



Currently, within the CCBC Corporate Plan, there are 6 Well-being Objectives (with a suite of outcomes set over five years - 2018/2023). Three of those objectives are coordinated through this Directorate. See below:

## WBO 2 – Enabling Employment

This objective has 5 medium to long-term outcomes and at the end of this reporting period, the objective is judged to be progressing well.

Q1 has presented challenges on an unprecedented level due to the covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown, which had severe implications for our engagement and job outcome figures across all programmes, particularly at the start of the quarter. In particular, the P1 category (adults 25+ with complex barriers to employment) within the Communities for Work programme was the worst affected, as these individuals were most likely to either be shielding on grounds of health/disability or to have barriers such as childcare or transport which were further exacerbated by the effects of lockdown.

Nevertheless, despite these significant challenges we were proud to have continued to provide our employment programmes in a remote capacity and staff worked hard to minimise service disruption wherever possible, resulting in outcomes as follows:

- Communities for Work supported 8 adults and 19 young people into employment during Q1 & Q2.
- Communities for Work Plus supported 64 people into employment during Q1 & Q2.

### Business Liaison Update

Throughout Q1 and the lockdown period, the Business Liaison Officer (BLO) continued to liaise with businesses and to provide support, with a focus on supporting them with recruitment issues and also to ensure that any staff that may be facing redundancy due to the current climate were diverted to the support available via our employment programmes. This intelligence was also communicated to Welsh Government on a regular basis, as part of a co-ordinated response from employment programmes around Wales.

Notable engagement with employers within Q1 included ongoing work for a significant amount of potential recruitment with William Hare, focused work with BBI and Dominos and continued partnership working with Transcend.

We are anticipating a significant spike in redundancies in the coming year, alongside additional challenges such as a shortage of opportunities and an increase in the personal barriers faced by people due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. In response to this, we are continuing to work closely with local employers and with partners including Welsh Government and Department of Work and Pensions. In addition to this, we are also working closely with the Council's BERT team and partners such as Careers Wales to develop a multi-agency redundancy response group to respond to large scale redundancies as and when they happen.

### The progress we have made in 2020/21:

- Cfw and CfW+ teams maintaining delivery of employment support throughout lockdown and despite challenges posed by covid-19 pandemic, resulting in real employment outcomes
- Developed effective working from home practices across team which have enabled delivery of service with minimal disruption
- Relationships built and maintained with local employers, laying foundations for future opportunities when/as economy recovers

### The impact of our work, including what we have learnt and where we need to improve:

- 83 people supported into stable employment
- Lessons learned/need to improve:
- Outcomes currently below target due to Covid-19 pandemic and increased customer barriers, although teams working hard to address this
- Learnt importance of not having over-reliance on DWP/Jobcentres for engagement, as this presents significant impact upon engagement outcomes if JCPs lock down
- Identified need to further build relationships and promotion of programmes internally within CCBC, to maximise internal referrals received
- Need to revisit relationships formed previously with partners to retain contact and encourage new referrals

### What is our future focus?

- To continue service delivery throughout pandemic with minimum disruption to programmes
- To successfully incorporate additional CfW+ funding (and associated new roles) into existing programme structure, with subsequent positive contributions to outcomes
- To continue to develop creative methods of engagement, where face to face contact and engagement may not be a viable option in the immediate future
- To identify (and implement) ways to support most hard to reach customers whilst pandemic is ongoing, including through digital support for our most digitally excluded customers
- To work with employers to develop additional opportunities for placements and employment, including through the promotion of the new DWP Kickstart scheme



## WBO 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment

This objective has 6 long-term outcomes. Good progress continues to be made in relation to most of the key outcomes related to this Well-being Objective.

To date, we have:

- Continuing to implement programmed works as referenced in the Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel Routes (15 year plan), that was formally approved by Welsh Government in February 2018
- Caerphilly continues to work with the delivery of the South Wales Metro and a £30m jointly funded investment package for Metro Plus schemes has been agreed with Welsh Government at the start of 2019/20.
- Work on site investigation for Llanbradach Park and Ride, as part of Metro plus schemes, has been completed. Feasibility design is ongoing.
- Discussions in relation to the Nelson to Ystrad Mynach passenger services have started, but are in relatively early stages. This line is still currently used as a freight line, transporting coal from the opencast mine in Merthyr Tydfil.
- The issue of protecting a route between Caerphilly to Newport, to potentially allow the reinstatement of a public transport route, is with Transport for Wales for consideration as part of their Metro Enhancement Framework. This is a long term aspiration.
- Improvements to bus stops in the Caerphilly basin have been substantially delivered in 2019/20. Design and construction of the first phase of 200 Mid Valley area bus stops is progressing well with delivery of approx. 100 stops in 2019/20 with the remainder in 2020/21.
- Broadband improvements to Risca area continued through 2019/20. 7,500 homes in Risca have been connected to the Virgin broadband network with a 350Mb speed and capability for up to 500Mb speed at the property. The Risca scheme was second in country in the initial take up with sales figures at around 33%. Virgin Media are now in the process of building their fibre network in Caerphilly town over an 18 month period to connect 12,500 homes. Connectivity of the first homes is expected to go live at the end of February 2020 with 300 – 480 homes per month thereafter. This Plan has connectivity at its heart, promoting accessibility, the Metro and digital and Broadband improvements that support innovation and improves accessibility for all.
- The £30m jointly funded investment package for Metro plus schemes across the region has been progressed in 2019/20. The key project for the authority within this programme is the Caerphilly Interchange. The initial feasibility work for this project has been completed and the final draft Placemaking Plan has been presented to key stakeholders. The Caerphilly Interchange is a key aspect of the Placemaking Plan. The **Caerphilly Placemaking Plan** covers many other Regeneration aspects and proposals within the Town. A wider public consultation will be undertaken in early 2020.

### The progress we have made in 2020/21:

TfW are progressing the detailed design for the **Core Valley Lines (CVL) transformation programme**. The Rhymney line is part of the South Wales Metro Project (2019 to 2024). Engagement with TfW has improved throughout 2019/20, including the commissioning of specific pieces of work. TfW have now significantly increased their resources to take this key project forward.

The £30m jointly funded investment package for Metro plus schemes across the region has been progressed in 2019/20. The key project for the authority within this programme is the Caerphilly Interchange. The initial feasibility work for this project has been completed and the final Placemaking Plan has been presented to key stakeholders. The Caerphilly Interchange is a key aspect of the Placemaking Plan. The **Caerphilly Placemaking Plan** covers many other Regeneration aspects and proposals within the Town. A wider public consultation will be undertaken in 2020.

“**A Foundation for Success**” is the Council’s overarching regeneration strategy for the 5 year period 2018-2023 and was adopted by Council in July 2018. The **Ystrad Mynach Masterplan** was approved by Council in April 2019. Further masterplans for Greater Blackwood, Heads of the Valley and Newbridge to Risca Corridor are planned or being progressed.

A dialogue is being maintained with WG & TfW officials to discuss the ongoing CVL committed investment and the Council’s Metro plus aspirations. This dialogue includes both the longer term aspirations for the Ystrad Mynach to Nelson rail line and the Caerphilly to Newport corridor Metro improvements. Through the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority (CCRTA), Officers are working with WG on the development of their **Metro Enhancement Framework (MEF)** that will help to identify future Metro priorities.

Initial details of TfW’s proposed **Station Investment Programme** for the CVL have been received. TfW has been informed of CCBC’s CVL priorities and there is an ongoing dialogue on how these can be progressed.

The last improvements to bus stops in the Caerphilly Basin have been completed. Design and delivery of the improvements for the first phase of the 200 Mid Valley area bus stops, that will continue to improve accessibility for passengers, has also been completed. Completion in future years will be subject to securing additional WG Local Transport Fund funding.

The CCRTA now has delegated powers to allow appropriate decision making to take place.

TfW are developing proposals for a 4 trains per hour service on the Ebbw Valley Railway that would require significant improvements to Crumlin and Newbridge stations, with a view to delivery by 2024. Details of the revised business case are expected to be shared by TfW with key stakeholders in 2020.

The Rhymney line will be considered for any appropriate LTF (Local Transport Fund) Bids to WG for 2020/21 to enable TfW to complete design on the Ystrad Mynach Park and Ride (P&R) extension and for CCBC to develop the detailed design for Llanbradach P&R and for TfW to develop options for a new Station at Llanbradach.

The strategic Nelson to Ystrad Mynach active travel route (INMC17) has been completed during the first six months of 2019/20. New Crossing Facilities in Fleur-de-Lis, Pengam (INMC47) and the Link from Ystrad Mynach to Pengam (INMC19) were also delivered. Further bids have been submitted to WG for additional funding for a number of schemes to be designed and constructed during 2020/21.

# Well-being Objectives



The Pwllypant highway improvement scheme was delivered in November 2018. Post scheme monitoring has evidenced the significant reduction in congestion and queue lengths, improvements in journey time and improved accuracy of bus services.

7,500 homes in Risca have been connected to the Virgin broadband network with a 350Mb speed and capability for up to 500Mb speed at the property. The Risca scheme was second in country in the initial take up with sales figures at around 33%. Virgin Media are now in the process of building their fibre network in Caerphilly town over an 18 month period to connect 12,500 homes. Virgin have released 1,325 homes live to sales, with another 650 due at the end of May. They are still on target to deliver the 300-480 homes per month thereafter.

## **The impact of our work, including what have we learnt and where do we need to improve:**

Citizens would not have seen many significant changes to date as the development of strategies and proposals have been the priorities during these initial phases. The main change that would be evident is the appointment of the operator delivering rail services which is now TfW with its partner Keolis Amey (referred to as TfW Rail Services). TfW has also recently completed the transfer of the CVL rail asset from Network Rail.

Improvements in the bus corridor infrastructure should now be evident along with some initial improvements in active travel links (e.g. Nelson to Ystrad Mynach).

The reduction in congestion and improved traffic flows around the Pwllypant roundabout should be clearly evident to users.

## **What is our future focus?**

Continue to make progress with the above activities. In particular:

Identify some quick wins for the Caerphilly Placemaking Plan and the Caerphilly Interchange.

Work with WG & TfW on completing the MEF ensuring the Council's future priorities for the Nelson to Ystrad Mynach and Caerphilly to Newport public transport routes are included.

Progress design and delivery of the 2020/21 bus corridor improvement works for the Mid Valleys area.

Design of the Llanbradach and Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride schemes and design.

Delivery of the Active Travel priority schemes (subject to securing the funding).

Review the updated business case for the Ebbw Valley Railway ensuring the Council's priorities for Crumlin and Newbridge are taken into account.

Progress the review of the Council's adopted Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel.

Extend the introduction of contactless electronic ticket machines to smaller operators of public bus services.

Confirm the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on the Council's and TfW's transport delivery programmes.



## WBO 5 - Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This objective has 2 long-term outcomes and at present the objective is judged to be progressing well:

78 settings are currently engaged in the Healthy Early Years Scheme with 59 progressing through the scheme and 19 who have completed the full scheme, of which 3 are working towards reaccreditation and 6 completed within this year. Estimated number of children benefiting from the scheme is 1712. 5 new settings have enrolled this year with a further 3 settings ready to sign up before the end of March 2020. The team is continuing to work closely with neighbouring local authorities in the Healthy Early Years network for a regional approach and liaise with Public Health Wales and other childcare partner organisations to enhance scheme and meet objectives.

A £500k investment for improvements to the fitness suite and studios at Newbridge Leisure Centre was approved by Cabinet in April 2019; works are due to be completed later in 2020. A new 3G Pitch at Blackwood Comp has been completed and opened for community bookings. A new Leisure Lifestyle app to enhance the customer journey of leisure centre users across Caerphilly has been launched.

Welsh Government have approved funding for the development of a Community Athletics Hub at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School, the new facility will include a new flood lit synthetic running track area. A planning application has been submitted.

Over the six weeks summer holiday the Sport & Leisure Services Team (in partnership with Caerphilly Early Years team) worked with 7 primary schools and 1 community site delivering the Food & Fun programme (SHEP), Sport Caerphilly offered the sporting aspect and delivered 168 hours of sport and physical activity across 84 sessions. These sessions engaged 378 pupils over the summer holidays with 1888 attendances.

Within Families First the number of parents benefitting from a parenting intervention does not give a full picture due to the nature of the measure. The measure is very prescriptive in only offering evidence based parenting programmes. In comparison, 345/348 parents (99% of those who attended) have benefitted from a parenting intervention under Families First. This is typically parenting support in a more bespoke 1:1 means, through a more informal group or by attending a group that is not yet proved to be “evidence based”. Parenting work is going really well, with excellent distance travelled outcomes (pre and post) and good sustained parenting skills after 3 months of being closed to the programme. There is demand on the parenting project with more parents wanting 1:1 support rather than in a group, which has led to a waiting list. When the service is recommissioned (an exercise which will take place over 2020/21) new ways of working to build capacity will need be considered.

Another successful Caerphilly challenge series showcasing the countryside surrounding the Caerphilly Basin was delivered with 450 people attending on the day. 7 walking groups currently delivering weekly walks across the county with 524 individuals taking part. A £1.2m grant funded programme has been approved to create a visitor and well-being centre at Parc Penallta.

### The progress we have made in 2020/21:

**Healthy Schools:** 20 schools have now achieved the Healthy Schools National Quality Award. This equates to 23% of our schools. This is well above the national target of 10%.

**Period Dignity:** The period dignity working group continues, and during the pandemic, we sent out over 1200 packs of sanitary products to Free School Meal registered girls aged 10-18. Additionally, products were also delivered out to our communities and all schools, to distribute where necessary. Eco friendly products have been purchased from the 2019/20 grant, which will soon be distributed to all schools.

### The impact of our work, including what have we learnt and where do we need to improve:

**Healthy Schools:** Unfortunately, due to covid-19 the Healthy Schools Scheme has currently been suspended, due to many key Public Health Wales staff being redeployed to other areas.

This has meant we haven't been able to support any schools in achieving the National Quality Award since March 2020. A full review on whether accreditations can continue will take place in April 2021.

**Period Dignity:** Develop a structured process that ensures products are delivered directly to schools and made freely available to girls throughout the year (primary and secondary).

Develop educational resources that supports our young peoples knowledge on eco-friendly products.

### What is our future focus?

**Healthy Schools:** A full review on whether accreditations can continue will take place in April 2021.

**Period Dignity:** Ensure grant money is utilised to provide girls with eco-friendly produces. All young people receive education on the need for using eco-friendly products, as well on how to use them correctly.

Develop a more suitable logistical plan, ensuring products are distributed to schools and girls more frequent