



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20TH JANUARY 2015

SUBJECT: HALF-YEARLY UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 6 (2014/15)

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee with a half-yearly update on progress made against Improvement Objective 6 (IO 6) – Improve the availability of private and public sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines progress made to date against the actions, risks and performance indicators contained within IO 6 and should be read in conjunction with the Ffynnon dashboard report (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Good, steady progress at the half-yearly stage is being made against several of the actions contained within IO 6. We recognise that further work will be required to ensure the successful outcome of this objective at the end of the year and are focusing our efforts accordingly.
- 2.3 At the 6-month stage, our actions against IO 6 are judged as being partially successful for the reasons outlined in section 4 and the dashboard report.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales (Welsh Government, 2010) which sets out the national context on meeting housing need, homelessness, and housing-related support services.
- 3.2 Caerphilly Delivers (Single Integrated Plan, 2013): P2: “Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough.”
- 3.3 People, Property, Places: A Housing Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough (2008-2013) provides the context for the provision of housing and related services in the county borough.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to establish and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office use Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the council’s likelihood of

improvement.

4.2 In assessing the progress of an Improvement Objective, there is no criterion as to what constitutes success. Progress is normally summarised as being successful, partially successful or unsuccessful. This is largely a judgement call from those delivering the service and the council members scrutinising that judgement.

4.3 In terms of overall performance made in the first six months against IO6 the following applies:

- Risks – all risks have been identified, assessed and are monitored in accordance with corporate guidance. In total, there are three risks. Two risks are assessed as being high and one as being medium. No change in the risk level has occurred since the risks were first assessed.
- Tasks/Actions – the performance of each action has been reviewed. In total, there are eight actions. One action has been completed (B1) and one action has been deferred pending the availability of external funding (B4). Although, we have carried out the preparatory work required to ensure this action is ready to be progressed once the funding is available. Steady progress is being made against actions B2, B3, B6, B7 & B8. These actions are on course to be successfully completed by year-end. Action B5 has changed in nature since they were first devised. The work programme of the all-Wales homelessness network is now dictating progress of B5. Consequently, we have closed this action down but will continue to actively support the network in its efforts.
- Performance Indicators – There are seven performance indicators, some of which are monitored on a quarterly basis and some annually. One performance indicator (C1), associated with the deferred task (B4), has been closed down. Four of the performance indicators are linked to statutory/national indicators (C4-C7) and, given they way these indicators are measured, data on their performance will not be available until Q4 at the earliest. The two remaining indicators (C2 & C3) are currently on track to meet their end of year targets.

4.4 In terms of the completed actions we have successfully:

- restructured the Housing Options & Homelessness Advice team functions to offer a person centred casework service, including relocating several officers to form a homelessness prevention team. The restructure was completed during Q1, in advance of the completion date. Further restructuring of the team to take place in 2015/16 on receipt of Welsh Government transitional homelessness funding.

4.5 Full details of the risks, actions and performance indicators are provided in Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An equalities impact assessment (EIA) is not needed because the issues covered in this report are for information purposes only, therefore, the council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications associated with each task, where applicable, are highlighted in Appendix 1.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The personnel implications associated with each task, where applicable, are highlighted in Appendix 1.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All responses from consultation have been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, along with officers, reach agreement on the success or otherwise of IO 6.

9.2 It is further recommended that should IO 6 not be judged successful, members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee consider means of monitoring future progress towards achieving success.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure the council continues to improve the quality of services it provides to residents.

11. STATUTORY POWER

Local Government Measure 2009

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 of 1 Improvement Object 6 Half-Yearly Ffynnon Dashboard Report