

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: September 2018

Item No. 7

Subject Annual Review of the Well-being Objectives and Improvement Plan 2017-18

Purpose To inform Cabinet of the progress in meeting the Council's Well-being Objectives and delivery of the Improvement Plan 2017-18.

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Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
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Ward All

Summary The Council is subject to duties under the Local Government Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Local Government Measure requires local authorities to set its own improvement objectives. The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires local authorities to set and publish well-being objectives. Improvement objectives are published as part of the Council's Improvement Plan and well-being objectives are part of the Council's Corporate Plan.

This annual report outlines progress the council has made to date in achieving the Well-being Objectives and the goals set out in the Improvement Plan 2016-18. This is the first year for reporting progress of the well-being objectives and the second year for reporting progress of the goals in the 2016-18 Improvement Plan.

Proposal To consider the content of this report and recommend the report to Council.

Action by Chief Executive
Strategic Directors and Heads of Service

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Directors (People and Place)
- Heads of Service

Signed

Background

The Council is subject to duties under the Local Government Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Local Government Measure requires local authorities to set its own improvement objectives. The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires local authorities to set and publish well-being objectives. Improvement objectives are published as part of the Council's Improvement Plan and well-being objectives are part of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Act states each public body is required to report on the progress it has made in meeting its well-being objectives for the preceding financial year. Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than 31 March. In preparing the report public bodies must review their well-being objectives. Public bodies need to demonstrate that:

- their well-being objectives are contributing to the achievement of the wellbeing goals;
- they are taking all reasonable steps to meet their well-being objectives; and
- their well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle

The purpose of the Improvement Plan is to enable the authority to evidence that it has discharged its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement (Local Government Measure 2009).

The eight Improvement Objectives were selected by Cabinet in January 2016 after consideration of consultation responses and reflect the eight most voted for themes of the consultation. The eight Improvement Objectives relate directly to the priorities of the Corporate Plan 2012-17.

Each authority must make arrangement for the publication of the Improvement Plan assessment by 31st October in the financial year following the financial year to which the information relates.

Current position

The Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022 outlines the steps it will take to achieve its well-being objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act states that well-being objectives must be set to maximise our contribution to the national well-being goals.

The Improvement Plan 2016-18 was based on the key themes that formed the Corporate Plan 2012-17. In April 2016, full Council approved eight Improvement Objectives for 2016-18 to demonstrate the council's commitment to continuous improvement as set out in the Local Government measure 2009. The objectives were chosen through consultation and represent areas that the citizens of Newport want the council to focus on.

The Improvement Objectives are aligned with and contribute to the achievement of the Well-being Objectives which were agreed by Cabinet in March 2017.

The Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner have made it clear that duties to set and report on well-being objectives should not be treated as separate from any objectives that guide and steer the actions and decisions of organisations e.g. Improvement Plan objectives. They have also set out that planning and reporting processes should be aligned and integrated. As the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 states, Improvement Objectives need to reflect the key strategic priorities of authorities and to all intents and purposes, well-being objectives and improvement objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on these key objectives, authorities can discharge their duties under both areas of legislation.

Progress

The Council's Well-being Objectives for Newport were agreed in March 2017 and were published as part of the Council's Corporate Plan in November 2017. This annual report clearly shows how each well-being objective is consistent with the sustainable development principle and five ways of working. Progress has been made against each of the well-being objectives and the steps outline how each area has performed over the last 12 months and how they contribute to the well-being goals.

The Improvement Plan 2016-18 has been successful during the second year and has achieved an overall rating of 'Green – good'. Despite an ever increasing drive to realise savings and an unprecedented internal economic climate, the plan demonstrates solid performance. Overall progress against the Improvement Plan Objectives in 2017/18 is assessed as being 'good', with most Improvement Objectives performing well.

Financial Summary

There are no direct financial implications from this report. Any financial implications associated with service planning and other activities will be subject to separate reports.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
That the council's plans and projects do not have the desired impact on the city	H	M	The council will assess the impact of its actions on an on-going basis and enable adjustments to actions and policies to be brought forward as the need arises	Heads of Service / Strategic Directors
That major impacts are not properly monitored due to faulty assessment of risk and/or impact	H	L	Quarterly reporting to Cabinet, together with opportunity for scrutiny reviews will enable adjustments to monitoring regime to be implemented as the need arises	Heads of Service / Strategic Directors
That on-going monitoring impedes progress on project delivery	H	L	The assessment criteria for monitoring progress are designed to ensure monitoring is proportionate to impact and purpose. This will be reassessed as part of the on-going reporting process	Cabinet / Strategic Directors

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Newport City Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022 – the Corporate Plan contains the Council's Well-being Statement and well-being objectives, which contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To recommend the report to Council
- 2) Not to recommend the report to Council

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is Option 1 – recommending the report will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty and to publish the report within specified dates.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. Although the Council has separate statutory duties in relation to continuous improvement under the Local Government Measure 2009 and also in relation to well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, a single integrated process of performance monitoring will provide a more streamlined and robust approach to performance management. The improvement and well-being objectives are closely aligned under the over-arching Corporate Plan and the delivery will be underpinned through individual service plans.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no direct staffing issues arising from this report.

This is the first annual review of the well-being objectives and the first time both the well-being objectives and improvement plan have been reviewed on a joint basis and in one report. This report outlines the progress the council has made in achieving all objectives, contributing towards the well-being goals and consideration of the sustainable development principle. Much work has been undertaken to date and improvements have been made across all areas.

This annual review has considered the expectations of the Future Generations Commissioner and the requirements from all statutory guidance.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Leader of the Council has been consulted on the development of this report.

Local issues

Not applicable

Scrutiny Committees

Service plans are monitored through the Scrutiny process.

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the Improvement Plan 2016-18.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Not applicable.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Council must report progress it has made in meeting its well-being objectives on an annual basis and demonstrate how these steps are improving the local area and contributing to the national well-being goals. The Improvement Plan objectives align with the well-being objectives and the well-being goals.

This annual report is an opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which objectives are being met and how we have applied the five ways of working.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable

Consultation

Heads of Service have been consulted on the annual review of the well-being objectives and the Improvement Plan.

Background Papers

Cabinet Report: Improvement Plan 2016-18 (11/04/16)

Council Report: Improvement Plan 2016-18 (26/04/16)

Cabinet Report: Wellbeing of Future Generations (20/03/17)

Cabinet Report: Annual Review of the Improvement Plan 2016-17 (13/09/17)

Cabinet Report: Improvement Plan Quarter 1 Update (18/10/17)

Cabinet Report: Corporate Plan 2017- 2022 "Building on Success, Building a Better Newport" (15/11/17)

Council Report: Corporate Plan 2017- 2022 "Building on Success, Building a Better Newport" (28/11/17)

Cabinet Report: Improvement Plan Quarter 2 Update (17/01/18)

Cabinet Report: Improvement Plan Quarter 3 Update (18/04/18)

Cabinet Report: Performance Monitoring: Improvement Plan and Well-being Objectives (18/04/18)

Dated:

