and young people to remain living at home or remain in stable foster placements.



ISCAN has really helped us feel we are equal partners in the planning for my son

In addition, Caerphilly MIST, a multi disciplinary therapeutic intervention service became fully operational in the Autumn of 2017. Caerphilly MIST is supporting the most challenging Looked After Children and young people to prevent placement breakdown and prevent the need for children to be placed in high cost residential provision outside the County Borough.

In response to a small number of particularly challenging children, we have committed to establishing a second Children’s Home within the County Borough and identifying potential properties and the recruitment of a residential staff team commenced in the Spring of 2018. The new Home will have the support and intervention of Caerphilly MIST.

Across Adult Services, we continue to develop our Community Resource Team (CRT) which offers a rapid response to people’s medical and social needs as well as specialist falls and reablement services. During 2017-18 24.42% of people had a reduced care package following a period of reablement.

During the year we have focused on identifying and developing services for carers to support them in their caring role. We held a series of events during carers week, we listened to what carers told us, developed social media sites and focused on day events.




Caring full time for my wife meant I felt isolated – your support has changed my life!

We have increased the number of people who see themselves as carers by over 50% from 360 to 546 and we undertook an additional 82 carers assessments in 2017/18.

We recognise that people don’t want to be in hospital for any longer than necessary. We have therefore increased the number of domiciliary care providers on our framework to enable us to arrange more packages of care so people can be discharged home as soon as they are well enough.


The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 and over in the borough was 2.86% per 1000 population.

The Council has 6 in house residential care homes all of which have adopted the Dementia Care Matters approach. Two of our homes, Brodawel and Ty Iscoed, have achieved 'butterfly status' which is the nationally recognised mark of good practice .



I wouldn't have been able to stay at home without the support of the girls – thank you

All our homes have submitted re registration applications with CIW to comply with the new Inspection Regulations.



You knew how much I wanted to go home and you helped me to achieve it

The average age of adults entering residential care homes was 83.77 years.

The average length of time adults (aged 65 or over) are supported in residential care homes is 125 days, illustrating our commitment to enable people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

We continue to work with our health colleagues in integrated mental health teams to develop the services we provide to promote people's mental health and emotional well-being.

How we addressed our priorities for 2017/18:

- Continue to identify and support carers – *numbers of carers being supported have continued to increase and we have implemented a programme of organised activities and events to provide respite support*
- Continue to work in partnership to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and facilitate timely discharges – *developing new ways of working to promote the "home First " ethos . We implemented a discharge to assess pilot in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr which has been recognised by the data unit as a model of good practice.*
- Ensure the successful implementation of the Caerphilly MIST service – *the service became fully operational in the autumn of 2017 and is already delivering savings on placements*
- Continued engagement in the Gwent Children and Families Partnership Board – *ICF grant monies have been maximised with a wholesale review of the way CAMHS Services are delivered across Gwent*
- Scope the potential to develop a bespoke residential provision within the Borough – *commitment has been made to develop a second Children's Home within Caerphilly*

What are our priorities for 2018/19:

- Continue to identify and support carers enabling them to continue in their role utilising the Intermediate Care fund to maximise opportunities for service development.

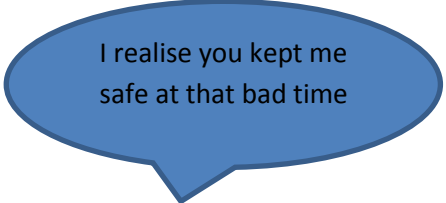
- Implementation of the Registration and Inspection of Social Care Act (RISCA)
- Establish a second Children's Home for Caerphilly children and young people

Quality Standard 3 – Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm

Safeguarding is everybody's business and is a key theme running through the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.

Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is a Corporate priority and a Corporate responsibility. A cross Directorate Corporate Safeguarding Board is led by Children's Service and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Housing. A Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been implemented and a programme of training and awareness raising is underway. Each service area has identified a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and periodic practice development groups are held to support the DSO's.

The Corporate Safeguarding Board produces an Annual Report which is published on the Council's intranet and on the portal for Elected Members.



I realise you kept me safe at that bad time


The arrangements for improving safeguarding policies, procedures and practice across the region are led by the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB), the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB) and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board. These Boards are supported by a Business Unit funded by the statutory partners and hosted by Caerphilly. The Boards have a clear governance structure and their work is supported by a set of sub groups. Caerphilly are active partners on these Boards.

The Boards agreed to establish a joint Adults and Children's Case Review Group to consider all referrals for Adult and Child Practice Reviews (APR & CPR). This has enhanced shared learning across the two sectors and enabled the development of better joint working across the region.

Within the Council, responsibility for children's, adults and education safeguarding all lie within Children's Services. Although discrete service areas, they are all managed by one Service Manager and capacity and resilience has been improved as a result. Decisions are made on all referrals within 24 hours ensuring full compliance with statutory procedures.

Our performance over the past year on areas of safeguarding were:

- 92.5% of adult protection enquiries were completed within 7 days
- 2,315 Adult Services Care & Support Plans were reviewed
- 98% of initial Child Protection Conferences were carried out within statutory timescales
- 98% of all Child Protection Reviews were carried out in timescale
- 100% of children on the Child Protection Register have an allocated Social Worker
- 100% of Looked After Children have an allocated Social Worker



This is the first place I have ever lived where I feel 100% safe

We continue to provide training on 'Ask and Act' to all front line staff so they can recognise signs of domestic abuse.

We closely monitor services we commission in terms of the quality of care they provide and this covers domiciliary care, supported living and long term care homes.

Our priorities for 2018/19 continue to be:

- Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults will continue to be the priority for the Council and core business for the Social Services Directorate.
- We will continue to share learning from Adult and Child Practice Reviews across agencies

Quality Standard 4 – Encouraging and supporting people to learn, develop and participate in society

Supporting Looked After Children and young people leaving care to reach their full potential and achieve positive outcomes is a key priority for Children’s Services and the Corporate Parenting Group. A dedicated Looked After Children Education (LACE) Team provide targeted support to children and young people at key stages in their education. In addition, tuition and extra-curricula activities are funded to support children to achieve their full potential. Attendance levels for LAC in primary and secondary school are 96% and 92% respectively, well above the target set by the Council. Exclusion rates for Looked After Children are very low and are continually monitored.

I didn’t realise it at the time but school was the only thing I could rely on when I lived at home

Caerphilly has a proven track record of supporting young people into further and higher education and a number of Care Leavers have gained Degree’s and a few have been supported to achieve Doctorates.

66% of Care Leavers are engaged in education, training or employment 12 months after leaving care.

We recognise that it is important for people to be more self reliant and maintain their independence enabling them to participate fully in society and their local community.

In 2017/18, the Community Connectors received 322 referrals, 84% of which were resolved for people in terms of them being able to do “what matters to them”.

The Community Connectors have developed a database of activities taking place in local areas so they are able to signpost or take people to clubs and activities that interest them, such as ‘knit and natter’, art classes, craft groups, men’s sheds and luncheon clubs.

I was so lonely and isolated before you helped me – I never knew just how much was going on outside my front door – it’s changed my life.

We are committed to embedding the DEWIS information system so people can access information for themselves 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I would never have thought to ask for help but now I’m so glad I did.

Supporting carers is key. We have developed a carers skill swap system which is going from strength to strength. Carers are contacting each other and swapping skills for example, one carer did another’s ironing in exchange for a sitting service to enable them to attend a birthday party.

Many of our carers have amazing artistic and technical skills which they are happy to teach each other. This is reflected in the use of our carers face book page which has 141 members. 61 people follow the Council's Carers Team on Twitter. We have also produced a carers news letter which is available electronically and in hard copy.

How we addressed our priorities for 2017/18:

- Continue to embed the 'meaningful conversations' and outcome focused care planning – *the IPC training has assisted us to ensure IAA staff feel skilled and confident to engage with citizens*
- Continue to support and develop DEWIS to ensure it becomes the 'go to' site for people to access information in order to 'help themselves' – *we have appointed a dedicated lead officer to promote and further develop the use of the system*

What are our priorities for 2018/19?

- Fully utilise the ICF grant funding to maintain the 'Skills for Living' project for young people leaving care
- Continue to work with Dementia Care Matters to develop a bespoke Caerphilly Dementia Care Matters programme . This will be implemented by training up to 12 people across the borough


Quality Standard 5 – Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships

We want to support children, young people and adults to be as socially active as possible, to feel they can make decisions for themselves and keep themselves safe.

During 2017/18, we continued to embed the “what matters conversations” across the Directorate and utilised the national IPC training to assist staff to enhance their skills to focus on outcomes, the strengths and assets of people, their families and networks.

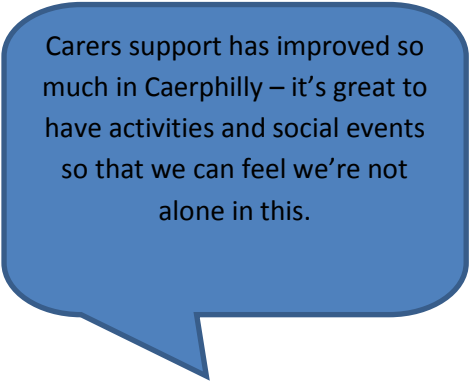
We recognise that people having fulfilling relationships with those they are close to is really important for their well-being.

For Looked After Children and young people, maintaining contact with their families and their home communities is really important and Children’s Services do everything they can to ensure contact arrangements meet the needs of everyone involved and are positive events.



Contact with my children is my lifeline – thank you

Within Adult Services, we continued to recruit more carers to our Shared Lives Scheme to enable us to offer more choice and increase the number of placements we are able to offer in family homes to all client groups. We also made funding available to allow adaptations to people’s homes, such as ramps and showers to allow people to remain independent.



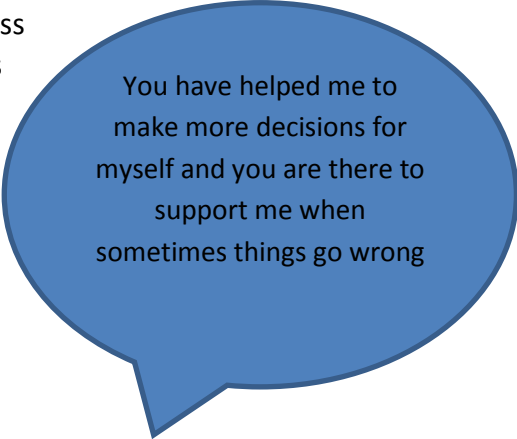
Carers support has improved so much in Caerphilly – it’s great to have activities and social events so that we can feel we’re not alone in this.

We have set up Carers Groups across the county borough to enable carers to meet socially over a coffee. Our Carers Team attend many events to promote their service and their efforts have been recognised.

We were able to establish a small fund that informal carers could apply for grants to help them in the following categories:

- Carers Essentials
- Carers Time Out
- Carers Access
- Carers Skills

With our partners we agreed to refresh the Strategy for Learning Disabilities and during consultation meetings with our citizen groups, people told us that relationships are really important to them. This is now a fundamental part of the ‘what matters’ conversations and reviews are ensuring we are outcome focused.



You have helped me to make more decisions for myself and you are there to support me when sometimes things go wrong


We recognise that we have more work to do on supporting relationships and this will be a priority for us going forward and will be reflected in the refreshed strategy for 2018/19 onwards.

Within Children's Services, wherever possible and whenever safe to do so, we ensure children are placed as close to their home communities as possible in order to support their links with their family and home.

There are increasing demands being placed on us to recruit more foster carers in order to meet the needs of children and young people. We continue to run a radio recruitment campaign which has helped us increase the enquiries we receive and the assessments that we are undertaking.

The workloads in Children's Services have continued to increase during 2017/18 particularly in cases involved in court proceedings resulting in increasing numbers of children becoming Looked After. This has put additional pressure on budgets and although we are working hard to prevent children coming into care we have to acknowledge the relationship between levels of poverty within the county borough and deprivation, abuse and neglect.

The increasing workload not only places an increased burden on financial resources but also on staff resources and social worker recruitment within Children's Services is becoming increasingly challenging.



I tell my friends I'm living with my aunty – they don't need to know I'm in care

How we addressed our priorities for 2017/18:

- Recruited an additional 19 carers for the Shared Lives Service
- Reviewed and updated the Learning Disabilities Strategy and support the Learning Disability Charter
- Continue to prioritise the recruitment of foster carers to meet increasing demand – *numbers of enquiries and assessments are increasing slowly but steadily thanks to the improved marketing and advertising*
- Continue to identify alternatives to care wherever possible and further develop 'edge of care' support – *we have invested additional Welsh Government grant funding in extending the Intensive Support Team including the addition of a Child Psychologist.*

What are our priorities for 2018/19?

- Roll out of My Mates scheme across the borough
- Work with health to look at options for developing Shared Lives in terms of host families for people who are experiencing a mental health crisis
- Review the Foster Carer fees payment structure
- Closely monitor the recruitment difficulties within Children's Services

Quality Standard 6 – Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs

Linked to Quality Standard 4, Children’s Services actively support Looked After Children and young people to engage in education and training and provide individual support wherever necessary. Children and young people are encouraged to make the best use of their leisure time and are supported to engage in community activities wherever possible.

All I wanted was a place off my own – it was hard work but I got there!

Children’s Services have a well established working protocol with Housing to ensure we can provide appropriate support to young people facing homelessness. We have a range of supported accommodation available including shared living provision, supported lodgings and supported tenancies. We continue to review this provision and look to identify further opportunities for new developments.

Key performance includes:

- 100% of Looked After Children have a plan for permanence in place by the time of their second LAC Review (within 4 months of becoming Looked After).
- 100% of young people leaving care have an allocated worker to support them and we keep in touch with 100% of our care leavers up to the age of 21 years.
- 66% of care leavers are engaged in education, training or employment 12 months after leaving care.

Within Adult Services, during the refresh of the Learning Disabilities Strategy, people clearly told us where they lived was very important to them. They wanted independence with some support. Taking on board this message we started the development of a series of flats in Ashfield Road which will enable people to have their own front door but with targeted support when needed. We hope people will be moving in in the new year.

They are there on hand to support me to live on my own

We are working with our colleagues in Housing to review the current accommodation we have available to see if it can be used differently to increase the range of choices for people.


The authority is currently implementing the Welsh Housing Quality Standards programme and there are Occupational Therapists who liaise directly with Social Services to ensure that individuals needs are met in respect of provision of adaptations such as level access showers, and ramped access.

As a Council we are committed to developing dementia friendly communities so people can be supported to participate in normal activities of daily living such as shopping, banking and eating out. You will see the dementia friendly signs in local establishments and many people wearing the blue flower badge indicating they have been trained as a dementia friend.


Dementia Care matters to us. We are fully committed to ensuring all our services are dementia friendly. In our residential homes we have changed all the paperwork to be much simpler and truly reflect the person. This enables us to ensure we meet personal outcomes and know people's likes and dislikes.

You may also see many different displays and themes reflecting people's former lives. These change regularly and can reflect current events. The homes are now divided into small house units each with its own staff team so they can really get to know the residents.

The physical environment within some of the homes has also changed with the introduction of primary colours reflecting people's choice of their bedroom door and communal areas are brighter and more defined.



At first I struggled in but I quickly started to improve and feel so much better in myself – this is my home now!



My carers are my extended family...I know they really care for me

With our partners we have piloted expansion of our Shared Lives Scheme to look at a health initiative which provides placements with families to prevent people going into hospital and/or facilitating them being discharged to a family home. This enables people to have time to recover, receive more therapy interventions and have an assessment of their needs in more appropriate surroundings. This is progressing well with host families trained and 7 placements being made. We are committed to this alternative model of accommodation.

How we addressed our priorities for 2017/18:

- Continue to work closely with Housing to ensure any opportunities to develop more supported accommodation options are explored – *we are working closely with Housing and other partner agencies to ensure we maximise all funding opportunities to develop the range of accommodation options in the Borough*
- Continue to support people to manage their own tenancies and maintain their independence – *increased tenancy support is helping vulnerable people remain in their own homes or move out of higher level supported accommodation*
- Work with the Gwent Children & Families Partnership to develop support for young people leaving care – *a scoping report has been commissioned through Oxford Brookes University to assist the development of a regional approach to supported accommodation options for care leavers*

What are our priorities for 2018/19?

- My Mates roll out will allow people to develop social relationships

5. How We Do What We Do

Our Workforce and How We Support their Professional Roles

Our staff are our greatest asset; a skilled and motivated workforce are essential to safeguard and support vulnerable people, promote independence and enhance service delivery. Ensuring that frontline practitioners and managers are supported and well trained is crucial to the success of our service. Our workforce is relatively stable with good staff retention. However, we are experiencing increasing challenges in recruiting to specific teams within Children's Services and this will continue to be monitored closely.

We have a joint Workforce Development Team with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and they are responsible for delivering a training and development strategy that supports development opportunities for staff at all levels in Social Services.

The key workforce planning issues for the Directorate over the next 12 months will be directly linked to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Even though the budget settlement for 2017/18 was as favourable as could be expected, there will still be an obligation for savings to be made, and this will extend into 2018/19 and beyond.

The Authority holds workforce development responsibility for the whole care sector. The Care Sector employs over 3,000 staff with approximately 50% employed by the local authority and 50% by independent and third sector.

Our Financial Resources and How We Plan For the Future

Budget management is embedded as a core function of Divisional Management Teams (DMTs) and the Senior Management Team (SMT) with the Financial Services Manager being a member of the Senior Management Team. Budget reports are discussed at DMTs and SMT on a regular basis and these management teams are the key players in the development of the financial strategy of the Directorate. This focus on budget management has helped to ensure that the Directorate delivered the savings targets that were set for 2017/18.

An analysis of the spend per head of population indicates that Caerphilly's spend on Children's Services, Adults with Learning Disabilities and Adults aged 65+ is less than the average for Wales. Spend on Adults with Physical Disabilities is just above the Welsh average but spend on Adults with Mental Health Needs in Caerphilly is around 56% higher than the Welsh average.

Both Adults Services and Children's Services have experienced continued significant demographic pressures during 2016/17. These pressures were identified early and have been factored in to the Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) from 2017/18. However, if demand for services continues to grow at the rate experienced in the early part of 2017/18 then the budgetary growth factored in to the MTFP will be insufficient to fund the additional cost pressures.

The most significant growth in demand during 2017/18 has been experienced in the following areas:-

- Independent sector residential care for children
- Independent sector foster care
- Residential and nursing care for older people
- Residential and nursing care for people with learning disabilities
- Supported living

The Directorate will need to focus its efforts in managing demand in these areas if it is to deliver a balanced budget in 2018/19.

Our Partnership Working, Political and Corporate Leadership, Governance and Accountability

The Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act places a key emphasis on partnership working and to this end the authority is now a part of the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board with the other 4 local authorities in Gwent and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Over the past 12 months a lot of progress has been made in establishing the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board. To help determine the priorities for the Board a population needs assessment, an area plan and an annual report has been produced. These can be found on the Regional Partnership Board Website www.gwentrpb.wales



COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2018 (INCLUDING THE 4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For members to consider the findings and recommendations of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2018 Annual Monitoring Report.
- 1.2 To recommend that the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report be approved by Council.
- 1.3 To recommend that the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) by 31 October 2018, in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements.
- 1.4 Glossary of terms used in this Report:

LDP	Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2010 up to 2021(Adopted 2010)
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
WG	Welsh Government
CCR	Cardiff Capital Region
Regional Cabinet	Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
Local Councils	Town Councils and/or Community Councils
NDF	National Development Framework
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
TAN 1	Technical Advice Note 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Study
TAN 20	Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language
TAN 24	Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
JHLAS	Joint Housing Land Availability Studies

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Council submits an Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Government (WG) that monitors whether or not the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 is being implemented successfully. The overall purpose of the AMR is to identify whether the LDP Strategy, or any of the Strategy Policies, are not being implemented and if they are not, identify steps to rectify this.

- 2.2 This is the seventh Annual Monitoring Report to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) and it monitors the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The Council is required to submit the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report to WG by the 31st October 2018.
- 2.3 An overview of the data for the 2018 monitoring period provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the LDP over the last year. Of particular note for 2018 is the following:
- The annual house building rate in this AMR has increased from 187 to 284 (based on 2017 Joint Housing Land Availability Study figures).
 - The housing land supply figure has increased from 1.5 years to 2.1 years using the residual method, following the approval of a number of major housing applications.
 - The average house price for the county borough increased by a further 7% from £121,879 to £129,928.
 - The annual unemployment rate increased slightly from 5.2% to 6.2%.
 - After successive rises in the number of residents in employment since the adoption of the plan, there was a small decrease this year from 82,100 to 80,700.
 - 25.7 hectares of employment land was granted planning permission.
 - Of the principal town centres, Blackwood, Risca-Pontymister and Bargoed all saw a decrease in vacancy rates, although vacancies in Bargoed are still over 20%. Ystrad Mynach and Caerphilly both saw a small increase in vacancy rates.
 - Footfall in all three principal towns with footfall counters (Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed), decreased, but this was due to the footfall counters being out of action for a period of six weeks during the monitoring period.
 - There was a further increase in visitor numbers to countryside recreation facilities to 1.45 million visitors per annum, but customer satisfaction has decreased from 87% to 75%.
- 2.4 The 2018 AMR also includes the annual monitoring statement for the Council's implementation of its Community Infrastructure Levy. This is the fourth year the AMR has included this. The 2018 CIL Monitoring identified that £330,754 had been collected in revenue, whilst just under £46,600 has been passed to Local Councils (Town and Community Councils) and a little over £16,500 has been used to cover the costs of preparing and implementing CIL. A total of just over £480,000 remained in the CIL pot to assist in funding appropriate infrastructure.
- 2.5 The pressure for the Council to recommence work on a Replacement LDP remains strong as:
- There is a statutory requirement to move to review after four years;
 - The passage of time since the 2013 AMR identified the need to prepare a new plan;
 - The increasing risk that the county borough will not have development plan coverage post 2021;
 - The urgent need to increase the housing land supply;
 - The likelihood of further unplanned development being allowed on appeal in the short term; and
 - Welsh Government have written to local authorities with a 2021 LDP end date inviting them to prepare joint plans with neighbouring authorities.
- 2.6 However, there has been significant progress made on the SDP in the last year, with a decision from the Regional Cabinet to progress, and a series of discussion papers produced to seek agreement on key issues around governance, the strategic planning area, scope, content, resources and timescales. It is hoped by the end of the next monitoring year (2018-19) that the decision to progress, together with the details, will be approved by each of the full Councils in the region.
- 2.7 It is anticipated that the SDP will address issues such as population and household growth, strategic housing and employment sites, transport, retail, minerals and waste. Once the SDP is prepared for the region, the LDPs that follow (light touch LDPs) will only need to contain the non-strategic issues and therefore will be slimmer and more succinct, reducing preparation time and hopefully costing less.

- 2.8 The SDP will set out the strategy for the region, and it is essential that the preparation of an LDP, either individually or jointly with neighbouring authorities, is prepared in accordance with the SDP. There is concern that the preparation of a full LDP in advance of an SDP could conflict with the regional strategy on the location of growth. Furthermore, there are significant concerns about the resources available in the region to progress both an LDP, even at a joint level, and the SDP.
- 2.9 On this basis, the preparation of a light touch LDP following on from the preparation of the SDP would offer the best solution in respect of delivering regional objectives and the utilisation of resources.
- 2.10 The 2013 AMR and subsequent AMRs have clearly identified the need for a full replacement plan to be prepared. The findings of these reports together with the updated evidence base will form part of the evidence base for any future plan preparation, irrespective of whether this is a Replacement LDP or the SDP, together with a light touch LDP.
- 2.11 The 2018 Annual Monitoring Report concludes and recommends that:
- Substantial progress should continue to be made in the delivery of the majority of the Adopted Development Plan, which is realising benefits to the environment.
 - The Council should continue to work towards securing the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region at the earliest opportunity.
 - The Council will need to continue to address the shortfall in the five year housing land supply through proactive action, including:
 - To consider proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and have due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;
 - To lobby Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;
 - To utilise the innovative funding model to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;
 - To lobby the Welsh Government to make changes in respect of the housing land availability process.
 - To identify schemes through the Regeneration Project Board where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 comprises seven well being goals as follows:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales
- 3.2 Sustainable development has been at the heart of the planning system, its policies and practices since the introduction of Planning Policy Wales in 2002. Therefore the seven well being goals and five governance principles of the Act are already enshrined in the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 through the plan preparation process and implemented when decisions on planning applications are made. The LDP embodies the land-use proposals and policies of the Council and will contribute to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

- 3.3 The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and review a Local Development Plan for its area to provide the policy framework for the development and use of land within the County Borough. On 23rd November 2010, the Council formally adopted the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021(LDP) and has since been monitoring the progress of the plan through its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 3.4 The submission of the 2018 AMR to WG is a statutory procedure associated with the Adopted LDP. The LDP has, through its preparation, incorporated the Council's land use objectives and the AMR monitors whether the LDP, and therefore the Council's Land Use Objectives, are being successfully implemented.

4. THE REPORT

Background

- 4.1 The Council formally adopted the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) on the 23 November 2010. Following the adoption of its LDP, the Council has a statutory obligation under section 61 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to keep all matters under review that are expected to affect the development of its area. Further, section 76 of the Act requires the Council to produce information on these matters in the form of an Annual Monitoring Report for submission to Welsh Government (WG). The 2018 AMR monitors the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and it is required to be submitted to WG by the 31st October 2018.
- 4.2 The 2018 Report once again considers whether the Development Strategy that underpins the LDP remains valid; and whether or not the Strategy Policies contained in the LDP are being effective in delivering the Development Strategy and meeting the objectives of the plan.

Annual Monitoring Requirements

- 4.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended) and the LDP Manual Edition 2 specify that the 2018 AMR is required to include the following:
- An Executive Summary.
 - A review of changes to national and regional policy and guidance and their implications for the LDP.
 - The SEA/SA Monitoring based on the SEA/SA Monitoring Framework (LDP Appendix 18).
 - The LDP Monitoring based on the LDP Monitoring Framework (LDP Appendix 19).
 - The required Statutory Indicators.
 - The recommendations on the course of action in respect of policies and the LDP as a whole.
- 4.4 Copies of the full 2018 AMR entitled "Caerphilly County Borough LDP 7th Annual Monitoring Report 2018 (including the 4th Annual CIL Report)" together with the background statistical tables have been placed in the resource library for members' information and on the Members' Portal.

Report of Findings

Changes in National, Regional and Local Policy Context

- 4.5 External Changes need to be considered as part of the AMR and consideration needs to be given to how external factors are impacting upon how the LDP policies are being implemented. These include changes to national policy or legislation; external conditions; and local considerations. There are a number of key changes that are considered in the 2018 AMR.

National Planning Context

- 4.6 Consultations have been carried out by Welsh Government in respect of two key parts of the planning policy framework:
- National Development Framework (NDF) – Issues, Options and Preferred Option ;
 - Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10).
- 4.7 The consultation on both of these documents was concluded outside of the monitoring period, and the outcomes of the consultation in respect of any changes to planning policy will be considered in detail as part of the 2019 AMR.
- 4.8 Two technical advice notes have been revised during this period, as follows:
- Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2017);
 - Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2017).
- 4.9 The updated TAN 20 provides local planning authorities, developers and communities with advice on how the Welsh language can be supported and protected by the planning system. TAN 24 replaces outdated Welsh Office circulars and provides further information and detailed planning guidance to fully reflect how the historic environment should be considered through the planning process.
- 4.10 Whilst outside of the monitoring period, it should be noted that WG has recently undertaken a consultation on the dis-application of Paragraph 6.2 of Technical Advice Note 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies. This paragraph indicates that where local planning authorities did not have a five year housing land supply, the need to increase the supply of housing should be given “considerable weight” when dealing with planning applications, provided they would otherwise comply with the development plan and national planning policies. Following this consultation, on 18th July 2018, WG made the decision to dis-apply Paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1, meaning that the paragraph is no longer applicable. Whilst “considerable weight” no longer needs to be given to increasing the housing supply, the housing land supply is still a material consideration and the weight to be attributed to it is a matter for the decision maker (i.e. the Local Planning Authority).

Regional Planning Context

- 4.11 In December 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs wrote to a number of LAs in Wales, whose currently Adopted LDPs had end dates of 2021, inviting them to prepare joint LDPs with neighbouring authorities. Caerphilly was identified as part of a ‘South East Wales – West’ region, together with RCT and Bridgend.
- 4.12 In response to this letter the Leader has written to the Cabinet Secretary to advise that Caerphilly is committed to the early preparation of an SDP for the region, focusing resources on addressing strategic issues. It was advised in the letter that it was intended that Caerphilly progress work on a light touch LDP in tandem with the SDP, as this will ensure clear policy alignment for the emerging plan with both the SDP and with the policy aspirations of the CCR Joint Cabinet.
- 4.13 A Green Paper on ‘Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People’ was published for consultation in March 2018. The Green Paper sought views on the reorganisation of local authorities in Wales by way of three options:
- Option 1 - Voluntary Merger by 2022;
 - Option 2 - A phased approach with early adopters merging by 2022 and all other authorities by 2026; or
 - Option 3 - A single comprehensive merger programme by 2022.

- 4.14 The Green Paper proposed the merger of Caerphilly County Borough Council with Newport City Council. If this merger were to proceed, this would have significant implications for development plan preparation at the local level due to the differences in plan periods of their respective LDPs and the nature of what are two very different geographical areas.
- 4.15 Caerphilly CBC raised an objection to the proposals, maintaining that the retention of Caerphilly as a stand-alone Authority would deliver the best outcome for its communities.
- 4.16 In July 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services made a plenary statement indicating that, in light of responses to the public consultation, there would be no compulsory mergers but that legislation would be introduced in 2019 to enable voluntary mergers to proceed. The implication of this for future development plan preparation is that, as merging with Newport is not currently going to be mandated, there will also be no requirement to prepare a joint LDP with Newport.
- 4.17 Whilst there have been a number of changes to legislation and guidance since the 2017 AMR, none of the changes directly affect the delivery of the Adopted LDP. As a result there are no significant implications from the changing circumstances for the Adopted LDP.
- 4.18 In respect of future development plan preparation, significant progress has been made in the last year towards commencing the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR). On 29th January 2018, the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet (Regional Cabinet) agreed that work should commence on an SDP for the region. Work is currently ongoing to secure agreement on the governance procedure, the responsible authority, the boundary for the strategic planning area and the scope, content, timescale and resources for the SDP. It is hoped that a report will be taken through each of the 10 CCR authorities in the near future to obtain agreement to formally commence the process for the preparation of the SDP.

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring

- 4.19 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires local authorities to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) as part of the preparation of the LDP. In addition to this the LDP Regulations requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be undertaken. In preparing the LDP the Council undertook a joint SEA and SA and produced and published its SEA/SA Report in conjunction with the LDP.
- 4.20 The SEA Directive also requires that the Council monitor the state of the environment through monitoring the sustainability objectives set out in the SEA/SA Report. This forms an integral part of the AMR and is contained in Section 4.
- 4.21 This year's SEA monitoring identifies that several of the indicators are not performing as well as expected. However, these are far from significant enough to erode the positive effects delivered throughout the plan period. Many of the objectives that performed poorly in 2018 are different to those that were recorded as poorly performing in 2017, and overall there are no indicators that have consistently scored poorly in consecutive years since the adoption of the plan. The picture across all objectives is one of significant variation due to the site specific nature of certain indicators, the effect of external circumstances and the fact that many indicators are considered relative to national averages, rather than on a trend basis.

LDP Policy Monitoring

- 4.22 The LDP Monitoring considers each of the 22 Strategy Policies against the LDP Monitoring Framework to identify whether the policies are being effective and to identify any policies that are not being implemented.
- 4.23 An overview of the LDP Monitoring Data for the 2018 AMR period provides an interesting insight into the implementation of the LDP over the past 12 months. Of particular note for 2018 is the following:

- The annual house building rate in this AMR has increased from 187 to 284 (based on 2017 Joint Housing Land Availability Study figures).
- The housing land supply figure has increased from 1.5 years to 2.1 years using the residual method.
- The average house price for the county borough increased by a further 7% from £121,879 to £129,928.
- The annual unemployment rate increased slightly from 5.2% to 6.2%.
- After successive rises in the number of residents in employment since the adoption of the plan, there was a small decrease this year from 82,100 to 80,700.
- 25.7 hectares of employment land was granted planning permission.
- Of the principal town centres, Blackwood, Risca-Pontymister and Bargoed all saw a decrease in vacancy rates, although vacancies in Bargoed are still over 20%. Ystrad Mynach and Caerphilly both saw a small increase in vacancy rates.
- Footfall in all three principal towns with footfall counters (Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed), decreased, but this was due to the footfall counters being out of action for a period of six weeks during the monitoring period.
- There was a further increase in visitor numbers to countryside recreation facilities to 1.45 million visitors per annum, but customer satisfaction has decreased from 87% to 75%.

- 4.24 Notably the 2018 AMR identifies that the housing land availability figure has increased from 1.5 years to 2.1 years, following the approval of a number of major housing applications. It should be noted that the AMR uses the data from the previous year's JHLAS, due to the fact that the JHLAS is generally agreed after the preparation of the data for the AMR Report. Therefore, the 2018 AMR uses the 2017 JHLAS information that actually covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The 2018 JHLAS has recently been agreed and the housing land supply has risen slightly to 2.3 years. However, this is still well below the 5-year requirement. This figure will be reflected in the 2019 AMR.
- 4.25 Where the land supply is less than 5 years, TAN 1 requires local authorities to take steps to increase the supply of housing land, which may include reviewing the development plan, releasing land in its ownership, expediting planning applications or securing the provision of infrastructure to release constrained sites.
- 4.26 It should be noted that, following the preparation of the 2013 AMR Report, the Council commenced a review of the Adopted LDP. The Replacement LDP progressed through to its Deposit Stage before the council resolved to withdraw it at the Council meeting on 19 July 2016. Following discussions with Welsh Government Ministers and senior officials, the council formally withdrew the Replacement LDP at the council meeting on 11 October 2016, as part of the resolution to agree the 2016 Annual Monitoring Report.
- 4.27 Since that decision there have been a number of applications for residential development, on sites that are not in accordance with the Adopted LDP, that have been allowed on appeal. The lack of a 5-year land supply was a key factor in the determination of the appeals. It is evident from these decisions that the Planning Inspectorate and Welsh Government both consider the 5-year land supply issue to be a significant material consideration in determining proposals for residential development.
- 4.28 The dis-application of TAN 1 from 18th July 2018 means that local authorities will no longer need to give "*considerable weight*" to the lack of a 5 year land supply when determining planning applications. It should be noted that there is still a need to consider the lack of the 5 year land supply, but the weight that is to be attributed to it will be for decision makers to determine. Future applications will therefore be considered on their merits. However, there still remains a significant shortfall in housing. Whilst the council is seeking to address this matter, in part through the release or relevant public sector land in the short term, the issue of the lack of a 5-year land supply will continue to be a significant issue for the Council. In the longer term the preparation of the SDP would address the future housing levels as well as identifying broad spatial locations for development and growth.

- 4.29 Overall the LDP Monitoring, broadly speaking, finds the plan is being implemented within acceptable parameters, except for the single issue of housing delivery.

Statutory (Mandatory) Indicators

- 4.30 LDP Manual: Edition 2 has revised the number of statutory or mandatory indicators from the original 10, to just 4. There are also 2 statutory indicators required through TAN1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, which remain unchanged. Appendix 1 to the AMR report sets out the plans performance against those monitoring figures that are required by the Regulations.

Community Infrastructure Levy – 4th Annual Report

- 4.31 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced in Caerphilly County Borough on 1 July 2014. It is a mandatory charge that is levied against all new qualifying development.
- 4.32 In order to ensure that the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy is open and transparent, the Council must prepare an annual report on CIL. The 2018 AMR also comprises the 4th Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Monitoring Report (CIL Report).
- 4.33 The CIL Report covers the previous financial year, in this instance 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, and must be published on the Council's website by 31 December each year.
- 4.34 During the monitoring period a total of £330,754.22 in CIL receipts were received by the Council. A total of £46,598.11 was paid to 6 Local Councils in accordance with the CIL Regulations. In addition to this a further £2,082.14 is being retained for use within those areas of the county borough that are not covered by Local Councils.
- 4.35 In accordance with the CIL Regulations provisions the Council has taken £16,537.71 of the CIL receipts in admin fees to assist in covering the cost of implementing and operating the CIL. The admin fees amount to 5% of the total CIL receipts for the year.
- 4.36 It can be confirmed that no infrastructure payments have been received in lieu of CIL and no CIL receipts have been passed to third parties to provide infrastructure. Given the above, the remaining amount of CIL receipts available for expenditure on infrastructure items is £480,136.53.
- 4.37 Bids for infrastructure funding from CIL will be considered and recommendations on what bids should receive funding will be reported to Council as part of the 2018/2019 budget considerations. The 2019 Report will include details of all CIL spend for that year, as well as further income and expenditures.
- 4.38 The Regulations also require all Local Councils in receipt of CIL revenue to prepare annual reports on their CIL income and expenditure, for inclusion in the annual CIL report. The annual local Council CIL reports are set out in Appendix 5 of the AMR Report.

AMR Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.39 Overall the LDP Monitoring finds that, generally, the plan is being implemented within acceptable parameters, except for the single issue of housing delivery. Viability continues to be an issue in overall house building and this has had an adverse impact on the levels of affordable housing being delivered through the planning system.
- 4.40 The pressure for the Council to recommence work on a Replacement LDP remains strong as:
- There is a statutory requirement to move to review after four years;
 - The passage of time since the 2013 AMR identified the need to prepare a new plan;
 - The increasing risk that the county borough will not have development plan coverage post 2021;

- The urgent need to increase the housing land supply;
- The likelihood of further unplanned development being allowed on appeal in the short term; and
- Welsh Government have written to local authorities with a 2021 LDP end date for LDPs inviting them to prepare joint plans with neighbouring authorities.

4.41 However, there has been significant progress made on the SDP in the last year, with a decision from the Regional Cabinet to progress and a series of discussion papers produced to seek agreement on key issues around governance, the strategic planning area, scope, content, resources and timescales. It is hoped that a report will be taken through each of the 10 CCR authorities in the near future to obtain agreement to formally commence the process for the preparation of the SDP.

4.42 It is anticipated that the SDP will address issues such as population and household growth, strategic housing and employment sites, transport, retail, minerals and waste. Once the SDP is prepared for the region, the LDPs that follow (light touch LDPs) will only need to contain the non-strategic issues and therefore will be slimmer and more succinct, reducing preparation time and costing less.

4.43 The SDP will set out the strategy for the region, and it is essential that the preparation of an LDP, either individually or jointly with neighbouring authorities, is prepared in accordance with the SDP. There is concern that the preparation of a full LDP in advance of an SDP could conflict with the regional strategy on the location of growth. Furthermore, there are significant concerns about the resources available in the region to progress both an LDP, even at a joint level, and the SDP.

4.44 On this basis, the preparation of a light touch LDP following on from the preparation of the SDP would offer the best solution in respect of delivering regional objectives and the utilisation of resources.

4.45 The 2013 AMR and subsequent AMRs have clearly identified the need for a full replacement plan to be prepared. The findings of these reports together with the updated evidence base will form part of the evidence base for any future plan preparation, irrespective of whether this is a Replacement LDP or the SDP, together with a light touch LDP.

4.46 The 2018 Annual Monitoring Report concludes and recommends that:

- R1 Substantial progress should continue to be made in the delivery of the majority of the Adopted Development Plan, which is realising benefits to the environment.
- R2 The Council should continue to work towards securing the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region at the earliest opportunity.
- R3 The Council will need to continue to address the shortfall in the five year housing land supply through proactive action, including:
 - To consider proposals for new residential development on their relative planning merits on a site-by-site basis and have due regard for the need to increase the housing land supply in line with national planning policy and guidance;
 - To lobby Welsh Government to establish funding mechanisms to incentivise sites in low viability areas and promote remediation of suitable brownfield sites for development;
 - To utilise the innovative funding model to bring forward Council owned sites with viability issues;
 - To lobby the Welsh Government to make changes in respect of the housing land availability process.
 - To identify schemes through the Regeneration Project Board where funding opportunities could be exploited to deliver regeneration projects, including for housing.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Section 3 above.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report. However any future review of policies and proposals contained within the LDP will require an equalities impact assessment to be carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no new financial implications as a consequence of this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct personnel implications as a result of this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All comments have been taken into account in the Committee Report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To consider and note the findings of the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein.
- 10.2 To recommend to Council that the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report (Including the 4th Annual CIL Report) be agreed and be submitted to the Welsh Government before the deadline of 31 October 2018.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the LDP Wales Regulations 2005 and the SEA Directive.
- 11.2 To comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the LDP Wales Regulations 2005 and the SEA Directive.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to prepare and keep under review a Local Development Plan for the County Borough to act as a single framework for the control and use of land within its administrative boundary.
- 12.2 The Local Government Act 1998. The Local Government Act 2003. The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005.

Author: Victoria Morgan, Principal Planner, Strategic & Development Plans
Consultees: Cllr David Poole, Leader
Cllr. Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection
Christina Harray, Interim Chief Executive
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director of Communities
Richard (Ed) Edmunds, Director of Education and Corporate Services
David Street, Corporate Director Social Services
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Head Of Corporate Finance
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager
Rhian Kyte, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Dave Lucas, Team Leader, Strategic and Development Plans

Background Papers:

Caerphilly County Borough LDP Annual Monitoring Report 2018

[made available in the resource library]

Caerphilly County Borough LDP Annual Monitoring Report 2018 – Background Tables

[made available in the resource library]

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COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

-
- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 23rd July 2018, sought members views as to whether the Council should undertake a formal review of the Council's communities in accordance with Section 22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, prior to presentation to full Council.
 - 1.2 Members were advised that the Council has a duty to monitor community boundaries and community council electoral arrangements and if it feels it is necessary to carry out a formal review.
 - 1.3 The Democratic Services Committee noted the processes and considerations that would be required, to carry out a review and the result of monitoring of community areas to date. The Committee also noted the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales' timetable for conducting reviews. The Commission is currently reviewing principal areas in Wales, with the Caerphilly County Borough Council review scheduled for 2019. A community review would take approximately 2 years to carry out so would overlap the principal area review and potentially cause confusion. In addition, a Commission is reviewing the town and community sector as a whole and will be reporting to Welsh Government this summer and making recommendations in the autumn. Depending on which recommendations Welsh Government takes forward may materially affect a community review and as such it may be prudent to wait until after then to start a review. The Committee noted that the views of the Local Government Boundary Commission was sought and it is their preference that any review takes place after their review of the Council's divisions and electoral arrangements.
 - 1.4 Following consideration of the report, the Democratic Services Committee unanimously recommended to Council that for the reasons contained therein a full community review of this Council's arrangements be carried out following the conclusion of the Commission's review of Community Councils which would likely be following the next local elections scheduled in 2022.

Author: K. Houghton, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4267

Appendices:

Appendix Report to the Democratic Services Committee on 23rd July 2018 – Agenda Item 5



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23RD JULY 2018

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider if the Council should undertake a formal review of its communities in accordance with Section 22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 and to make recommendations to Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has a duty to monitor community boundaries and community council electoral arrangements and if it feels it is necessary to carry out a formal review.
- 2.2 This report discusses the processes and considerations that would be required to carry out a review and the result of monitoring community areas to date. It also considers the external factors that have been taken into account when reaching a conclusion.
- 2.3 The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 requires the Council to report on these issues and copy this to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.
- 2.4 After looking into the issues concerning communities in the county borough and seeking advice from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales the report seeks members' consideration to recommend to Council that the authority defers carrying out a formal review at this time.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 This matter deals with a statutory requirement regarding the requirement to keep communities under review but supports the Wellbeing Goal 'A Wales of cohesive communities within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The report of the last review of communities in the county borough was published in July 2009. The Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 requires the Council to report every 10 years so this is an appropriate time to consider this issue.
- 4.2 The Council has not received any comments or requests from Community Councils to change/amend their boundaries or electoral arrangements. However, it is apparent that some Community councils fail to consistently achieve sufficient nominations at elections.

Table 1 – Vacant seats following nominations 2012 & 2017

Council	No of vacancies following nominations 2012	No of vacancies following nominations 2017
Nelson	1	1
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	1	3
Van	1	2
Argoed	1	4
Maesycwmmmer	0	1
New Tredegar	0	1
Rhymney	2	3
Risca East	n/a	1
Risca West	n/a	1

Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry, Argoed and Rhymney Community Councils show particularly high levels of vacancies following ordinary elections (Community Councils can of course co-opt additional Councillors and many did so following the ordinary elections) and this may be an indicator that electoral arrangements need to be reviewed.

- 4.3 In order to ensure effective and convenient local government the boundaries of community areas are kept under review. A main part of convenient local government is to try to ensure that community ties are preserved within community areas. However, occasionally new housing developments will 'grow' over existing boundary lines. This has occurred in the Ystrad Mynach / Cefn Hengoed ward of Gelligaer Community Council where the vast majority of the Cwm Calon development falls in Ystrad Mynach and a small number of properties in Cefn Hengoed. Other new developments such as the Hawtin Meadows development will fall entirely in one community area (Maesycwmmmer) but have closer links and ties with another (Pontllanfraith). However, any changes to these would require consequential changes to county borough divisions for which the Council has no power.
- 4.4 Section 22 of the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 states that the Council must have consideration for the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales' timetable for conducting reviews. The Commission are currently reviewing principal areas in Wales, with the Caerphilly review scheduled for 2019. A Community review would take approximately 2 years to carry out so would overlap the principal area review and potentially cause confusion.
- 4.5 A Commission is looking into the town and community council sector as a whole. They will be reporting to Welsh Government this summer, making recommendations in the autumn. Depending on which recommendations Welsh Government takes forward may materially affect a community review. It may be prudent to wait until after then to start a review.
- 4.6 The views of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales have been sought and it is their preference that any review takes place after their review of the Council's divisions and electoral arrangements.
- 4.7 Although a need to carry out a full community review to address boundary and electoral issues has been identified, Members are asked to consider the report and recommend to Council that a full community review of this Council's arrangements be carried out following the conclusion of the Commission's review of Community Councils. This would likely be following the next local elections scheduled in 2022

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals as set out in links to strategy above. It supports the Wellbeing Goal 'A Wales of cohesive communities within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report. This report links to equality objective 5 (Inclusive engagement and participation) of the Council's EqIA process. To delay the full review as recommended has no detrimental effect.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications contained in this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To consider the content of the report and recommend to Council that a full community review of this Council's arrangements be carried out following the conclusion of the Commission's review of Community Councils which would likely be following the next local elections scheduled in 2022.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed to delay carrying out a community review at this time because of the forthcoming review of county borough electoral arrangements and the review of Community Councils that a Commission is currently carrying out. This is in line with advice from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales' advice.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Author: Dave Beecham, Electoral Services Manager

Tel: 01443 864405 E-mail: beechd@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina Harray - Interim Chief Executive / Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer

Cllr Barbara Jones - Cabinet Member Finance, Performance and Governance

Mathew Redmond - Deputy Chief Executive, Local Government and Boundary Commission for Wales

Lisa Lane Interim Monitoring Officer



COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP INCREASE – CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to consider recommendations from Caerphilly SACRE to increase its membership within Committee A (faith groups) and Committee B (professional teaching associations) as set out in the report below.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its Summer Term meeting on 13th June 2018, Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) discussed its membership in light of new guidance from Welsh Government and a number of membership requests received.
- 2.2 Given SACRE's inclusive nature and their encouragement for a range of diverse views, and having regard to revised guidance from Welsh Government, SACRE were of the view that there is scope to extend the number of places on Committee A (faith groups) to accommodate the inclusion of a wider range of faith groups/ religions and the inclusion of those who hold secular or non religious beliefs.
- 2.3 SACRE was also of the view that there is a need to increase the membership of Committee B (professional teaching associations) in order to have sufficient teacher representation at all its meetings, and so that the important changes currently occurring within the curriculum can be fully considered.
- 2.4 As the composition of SACRE membership is a matter for full Council, SACRE recommended to Council that:-
- (i) Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by **two** places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non religious beliefs);
 - (ii) Committee B (professional teaching associations) membership of SACRE be increased by **one** place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links to SACRE's duty to monitor and develop the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools and contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) recently wrote to Welsh Government seeking clarity on Committee A membership in light of Humanist requests to join SACREs under Committee A membership. The original guidance under paragraph 103 of Circular 10/94 stated that “the inclusion of representatives of belief systems such as humanism, which do not amount to a religion or religious denomination, on Committee A of an agreed syllabus conference or Group A of a SACRE would be contrary to the legal provisions referred to at paragraph 102”.
- 4.2 Whilst the appointment of persons to a SACRE is a matter for local authorities and the SACREs, Welsh Government has taken legal advice into consideration and have now advised that representatives from non-religious belief systems may be appointed to Group A of a SACRE or Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) to ensure that these fully reflect the beliefs of the communities that they are representing and to comply with current legislation. The letter from WG is contained at Appendix 1 and supersedes paragraph 103 of Circular 10/94.
- 4.3 On the basis of this letter, a member of Wales Humanists requested that Caerphilly Council take steps to increase the membership of SACRE so as to include a Humanist representative as a member of Group A.
- 4.4 At its Summer Term meeting on 13th June 2018, Caerphilly SACRE discussed its membership in light of the guidance received from Welsh Government, together with membership requests received across a number of its committee groupings. SACRE were mindful that they can only recommend membership changes across Committees A to C and that the final decision rests with the local authority’s full Council. The decision on the inclusion of co-opted members is within the remit of the SACRE Committee.
- 4.5 The current membership of SACRE is set out in Appendix 2 of this report. There are currently:-
- 5 faith representative places on SACRE (Committee A);
 - 6 teacher representatives (Committee B);
 - 6 local authority councillor representatives (Committee C);
 - 2 co-opted places (without voting rights), which were set up to address any imbalances across the main committee groups.
- 4.6 Given SACRE’s inclusive nature and their encouragement for a range of diverse views, and having regard to the revised guidance from WG, it was suggested that SACRE consider extending Committee A membership by **two** places in order to accommodate the inclusion of a wider range of faith groups/ religions and the inclusion of those who hold secular or non religious beliefs.
- 4.7 SACRE also considered membership of Committee B (professional teaching associations) and noted that whilst the vacant UCAC position has recently been filled, vacancies remain across the NUT and ASCL union places. SACRE are having difficulty in securing replacement members for these specific unions, whilst there has been an influx of interest from teachers across other unions which are already represented on SACRE. It is very important to have sufficient teacher representation and committed members on SACRE owing to the breadth of the National Curriculum review and the ways in which this could impact on the delivery of Religious Education.

- 4.8 The largest teaching union (NEU) is already well represented on SACRE, having two places via the amalgamation of the NUT and ATL. It was therefore suggested that SACRE consider increasing Committee B by **one** place to include a second representative from NASUWT, which is the second largest teaching union in the UK and for which expressions of interest have already been received..
- 4.9 It should also be noted that SACRE discussed their co-opted places at the Summer Term meeting but agreed to defer consideration of the way forward on these, pending the decision of Council in regards to the composition of Committee A and B. Additionally, it is not proposed to increase the composition of Committee C (local authority councillor representatives) as there is sufficient representation in this regard.
- 4.10 Following discussion on the contents of the report, Caerphilly SACRE unanimously recommended to Council that:-
- (i) Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by **two** places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non religious beliefs);
 - (ii) Committee B (teaching unions) membership of SACRE be increased by **one** place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.
- 4.11 Since the meeting, the RE Advisor to Caerphilly SACRE has also provided further information (as set out below) to support the reasons for an increase in membership.

Reasons for increasing membership of Committee A (faith groups) by two places

- 4.12 Caerphilly SACRE prides itself on its inclusive nature and the encouragement of a range of diverse views to be expressed on this committee and such diversity is to be encouraged. There are currently 5 places for the faith communities on SACRE, which is less than the other two representative groups, and two extra places would extend the membership to 7 places. In order to increase diversity on the Committee and reflect this, SACRE wish to extend the membership by including two additional places as follows for:
- (a) The inclusion of a wider range of faith groups/ religions. Current membership of SACRE reflects the Christian faith and its denominations in the local community. There are currently no members of non Christian communities on Caerphilly SACRE. SACRE has tried to redress this by having a reserved co-opted place for a diversity and multi-ethnic group such as Race Equality Wales but to date have been unable to fill that position since it was vacated 2 years ago.
- (b) The inclusion of those who hold secular or non religious beliefs. A member of Wales Humanists has written to SACRE seeking a place. The arguments for inclusion of a secular or non religious beliefs member of SACRE would include:
- (1) The letter from Kirsty Williams of May 2018 that to ensure compatibility with the Human Rights Act she has ruled that representatives from non-religious belief systems (such as Humanism) may be appointed to Group A;
 - (2) The 2017 revised GCSE specification for Religious Studies from WJEC includes the study of secular as well as religious beliefs and this will be assessed in the examination. The specification states:
 - *The specification will develop learners' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism*
 - *All candidates must also consider non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists (this will be explicitly assessed in the (d) questions in the Life and Death theme).*

- (3) There is acceptance in the current agreed syllabuses in Wales that part of the RE skill of engaging with fundamental questions should give pupils opportunities to “interrogate a range of evidence from religious and non – religious sources... in order to consider issues raised”

- 4.13 SACRE believes that a full Committee A position for a non-Christian faith religion could be filled from the local community and would add value to the discussion and debates of SACRE. It is also the opinion of SACRE that a non-religious representative position could add value to the debate and discussions that take place in SACRE.

Reasons for increasing membership of Committee B (professional teaching associations) by one place

- 4.14 Caerphilly SACRE prides itself on its inclusive nature and appreciates the professional input received by teachers and headteachers on the Committee. Their views are especially important as the nature of SACRE is to be an advisory body to the local authority on matters of religious education and collective worship in schools. At the current time the curriculum in Wales is undergoing review to reflect the recommendations of Professor Donaldson in his report *Successful Futures - Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales*. His recommendation in regard to religious education was that:

“Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception”

The Committee currently has 6 places for the Professional Associations with two places for the NEU (previously NUT and ATL) as they are the largest teaching union with 468,000 members. SACRE would like to extend the membership by one place to include a second representative from NASUWT which is the second largest teaching union with 300,000 members.

- 4.15 SACRE believes that with the very important changes in the curriculum and the impact that it will have on religious education in schools (which is a LA responsibility to ensure that RE is taught and monitored in schools), teacher voice is crucial in helping the SACRE to make decisions and recommendations on RE in schools, and therefore there is a need to extend the membership by one place to 7 members.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals as set out in links to strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by ensuring the scrutiny function is effective when reviewing services and policies and ensure it considers the wellbeing goals.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 These have been addressed by the guidance from Welsh Government as attached to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If approved by Council, the Committee A vacancies would need to be filled via a competitive process to ensure all interested parties have the opportunity to apply. This will involve information being placed on the Council’s website, inclusion on the Council’s Education bulletin, and correspondence sent to the relevant non-Christian and non-religious organisations across the region. This workload can be absorbed into existing budgets and normal staff workloads.

7.2 If approved by Council, Committee B vacancy can be filled by seeking a nomination from the NASUWT.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 The report has been circulated to the consultees listed below and responses received have been reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Council agree to increase Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non religious beliefs).

10.2 That Council agree to increase Committee B (professional teaching associations) membership of SACRE by one place and that this be allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To increase diversity across Caerphilly SACRE and assist the committee in carrying out their role in supporting the effective provision of RE and Collective Worship across the county borough.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Education Act 1996.

Author: Lisa Lane, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer
Consultees: Ms Paula Webber and Mrs Vicky Thomas, EAS - RE Advisor to SACRE
Councillor John Taylor, Caerphilly SACRE Chair
Mrs Janet Jones, Caerphilly SACRE Vice-Chair
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement
Richard (Ed) Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Robert Tranter Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Catherine Forbes-Thompson, Interim Head of Democratic Services

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Welsh Government Guidance - Letter from Kirsty Williams AM
Appendix 2 Caerphilly SACRE - Current Membership
Appendix 3 Report to SACRE – 13th June 2018

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Local Authority Directors of Education

3 May 2018

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to update you in relation to the governance and membership on Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (“SACREs”) and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (“ASCs”).

As you may be aware, the extant guidance relating to SACRE membership is laid out in Circular 10/94 (published by the former Welsh Office in 1994). The circular is non-statutory and is neither binding nor authoritative but there have been a number of queries recently on the issue of membership to Group A of a SACRE. Specifically, on whether persons who hold non-religious beliefs (such as Humanists) should be permitted full membership on Group A in light of the Human Rights Act 1998. For information, details on how membership to a SACRE is constituted is included at Annex A.

The circular states at paragraph 103:

“The inclusion of representatives of belief systems such as humanism, which do not amount to a religion or religious denomination, on Committee A of an agreed syllabus conference or Group A of a SACRE would be contrary to the legal provisions referred to at paragraph 102”.

The appointment of persons to a SACRE is a matter for local authorities and the SACREs. However, taking legal advice into consideration, I am of the opinion that representatives from non-religious belief systems may be appointed to Group A of a SACRE or ASCs, to ensure that SACREs/ASCs fully reflect the beliefs of the communities that they are representing and to comply with current legislation.

It is the view of the Welsh Government that:

- to ensure compatibility with the Human Rights Act 1998 the provisions relating to the constitution of SACRES and ASCs in the 1996 Act are to be interpreted as

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Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

permitting the appointment of persons who represent holders of non-religious beliefs in the same way as they permit the appointment of persons who represent holders of religious beliefs; (section 390(4)(a) of, and paragraph 4(2)(1) of Schedule 31 to, the 1996 Act). However, we consider the non-religious beliefs adhered to by the person to be appointed must be analogous to a religious belief, such as humanism. To be “analogous” we consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

- an appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority’s opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority’s area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

The same principle applies in relation to appointments to Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs).

For the avoidance of doubt, the guidance set out in this letter supersedes paragraph 103 of Circular 10/94.

With regards to an updating Circular 10/94, I am aware that there are other areas of contention within the document that need to be addressed. As there are some complex issues, consideration of those matters is still on-going and therefore a review of the guidance will be considered once all information on this matter has been received.

I hope this provides clarification on these matters.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg

Cabinet Secretary for Education

Annex A

1. The functions of a SACRE are set out in section 375 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) and broadly those are to advise a local authority in respect of matters relating to religious education and collective worship. Section 390 of the 1996 Act set out how a SACRE is to be constituted as follows:
 - a) a group of persons to represent Christian denominations and other religions and denominations as in the opinion of the authority appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area. The number of persons appointed should reflect broadly the proportionate strength of the particular denomination or religion in the area (“Group A”);
 - b) a group of persons representing associations that represent teachers; and
 - c) a group of persons to represent the authority.
2. In addition a SACRE may include co-opted members onto it. Such members are to be appointed on the terms as may be determined by those co-opting that person i.e. the SACRE itself (section 392(5) of the 1996 Act). Co-opted members cannot take part in a group vote.

CURRENT SACRE MEMBERSHIP - SEPTEMBER 2018

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth
Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver
Councillor J. Ridgewell
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent
Councillor J. Simmonds
Councillor J. Taylor (SACRE Chair)

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS

Primary Schools

NAHT Headteacher Representative
UCAC Representative

Secondary Schools

ATL Representative
NASUWT Representative

Vacancy (NUT) – Secondary School Representative resigned Nov 2017

Vacancy (ASCL) – Secondary School Representative retired June 2017

CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Church in Wales Representative (SACRE Vice-Chair)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese Representative

Free Churches

Baptist Union of Wales Representative
United Reformed Church Representative
Salvation Army Representative

CO OPTED MEMBERS

(1) **Vacancy** – position reserved for Race Equality First representative or similar equalities organisation

(2) Primary school representative – position held by primary school RE teacher

OFFICERS

Mr Paul Warren (CCBC Strategic Lead for School Improvement)
Ms Paula Webber (RE Adviser – Education Achievement Service)

CLERK TO SACRE

Miss Rebecca Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****DATE: 13TH JUNE 2018****SUBJECT: SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE / WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE****A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider the current membership of Caerphilly SACRE in light of correspondence received from Welsh Government attached at Appendix 3.

To inform SACRE of recent membership requests and to seek its views as to whether it wishes to recommend to Council any changes to its Membership.

B BACKGROUND - CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to constitute a SACRE within their local area.

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

- (i) Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- (ii) Associations representing teachers
- (iii) The Local Authority

The current arrangements for Caerphilly SACRE are as follows:

1. Faith Group Representatives (Committee A) (5 places)

There have been no recent changes to membership and all positions are currently filled. At its Spring Term meeting it was confirmed that the Clerk to SACRE would liaise with those representatives who have not attended for some time to determine whether they wish to remain on the committee. As a result, the Salvation Army have indicated that they will nominate a replacement representative over the summer. The remaining members are unchanged.

Additionally, members are asked to consider information contained in Section C of this report in relation to membership requests and correspondence received from Welsh Government

2. Teacher Association Representatives (Committee B) (6 places)

There are three vacancies in this group arising from the recent resignations of Mrs Nicola Boardman (NUT). Ms Bethan Davies (UCAC) and Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL). Efforts are ongoing to fill the vacant places with representatives from the relevant unions, with some success to date (refer to membership list at Appendix 1).

3. Local Authority Elected Members (Committee C) (6 places)

All positions are currently filled.

4. Co-opted positions (without voting rights) (2 places)

These appointments are made at the discretion of the Committee.

The first position is currently vacant but is reserved for a representative from Race Equality First or an equivalent organisation (to address the lack of representation from non-Christian religious communities within the faith group section of SACRE). At their Autumn Term meeting on 19th October 2017, SACRE unanimously agreed that the position should continue to be reserved for a representative from Race Equality First or an equivalent organisation.

The second position is currently filled by a primary school teacher representative, but they have not attended a meeting of SACRE for some time. The Clerk to SACRE has written to the representative on several occasions to determine whether they wish to remain on the committee but has not received a response by the given deadline. Therefore Members are asked to consider how they wish to proceed on this matter.

C MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS AND WELSH GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE

At their last meeting on 19th October 2017, SACRE were advised of membership requests received from Mr Michael Gray (a Methodist Church member and lay preacher) and Mr Ken Chamberlain (of the British Humanist Association). It was explained that Mr Gray would meet the criteria for a faith group representative (subject to endorsement from the Methodist Church) whilst Mr Chamberlain could only be considered for a co-opted position, as he did not meet the criteria for a faith group representative under the guidance from Welsh Government. However, SACRE noted that both requests would need to be declined because there were no vacancies in either of the respective groups at the time.

SACRE agreed for Mr Gray and Mr Chamberlain to be notified of the current membership situation (and for their interest to be held on file pending a suitable vacancy). It was also agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would contact those representatives who have not attended a meeting for some time to determine whether they wish to remain on the committee. It was explained at the meeting that this could potentially open up some vacancies across Committee A and the co-opted group.

Since this time, discussions have taken place regarding the Humanist situation in regards to membership of Committee A across SACREs in Wales, and WASACRE have written to Welsh Government asking for clarity on the matter. Clarification has recently been received in a letter from Kirsty Williams AM Cabinet Secretary for Education which is attached at Appendix 3.

As members will be aware Circular 10/94 provides guidance on how the membership of SACRE is constituted including Committee A.

The Circular states at paragraph 103:

“The inclusion of representatives of belief systems such as humanism, which do not amount to a religion or religious denomination, on Committee A of an agreed syllabus conference or Group A of a SACRE would be contrary to the legal provisions referred to at paragraph 102”.

Whilst the appointment of persons to a SACRE is a matter for local authorities and the SACREs, Welsh Government has taken legal advice into consideration and have advised that representatives from non-religious belief systems may be appointed to Group A of a SACRE or ASCs, to ensure that SACREs/ASCs fully reflect the beliefs of the communities that they are representing and to comply with current legislation.

However, WG consider the non-religious beliefs adhered to by the person to be appointed must be analogous to a religious belief, such as humanism. To be “analogous” WG consider the non-religious beliefs must in accordance with case law under the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights.

An appointment is dependent on the relevant local authority's opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Group A. The final decision of an appointment rests with the local authority, and they are best placed to assess whether a SACRE has the necessary expertise and experience to properly discharge its function.

The letter from WG advised that for the avoidance of doubt, the guidance set out in the letter attached at Appendix 3 supersedes paragraph 103 of Circular 10/94.

The letter also acknowledges that there are other areas of contention within the document that need to be addressed. As there are some complex issues, consideration of those matters is still on-going and therefore a review of the guidance will be considered once all information on this matter has been received.

On the basis of this letter Mr Chamberlain has requested that the Council take steps to increase the membership of SACRE so as to include a representative of Humanists as full members of Group A.

Should SACRE wish to increase the membership of Committee A, then a recommendation will need to be made to Council for approval.

D RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That SACRE note the details of the current membership and the ongoing arrangements to fill the teacher representative vacancies, including details of any replacement representatives from the relevant unions if secured by the time of the meeting.
2. That SACRE note the details regarding co-opted positions and advise how they wish to proceed on this matter.
3. That SACRE determine whether it wishes to recommend to Council an increase in the number of members comprising Committee A.

E BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 Caerphilly SACRE Membership as of June 2018
Appendix 2 Minutes of the SACRE Inaugural Meeting - 18th September 1996
Appendix 2 Letter from Kirsty Williams AM



COUNCIL – 9TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

1. LEISURE PROVISION

To the Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

- (1) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to confirm if Leisure Officers have had any discussions with Governors over providing services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School in the last 12 months and prior to the consultation over the Leisure and Sports strategy which ended on 21st September 2018.
- (2) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to define the content of any discussions with the governors and any provisional agreements on funding of current services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, and if any discussion and votes have been taken by governors in this respect, and if a "memorandum of understanding " between Council and the School has been discussed and the results of these discussions.

2. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to confirm in regard the Sirhowy Bridge Blackwood :

1. Confirm it is a Private Finance Contract and the term left on the contract
2. Confirm all cost of repairs will fall to the private sector
3. Details of the penalty clauses and confirmation no cost will fall to the ratepayers of the County Borough, and the details of the cost so far incurred
4. The works are on track to be completed and the bridge opened end of October.

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