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Date: 3rd June 2015

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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 June, 2015** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

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

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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 21st April 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 15) and Annual Council held on 14th May 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 21). | 1 - 20 |
| 6 | To receive Mr I. Johnston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent. | |

To receive and consider the following reports from Cabinet.

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
| 7 | Anti Poverty Strategy. | 21 - 40 |
| 8 | Corporate Improvement Plan - Improvement Objectives 2015/16. | 41 - 100 |

To receive and consider the following report: -

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 9 | Contract Arrangements of Interim Chief Executive. | 101 - 104 |
|---|---|-----------|

To receive and answer questions received under Rules of Procedure 10(2) which may have been submitted after the preparation of the agenda.

Circulation:

All Members And Appropriate Officers



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 21ST APRIL 2015 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D.G. Carter - Mayor
Councillor L. Gardiner - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, A.P. Angel, Mrs K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, Mrs J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, D.M. Gray, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, G. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director of Social Services), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), A. Price (Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer), K. Williams (Private Sector Housing Manager), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:-

Ben Gibbs and John Moore (Argoed Residents for a Safer Community)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor 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. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G. Bevan, D. Bolter, R.T. Davies, C. Durham, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, M.P. James, Ms P. Leonard, S. Morgan, A. Rees and Mrs J. Summers.

3. CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER DESIGNATION

At the meeting of Council on 25th February 2015, Members agreed that as part of the procedure for replacing Sandra Aspinall as Corporate Director, the statutory responsibility for being the Council's Chief Education Officer would rest with one of the officers at Head of Service level rather than with the Director.

The Mayor advised that this role has been designated to Keri Cole, who has been responsible for Learning, Education and Inclusion Services, and congratulations were extended to Keri on this designation.

4. JONATHAN JONES - DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Mayor advised that Jonathan Jones, Democratic Services Manager, would shortly be leaving the Authority to take up his new role within the Welsh Ambulance Service. The Chief Executive and Members referred to the high esteem in which Mr Jones was held by Members and Officers alike and paid tribute to his numerous and varied accomplishments over the last twelve years. Specific reference was made to Mr Jones' role in implementing the new webcasting system, together with his involvement with the scrutiny process and Member Development, which had resulted in Caerphilly Council becoming the first Authority in Wales to achieve the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. Members added that Mr Jones would be greatly missed and wished him well in his future endeavours.

5. 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 advised Members that the Mayor's Charity total for this year currently stood at approximately £8750. Specific reference was made to the achievements of Sophie Jones, the Chair of the Caerphilly Youth Forum, who has been elected as the Welsh representative on the national Youth Select Committee. Members congratulated Sophie on being elected to this important role, and paid tribute to her predecessor, Joel Price, also a member of the Caerphilly Youth Forum.

The Mayor congratulated Penallta and Bargoed Rugby Clubs, who have won their leagues with a number of games remaining. Members were also informed that Bedwas Primary School and St Helens Primary School had reached the final of the Enterprise Troopers National Primary School Competition, with Bedwas Junior School winning the Best Presentation Award. Members extended their congratulations to both schools on their achievements.

6. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

National GO Awards

Members were informed of the achievements of the Council's Procurement Team at two recent award ceremonies. Both awards recognise that the Council's procurement strategies are assisting in value for money as well as the social and economic regeneration of the County Borough.

The first Procurement award was achieved at the National GO Awards where Procurement Services were presented with a Highly Commended Award for Small Business and Third Sector Initiative Category. The award was made in recognition of the five 'core' contracts for the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) works programme and, in particular, the dedicated Supplier Engagement Strategy that was applied to develop the local supply chain. As a result, the contracts had the added benefits of delivering social and economic regeneration and a reduced carbon footprint.

Sue Jenkins (Procurement Systems Support Officer) came forward to receive the award from the Mayor.

Welsh National Procurement Awards

The second Procurement award was achieved at the recent Welsh National Awards, where Procurement Services won the prestigious 'Outstanding Contribution Award'. The award acknowledged the work done to transform a traditional-based function into a lean, focus driven, technology-based, strategic service with a focus on social and economic regeneration.

Derek Morris (Principal Procurement Officer) came forward to receive the award from the Mayor.

Commonwealth Games and Invictus Games Athletes

Members were informed of the achievements of three committed and celebrated athletes from the county borough who have represented Wales at the recent Commonwealth Games and Invictus Games.

Katrin Budd is a member of the Welsh Women's hockey team who competed against England, Australia, Scotland, Malaysia and Trinidad and Tobago at the Commonwealth Games. Katrin chalked up her 50th international cap during the Games.

Elena Allen also participated in the Commonwealth Games, competing in the Olympic Skeet, and winning a silver medal.

In the Invictus Games, Lewis Edwards enjoyed unprecedented success, winning four gold swimming medals. Lewis has now decided to take on a new discipline and is in training as a member of the GB para-triathlon squad for the 2016 Paralympics.

Katrin, Elena and Lewis came forward to receive Council pennants from the Mayor in recognition of their achievements.

7. PETITION – UPGRADE PENYRHEOL PARK

The Mayor received a petition presented by Councillor H. Davies on behalf of the Penyrheol Community Association, which called for Penyrheol Park to be upgraded and made accessible to the local community. The Mayor indicated that it would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention.

8. DEPUTATION FROM ARGOED RESIDENTS FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

The Mayor advised that he had agreed to a request for Argoed Residents for a Safer Community to address Council. He explained that under the terms of the Council's Constitution, such a deputation was permitted, although there would be no provision for debate following presentation of the matter.

Mr Ben Gibbs and Mr John Moore from Argoed Residents for a Safer Community were welcomed by the Mayor and invited to make their representations on behalf of the organisation.

Mr Gibbs explained to Members that Argoed Residents for a Safer Community was established on behalf of local residents and the surrounding communities, following concerns about the levels of anti-social behaviour in Argoed. Local residents believe this anti-social behaviour to be connected to the use of local bed and breakfast (B&B) establishments by Caerphilly Council as temporary accommodation for homeless people, which have on occasion included ex-offenders.

Mr Gibbs explained that the local community has lived in fear for a number of years as a result of anti-social behaviour in the area, and referred to a tragic incident at a local bed and breakfast establishment in November 2014 which saw the loss of two young lives. Argoed Residents for a Safer Community believe that B&Bs are unsuitable for vulnerable people in that they should instead be housed in supported accommodation with access to specialised staff. Mr Gibbs also highlighted the lack of transport and amenities within Argoed and voiced concerns as to whether the village is a suitable location for the temporary housing of vulnerable people.

In closing, Mr Gibbs explained that it had been brought to his attention that the Council would be ceasing the use of one B&B premises in Argoed as temporary accommodation. He expressed his thanks for the opportunity to address Members.

Mr Moore then addressed Members and made reference to a number of reports, including that of Shelter Cymru, which raised concerns over the suitability of B&Bs in being used for the housing of vulnerable people. He also referred to a 2012 WLGA report which noted that only a small percentage of ex-offenders received positive outcomes when placed in B&B accommodation. Mr Moore cited a number of local authorities where B&Bs are no longer used as temporary accommodation and highlighted the high economic cost of B&B placements. He also made reference to the impact that homelessness and living in temporary accommodation could have on the health of vulnerable people.

In closing, Mr Moore called on Caerphilly Council to support Argoed Residents for a Safer Community in bringing about changes to legislation by ceasing the use of B&B accommodation for the housing of vulnerable people in the county borough.

In responding to the deputation, Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive, advised that the Council's use of B&Bs as temporary accommodation would be examined at a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. Mr Burns reiterated that the use of B&B accommodation was avoided wherever possible but that the Council had a statutory responsibility to accommodate homeless people and these were often the only temporary housing option that could be utilised at short notice. Members were also advised that the Council's use of B&Bs as temporary accommodation was currently at an extremely low level and that the Council were not currently using the one premises in Argoed that was referenced earlier in the deputation.

The Mayor thanked Mr Gibbs and Mr Moore for their representations and the manner in which these had been presented, and the gentlemen, together with a number of other local residents who were sat in the public gallery, left the meeting at this point.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 8 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2015/16) and Agenda Item No. 9 (Welsh Government White Paper, Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People). Details are minuted with the respective items.

Angharad Price, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, confirmed that in relation to Agenda Item No. 8 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2015/16) there was a specific exemption within the Members' Code of Conduct which related to payments (by virtue of Section 12 paragraph (b)(iv)) and therefore there was no requirement for Members to declare an interest on that basis.

10. COUNCIL – 10TH MARCH 2015

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

Council held on 10th March 2014 (minute nos. 1 - 15).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

11. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS AND IMPLEMENTATION INTO UK LAW OF THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC CONTRACTS DIRECTIVE 2014

The report was presented to Cabinet on 15th April 2015 and the recommendations therein were endorsed at that meeting, subject to further clarification of the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member and the use of consultants and in-house provider in the process.

The report sought Member's approval of the proposed amendments to the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts (SOFC) following the implementation into UK Law of the New European Union (EU) Public Contracts Directives 2014.

Since 2011 the European Commission, Member States and the European Parliament have negotiated a new set of rules covering public contracts and the procurement discipline. Following extensive consultation throughout the EU, including Wales, the new rules were agreed by the European Commission and came into force on 17th April 2014. On 26th February 2015 the UK formally implemented the New EU Public Contracts Directives 2014 into national law via the UK Public Contract Regulations 2015. Due to the implementation of the new Regulations, there has been a need for Officers within Legal, Audit and Procurement to review and update the Council's SOFC to ensure legal compliance with the new Regulations.

Officers reported that implementation of the new regulations will support the UK and Welsh Government priorities for procurement and will help to deliver the Council's aims and objectives for modern-day procurement. The changes will provide a much more modern, flexible and commercial approach with many new features added to streamline and modernise public sector procurement. The proposed amendments to the Council's SOFC were summarised in the appendix to the report, together with SOFC as amended.

At the Cabinet meeting, clarification was sought on the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member and the use of consultants and in-house provider in the process. It was agreed that the Cabinet Members for Corporate Services and Community and Leisure Services would meet with the Officers concerned to further discuss the matter and this was included in the recommendation to Council.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the Council's proven track record in local procurement and clarification was sought on whether this process would be restricted by the new regulations. Officers confirmed that the new regulations would facilitate a more flexible approach to local procurement processes.

A query was raised regarding the interpretation of Standing Orders and Officers confirmed that the final decision would rest with the Interim Head of Legal Services (who is also the Monitoring Officer). Reassurance was sought that stringent controls were in place in relation to the Waiver of Standing Orders. Officers confirmed that robust procedures were already in place in relation to the awarding of contracts and that further consultation would take place to determine how to further strengthen these procedures.

Subject to the amendment of recommendation 9.1.1 in that there be further clarification of the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member and the use of consultants and in-house provider in the process, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report to Cabinet be approved. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) subject to further clarification of the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member and the use of consultants and in-house provider in the process, the proposed amendments to the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts in line with proposals set out within Appendix A of the report be approved and that the Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect the approved amendments;
- (ii) the implementation of the New EU Public Contracts Directives 2014 via the UK Public Contract Regulations 2015 and how the new rules support the Council's aims and objectives for modern day procurement be noted;
- (iii) an extensive consultation exercise across the Council on the practical operation (day-to-day) of Standing Order for Contracts be undertaken in the next few months, and any amendments proposed as a result of the consultation exercise be presented to Members for ratification.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

12. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared a personal interest, in that she receives support in line with some additional needs, and remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.

The report detailed the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' final determinations relating to councillors and co-opted members for 2015/16. The draft determinations of the Panel were previously presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 15th December 2014 and their views were included within the report.

The Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the various remuneration payments detailed within the annual report. The Panel has determined there should be no increase to remuneration payments in respect of basic, senior or civic salaries for 2015/16. The Council is not currently paying any additional salaries for joint overview and scrutiny committees and therefore the determinations of the Panel in this respect were included for information only. The Panel have reaffirmed the entitlement of Elected Members to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, and also the entitlement of Members to periods of family absence. The report also detailed the determinations of the Panel in respect of other payments, such as co-opted payments, care expenses and travel and subsistence allowance, and gave details of the support available to Members in terms of IT training and other additional needs.

In relation to the foregoing of payments, it was noted that individual Members or co-opted Members may forego any part of their remuneration entitlement by giving notice in writing to the Chief Executive.

Members considered the report and the determinations of the Panel, and with regards to recommendation 22.5 of the report relating to travel claims, it was moved and seconded that the current arrangements continue, in that no allowance payment be made for travel claims for journeys made within Members' wards.

Subject to the amendment of recommendation 22.5 in that no allowance payment be made for travel claims for journeys made within Members' wards, 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:-

- (i) the determinations of the Panel, including the appropriate level of Senior Salaries, travel and subsistence allowances and fee payments to Co-opted Members be implemented;
- (ii) Level 2, as detailed in section 7.1 of the report, be set as the appropriate level of Civic Salary for 2015/16;
- (iii) the maximum number of days payable to co-opted Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and to co-opted (lay) Members of the Standards Committee remain at 10 days per year, as stated in paragraph 11.3 of the report;
- (iv) no allowance payment be made for travel claims for journeys made within Members' wards, as stated in paragraph 14.2 of the report;
- (v) the Monitoring Officer act as the 'appropriate officer' for co-opted Members serving on the Standards Committee and the Head of Democratic Services act as the 'appropriate officer' for Members serving on the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

13. WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER, REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared a personal and prejudicial interest, in that she is making her own representations to Welsh Government on an issue that relates to the Standards Committee, and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

The report advised Members of the content of the recent White Paper on Local Government and the draft response prepared by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). Members' views were sought on the draft response which was appended to the report.

The White Paper sets out Welsh Government's vision for local government and outlines proposals for reform in a number of areas, including local democracy, the roles and remuneration of elected members and senior officers, community governance and community councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation, and local government finance.

The WLGA have prepared a draft response to this White Paper, which deals with most of the significant questions posed by Welsh Government in their consultation document, and which has been circulated to all local authorities in Wales for comment.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, Members highlighted the positive elements of the White Paper, and also voiced concerns regarding a number of more contentious proposals. Particular reference was made to the importance of preserving local democracy, and concerns were also raised as to the effect the proposals could have on the future structure of community/town councils and the subsequent impact on local residents. Members voiced their support for the WLGA draft response, which has been unanimously endorsed across all local authorities in Wales, and were in agreement that the observations contained within the response were sufficient.

It was moved and seconded that the WLGA draft response and the observations therein be endorsed as a sufficient response in respect of the White Paper, and, by a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) The Welsh Local Government Association draft response to the White Paper be endorsed;
- (ii) No other observations or responses be made in respect of the White Paper.

14. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

In that this was the last meeting of Council that he would be chairing prior to the Annual General Meeting, Councillor D.G. Carter thanked Members for the respect that had been shown to him at Council meetings throughout his term as Mayor.

15. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

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

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2015, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR



ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 14TH MAY 2015 AT 6PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D.G. Carter - Mayor
Councillor L. Gardiner - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, A.P. Angel, Mrs K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, C. Durham, C. Elsbury, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.M. Gray, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, G. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), D. Street (Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), C. HARRY (Corporate Director), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor 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. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

2. BEREAVEMENT - COUNCILLOR RAY DAVIES

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Ray Davies and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

Members referred to the late members long and distinguished career in local government with Caerphilly County Borough and its predecessor authorities and paid tribute to the manner in which he had carried out his duties during his years of office and to the high esteem in which he had been held by Members, Officers and the community he represented.

A ceremony of remembrance is to be held at Bedwas Workmen's Hall on Friday 15th May 2015 at 11.30am.

3. COUNCILLOR GERALD JONES

Members congratulated Councillor Jones on his election as Member of Parliament for the Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency and paid tribute to his contribution to local government during his 20 years as a local member. They wished him every success in his new role.

In response Councillor Jones thanked those present for their good wishes and announced that he would be standing down as a Member for the New Tredegar Ward.

4. RETIREMENT - COUNCILLOR MICHAEL GRAY

Councillor Gray announced that he would be retiring as a Member for the Crosskeys Ward and wished to thank Members and Officers for the assistance and advise they had given him during his 30 years as a local councillor. Tribute was paid to the long standing Member and to the manner in which he has carried out his duties on behalf of the county borough and the community he represented. He was wished well in his retirement from local government.

5. CORPORATE DIRECTOR

The Mayor welcomed Christina Harry to her first meeting of Council following her appointment as Corporate Director. Her duties will commence in July.

6. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, K. Dawson, N. Dix, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, D.W.R. Preece, A. Rees, R. Saralis and Mrs M.E. Sargent.

7. RETIRING MAYORS REMARKS

The retiring Mayor, Councillor D. Carter, spoke of his numerous and varied activities during his year of Office and referred to the number of events he has attended. He made specific reference to his visit to Pisek, the events arranged for the 100th anniversary of the Senghenydd mining disaster, the First World War and the 70th anniversary of VE day and to the opening of the joint memorial in Fochriw.

He expressed his appreciation at the assistance given to him by Members and Officers, particularly those whose duties brought them into regular contact with him.

Members paid tribute to the way in which both he and his consort, Valentina, and the Deputy Mayor, L. Gardner, had carried out their duties during the term of Office.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

9. ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Leon Gardner be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Leon Gardner be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2016 and it be noted that he will receive a civic salary payment.

Councillor L. Gardner thanked his fellow Members for the honour bestowed upon him and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Interim Chief Executive. He advised that his consort would be his wife, Alma.

10. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Mrs Dianne Price be elected Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Dianne Price be elected Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the appointment of a successor at the annual meeting in May 2016 and it be noted that she will receive a civic salary payment.

Councillor Mrs Dianne Price thanked her fellow Members for the honour bestowed upon her and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Interim Chief Executive.

11. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor L. Gardner, announced that his chosen charities for 2015/2016 would be Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and Macmillan Nurses.

12. LEADERS STATEMENT

Councillor K.V. Reynolds provided Members with an overview of the achievements and events of the last twelve months, an update on some of the investments and outlined projects planned over the coming months. He paid tribute to the role undertaken by both Members and Officers over the past year and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

He acknowledged that the past year has been a difficult one due to the financial situation faced but Caerphilly has continued to maintain council services and deliver exciting projects in the field of education, housing and regeneration whilst reducing the budget year on year. There have been a number of successes in many areas over the past year, such as the results of the Welsh Government's National Survey for Wales which shows Caerphilly came top, out of all 22 authorities, in the list of how satisfied local residents were with the services provided by their local council and in the question as to how well people felt they were kept informed by their local authority.

Councillor K.V. Reynolds advised that regeneration and job creation remains a priority and reference was made to the Newbridge town centre regeneration scheme, the move of the Contact Centre into the former Woolworths building, Bargoed, the park and ride scheme in Rhymney, and the Vibrant and Viable Places project in Rhymney, which had involved the development of a multi-agency resource centre in the Hafod Deg Centre and environmental improvements at Rowan Place. The new Local Development Plan provides the basis for creating new jobs, new and more affordable housing, improved transport links and will impact upon almost every aspect of life in the area. He advised of discussions held with Leaders in South East Wales over the future of the Cardiff Capital region (which includes the possibility of a City Deal for the region), the opening of the new Centre for Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach and the growth in the use of the library service.

With regards to education, he advised that we have continued to invest in school buildings through the 21st Century Schools Programme, and almost completed construction works at the Gwyndy site, part of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. The design and tendering works for the new Islwyn West Comprehensive school, which is to be built on part of the reclaimed Oakdale Colliery site, is almost finalised and there are plans to build a new primary school to replace the Abertysswg and Pontlottyn Primary Schools. Investment continues in projects to help parents support their children from an early age and the new Early Years Centre was opened in Risca earlier this year. Officers continue to work with Welsh Government and the newly established Education Achievement Service to support head teachers and teachers to improve school results.

In relation to the environment area, it was noted that we continued to be one of the highest performing authorities in Wales in terms of recycling this year. Targets for recycling rates are increasing and the strategy is under review. We are continuing, subject to the financial restraints imposed, with numerous road and transport improvements. These include improvements to the traffic light system at the busy junction in Crumlin, to the Pwllypant roundabout in Caerphilly and to an improved Park and Ride Scheme in Ystrad Mynach. He advised that Poverty and Welfare Reform is another area of great concern and a Draft Anti Poverty Strategy is being prepared to be presented to Scrutiny Committee and Council, which will identify ways to address this issue.

Councillor Reynolds then referred to his tour around Lansbury Park and to the establishment of a Project Group to look at all the elements of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Other wards, such as Twyn Carno, which also ranked poorly in the Index, will also be considered. He advised that housing remains one of our highest priorities and was pleased to announce that the pace of implementation of the £200 million plus investment in our 10,000 council homes has increased, although there are still challenges to meet the demanding targets for completion by 2020.

Reference was also made to Governance arrangements, to the updating of the decision making and democratic processes, the review of scrutiny arrangements, the results from the Wales Audit Office follow-up Inspection of Corporate Governance and the conclusion of the one of the two Public Interest reports issued by Wales Audit Office in January ('buy-outs' of annual leave and essential user allowances). Members were reminded that the issues from their other report could not be concluded until the ongoing legal process is complete.

He then referred to the financial situation and the need to make a further £25 million worth of savings over the next two years. It is intended that all Members will be invited to a seminar/workshop in order that a plan can be drawn up for formal consideration by scrutiny committees and for public consultation. It was accepted that there will be difficult decisions to be made and a requirement for innovative solutions in some areas, to enable services for the public to be protected.

13. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET

The appointments as to the Membership of Cabinet were noted as follows: -

Community and Leisure Services	Councillor N. George
Corporate Services	Councillor K.V. Reynolds
Education and Lifelong Learning	Councillor R. Passmore
Highways, Transportation and Engineering	Councillor T.J. Williams
Housing	Councillor D.V. Poole
Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager	Councillor Mrs. C. Forehead
Performance and Asset Management	Councillor D.T. Hardacre
Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development	Councillor K. James
Social Services	Councillor R. Woodyatt

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Consideration was given to the report which outlined those matters that require consideration at the Annual Meeting of Council in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules and proposed an amendment to the Constitution, as it relates to new legislation and joint committees.

Details of the requirement within Rules of Procedure, as they relate to the appointment to certain committees, the political balance (annual review), the scheme of delegation and the proposed amendment to the current Constitution to include details of new legislation and joint committees were outlined.

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

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the information provided at paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report in relation to the Constitutional arrangements be noted;
- (ii) in that there are no proposals to vary the current Scheme of Delegation and the Members of the Council, the existing Scheme as set out at Part 3 of the Council's Constitution be noted;
- (iii) in light of the continuing review of relevant new legislation, it be agreed that Consumer Rights Act 2015 be added to Part 3 (page 19 and page 37) and Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 be added to Part 3 (page 20 and Page 38);
- (iv) it be agreed that the following Joint Committees be added to Part 3 (page 43) (which details the Joint Committees which have been established with other Local Authorities) and details of when they were established be provided in the background papers:-

Heads of the Valleys Organic Waste Procurement Joint Committee
Joint Supplies Service Joint Committee.
- (v) the Council's Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution as appropriate.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that Members be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the following scrutiny committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the names presented at the meeting. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the following Scrutiny Committees for the ensuing year and the Chair receive a senior a salary payment.

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor W. David Vice Chair Councillor J. Pritchard

Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor L. Ackerman Vice Chair Councillor Mrs P. Cook

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor H.W. David Vice Chair Councillor S. Morgan

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor D.T. Davies Vice Chair Councillor Mrs E. M. Aldworth

16. MEMBERSHIP ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was proposed that sixteen Members be appointed to serve on the following scrutiny committees in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that sixteen Members be appointed to serve on the following scrutiny committees in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups.

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee

17. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO COMMITTEES

It was moved and seconded that Members be appointed as Chair and/or Vice Chair of the under mentioned committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the names presented at the meeting and that the payment of a senior salary be made where appropriate. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed as Chair and Vice Chair of the under mentioned committees for the ensuing year and the payment of a senior salary where appropriate be noted:-

Appeals Panel (Disciplinary/Grievance)

Chair Councillor D.G. Carter

Appointments Committee

Chair Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Vice Chair Councillor W. David

Democratic Services Committee

Chair Councillor C.P. Mann

Vice Chair Councillor D.T. Davies

Investigating and Disciplinary Committee

Chair Councillor W. David

Licensing Committee

Chair Councillor J. Bevan

Vice Chair Councillor D.W.R. Preece

Planning Committee

Chair Councillor D.G. Carter

Vice Chair Councillor W. David

Sustainable Development Advisory Panel

Chair Councillor K. James

Vice Chair Councillor D. Havard

18. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the first meeting of the Audit Committee following the Annual Meeting of Council and that a senior salary payment will be made to the Chair.

19. MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES

It was proposed that Members be appointed to serve on the listed committees in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to serve on the following in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups:-

Appeals Panel (Disciplinary/Grievance)(3 Members/3 substitutes)
Appointments Committee (8 Members plus relevant Cabinet Member)
Audit Committee (12 Members)
Democratic Services Committee (16 Members)
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee (7 Members)
Licensing Committee (15 Members)
Planning Committee (20 Members)
Standards Committee (2 Members/2 substitutes)
Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (11 Members)

20. CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS AND BOARDS

It was proposed that Members be appointed to serve on the following sub-committees/working parties/panels and boards in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to serve on the following sub-committees/working parties/panels and boards in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups:-

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group (6 local Members and Cabinet Member)
Blackwood Town Centre Management Group (5 local Members and Cabinet Member)
Bryn Compost Liaison Group (adjoining ward Members and Cabinet Member)
Caerphilly Community Safety Delivery Strategy Group (1 Member)
Caerphilly Homes Task Group (Welsh Housing Quality Standard)(7 Members)
Caerphilly Local Access Forum (Cabinet Member)
Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group (9 ward Members and Cabinet Member)
Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee (16 Members)
Constitutional Working Party (7 Members)
Corporate Health and Safety Committee (7 Members)
Corporate Joint Consultative Committee (all Cabinet Members)
Education Achievement Service Board (1 Member)
Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (15 Members)
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group (ward Members and Cabinet Member)
Newbridge Town Centre Management Group (5 local Members and Cabinet Member)

Pensions/Compensation Committee (8 Members)
Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Scrutiny Panel (2 Members)
Rights of Way Cabinet Committee (5 Cabinet Members)
Risca Town Centre Management Group (5 local Members and Cabinet Member)
River Rhymney Task Group (3 Members)
Scrutiny Leadership Group (Chair/Vice - Scrutiny Committees/Democratic Services Committee and Audit Committee)
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (6 Members)
View Point Panel (relevant Cabinet Members)
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (15 Members)
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group (4 local Members and Cabinet Member)

21. REPRESENTATION ON ASSOCIATIONS/OUTSIDE BODIES

It was proposed that Members be appointed to serve on the following associations/outside bodies in accordance with the names supplied to Committee Services by the respective groups. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Council be represented on associations and outside bodies by the following Members and/or officers: -

Animal Welfare Scheme (Gwent Police)

Councillor Ms E. Forehead

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council

Councillors Mrs P. Cook, C. Hawker, J.A. Pritchard

Anti Poverty Champion

Councillor Ms E. Forehead

Army Benevolent Fund - Gwent

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Arts Council For Wales - South East Wales Board - disbanded

Association of Public Services Excellence (APSE) Welsh Regional Committee

Cabinet Members for Corporate Services, Housing, Highways, Transportation and Engineering - Councillors Mrs B.A. Jones, D.V. Poole and T.J. Williams

Caerphilly Adoption Panel - to be deleted

Caerphilly Foster Panel

Councillor A. Rees

Caerphilly Groundwork Trust - Board of Directors (to be disbanded when Groundwork Wales established)

Councillors Mrs P. Cook, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann

Carbon Reduction Group

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillor K. James

Care and Repair - Caerphilly

Cabinet Member for Housing - Councillor D.V. Poole and Mr K. Williams (Private Sector Housing Manager)

Catalogue Supplies Joint Committee (Joint Supplies Service Joint Committee)

Cabinet Members for Corporate Services and Performance and Asset Management - Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones and D.T. Hardacre

Child Poverty Champion

Cabinet Member for Social Services - Councillor R. Woodyatt

Citizens Advice Bureau Trustee Board

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Coleg Gwent Further Education Corporation (Crosskeys Community Partnership)

Councillor Mrs G. Oliver

Coleg Harlech WEA North

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor R. Passmore.

Coleg Y Cymoedd Corporation (formerly Ystrad Mynach College Board of Governors)

Sian Farquharson, Challenge Advisor EAS

Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW)

Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for Housing - Councillors K.V Reynolds and D.V. Poole

Corporate Parenting Group

Cabinet Members for Social Services and Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillors R. Woodyatt and R. Passmore, A. Rees (Fostering Panel Member), Ms L. Ackerman and J.A. Pritchard

Domestic Abuse Champion

Cabinet Members for Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager and Community and Leisure Service - Councillors Mrs C. Forehead and N. George

Domestic Abuse Forum

Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager - Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Equalities Champion

Councillor J. Pritchard

Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association)

Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor N. George

Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead and A.G. Higgs

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Management Group

Cabinet Members for Corporate Services and Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager - Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs C. Forehead and Councillor C.P. Mann

Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee

Councillors N. George and J. Taylor

Groundwork Wales (to replace Caerphilly Groundwork Trust - Board of Directors)

Councillor Mrs P. Cook

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Councillors C. Hawker and J. Pritchard

Gwent Frailty Joint Committee

Cabinet Member for Social Services - Councillor R. Woodyatt

Gwent Archives Joint Committee

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead and A.G. Higgs

Gwent Police and Crime Panel

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead, C.P. Mann and Mrs G. Oliver

Heads of the Valleys Joint Organics Project Joint Committee

Cabinet Members for Community and Leisure Services and Corporate Services -
Councillors N. George and Mrs B.A. Jones

Homeless Person Champion

Cabinet Member for Housing - Councillor D.V. Poole

Industrial Communities Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development -
Councillor K. James and J. Bevan

Islwyn Bowls Club Management Board

Councillor G. Kirby and Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services -
Councillor N. George

Joint Council For Wales

Cabinet Members for Housing and Human Resources and Governance/Business
Manager - Councillors D.V. Poole and Mrs C. Forehead

The Learning Centre (formerly Pupil Referral Unit)

Chair of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee - Councillor W. David

Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA)

Councillor R. Saralis

Local Government Association

Leader and Cabinet Members for Corporate Services, Housing, Highways,
Transportation and Engineering - Councillors K.V. Reynolds, Mrs B.A. Jones,
D.V. Poole and T.J. Williams

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership

Cabinet Members for Highways, Transportation and Engineering and Regeneration,
Planning and Sustainable Development - Councillors K. James and T. Williams
(substitute Councillor A. Lewis)

Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

Councillor D. Havard

Older Persons Champion

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Penallta Community Park Forum

Councillors A. Angel, Mrs A. Blackman, G.J. Hughes and J.A. Pritchard

PFI Liaison Committee

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor R. Passmore

Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee

Cabinet Members for Community and Leisure Services and Corporate Services -
Councillors N. George and Mrs B. Jones

Regional Technical Statement (Aggregates)

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development -
Councillor K. James

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales

Councillor A.G. Higgs

Rest Convalescent Home, Porthcawl

Councillor D.W.R. Preece

Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor N. George

Schools Admission Forum

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor R. Passmore

Schools Budget Forum

Cabinet Members for Education and Lifelong Learning and Corporate Services -
Councillors R. Passmore and Mrs B. Jones

Sight Support (Gwent Association for the Blind) - vacancy

South East Area Environment Group

Councillor D.V. Poole

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development -
Councillor K. James

South East Wales Transport Alliance

Councillor D.G. Carter and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and
Engineering - Councillor T.J. Williams

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors C. Elsbury, D.T. Davies and C. Hawker

South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering -
Councillor T.J. Williams

Sportlot Community Chest Panel

Councillors D. Havard, C. Hawker and A. Lewis
St. Johns Cymru Wales - vacancy

Urban Commission (Local Government Association)

Councillor D.V. Poole

Valleys Regional Equality Council - to be deleted

Wales and National Nuclear Free Zone Forum

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Wales Council for Deaf People

Councillor C. Hawker

Welsh Books Council (3 years) and Wales Book Council Executive Committee

Councillor H.R. Davies

Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Councillor R. Passmore

Welsh Church Fund

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones, Substitute

Welsh Joint Education Committee - to be deleted

Welsh Local Government Association

Leader and Cabinet Members for Corporate Services, Housing and Highways, Transportation and Engineering - Councillors K.V. Reynolds, Mrs B.A. Jones, D.V. Poole and T.J. Williams

Welsh Purchasing Consortium

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor Mrs B.A. Jones

White Ribbon Campaign

Councillor D.V. Poole

Workers Education Association - South Wales District Committee

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead

Youth Champion (appointed by Youth Forum)

Councillor M. Prew

Youth Forum

Councillors C. Cuss and J. Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning - Councillor Mrs R. Passmore and Young Peoples Champion

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 on 9th June 2012 they were signed by the Mayor.

Mayor



COUNCIL – 9TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

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

-
- 1.1 The attached report was presented to Cabinet on 3rd June 2015.
 - 1.2 The recommendations of Cabinet will be reported at the meeting.

Author: H. Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix Report to Cabinet dated 3rd June 2015.

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CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report, which relates to a proposed Anti Poverty Strategy for the Council was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2015 prior to being referred to Cabinet and Council. The views expressed at the Scrutiny Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

Author: S.M. Kauczok, Committee Services Officer - Ext. 4243

Appendix 1: Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 2nd June 2015.

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POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report relates to a proposed Caerphilly county borough Council Anti Poverty Strategy. The report is seeking the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet and Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council delivers a significant programme of work that contributes to tackling poverty. An Anti Poverty Strategy has been developed which brings together that activity at a high level. The draft Strategy has been the subject of consultation and a final draft is appended to this report for views and approval. The draft Strategy sets out the Council's position and aims, actions and measures in relation to tackling poverty.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The proposed Anti Poverty Strategy supports all of the priorities within the single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.
- 3.2 The Council's Corporate Priorities and Aspirations support the aim of tackling poverty.
- 3.3 The Children and Families (Wales) Measure places duties upon Local Authorities in relation to child poverty.
- 3.4 The proposed Anti Poverty Strategy supports Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan and Child Poverty Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Caerphilly Council delivers a significant programme of activity that contributes to tackling poverty. This includes the Welsh Government funded programmes of Communities First, Families First, Flying Start, and Supporting People as well as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard investment and a range of other services and activities. Caerphilly Council has a significant track record in regeneration and was the first in Wales to become a Living Wage Employer.

- 4.2 High levels of deprivation exist within Caerphilly county borough and not just within the valleys communities. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the Welsh Government's official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales designed to identify where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. WIMD is calculated for all Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in Wales. 1909 LSOAs are defined in Wales with an average population of around 1600 per LSOA.
- 4.3 Caerphilly County Borough has 68.2% of its LSOAs within the top 50% most deprived category – this is the fourth highest proportion in Wales after Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff. In the 2014 release of the WIMD St James 3 is the most deprived LSOA in Wales, with Twyn Carno 1 also falling within the ten most deprived LSOAs in Wales. This relative disadvantage leads to significant inequalities across our communities so that, for example, the gap in life expectancy in males between the most and least deprived fifth is 8.5 years; for healthy life expectancy the gap is even bigger at 18.7 years.
- 4.4 The Anti Poverty Strategy at Appendix 1 has been drafted recognising that there are still individuals and households in the county borough living in poverty. It sets out the Council's position and brings together a range of actions all of which contribute to tackling poverty. Those actions have been set out under four areas as promoted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation:
- Prospects:** policies concerned with improving the life chances of individuals and their families, so people are able to escape poverty in a sustainable way.
- Pockets:** policies concerned with boosting households' resources now – primarily by increasing their income – so they are better able to meet their needs.
- Places:** where people live shapes their lives, affecting their job prospects and access to essential goods and services and affordable housing.
- Prevention:** almost anyone can experience poverty during their lifetime, so policies that insure against sliding into poverty are important.
- 4.5 It is intended that the Strategy will be reviewed annually and progress reported. It is also proposed that an Anti Poverty Board is established to provide oversight of the Strategy. Membership would include the Member and Officer Anti Poverty Champions, the Chief Housing Officer, the Chief Education Officer, the Head of Regeneration and Planning, and others as the Board considered appropriate. There will be a standing invitation to the Leader and Chief Executive to attend. Representation would also be sought from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. There are a number of fora contributing to the tackling poverty agenda in the county borough and the Anti Poverty Board would also be tasked with determining the most appropriate structures and governance arrangements for these going forward.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring that its residents are able to live fulfilled lives, regardless of who they are as an individual, and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.
- 5.2 In this way, the Anti-Poverty Strategy links with the Strategic Equalities Plan and Welsh Language Scheme on an operational level where it matters most to the residents of the county borough, and operates on their behalf across the range of protected characteristics and wider equalities, human rights and language issues, and also ex-servicemen.

- 5.3 As examples, projects and action plans under Skills Development would ensure that people from different protected characteristic groups on low income receive support, as they could be doubly disadvantaged in terms of their ability to progress - disability issues around employment and training for instance. Parenting Skills would need to ensure that it covered all types of families and parenting models, not just the more traditional types of family.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the Authority, as financial budgetary provision has been identified and provided to each Service area of the Authority, inclusive of any specific budgetary provision for service initiatives used to assist in anti poverty strategies.
- 6.2 Any identified need to provide additional financial resources in support of the Council's anti poverty strategy over and above that identified in the 2015/2016 budget would require further consideration and approval.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.
- 8.2 The Draft Anti Poverty Strategy was subject to a 4 week public consultation during April 2014 and subject to some amendments as a result. A summary of the consultation responses is included at Appendix 2 of this Report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee are asked for their views prior to presentation of this Report and Anti Poverty Strategy to Cabinet and Council for approval.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To seek Members' views.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

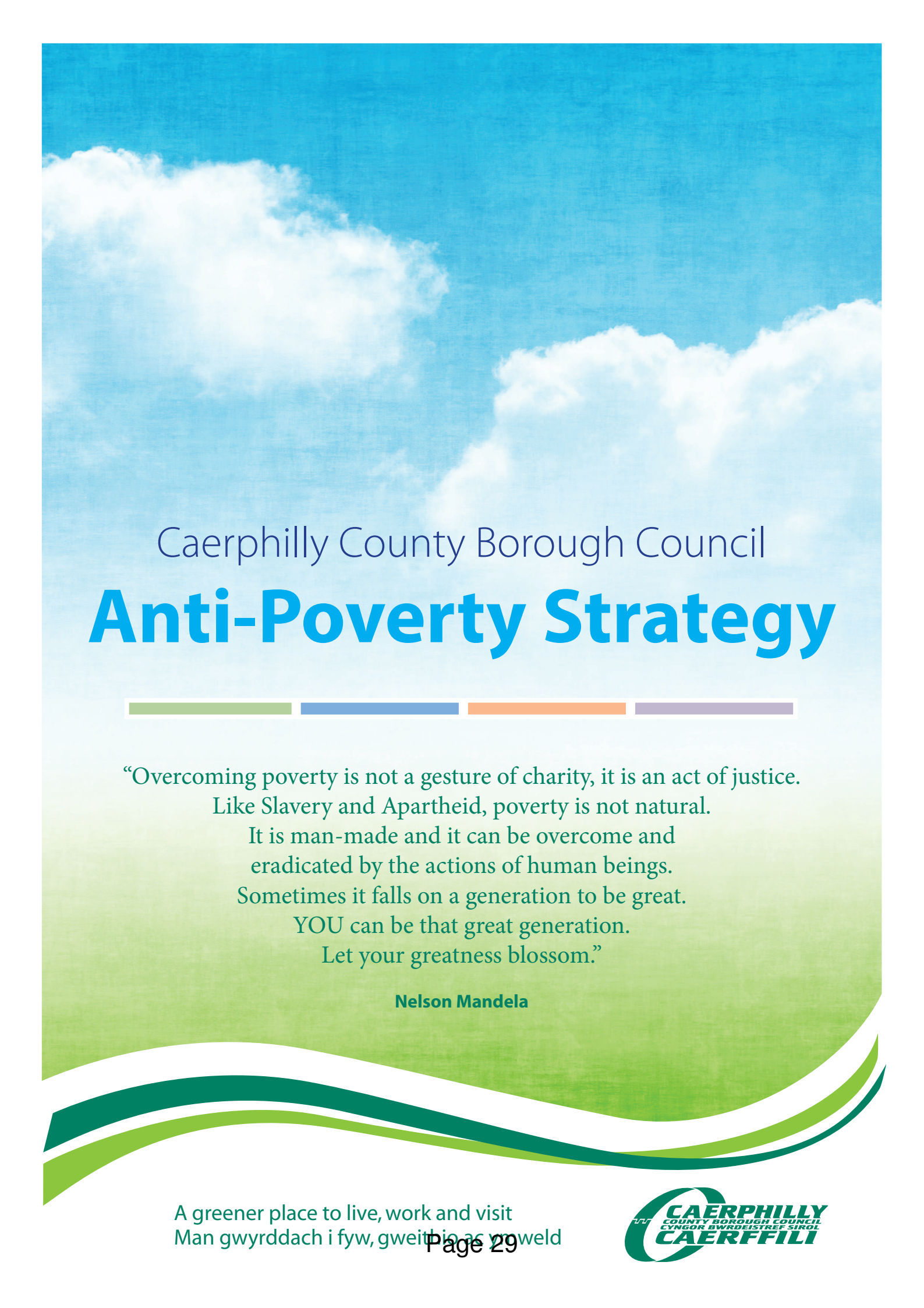
Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection & Anti Poverty Champion
Consultees: Cllr Keith Reynolds, Leader
Cllr Elaine Forehead, Anti Poverty Champion
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive,
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Pauline Elliot, Head of Regeneration & Planning
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sian Phillips, Human Resources Manager
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
David A. Thomas Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly Anti Poverty Strategy

Appendix 2 Summary of Consultation Responses



Caerphilly County Borough Council

Anti-Poverty Strategy

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice.
Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural.
It is man-made and it can be overcome and
eradicated by the actions of human beings.
Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.
YOU can be that great generation.
Let your greatness blossom.”

Nelson Mandela

Introduction

Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and service. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty.

Caerphilly Council has a long track record of tackling poverty through a range of core services as well as the four Welsh Government funded programmes, Communities First, Flying Start, Families First and Supporting People. As a landlord we provide good quality homes and work hard to support our tenants and we are building upon this with our Welsh Housing Quality Standard improvement programme. We also work actively with our partners to tackle this priority as reflected in our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

This Anti Poverty Strategy clearly states Caerphilly Council's commitment to tackling poverty. It confirms the priority that we give to this issue. It also brings together the broad body of activity that we have in place to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty.

We need a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty and we realise that we cannot address poverty on our own, but we wish to set out our commitment to playing our part:

Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In their publication "A UK Without Poverty" the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) define poverty as: When a person's resources are not enough to meet their basic needs. This includes the need to be part of society, by being able to participate in common customs and activities - like buying a birthday present for your partner or sending your child on a school trip.

JRF go on to state that interventions that either increase the resources available to households or reduce the costs of meeting their needs will help to reduce poverty.

Recognising that the experience of poverty is dynamic, and differs at different stages of life, JRF propose that thought must be given to policies that have an impact now, those that are investments in the future and those that provide insurance against future events. This can be summed up as four Ps:

This can be summed up as four P's:

Prospects: Policies concerned with improving the life chances of individuals and their families, so people are able to escape poverty in a sustainable way.

Pockets: Policies concerned with boosting households' resources now – primarily by increasing their income – so they are better able to meet their needs.

Places: Where people live shapes their lives, affecting their job prospects and access to essential goods and services and affordable housing.

Prevention: Almost anyone can experience poverty during their lifetime, so policies that insure against sliding into poverty are important.

Our Aims

Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives, regardless of who they are as an individual, and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

1

Prospects

Caerphilly residents are able to develop employment skills, find work and progress within employment.

2

Pockets

Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels.

3

Places

Caerphilly residents are able to enjoy a high level of well-being in safe and sustainable housing and communities.

4

Prevention

Caerphilly residents who are affected or at risk of being affected by poverty have the skills and knowledge to improve their lives and achieve their potential.

What we want to achieve

1 Prospects

1. Working age people on low incomes are helped to develop skills, achieve qualifications (formal and informal), progress to employment and progress within employment.
2. Young people are provided with key employability skills, access to accredited training and support to secure sustainable employment.
3. Caerphilly residents are supported to improve prospects for employment through the provision of community education and employment programmes.
4. Flying Start Programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations.

2 Pockets

1. Caerphilly residents are provided with information, advice and assistance on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.
2. Caerphilly residents are supported to reduce the impacts of rising fuel costs.
3. Quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision is promoted to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.
4. Through working in partnership with local employers increase local employment opportunities and identify ways to increase employees incomes.
5. Ensure that all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

3 Places

1. Caerphilly Residents are able to live in homes that are affordable, warm and secure without the fear of homelessness.
2. Raise levels of healthy life expectancy across the borough and encourage residents to take responsibility for their own and their families health and well-being and make use of the opportunities and support available.
3. Working in partnership with families, parents and schools to increase participation and support the development of parenting skills.

4 Prevention

1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support.
2. Caerphilly residents are supported to manage the changes to welfare reform and prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit.
3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.
4. Reduce the levels of smoking and obesity.

1 Prospects

1. Working age people on low income are helped to develop skills, obtain qualifications (formal and informal) progress to employment and progress within employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Advice, support and training will be provided to help individuals gain the skills, qualifications and experience necessary to secure employment.	<p>Number of people supported by Communities First and Families First to gain an employment related qualification (eg First aid in the workplace, food hygiene).</p> <p>Number of people referred to employment support by Council Tenancy Support Officers and WHQS staff.</p> <p>Number of people supported through Bridges into Work (2), into employment.</p>
Caerphilly Council will provide access to IT equipment and basic IT courses in community venues for individuals who are digitally excluded to gain essential skills that may assist in securing employment.	<p>Number of people supported by Communities First to gain Basic IT skills.</p> <p>Number of adults supported by Get Caerphilly Online and Families First who gain IT accreditation.</p>

2. Young people are provided with key employability skills, access to accredited training and support to secure sustainable employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Young People (aged 16-24) who are not in employment, education or training are supported to access opportunities which help them to succeed in life.	<p>Number of young people supported by Communities First who gain an Employment related qualification (eg First Aid in the workplace, food hygiene).</p> <p>Number of young people supported by Communities First to secure a JGW Employment Opportunity.</p>

3. Caerphilly residents are supported to improve prospects for employment through the provision of community education and employment programmes.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Adult Community Learning will provide a range of interventions and support to help people improve skills and progress towards employment.	<p>Number of people gaining qualifications through Working Skills for Adults.</p> <p>Number of people achieving Basic Skills qualifications through Adult Community Learning.</p>
Working in partnership (Families First, Communities First, JCP, Basic Skills Unit and Coleg Y Cymoedd) a range of learning-based support will be provided to develop basic skills in literacy, numeracy and work related skills.	<p>Percentage of parents and families with low or no basic skills.</p> <p>Number of individuals engaged in basic skills community programmes.</p>

4. Flying Start Programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations.

Services will be delivered across all identified 25 areas offering families with children aged 0-3years Enhanced Health Visiting, Early Language Development, Parenting Programmes and Family Support, and funded Childcare places.	<p>Number of children accessing the Flying Start programme.</p> <p>of 2 year olds reaching or exceeding their developmental milestones through the SOGS assessment.</p> <p>of 3 year olds reaching or exceeding their developmental milestones through the SOGS assessment.</p>
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2 Pockets

1. Caerphilly residents are provided with information, advice and assistance on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Services will be commissioned that will assist residents to increase income, reduce debt, provide skills to manage finances and deal with short term crisis.	<p>Number of council tenants referred and supported for money and debt advice as a direct result of face to face support on the impact of welfare reform.</p> <p>Number of other residents referred to commissioned debt support services.</p> <p>Number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to.</p> <p>Value of financial savings generated for tenants/residents as a direct result of support.</p>
Healthy Start Scheme providing vouchers for free fruit and vegetables will be promoted to increase uptake.	Number of Healthy Start Scheme vouchers issued.

2. Caerphilly residents are supported to reduce the impacts of rising fuel costs.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Energy efficiency measures are undertaken on properties through the WHQS and ARBED schemes and households are provided with specialist impartial energy use advice.	<p>Number of council tenants visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures and energy use.</p> <p>Number of tenants whose homes have been adapted as part of the WHQS works to meet their specific needs in accordance with Part 7.</p> <p>Number of homes benefiting from energy improvement measures under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), ARBED or similar government initiatives.</p> <p>Number applying to NEST scheme in private rented and owner occupier sector.</p> <p>Number of properties with improved energy efficiency levels through the WHQS improvements.</p>
Caerphilly Council will actively promote and support the use of collective community energy purchase schemes to benefit social and private sector households.	Number of residents registered to Cyd Cymru.

3. Quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision is promoted to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Provision of childcare through the assisted places scheme, supporting family outcomes and sustainability of childcare provision.	<p>Number of children accessing places through Flying Start Childcare and the Assisted Places Scheme.</p> <p>Number of childcare settings offering contracted places in the borough.</p>

2

Pockets

4. Through working in partnership with local employers increase local employment opportunities and identify ways to increase employees incomes.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
The Living Wage is promoted to businesses throughout the borough.	Businesses committing to the living wage.
Appropriate Council contracts to contain community benefit clauses such as targeted recruitment and training to create opportunities for local people.	Number of job created through WHQS targeted recruitment and training schemes.
Support the development of existing and new businesses.	Number of jobs created Number of jobs safeguarded.

5. Ensure that all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Promote the take up of Free School Meals.	Percentage of eligible pupils taking up the opportunity to access Free School Meals.

3 Places

1. Caerphilly residents are able to live in homes that are affordable, warm and secure without the fear of homelessness

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Residents are supported to live independently in their own homes.	Number of residents supported by Supporting People, tenancy support officers and WHQS officers to live independently. Number of council homes adapted to comply with Part 7 of WHQS.
Existing council housing will be refurbished and future housing planned to meet the needs of the citizens of the county.	Number of properties refurbished to WHQS. Carbon savings achieved on council housing stock via insulation schemes.
We will engage with private sector housing to provide advice and guidance to landlords and advice and assistance to tenants to maintain or access affordable housing in the PRS.	Number of landlords and letting agents accredited. Number of PRS tenants supported to access or maintain existing tenancies.

2. Raise levels of healthy life expectancy across the borough and encourage residents to take responsibility for their own and their families health and well-being and make use of the opportunities and support available.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
A range of community based programmes will be provided to encourage healthy lifestyles.	Number of residents participating in Communities First, Flying Start and Families First healthy living programmes (eg Foodwise, Post and Pre Natal support package, mental health promotion, HENRY). SF-36 Mental Component Summary Score (Welsh Health Survey).

3. Working in partnership with families, parents and schools to increase participation and support the development of parenting skills.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Co-ordinate the provision of and access to Parenting Programmes to improve parenting skills.	Number of parents attending Families First and Flying Start Parenting Programmes. Percentage of parents reporting they understand their child's needs better.
Communities First, in partnership with the Parent Network, will work with selected Secondary Schools to support families to overcome barriers and engage in their child's education.	

4

Prevention

1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Through structured training and awareness sessions Caerphilly Council staff are able to signpost and refer residents to appropriate advice and support across a range of service areas and partners.	Corporate training statistics.
Through Supporting Family Change project (Families First and ISCAN (Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs)) facilitate and deliver "joined-up" and coordinated services for individuals and families who need multi-agency support over and above universal services.	Number of families in receipt of Supporting Family Change support. Percentage of families who feel that Supporting Family Change has made a positive difference to them on case closure.
Provide children and young people with access to educational or learning opportunities in non-formal and formal settings that contribute to reducing risk taking, anti-social behaviour and low level offending.	Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes through the Youth Service.
Provide targeted support to engage, build confidence and raise the aspirations of families who require more intensive support at a preventative level.	Number of families accessing universal services Number of families engaged in outreach and flexible group sessions.

2. Caerphilly residents are supported to manage the changes to welfare reform and prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
CCBC website is kept up to date and promoted as an information resource for both staff and residents.	Number of 'hits' on selected pages.
Residents are visited in their own homes and provided with advice and support with the changes.	Number of residents visited by Supporting People and Tenancy Support Officers. Percentage of council tenants satisfied with the visit.

3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Improve Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 results through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all young people achieve the expected level at the end of each Key Stage.	Number / Percentage of children achieving Foundation Phase Indicator at of the Foundation Phase. Number /Percentage of children achieving Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2. Number /Percentage of children achieving Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 3. Number /Percentage of young people achieving Level 2+. Threshold (5 GCSE's A* - C, including English/Welsh and Maths).

4

Prevention

3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
<p>Improve the performance of those pupils in receipt of Free School Meals against pupils who are not eligible for Free School Meals.</p>	<p>Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) who achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator (in teacher assessments) compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Number / Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage2 (KS2), compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Number / Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage3 (KS3), compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p>
<p>Target key schools to improve attendance, reduce disengagement, improve social skills and reduce exclusions.</p>	<p>Number of young people with improved academic performance.</p> <p>Number of young people with increased attendance.</p> <p>Number/ Percentage of primary school attendance.</p> <p>Number /Percentage of secondary school attendance.</p>

4. Reduce the levels of smoking and obesity.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
<p>Smoking: Provide education in schools on the benefits of not smoking.</p> <p>Increase uptake of smoking cessation services.</p> <p>Train staff in brief intervention techniques for smoking.</p> <p>Obesity: Promote healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>Percentage of adults who reported being a current smoker (Welsh Health Survey).</p> <p>Percentage of adults reporting eating 5 or more portions of fruit or vegetables per day (Welsh Health Survey).</p> <p>Percentage of adults reported being active on 5 or more days in the past week (Welsh Health Survey).</p>

Appendix 2

Anti-Poverty Strategy Summary of Consultation Responses

April 2015

Comments received	Actions Taken
Additional outcome under prospects – <i>Flying Start programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations</i>	This can be included under Prevention (1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support)
CCBC 4 p's differ from JRF	Noted – JRF approach used as a guide, local outcomes specific to area and placed under most appropriate heading.
General comments on non-specific nature of targets	All targets have been re-visited and amended
ABHB commit to promoting strategy through its NCN and communications	Noted and welcomed
Pockets 1. – ABHB are scoping the development of a Gwent wide on-line based directory to help signpost residents to a range of information, support and advice	Noted and welcomed. More details to be sought
ABHB would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on outcomes identified under Places theme through Caerphilly Wellbeing Improvement Network and NCN.	Noted and welcomed

Reducing levels of smoking under Prevention theme is a key priority for NCN. Scoping of priorities and actions that read across NCN Plans and Strategy to determine how we can collaborate to ensure a strategic approach is developed.	
Public Health Wales have a number of PI's that would be useful for the strategy to adopt. These indicators are used by NCN to track progress and are being considered for incorporation into revised healthy themes action plans.	Agree we should seek consistency across plans.
The use of the word 'poverty' is used out of context and should be about dealing with 'deprivation'.	The use of the term "poverty" in this way is widely accepted and is consistent with other bodies such as Welsh Government.
The information on pages 2 and 3 could be included within pages 4 to 8 as this is an unnecessary duplication of information and wasteful of ink, paper and computer storage	At 8 pages this is a very slim strategic document. The layout adopted aims to lead the reader through the levels of the strategy from high level vision to more detailed actions. Whilst it may be possible to accommodate all of the text on less pages it is considered that this would compromise ease of understanding.
The use of # and % is not good reading practice and should be changes to Number and Percentage	The full wording will be used in the final version of the document
'How will we know' would read better as 'What can we Monitor'.	Noted and will be raised to steering group for consideration
Add 'regardless of who they are as an individual' to the Our Aims paragraph	Accepted and amended
Equalities issues need to be considered at an operational level (not necessarily at the strategy level). People from different protected	Noted – EIA will be completed and equality implications included within covering report.

<p>characteristic groups could be doubly disadvantaged in terms of ability to progress (eg skills development, ensuring all families are included under parenting models). Notes have been made on the covering council report and the EIA provided.</p> <p>Strategy to an operational activity having a positive impact.</p>	
Pockets 4 – should also include businesses, tourism and town centres	
Places could include – To make town centres safe and secure environments for both residents and visitors.	Our town centres are safe
Prospects should refer to attracting higher paid employment opportunities along with inward development	Not included in these terms as it is not clear how it is proposed this would be delivered.
Living Wage outcome – needs rewording and there are no resources to promote/monitor it. What is it, how should it be promoted, what are the benefits to businesses.	Noted and amended.
Places should include the promotion of outdoor activities such as cycling and walking in improving health and wellbeing. Achieved through the numbers using country parks and outdoor activities	Health and Well being is addressed under Prevention within the draft Strategy.

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COUNCIL – 9TH JUNE 2015

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES
2015/16**

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

-
- 1.1 The attached report was presented to Cabinet on 3rd June 2015.
 - 1.2 The recommendations of Cabinet will be reported at the meeting.

Author: H. Morgan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix Report to Cabinet dated 3rd June 2015

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CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PLAN AND IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2015/16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

3. THE REPORT

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

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

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

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

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

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

9 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Consultees: Cllr David Hardacre, Cabinet Member, Performance and Property
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Colin Jones, Head of Performance & Property
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager, Performance Management
David Thomas, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities

Appendices:
Appendix 1 – *Draft Corporate Plan*

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Caerphilly County Borough Council

Corporate Plan 2015/16



A greener place Man gwyrdach



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Message from the Leader

Cllr. Keith Reynolds

Caerphilly council is committed to continuous improvement and we have been working hard over recent years to raise standards and provide quality services to our residents.

However, local government is facing significant challenges at the moment in the face of severe funding cuts. This means that Caerphilly needs to achieve ambitious savings targets over the next few years, so we need to work smarter, more efficiently and prioritise our limited resources.

The new Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 focus on five priority areas and these will help us to target our resources more effectively. The Improvement Objectives cover a wide range of issues including better carbon management, improving education, tackling poverty, health improvement and transforming our housing stock.

They will provide a 'road map' for the year ahead and we will continually review our progress as part of this process which helps on-going improvement. Despite the challenges highlighted above, I firmly believe we can continue to improve as we have a dedicated and committed workforce who will make best use of the resources available to deliver key frontline services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the development of the Improvement Objectives and I look forward to tracking progress moving forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. V. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned centrally below the main text of the message.

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16, which details the improvements we intend to make for our citizens over the year. In 2010, legislation required Council's to identify areas for improvement and called these 'Improvement Objectives'.

Caerphilly Council has always set 'areas for improvement' however our Improvement Objectives are sometimes a little different from our overall Council priorities in that they are based specifically on areas of unmet need from the public's point of view and where we want to place our focus in a shorter time frame. More importantly they are based on outcomes (or what difference these make for the public) and are often carried out in collaboration with other organisations. Periodically we identify things that:

- Are important to our citizens
- Are under performing
- Affects the sustainability of our communities and their surrounding environments
- Affects the health and well-being of individuals
- Help us deliver efficient, fair and productive services

These objectives were chosen because these are the areas where it was felt that we needed to improve or wanted to do more and following our consultation the public agreed. We also use a range of intelligence, from survey data, statistics and local knowledge was used to identify draft areas for improvement in 2015/16.

Having Improvement Objectives and Priorities does not replace nor stop us carrying out all the many other things that we do. In this time of financial constraint it is helpful to concentrate on a set of specific outcomes, focusing our efforts to make specific improvements, which are our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16, which can be found on pages 19-52.

Each Improvement Objective will have a detailed breakdown telling the reader why it was chosen and what we aim to achieve in the short term.

This Corporate Plan is Caerphilly County Borough Council's publication of improvement information, prepared under Section 15(3) of the local government (Wales) measure, which discharges our duties under Sections 2(1), 3(2), 8(7) and 13(1) of the measure.

About Caerphilly County Borough

The County Borough of Caerphilly is located approximately 9 miles from Cardiff and has a geographic area of 278 km². This area accounts for 1.3 per cent of the total area of Wales. Approximately 75% of the borough is classed as rural and has a wide range of countryside places to visit, with several country parks and many walking routes. Our largest town is Caerphilly with other towns in the borough being Bedwas, Risca, Ystrad Mynach, Nelson, Newbridge, Blackwood, Bargoed, New Tredegar and Rhymney.

Based on the latest census information (2011) the population has grown by 10,000 to 179,000 with the mid-year estimate (2014) increasing the population slightly to 180,000, which is the fifth largest population for all Welsh councils. Caerphilly has a divergent demographic profile with a higher proportion of children and people of retirement age than Welsh averages. It has the second lowest employment rate in Wales with comparatively higher levels of deprivation. The Council is the largest employer in the area with over 9,300 staff providing over 100 services from 'cradle to grave' social services, education, housing, highways maintenance, waste disposal and street cleaning to name a few. For the 2015/16 financial year, the Council has a combined net revenue and capital budget of £341 million.

For further information on the range of countryside places to visit including the best places to look for wildlife go to your.caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside. For places to stay and eat and enjoy additional activities within Caerphilly Borough please visit www.visitcaerphilly.com



Caerphilly's Financial Position

For the 2015/16 financial year the funding that Caerphilly CBC receives from the Welsh Government has been cut by 3.3%, resulting in a cash reduction of £8.89m. In light of this the Authority's Medium-Term Financial Plan has been reviewed on the assumption that similar cash reductions will be experienced in 2016/17 and 2017/18. This review has also considered cost pressures that will need to be met as we move forward and it is anticipated that the Authority will need to find savings of around £39m for the three-year period 2015/16 to 2017/18.

At its meeting on the 25th February 2015 Council agreed a budget for the 2015/16 financial year, which included savings totalling £11.96m. Prior to this, proposed savings for 2015/16 had been subject to an extensive consultation process that consisted of two public surveys, 'drop-in' sessions for members of the public to attend and separate consultation events with the Youth Forum, the Viewpoint Panel, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the 50+ Forum. In addition, Town and Community Councils were also invited to comment upon the proposed savings. This thorough consultation process was invaluable in helping firm savings proposals to be put to Council for approval in February 2015.

The agreed savings for 2015/16 have had limited impact on front-line services and wherever possible Council priorities have been protected from cuts. Full details of the 2015/16 savings can be found in the 2015/16 Budget Report which is available through the following link.

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/My-Council/Performance,-budgets-and-spending/Council-budget.aspx>

Looking ahead the Council still has to find anticipated savings of circa £26m for 2016/17 and 2017/18. This will prove to be extremely challenging and as part of the process for identifying the savings required Council has agreed the following principles: -

- Protecting front-line services where we can and reducing expenditure on management and administrative costs.
- Increasing fees and charges where appropriate.
- Reducing, rather than removing services where possible.
- Focussing on priorities.
- Looking at alternative ways of delivering services (collaboration, partnerships, community trusts, etc.).

Detailed work is already underway to meet the financial challenges that lie ahead and savings proposals for the 2016/17 financial year will be subject to a further period of extensive consultation between November 2015 and January 2016.

How our plans and priorities fit together 2015/16

We have a long-term partnership plan which is a collaborative plan with our partners in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Welsh Government. We carried out a 'needs assessment' of the borough and as a result defined our long-term vision for Caerphilly, which is for sustainable communities, supported by actions that enhance the quality of life for all. To realise our long-term vision we have identified **five key** outcomes listed on the next page

The Caerphilly Delivers plan reflects the Welsh Government's approach to developing our communities and is a challenge to the public, voluntary and private sector to work together with our communities, setting out what working together will achieve.

Our Local Service Board (LSB) is a body made up of the Police, the Local Authority, Aneurin Bevan Health University Board, Welsh Government and GAVO and is responsible for monitoring progress against the Caerphilly Delivers' action plans.

The Councils own priorities contained within this Corporate Plan and it's Improvement Objectives contribute towards the higher longer term goals contained in Caerphilly Delivers, and are illustrated in the tables on the following page. For further information about *Caerphilly Delivers*, please visit the Caerphilly Local Service Board website at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations/Search-consultations-database

Our Longer term Priorities 2013-17

We have 6 priorities and we will report on the progress of those in October 2015. We have used these as a basis for reviewing our 2014/15 Improvement Objectives and to help inform 2015/16 objectives. The diagram below shows how our priorities and objectives link together.



Where do the new 2015/16 Improvement Objectives fit in to Caerphilly's long and medium term priorities

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013/17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
<p>Prosperous - P3 Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities</p> <p>Learning - L2 Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment</p>	<p>People's social care needs are identified and met in a timely and appropriate way.</p>	<p>IO1 To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts</p>
	<p>Children and Adults are safeguarded from abuse.</p>	
<p>Learning - L1 Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families</p> <p>L3 children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities</p>	<p>Improve standards across all year groups particularly key stages 3 & 4</p> <p>Identify vulnerable groups of learners and develop interventions to ensure needs are met.</p> <p>Reduce the gap in attainment between pupils in advantage and disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>IO2 Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement</p>

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013-17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
<p>Healthier -</p> <p>H2 Improve lifestyles of the population in the County Borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them</p> <p>H3 Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the County Borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged</p> <p>Greener -</p> <p>G3 Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits</p>	<p>Promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>IO3 Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough</p>
<p>Prosperous -</p> <p>P2 Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough</p> <p>Safer -</p> <p>S4 ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety</p>	<p>Invest in our Council homes and their Communities to transform lives.</p>	<p>IO5 Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities</p>

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013-17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
Greener - G2 Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change	Affordability - To deliver the medium term financial plan aimed at providing a period of stability that helps the Authority to have a range of services in the future that are sustainable.	IO4 Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

Caerphilly Delivers 2013-17 – Single Integrated Plan

Key Outcome Area	Priority	Corporate Priority 2013-17 contribution	Improvement Objective 2015/16 contribution	
Prosperous	P1	Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area.	7	
	P2	Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough.	7	IO5
	P3	Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities.		IO1
Safer	S1	Reduce incidents of anti-social behavior and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behavior for residents.	2	
	S2	Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the County Borough	2 & 5	
	S3	Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse	6	
	S4	Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety.	1	IO5
Learning	L1	Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families.	3,4 & 5	IO2
	L2	Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment.	5	IO1
	L3	Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities	2 & 3	IO2

Caerphilly Delivers 2013-17 – Single Integrated Plan

Key Outcome Area	Priority	Corporate Priority 2013-17 contribution	Improvement Objective 2015-16 contribution
Healthier	H1	Address the inequities rate of low birth weight babies across the County Borough	
	H2	Improve lifestyles of the population in the County Borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them	4 & 5
	H3	Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the County Borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged	6
	H4	Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the County Borough	6
	H5	Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives	1 & 7
Greener	G1	Improve local environmental quality.	1 & 6
	G2	Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change.	6
	G3	Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits.	1 & 4

Review of 2014/15 Improvement Objectives

We review our objectives on a routine basis to see if we are making progress or need to renew our efforts. Part of setting our objectives for 2015/16 is to carry out a review of last year's objectives to see what we need to carry forward or to know what has now been achieved. Below is a summary of the review of 2014/15 objectives. A full report on their performance will be published in our annual performance report in October 2015

IO 1. Ensure children and young people who are looked after are supported to achieve their full potential.

We have decided this objective was successful and there is no need to carry it forward into 2015/16 because the actions set to meet this objective have all been successfully met. Performance across Wales in Children's Services in our performance indicators are in the top quartile in Wales and our safeguarding arrangements were confirmed by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales to be 'effective'. Looked After Children will always be a statutory priority group for the council to support and will continue to be a daily priority.

IO 2. We want to Improve Job Opportunities so people can live better lives by implementing the Council's Passport Scheme. This will create wider employment and training opportunities.

We are unable to carry this objective into 2015/16 as the money that funded this project (mainly European funds) has finished and there are no more resources to continue. We class this objective to have been successful over the time we ran the passport scheme exceeding the target with 250 completing the programme and 199 gaining a successful outcome (e.g. employment)

IO 3. Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that people supports the personal and social development of young people.

We class this as successful as the strategy for the service has now been developed and this strategy has become part of day-to-day business, therefore we do not need to carry this forward into 2015/2016.

IO 4. Improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities in our borough.

We have had this objective since 2010 and in that time made significant improvements and had some successes, however in recognition of the financial climate and the austerity measures impacting on the Council's budget we have to recognise that we may not be able to improve on the range and use of leisure services that we provide. Whilst we are looking at different ways to provide leisure, sporting and community facilities we believe we should not carry on with this objective at this time.

IO 5. Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) investment will transform Council homes and act as a catalyst to also transform lives and communities throughout the borough.

The objective had some partial successes in 2014/15 however the WHQS Programme is a corporate priority and there has been slippage that has arisen in 2014/15 so there needs to be an acceleration in the pace of completing the properties to the required standard. It has now been made a statutory requirement for achieving the WHQS by 2020 so we need to retain this objective and renew efforts to meet the targets.

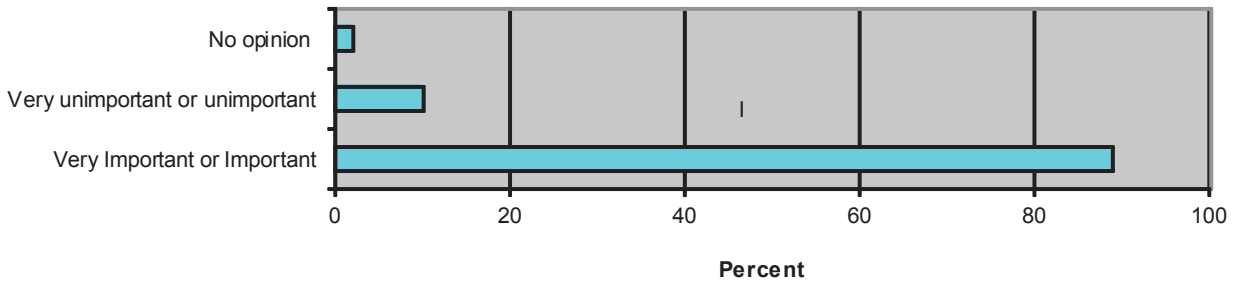
IO 6. Improve the availability of private and public sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless.

Newly enacted legislation requires us to change the way we provide our homelessness services and we are working on specific projects to enable the Council to discharge its homelessness duty. So whilst the homelessness function remains a high priority for the service we will not continue with this as a corporate improvement objective, as it already forms part of something we have to do anyway. This year we have achieved well in providing advice and assistance and supporting people to maintain their tenancies. We have also done well in preventing people becoming homeless but some of our actions were delayed, for example the introduction of a social lettings agency (to increase availability of homes), which fell behind due to delays in receiving external funding to fund the initiative (although this is now back on track), therefore we judge this objective to have been partially successful for 2014/15.

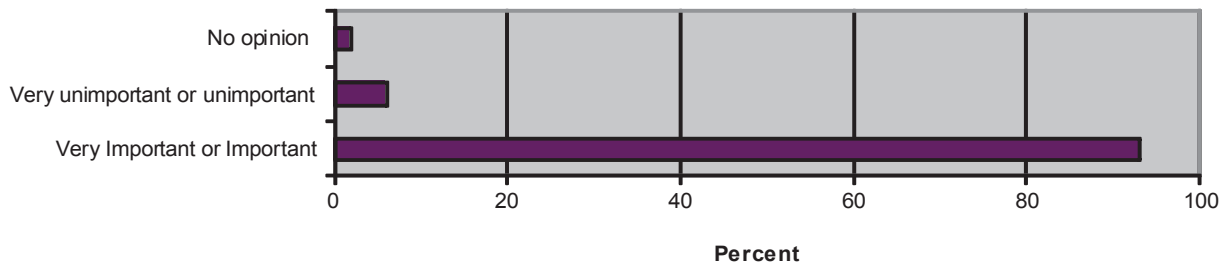
Setting the 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

In addition to our extensive budget consultation, April 2014-January 2015 we held a further consultation with the public throughout March and April. We asked whether you agreed with our objectives for improvement in 2015/16. The consultation was available online and with paper copies made available at libraries on request. We asked how important you thought the following priorities were? Your responses were as follows:

To help people make best use of their household income and manage debt

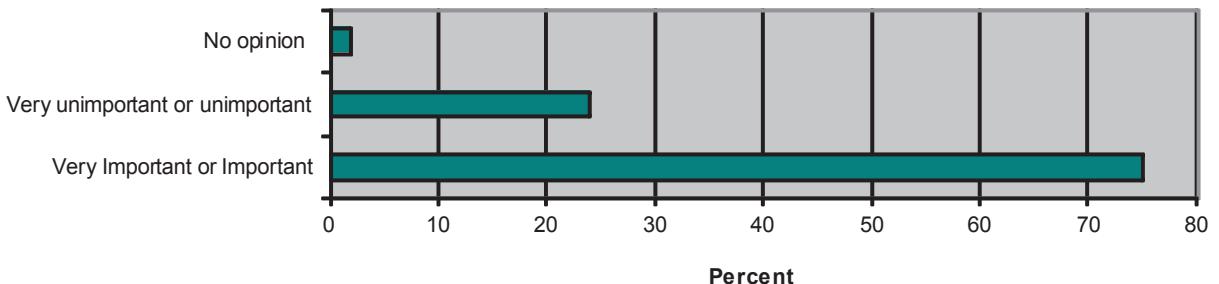


Improve outcomes for all learners particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

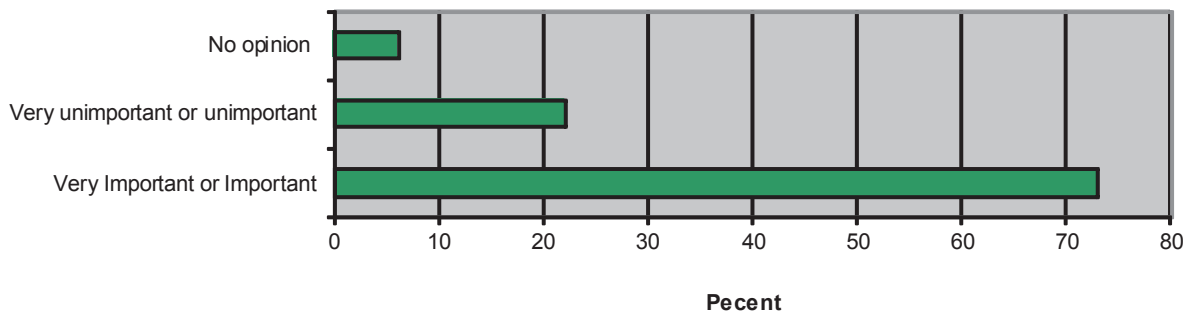


Our original question asked about health and well-being focusing on smoking cessation and obesity. Following your consultation results we have further developed the objective to say 'close the gap for residents life expectancy between the least and most deprived areas in the borough'.

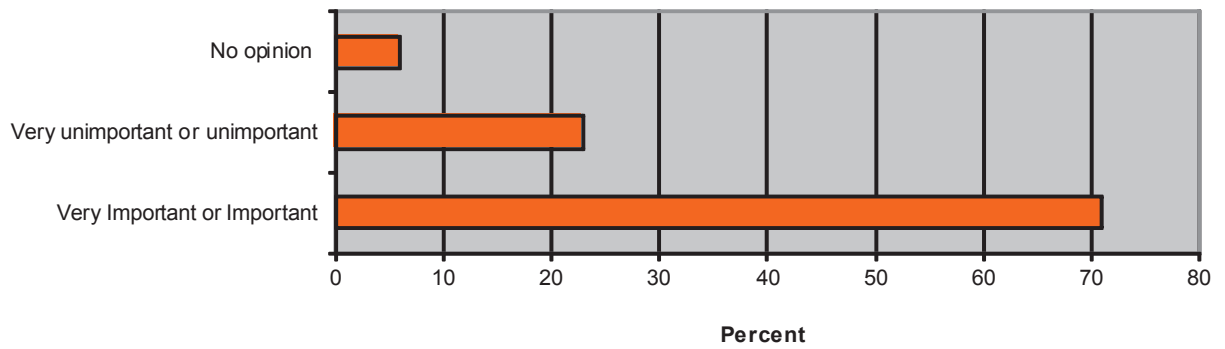
Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough



Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

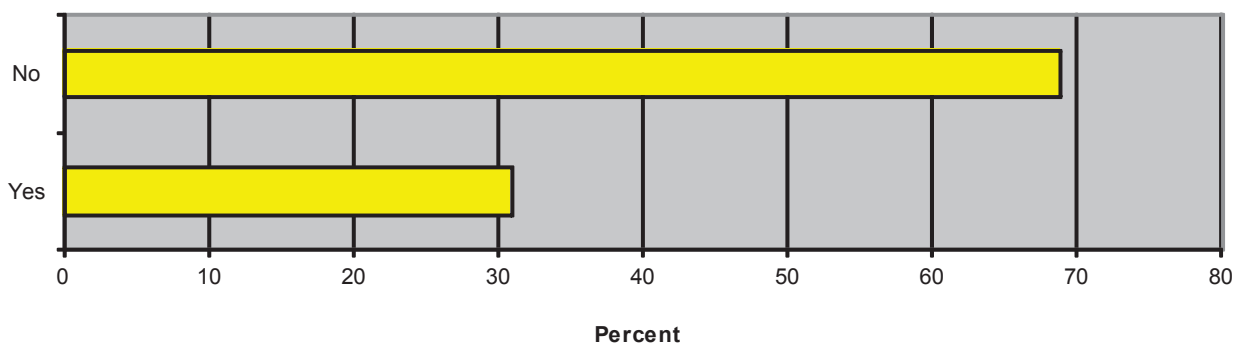


Investment in Council Homes to transform lives and communities



And lastly we asked the following:

In your opinion is there anything missing?



In response to the question ‘What is missing and why do you think it should be added?’ Consultees suggested managing balanced budgets as a priority. We have not made this an improvement objective as ‘affordability’ and delivering a sustainable medium term financial plan is already one of the Council’s medium to long term priorities published within last year’s corporate plan and we will report on progress in our Annual Performance Report. More information can be found on our financial position at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

A number of comments suggested that including the creation of work and new jobs should be included as part of tackling poverty. We agree this is important and have developed an Anti Poverty strategy, which has 4 main pillars. The issue of employment and developing skills is covered within this so we chose to pick a key area out of the strategy to focus on which is now called “*help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts*”. Our Improvement Objective on pages 19-24 explains in more detail why we chose this.

In response to those who shared concerns about terms of economic growth and town centres, our long term plan ‘Caerphilly Delivers’ details the partnership work that we are carrying out to help provide employment support and this includes support for business including regeneration projects for town centres.

We would like to thank those who took the time to respond and to let you know further detail on our consultation is available on the www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations and how to get involved is on page 53 of this plan.

Monitoring and reporting the 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

We monitor and report on the performance of our improvement objectives on a frequent basis and also report progress or identify any risks to improvement. Twice a year we report on progress to Councillors at the various scrutiny committees. Every year in October we publish our full performance against our improvement objectives to tell the public how we performed. We invite comment on this and ways to do that can be found on page 53 at the end of this document.

Our 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

We have taken into consideration what our performance data tells us, the review of last years improvement objectives, our consultation results and the Medium Term Financial plan has helped us inform and set our new Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 as follows:

IO 1 – To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts

IO 2 – Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

IO 3 – Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough

IO 4 – Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

IO 5 – Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities

Improvement Objective 1.

To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts

What difference do we plan to make?

To introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels and are better able to meet their own needs.

Why we have chosen this

Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and services. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty. Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In their publication 'A UK Without Poverty' the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) defines poverty as:

When a person's resources are not enough to meet their basic needs. This includes the need to be part of society, by being able to participate in common customs and activities, such as buying a birthday present for your partner or sending your child on a school trip.

JRF go on to state that interventions that either increase the resources available to households or reduce the costs of meeting their needs will help to reduce poverty.

Recognising that poverty is dynamic, and differs at different stages of life, JRF proposes that thought must be given to policies that have an impact now, those that are investments in the future and those that provide insurance against future events.

In addition, current welfare reforms are anticipated to have a large and disproportionate impact upon residents in our borough and knock-on consequences for our local economy, compared to the UK as a whole.

This is why at this point, this Improvement Objective is concentrated in the area of income maximisation and debt management for households most at risk of poverty across our borough.

Where are we now?

Caerphilly Council has a long track record of tackling poverty through a range of core services as well as the Welsh Government funded programmes; Communities First, Flying Start, Families First along with Supporting People. As a landlord we strive to provide good quality homes and work hard to support our tenants. We are building upon this with our Welsh Housing Quality Standard improvement programme, which continues to be the focus of another of our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16. We also work actively with our partners to tackle poverty as reflected in our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

In addition to the above, we have recently developed an Anti-Poverty Strategy, which clearly states our commitment to tackling poverty. It confirms the priority that we give this issue. It also brings together the broad body of activity that we have in place to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to raise aspirations, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty. We need a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty and we realise that we cannot address poverty on our own, but wish to set out our commitment to playing our part.

Our work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy in collaboration with a range of partners is based on the 4 P's called, Prospects, Pockets, Places and Prevention. This identifies areas that will be important to tackle; welfare, work, education, the cost of living, family, community and addressing complex needs emerging as crucial areas of focus

The Bank of England estimated in 2014 that personal consumer debt in the UK stands at £168 billion. For too many, debt becomes a serious problem with almost three million people said to be in problem debt in Britain. 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. According to a 2013 survey by Step Change Debt Charity 13 million people do not have the savings to keep up with essential bills for even one month if their income dropped by a quarter.

Domestic energy prices have increased 62% since 2008, increasing 21% in the last two years. For those on low incomes, this is a dramatic increase on their energy bill. Those on low incomes are also more likely to be on pre-paid meters, who can pay £253 more per year than those paying by direct debit.

The past few years has seen an unprecedented increase in the use of food banks in Wales, with 35,919 people provided with food in 2012/13, increasing to 79,049 from 2013/14. Low-income households can spend 16.6% of their income on food.

Between October 2013 and August 2014, CAB debt support clinics funded via Caerphilly Homes and the Supporting People programme referred 262 residents for debt support which led to the identification of £2.53m debt (average of £9,565 per person).

What actions are we going to take to improve?

For this year we are going to be concerned with putting policies, programmes and activities in place, which help to boost households resources, primarily by increasing their income, so that they are better able to meet their needs. This is a focus on the 2nd P called 'Pockets', which is defined, as 'Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels'.

Key areas of focus will be:

- Providing residents with information and advice on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.
- Supporting Council tenants to reduce the impact of rising fuel costs. The impact of this advice will be captured during follow up visits with a selection of the tenants.
- Promoting quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.
- Ensuring all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

How will we know we have improved?

We will know we have improved when:

- The number of people referred to commissioned debt support services increases.
- The number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to improves.
- The amount of savings generated for residents through increased income improves.
- The number of residents visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures increases.
- The number of our staff who have undertaken the All Wales Academy e-learning Financial Inclusion & Tackling Poverty course.
- There is an increase in the number of children accessing childcare places through Flying Start Childcare and the Assisted Places Scheme.
- There is an increased take up of Free School Meals for eligible pupils. Accessing Free School Meals allows parents of school aged children to access additional grants to support them with other aspects of school life, including the purchase of school uniform. It is important that parents and carers are made aware of this support that is available as a method of maximising the use of the household income.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out Caerphilly Council's position, which is dependant on working jointly with our partners. In relation to this Improvement Objective this includes Citizens Advice Bureau, Food Banks, and Credit Unions in particular.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

We do not have a dedicated budget within our organisation to address Anti-Poverty so we are working with other areas and organisations to pool our resources to address the issues around poverty. For example, we will sign post citizens to a range of help and support that may be provided by other organisations or commission services from voluntary sectors such as the Citizens Advice Bureau to help citizens manage their finances, particularly help with debt support. We have been hosting the Gwent Money Advice Services Project, a collaborative project supported by the 5 Gwent Local Service Boards. The project has been researching the availability and need for money advice across the 5 Gwent Local Authority areas to develop a gap analysis. The project has developed an on-line signposting tool for front line staff along with an on-line training programme to ensure that non-specialist staff are aware of issues relating to poverty and how they can help residents. We have also implemented a new scheme and partnership with Age Cymru Gwent to assist vulnerable people with appeals regarding their Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments claims.

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Number of council tenants visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures and energy use	New from Feb 15	Not set new from Feb 15
Number of children accessing childcare places through Flying Start (FS) Childcare and Assisted Places Scheme (APS)	489 FS 182 APS	400FS 88 APS
Number of council tenants referred for money and debt advice as a direct result of face to face support on the	187	130
Number of other residents referred to commissioned debt/financial support services	210	390
Number of tenants affected by welfare reforms who were visited in their own homes and provided with advice and support to minimise the impact of the changes	2,309	150
The number of our staff who have undertaken the All Wales Academy e-learning Financial Inclusion & Tackling Poverty course	New from June 15	Not set as new from June 15
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
% of eligible pupils taking up the opportunity to access Free School Meals	66.5%	67.5%
% of tenants and residents referred by the Council to CAB debt support service and responded to survey who rated the service as good or better.	76%	77%
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
Value of financial savings generated for tenants as a direct result of face to face support	£283,154	£170,000
Value of additional income generated for residents via social services as a direct result of support	£100,000	£100,000
The number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to	1,605	519

Improvement Objective 2.

Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

What difference do we plan to make?

As a local authority 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” (Council Aspiration No.3). In achieving this we recognise that small groups of children and young people can face more challenges than others. This plan aims to identify groups of learners that are vulnerable to underachievement academically, and work proactively to remove the barriers to learning to raise their aspirations and increase their opportunities to succeed.

Why we have chosen this

Parents and young people have a right to expect the best from the education they receive. As a local authority, we will work with the regional consortia for school improvement and the schools Education Achievement Service (EAS) to ensure that all children and young people have access to high quality education, training and work experience, tailored to meet their needs.

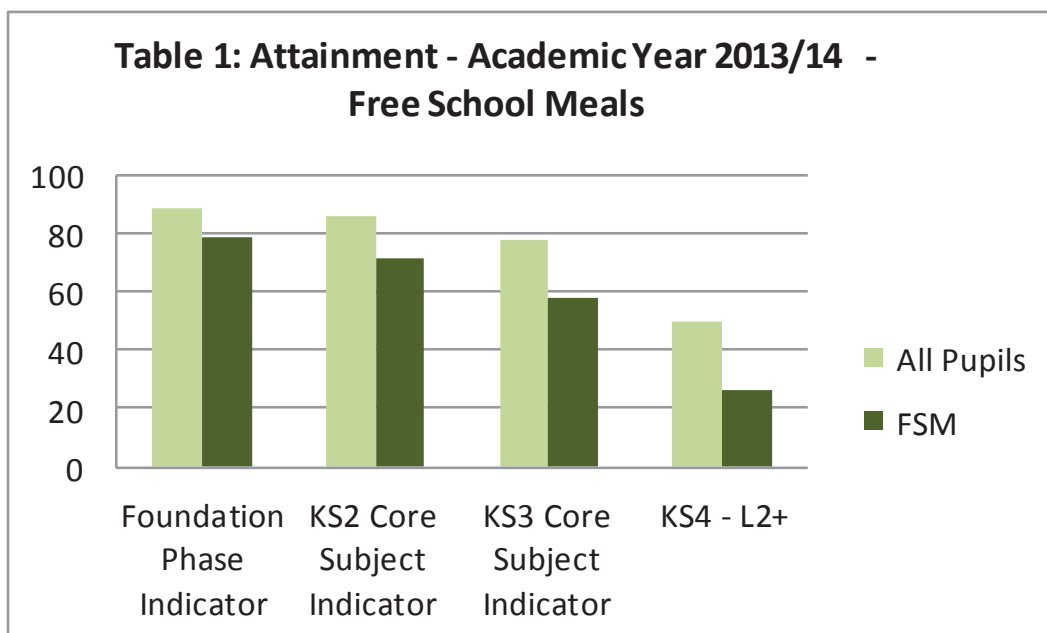
Vulnerability in education can be determined by a number of different factors including deprivation. It can also be determined by whether the child or young person has additional learning needs, or is a Looked After Child (LAC).

Data identifies that there is a performance gap between those within these groups and that of the overall population. We have chosen 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.

Where are we now?

In terms of academic attainment, the measurements are taken at the end of each phase of education, and pupils are measured against whether they have achieved the main performance indicators. Up until the age of 15 these are measured internally through teacher assessment. At the end of Key Stage 4, pupils are measured externally.

There are many factors which increase levels of vulnerability in learners, one of which is deprivation. The measure that is commonly used to measure deprivation is a pupil's eligibility to receive Free School Meals. The data below (Table 1) provides an insight into the performance of all pupils in comparison to the pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. This also highlights that the gap in performance increases throughout school life.



The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales and uses a number of deprivation measures to calculate deprivation. For Education, 31 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 20% most deprived in Wales, with St James 3 ranking 1st, as the most deprived. This area will be a focus for improvement throughout this plan. Please refer to LSOA table on page 31.

These small areas are referred to as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the index. The WIMD is currently made up of eight separate types of deprivation, education being one of these.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

- Work in partnership with the EAS to ensure that challenging targets are set for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement.
- Work with schools to maximise the benefits of the Pupil Deprivation Grant, to ensure that pupils in receipt of Free School Meals have full access to appropriate learning opportunities.
- Implement strategies to work towards closing the gap in performance between those in receipt of Free School Meals, and those who are not.
- Introduce an appropriate assessment for pupils educated in Trinity Fields and LA resource bases Performance Indicators for Value Added Targets Setting (PIVATS).
- Develop a multi agency strategy to provide improved learning opportunities in the St James area.

How will we know if we have improved?

Each year the school attainment results are published at a local authority level by the Welsh Government. This provides us with a benchmark for the academic achievements of all pupils. For a more in depth breakdown of the result, the www.mylocalschool.com website can be used to access Information at a school level. In addition, Performance Indicators for Value Added Targets Setting (PIVATS) will also be collected and analysed in relation to pupils educated in Trinity Fields and Local Authority Resource Bases.

The actions identified in this plan will be highlighted in strategic annual service plans and operational service delivery plans, and communicated to the regional Educational Achievement Service (EAS).

In addition future ESTYN inspections and reviews will monitor the progress made in improving outcomes for our children and young people through the strategies, services and initiatives that we deliver.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The EAS and our schools will be key partners in working towards improved outcomes for our pupils. However, we are aware that aspirations are linked with the family and therefore Flying Start, Families First and other agencies working with families will also be key partners.

In addition, many studies have shown that raising aspirations and improving attitudes to learning is wider than just educational barriers. Therefore, strategies may require the support of services such as leisure, parks and countryside as a mechanism for engaging with children and young people.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

This objective is initially focused on aligning existing resources to provide targeted support in areas of need. During the course of the plan, any new strategies will analyse the financial implementation and ensure that they can be delivered either through existing budgets or by securing additional funding.

Measures	2014/5 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
EDU/003 The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	85.8	87.2
EDU/004 The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	77.6	83.3
The percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass at L2 in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	50	60.4
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 2	71.4	74.2
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 3	58.1	68.1
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Level 2 threshold including GCSE pass at L2 in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	26.5	37.3
The percentage of pupil attendance in Primary Schools	94.4	94.9
The percentage of pupil attendance in Secondary Schools	92.9	93.1
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
EDU002i The percentage of pupils aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.4	0.3
EUD002ii The percentage of pupils in local authority care, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0	0
The percentage of 16 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) in October	TBC	0.3

Improvement Objective 3.

Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough

What difference do we plan to make?

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 advantaged.

Why we have chosen this?

The CCBC vision is that Caerphilly County Borough is a better place to live, work and visit. This must be for all residents. Residents living in areas of high deprivation have statistically significantly higher levels of ill-health including deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, deaths from lung cancer, diabetes, mental illness and respiratory disease.

In Caerphilly County Borough there is an inequality gap in life expectancy of 8.5 years for males and 7.8 years for females. This is the difference in life expectancy between those people living in the most and least deprived communities across our county borough.

The gap for healthy life expectancy is 19.2 years for males and 17.4 years for females. This has increased in recent years and we wish to empower residents to improve their lifestyles.

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
- Unhealthy diet

It is a priority of Welsh Government (Fairer Outcomes for All 2011) that by 2020 we improve healthy life expectancy for everyone and close the gap between each level of deprivation by an average of 2.5%. There are 5 levels in total, 1 being the most affluent and 5 being the most deprived.

Where are we now?

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. These small areas are referred to as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the index. The WIMD is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

WIMD is currently made up of eight separate types of deprivation called domains. These are: income; employment; health; education; access to services; community safety; physical environment and housing. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.

In the 2014 WIMD, 14 of the 110 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Caerphilly County Borough fell within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. This is equivalent to 12.7% of all LSOAs, which places us eighth for the highest proportion of most deprived LSOAs compared to the rest of Wales. All of these LSOAs are included within the current Communities First programme for our county borough.

Caerphilly County Borough LSOAs in the most deprived 10% for the overall index are:

LSOA Name	WIMD 2014 Rank - Wales	WIMD 2014 Rank - CCBC
St. James 3	1	1
Twyn Carno 1	6	2
Bargoed 4, Bedwas, Trethomas,	22	3
Machen 6	24	4
Moriah 3	60	5
New Tredegar 3	74	6
Hengoed 2	92	7
St. James 4	105	8
Penyrheol 8	116	9
Darren Valley 2	124	10
Newbridge 2	138	11
Penyrheol 4	139	12
Aberbargoed 2	189	13
Argoed 1	191	14

Caerphilly County Borough has 68.2% of its LSOAs within the top 50% most deprived category and this is the fourth highest proportion in Wales.

Health Evidence

Data is provided below based on a population approach across the whole of the County Borough. These percentages will increase significantly in the County's most deprived areas.

- Premature death rates (under 75 years of age) remain significantly higher than the Wales average.
- 22% of adults smoke in our borough, which is the same as the Welsh average. (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13). However, Welsh Government have set a target to reduce smoking levels in Wales to 16% by 2020.
- 71% of adults are currently not active enough to meet physical activity guidelines. (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13).
- In Caerphilly, 63% of adults can be categorised as overweight or obese. This is one of the highest obesity rates in Wales according to the Welsh Health Survey 2012/13, with the Welsh average at 58%, and the Welsh average is itself at a low level of health.
- The Child Measurement Programme for Wales reported in 2011/12 that 28.5% of children in Caerphilly County Borough aged 4-5 are overweight or obese. This is the 5th highest in Wales and above the Welsh average of 28.2%, which is again not considered to be at a good level.
- The Health Behavior in School-aged Children survey 2009/10 found that overweight and obesity levels amongst boys are higher in Wales than the rest of the UK, and most other European countries. The same survey reported that Wales has one of the highest rates amongst all European countries for obese teenage girls.
- Less than one third of adults (28%) eat the recommended 5 a day of fruit and vegetables. This is less than the Welsh Average at 33% (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13).

There is a need to develop more robust data sets that allow comparisons between our most affluent and most deprived communities.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

In order to start to address the health inequalities mentioned above, starting in 2015/16 we are planning to focus our activity on preventing obesity and smoking cessation. To help us achieve this we will:

- Develop and implement a Caerphilly response to achieving the actions set out in the Gwent Childhood Obesity Plan. This is a 5-year strategy and framework provided by Public Health Wales. This plan will focus on the following 7 key themes:
 - ◆ Social marketing and health literacy
 - ◆ Preconception and maternity
 - ◆ Whole school and early years settings
 - ◆ Active community environments
 - ◆ Improving the food environment
 - ◆ Active recreation and play
 - ◆ Specialist services for children and their families
- Reduce smoking prevalence by increasing the uptake of smoking cessation programmes
- Support Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Public Health Wales to implement the Living Well Living Longer programme (LWLL) in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV) area. The aim of the project is to reduce the inequalities in premature mortality and emergency hospital admissions from cardio vascular disease. This is a pilot led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and will entail asking 40-74 year olds to attend a Health MOT to prevent future health deterioration. By being proactive and advising or sign posting support for stopping smoking, reducing obesity and improving mental health or referring the citizen back to the GP we hope to enable people to improve their quality of life.
- Promoting broader participation in physical activity including walking, gardening, street games and play, as well as increasing community based opportunities.
- Increase residents knowledge by developing the Community Health Champions initiative. This is a community based initiative that up skills members of the community to choose healthier lifestyle behaviours.

How will we know if we have improved?

- Reduction in the difference in life expectancy between those people living in the most and least deprived communities
- Reduction in smoking rates
- Reduction in obesity rates
- Reduction in premature death rates
- Outcomes of LWLL programme (URV)

Data that shows what outcomes we are achieving (or what difference is being made) in the health fields cannot be provided frequently and the nature of the change is often provided by longer-term data. Recording the numbers of people attending different initiatives can be straightforward but health data that shows if differences are being made can be complex and trends can take 2-5 years to show a reversal in the areas as noted above.

New data sets will be developed by Public Health Wales to evidence the health needs of residents in the County's most deprived areas and how this compares to residents residing in our more affluent areas.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Caerphilly Well Being Improvement Network has agreed to prioritise workloads for 2015-16 and onwards to tackle the rates of Smoking and Obesity across the County Borough. This is a multi agency partnership and all partners will work towards the same two key priorities. These will also be the updated health improvement priorities for the Healthier Theme of our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

Partners include Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Public Health Wales and Gwent Action Voluntary Organisation (GAVO).

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

Communities First will use existing resources from Welsh Government to deliver this objective under the Healthier Communities Outcomes.

StreetGames fund a StreetGames worker for Caerphilly to lead on developing the initiative locally.

Communities First have successfully gained funding from StreetGames to deliver the US Girls programme in Caerphilly, focusing on inactive and semi-inactive girls aged between 13 to 19 to get more physically active. This programme will be delivered over a 2 year period and, across Wales, and aims to get 5,000 girls physically active.

The Living Well Living Longer Programme is funded by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Healthy Schools is a Welsh Government funded programme delivered by Caerphilly Council.

Draft

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Obesity:		
Number of 'Food Wise' courses (12 sessions including cooking)	21	*16
Number of community cooking sessions	150+	*100+
Delivery of Xpod courses (pre Diabetes, 6 weeks)	3	*10
Delivery of Healthy Hearts courses	0	*4
* Due to the increase in related illnesses of Heart disease and Diabetes we have prioritised the delivery of these courses, by increasing their targets. However as we have no additional resource we have had to reduce the targets for delivering the food wise and community cooking sessions.		
Number of Agored Level 1 Nutrition initiative	5	8
Delivery of Community Health Champions initiative	140	155
Promotion of Change4Life Number signed up to initiative	Families: 13,671 Local supporters: 172 (2013)	Not Applicable
Number of participants in delivery of community based self help support for people living with a mild to moderate mental health condition.	264	Under Development
Number of individuals taking part in led walks	2,846	2,900
Number of participants taking part in Street Games	799	1,200
Number of people participating in community based exercise referral scheme (Communities First)	New Measure	Under Development

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
Number of people taking part in community based physical activity opportunities	1,286	1,350
Number of National Standards courses delivered within schools Cycling programme.	20	20
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Smoking:		
Number of staff trained in Brief Interventions Training	2	Under Development
Illegal tobacco campaign-number of intelligence reports received and resulting enforcements	New Measure	Under Development
Number of test sales of tobacco to young people carried out	21 Test purchase attempts 2 sales	20 Test purchases (all products)
Number of smokers treated by smoking cessation service	342 (up to February 2015)	5% of all smokers (NICE target)
Healthy Schools:		
% of schools that have achieved Phase 3	95%	96%
% of schools that have achieved Healthy Schools Phase 5	62%	65%
Number of settings in Healthy Early Years Scheme	41	45
LWLL programme for URV:		
Number of residents signposted from screening MOTs to additional services	New Measure	Under Development
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Obesity:		
% Residents taking part in physical activity a recommended number of times per week	29% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
% Residents eating the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and veg per day	28% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
% Adults categorised as overweight or obese in Caerphilly	63% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
% Children aged 4/5 years categorised as overweight or obese in Caerphilly	28.5% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
Smoking:		
% Adult Smokers in Caerphilly	22% 2012/13	16% by 2020 (Welsh Government target)
Healthy Schools:		
Number of schools that have achieved National Quality Award	5	8
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
Gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas across Caerphilly for Males	19.2 years	Not Appropriate*
Gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas across Caerphilly for Females	17.4 years	Not Appropriate*
Premature death rates for Adults	374.8 persons per 100,000 population 2007	Not Appropriate*

*Trends in health outcomes can only be seen over extended periods of time (years). Where data is obtained from the Welsh Health Survey this is conducted every two years and we will next be in a position to report on this in 2017. Additionally the behaviours that we are trying to influence are subject to complex, population based factors. In some cases maintaining the status quo may be seen as a success and in these circumstances setting a target can be arbitrary and therefore not appropriate. The key point is that unless we implement the interventions described we will not influence outcomes for the population.

Improvement Objective 4.

Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

What difference do we plan to make?

Our objective is to take steps to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and inform and assist others within the Borough to do the same.

The overall objective is to reduce the Council's carbon footprint of 26,035 tonnes by 45%, by 2019.

Why we have chosen this?

Our climate is undergoing dramatic changes as the direct result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most significant and prevalent GHG emitted mostly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.

The UK Government has committed to take action and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK.

CCBC is a large organisation and as such has a large carbon footprint. We have an obligation to take steps to minimise our carbon footprint and the associated negative impact on the Environment.

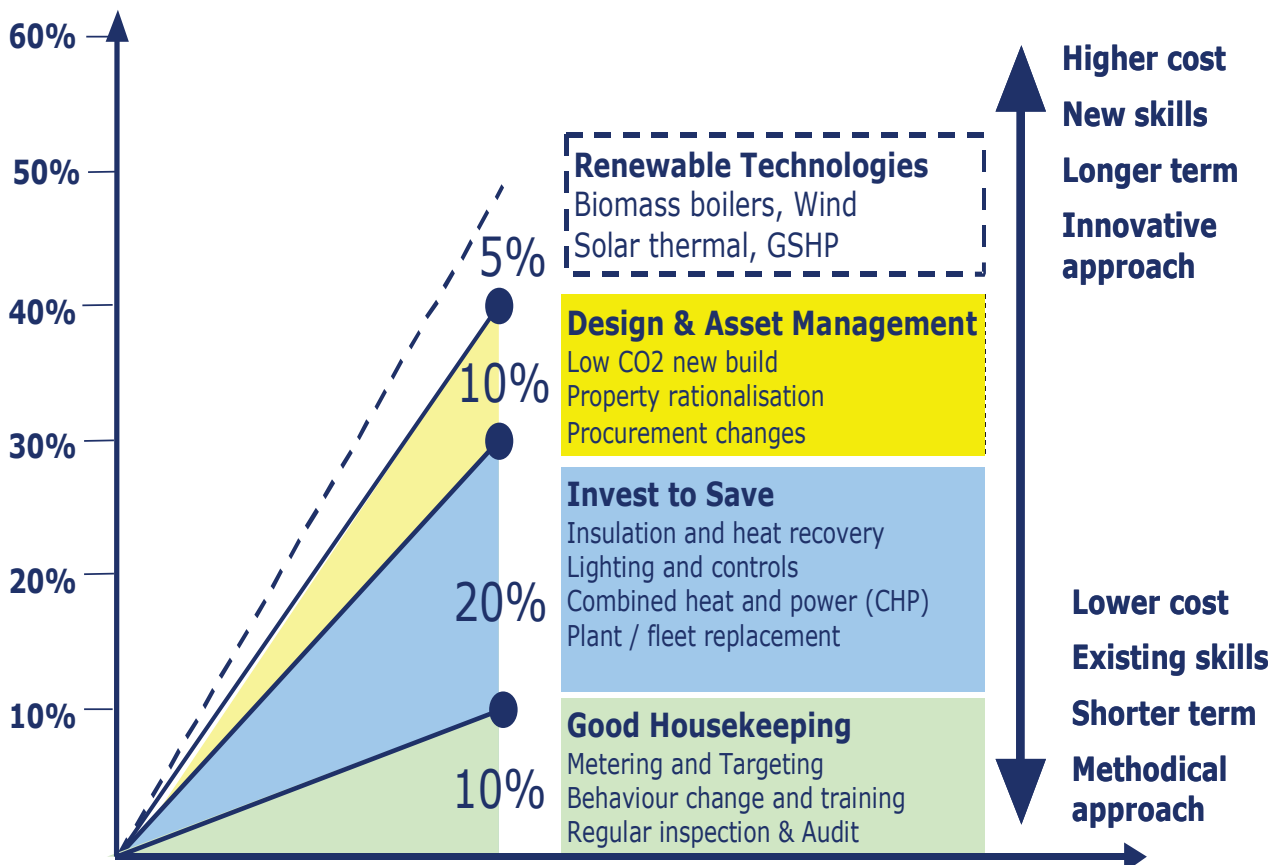
Where are we now?

The Council's energy management team, over the last decade, has instigated and registered impressive carbon and energy savings. This has resulted in annual carbon emissions being, 2,621 tonnes lower than where they would otherwise have been. These savings are registered through 220+ invest to save projects. Additional savings have been registered outside of this scheme, all of which result in a much more carbon efficient authority.

Legislative requirements are contributing to effect change, and incur fine/prosecution for non-compliance. Legislative demands assist in raising the profile for carbon improvements.

Our 10-year Carbon Reduction Strategy is due to end in 2019. Where other authorities have outsourced services such as leisure and housing, ours remain in house. This is an important consideration given that the age of buildings stock (fabric and building services) has a direct relationship with energy consumption.

The carbon reduction strategy has four key themes for achieving carbon improvement: Good Housekeeping; Invest to Save; Asset Management and Renewable Technology.



Good Housekeeping

Involves behaviour change, ensuring staff are aware that their actions contribute to carbon emissions and encouraging them to turn off lights, computers, or other equipment. These are simple changes that can be made immediately. This relies on raising awareness of issues through; education, training, energy audits or display energy certificates. It is supported by having good benchmarks and data for all buildings.

In our schools we will use the Eco Schools programme to continue to raise awareness of the importance of reducing energy use with pupils and staff.

Invest To Save

The application of new technology can reduce carbon emissions. More often than not there is a strong business case for the investment. Caerphilly aims to change street light lamps from 90 watt to a more energy efficient format called Light Emitting Diodes (LED's), which run at 19 watts, this will result in significant carbon reductions. Other standard technologies installed include building energy management systems, insulation, lighting upgrades and controls on equipment. Caerphilly CBC has a proven track record with this approach and compare favourably against other public sector organisations across the UK .

Design and Asset management

Choosing the correct buildings to retain or dispose of can have a significant bearing on carbon emissions and constructing energy efficient buildings, which generate less carbon than the buildings being replaced, also makes a significant contribution. For example, if Pontllanfraith House was to be disposed of, the annual carbon savings would be in the region of 409 tonnes. This would only be a carbon saving if the new or replacement building that housed the displaced staff, were to be more energy efficient than the former.

Under occupation of buildings results in increased carbon, for example when a school heats the whole school, for when only one room is needed for a community evening class.

Renewable technology

There is no Council budget for renewable technology. The correct approach is to implement good housekeeping, invest to save and asset management before looking to incorporate renewable technology. The Council has however, installed some renewables already, are installing photovoltaics (PV) on Islwyn Indoor Bowls (early 2015) and will have to install some renewable technology for new build projects as part of the BREEAM standards on Islwyn West Comprehensive.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

Good Housekeeping

- Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Training.
- General awareness raising through various media formats.
- Training key staff e.g. caretakers on building energy management systems.
- Re issue benchmark information to building managers.
- Re-issue energy audits.
- Workshops, events and training with staff and pupils in schools.

Note: – Several actions are unquantifiable in that we cannot always record the carbon emissions that result from taking the actions.

Invest-To-Save on Salix* funded projects e.g: **Salix Finance is an external organisation, which administers the finance on behalf of central government.*

- Various lighting upgrades for primary schools.
- Various building energy management systems.
- There is opportunity to replace existing street lighting lamps (90 watts) with high efficiency LED's (19 watts) units.
- Other technologies being considered include, insulation, voltage correction and controls.
- To promote understanding and benefits of water conservation through consumption management and control across schools, leisure, and other non-domestic buildings.

Asset Management

- Pontllanfraith offices are being considered for disposal, which has the potential for saving 409 tonnes of carbon per year.
- There are likely to be numerous properties considered for sale or disposal including the old cash office Risca and the old Caerphilly library which may bring some carbon savings.
- Training staff to make better use of our buildings e.g. advising schools to locate after school activities to smaller buildings rather than use the main teaching blocks which need more heating and lighting, however carbon savings would be unquantifiable.

Renewable Technology

- The forthcoming Islwyn West Comprehensive School in Oakdale is likely to require a PV system in the region of 72kwp, which would provide carbon savings in the region of 34 tonnes per year. This will require preparation consideration in 2015/16.
- Further promote internally the benefits and understanding of renewable technology at the Carbon Group and possibly other forums such as the School Budget forum.

How will we know if we have improved?

Good Housekeeping

- We will outline who has received carbon reduction commitment training and make the presentation material available
- We will log the number of activities that promote awareness
- We will log specific data distribution events such as issuing energy audits /display energy certificates or other benchmark information
- We will log the number of workshops, events and training with schools
- We will record the number of accreditations to Eco Schools Green Flag and Platinum Awards

Invest To Save.

- We will report all carbon (tonnes) and energy (kWh) savings which result from new technologies being installed through the Invest To Save scheme.

Asset Management

- We will log where we have provided guidance on the efficient use of buildings particularly those resulting in CO² savings

Renewable Technology

- We will identify and report on any renewable energy technologies that are installed such as Islwyn West Comprehensive photovoltaic scheme.
- Report annually the merits and benefits the Council has received from existing schemes and outline any potential new schemes or opportunities available to CCBC

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

- We will liaise with members of staff across the Council such as head teachers, caretakers, facility staff and those who have a direct link to how energy is consumed within a building.
- We will use tried and trusted processes, suppliers and installers of energy improvement technologies and services to facilitate Invest To Save projects, such as:
 - ◊ Designated electrical installer(s)
 - ◊ Facilities team who deal with buildings
 - ◊ Building Energy Management system installers
 - ◊ Use existing framework arrangements to procure solar power systems
 - ◊ Resource Efficient Wales, who replaced the Carbon Trust in Wales.
- Street Lighting department will establish relevant procurement routes and identify appropriate installers to implement the street lighting improvements.
- We will work with pupils and staff in schools as part of the Eco Schools programme

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

We have a well-established energy team who specialise in this subject, with many years experience dealing with procurement specialists, energy providers, technology providers, property designers, site managers, site caretakers, facilities managers and contractors.

The Council has been utilising the Salix Invest To Save scheme since Sept 2004. Salix provide £200k government funding and the Council has provided £500k. This funding mechanism is used as a loan system across all non-domestic properties to implement energy efficient technologies. This scheme has saved 2,621 annual tonnes of carbon off its current consumption levels. This has also provided lifetime savings of £4.5 million

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of CRC training events delivered	2	4 groups depending on head teacher accessibility
The number of building energy audits completed and handed over to building managers	14	25
The number of Salix projects delivered within the year	12 (220 over the last 10 years)	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for payback rates.
The number of renewable energy technologies (claiming Feed in Tariffs or Renewable Heat Incentive) that are installed, and the merits and benefits of existing renewable schemes reported to the Carbon Group.	7 current schemes	As a minimum we will report on the performance of these 7 schemes at the Carbon Group.
The number of Street Lights converted to Light Emitting Diode (LED) format.	New Measure	9,110
The number of workshops and events held with schools as part of the Eco Schools programme.	91	71
The number of energy awareness sessions delivered to schools	11	15
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of Display Energy Certificates (DEC) and advisory reports generated and delivered to building managers.	90+	Aim for 100% compliance on DECs. Total number varies from year to year. Should be 90+ DECs.
Total lifetime energy savings (kWh) resulting from the street lighting conversions	New Measures	2,500,000 kWh annually (after all light conversions)

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
Percentage of our schools which achieve accreditation to Eco Schools Green Flag	71%	73%
The number of our schools which achieved a Platinum award under Eco Schools.	15	21
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
The annual carbon (tonnes) saved via the Salix investment projects	2,484 t	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for
The lifetime carbon saved on converting to high efficiency street lighting (tonnes)	New Measure	1,235 annually (12,356 t over 10 years lifetime expectation)

Improvement Objective 5.

Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities

What difference do we plan to make?

The Welsh Government and this Council believe that everyone in Wales should have the opportunity to live in a good quality home within a safe and secure community.

To help achieve this, the physical standard and condition of existing housing must be maintained and improved to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

The standard is seven main parts:

- In a good state of repair.
- Safe and secure.
- Adequately heated, fuel efficient and well insulated.
- Contain up-to-date kitchens and bathrooms.
- Well managed (for rented housing).
- Are located in attractive and safe environments.
- Meet and suit the specific requirements of the household (as far as reasonable and practicably possible). For example, catering for specific disabilities.

We will aim to ensure all Council homes meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), helping to improve the quality of life for the people who live in those homes. The programme of work will create long-term arrangements, which will help sustain local jobs, offer skills development and training opportunities, and deliver wider community benefits.

By 2020 we want our communities to know:

- We delivered the best quality home improvements to our tenants.
- We did it with them and not to them.
- Their homes created real jobs in our communities.
- We delivered the whole project on time and in budget.

These ambitions can only be achieved with the entire Council and tenants and other key stakeholders working together and we are confident that with their support this Programme will transform Council homes, the lives of our citizens and our communities.

Why we have chosen this?

The long-term affordability of housing, effects of the current credit crunch, fuel poverty and improving the quality of housing in the social sectors, are some of the main challenges facing the Authority.

Council homes across our County Borough will require over £200 million investment over the next few years as part of a Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme.

In 2012 Council tenants took part in a ballot to have their say about the future management of their homes and they voted to remain with the Council as their landlord.

We have outlined major spending plans in the “Your Home Your Choice” document to give our housing stock a massive facelift to meet the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). This is a major flagship programme that will be a boost to the local economy. In addition, the Council has set the ambition that money spent improving homes should be a catalyst to wider regeneration, improving lives and communities.

In 2008, we had an independent housing stock condition survey carried out by a company called Savills, to determine the scope of the works needed to bring our Council homes up to WHQS. We have also established a ‘Caerphilly Homes Task Group’ with 7 Councillors and 7 tenant representatives, who periodically meet and discuss progress within the WHQS programme and the improvements to the housing service. The Task Group is informed by a Tenant’s Repairs and Improvements Group.

Where are we now?

During 2014/15, we set ourselves very ambitious plans in order to progress the WHQS investment plan. However, delays and slippage in beginning the internal works contract, retendering for the external contracts and surveying issues has meant some major slippage in our work programme to date. Over 3,500 properties were scheduled for either, internal and/or external repairs and improvements during 2014/15, but we are only likely to complete around 1,000, which emphasises the importance of keeping this priority as a focus of importance.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

There needs to be a significant increase and emphasis in the work programmes during 2015/16 to address:

- Secure the appointment of critical front line staff (e.g. Surveyors, Clerk of Works, Tenant Liaison Officers).
- The continued delivery of the capital investment programme in respect of internal and external repairs and improvements.
- The continued pursuit of external funding opportunities to support energy improvement measures.
- The understanding and importance of carrying out timely and sensitive adaptations that meet specific needs of certain individual households.
- Adhere to the standards set out in the Charter for Trust. This applies to both the in house workforce and contractors.
- Achieve and maintain the high levels of tenant satisfaction with the work undertaken to their homes.
- The promotion, uptake and success of bids submitted to the Community Improvement Fund, enabling community projects to add further benefits to communities across the County Borough.

How will we know if we have improved?

We will be able to demonstrate that we have made improved changes to the quality of our social housing stock, their surrounding environments and tenants lives, through:

- The number of internal home improvements in accordance to the WHQS guidelines.
- The number of external home improvements in accordance to the WHQS guidelines.
- Tenant satisfaction levels with any works undertaken to their homes

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Council will work with tenants, community groups, other public/private and third sector organisations, in-house work groups and contractors, to deliver the WHQS programme within Welsh Government guidelines and targets.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

The Welsh Government and the Council has committed to an investment programme of £200 million to meet the WHQS standards by 2020. We now have a well-established management structure in place and a recently reviewed investment strategy. Delivery of the necessary changes and improvements are, and will be, subject to certain physical resource constraints and at the mercy of wider market influences (such as the availability of quality and efficient tradesmen, contractors, access to homes and delivery of quality installation and repair products and technologies).

Further information regarding “The Welsh Housing Quality Standard” can be found in the revised guidance for the social landlords on interpretation and achievement of WHQS July 2008, or by access to the Welsh Government website as follows:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/housing-quality/welsh-standard/?lang=en>

Measures	2014-15 Baseline	2015-16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Number of homes compliant with WHQS in respect of their external elements		2,275
Number of homes compliant with WHQS in respect of their internal elements	*Data will be available in July 2015	2,242
Number of homes in local authority ownership brought up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (the number of houses that achieved the standard in the year).		909
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Internal work (all 4 internal components – Heating, Electrics, Kitchens and Bathrooms) completed within 20 days of start of works.	*Data will be available in July 2015	90%
Charter Trust Standards: The Charter for Trust developed in consultation with tenants and staff, which will be assessed by specific questions on the customer satisfaction survey. This sets out the standards that tenants can expect when work is being undertaken in their homes, which will be assessed by specific questions on the customer satisfaction survey (before, during and after works).	93%	90%
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
% of tenants whose homes have been improved internally through the WHQS programme who are satisfied with the complete works		80%
Number of tenants whose homes have been adapted as part of the WHQS works to meet their specific needs	*Data will be available in July 2015	Dependant on the needs Identified when delivering the WHQS programme, therefore we are unable to set targets for this

*The full results for 2014/15 will be published in the Councils Annual Performance Report in October 2015

How to contact us

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.

Please contact us by: Email: PMU@caerphilly.gov.uk OR by Web link:

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COUNCIL – 9TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT BY: LEADER OF COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to have in place a Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service. On the 22 July 2014, Council appointed Mr Chris Burns as Interim Chief Executive to undertake these duties on a fixed term contract ended on 31 August 2015. This report seeks approval in respect of the future arrangements of this post in order to comply with legislative requirements.
- 1.2 This report seeks a Council decision to extend the contract arrangements with Mr Chris Burns, in light of the most up to date position and information available to the Council, in respect of the suspended substantive post-holder.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council decision was to appoint Mr Burns on a fixed term contract for a period of up to 12 months. Mr Burns took up appointment on the 1 September 2014, and this report explains contractual arrangements to extend this arrangement.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement for a Local Authority to have a Head of Paid Service. In Caerphilly County Borough Council the Head of Paid Service is the Chief Executive and there is no distinction between the two roles.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Members will be aware of the current interim arrangements in place within the Authority arising from the suspension of three senior officers.
- 4.2 It is now clear that interim arrangements will need to continue for a further period of time. A provisional date for the main court hearing has been set for November 2015, but there is always the possibility that this could slip to a later date. The case itself is likely to take 6-8 weeks when it is convened.
- 4.3 Whatever the outcome of the court case, there is an inevitability of internal investigations that have been on hold pending the criminal investigation. In the interim, the substantive post-holders' employment contracts remain in place.
- 4.4 In order to provide ongoing consistency for the organisation through this difficult period, it is proposed to extend the Interim Chief Executive's contract by a further year i.e. to the 31 August 2016.

- 4.5 If Council agrees to the extension of the fixed term contract, the Interim Chief Executive will be employed on the agreed salary and terms and conditions as published in the Council's Pay Policy Statement.
- 4.6 For completeness, Members are advised that the Interim Chief Executive has indicated his agreement to an extension of the contract for a further 12 months, subject to Council approval.
- 4.7 Members will also be aware from previous reports that interim arrangements are in place in relation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer. At the Council meeting held on 18 November 2014, Members approved that the Interim Chief Executive could extend both these interim arrangements until 31 August 2015 if necessary.
- 4.8 Due to the circumstances outlined within this report requesting Council's agreement to the extension of the Interim Chief Executive's contract of employment, Members are also asked to approve the extension of the interim arrangements for the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer until 31 August 2016.
- 4.9 Should the opportunity arise earlier to review these arrangements, then action can be taken to do so.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All Local Authorities are subject to the public sector equality duty in the Equalities Act 2010. This requires that Local Authorities, "shall, in carrying out its functions, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between, men and women, persons of different racial groups, and disabled persons and others, respectively".
- 5.2 It must be noted however that the duty is not an absolute one and simply requires the Council to "have due regard" to the need to promote equality of opportunity. An element of balancing the need to promote equality of opportunity with other needs of the Council is therefore permissible.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a budget for a Chief Executive post. This budget will continue to fund the Interim Chief Executive. The salary costs of the 3 suspended officers are being funded from General Fund reserves. Council will need to agree the allocation of additional funds from the General Fund balance of £278k to cover costs of the 3 suspended officers to 31 August 2016.
- 6.2 There are no additional costs arising from the interim arrangements as these are being met through the existing budgets for the substantive post holders.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The personnel implications are included in the report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All consultation responses are included in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Council is requested, for the reasons outlined in Section 4 of this report, to approve the extension of the contract of the Interim Chief Executive (Mr Chris Burns) for a further 12 months to the 31 August 2016.
- 9.2 Council are requested to approve a further provision to be funded from General Fund balances of £278 k to cover the anticipated additional costs of the 3 suspended officers to 31 August 2016.
- 9.3 Council is asked to approve the extension of the interim arrangements for the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer until 31 August 2016.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure the Council complies with the legal requirement to have a Head of Paid Service.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000
Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(Wales) Regulations 2006.
Local Government and Housing Act 1989

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