



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH APRIL 2015

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE: INVESTMENT IN COUNCIL HOMES TO
TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of 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.
- 1.2 This report is to provide members with the details of the proposed Council Improvement Objective for 2015-2016 relevant to this particular scrutiny and for members to scrutinise the objective by either accepting or amending the objective (Appendix 1).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has reviewed its existing objectives and is finalising a new set of objectives for 2015/16 (as listed in Appendix 2).

The objective that is recommended to come to this committee for regular performance monitoring is: **Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities.**

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Cabinet has undertaken a review of the 2014/15 Improvement Objectives and has decided to recommend to Council to maintain an Objective for **Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities**. The Objectives must be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and although not stated in the Measure, informal expectation is no later than the end of the first quarter (June 2015).
- 4.2 Part of choosing an objective is to establish the following -
 - Relevance – Is this area relevant and identifies where there is an 'unmet' need?
 - Is this an area where we need to improve upon?
 - Consultation – are these areas what citizens want us to focus on?

- Funding – Does the Medium Term Financial Plan affect whether some of these activities can still be delivered?
- Is there any new legislation, demographic or any other changes that need to be taken into account?

4.3 This objective was chosen because the WHQS Programme is a corporate priority and there needs to be an acceleration in the pace due to slippage that arose in 2014/15. It is now a statutory requirement for achieving the WHQS by 2020 and there are annual targets that must be met if the programme is to be delivered by that date. The focus should be on the number of weekly completions (internal or external works) across all contract arrangements. This means we need to retain this as an improvement objective for 2015/16.

4.4 Appendix 1 shows the actual details of the objective, what difference we plan to make, how we will measure success and what resources we have to deliver this objective.

4.5 This report asks members to consider if they are content to support this Improvement Objective and planned outcomes. Members will also play a key role in monitoring the delivery of the Improvement Objective via regular updates to Scrutiny Committee.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 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.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 "The WHQS Programme has a ring fenced budget supported by the Housing Revenue Account and the annual Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) from Welsh Government. The budget for the capital programme for 2015/16 is £36m. All social landlords must achieve WHQS by 2020 and the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 contains powers for the Welsh Government to take sanctions against those organisations that do not demonstrate full compliance."

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personal implications from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The result of all consultations has been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members support the Improvement Objective(s) detailed and monitor delivery progress.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To gain Members views and approval on the Council's Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities
Appendix 2 List of 2015-16 Improvement objectives under consideration