

SUBJECT: Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2016/17

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 21st September 2017

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek council approval of the Stage 2 Improvement Plan for 2016/17.
- 1.2 To ensure that members have access to comparative performance information for 2016/17.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Stage 2 Improvement Plan 2016/17 be approved, subject to any final amendments agreed by council.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.
- 3.2 As part of the Wales Programme for Improvement councils must:
 - Set Improvement Objectives at the beginning of each business year. These are included in the Stage 1 Improvement Plan 2016/17 which was agreed by Council in May 2016.
 - Collect evidence of progress made and outcomes achieved during the year and publish a report on that information. This is reported in the Stage 2 Improvement Plan published each October.
- 3.3 This Stage 2 Improvement Plan covers the period April 2016 to March 2017 and sets out performance achieved in 2016/17 against the actions and performance measures approved by Council in May 2016 as part of its Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 In this plan we evaluate performance against our local priorities and objectives, as well nationally important issues. The plan describes progress with our five Improvement Objectives and assesses each one using a six point scale which ranges from unsatisfactory to excellent. The improvement objective performance has

already been scrutinised extensively by all four select committees in July 2017. Three of our five improvement objectives have been evaluated as making good progress with two objectives making adequate progress. Under-performance has been evaluated in the plan to inform our future work. Plans in place to continue to progress the actions will be contained in the relevant service plans.

- 3.5 The Improvement Plan is a public document and should be accessible to a wide audience. The plan will be published on the council's website alongside a shorter summary version. The summary will be made available as a hard-copy in community hubs, reception areas and on the council's website.
- 3.6 The Welsh Government have recently consulted on plans to repeal the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 which means this is likely to be the final plan and report in this format.
- 3.7 The Future Generations Act is changing the way in which we plan for future years, encouraging us to look ahead in ten and even 25 year time frames. Reducing budgets, increasing demand and higher public expectations mean that we cannot keep delivering public services using the same approach. It is vital that we look to the future and identify new ways of doing things. Members commissioned the Future Monmouthshire programme to help shape this thinking.
- 3.8 We have completed two substantial assessments of well-being, The Well-being Assessment and Population Needs Assessment, these are available on www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-monmouthshire . This information has provided a much deeper evidence base of well-being in the county and an understanding of the things that our communities value. We have used these assessments to publish, as required by the Future Generations Act, our well-being objectives and statement 2017, available on www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/improvement.
- 3.9 Indications suggest that we will need to plan for and secure a further circa £14 million of cost reduction over the next 4 years. We still need to develop clear plans for the county and council that will make sure we remain relevant and viable for the next generation, while continuing to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses in the here-and-now. This work is called Future Monmouthshire and will look to implement a new sustainable and resilient operating model for the Council.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

This plan is an evaluation of previous commitments and is not seeking a decision on a future policy direction

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This plan is an evaluation of our performance against our local priorities and objectives set for 2016/17 in the Improvement Plan. That plan set out clear measures and milestones against which we would evaluate progress and members

can see these as part of the Improvement Plan itself. Future performance plans will have established evaluation criteria.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 To ensure that the council can be held to account for performance and can demonstrate progress towards delivering better outcomes for citizens.
- 6.2 To comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

This plan is an evaluation of previous commitments and is not seeking a decision which would have an impact on these issues

9. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team;
Cabinet;
Select Committees scrutinised progress against the five Improvement Objectives during July 2017.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Stage 1 Improvement Plan 2016-17

11. AUTHORS:

Matthew Gatehouse, Policy and Performance Manager
01633 644397 / 0778 555 6727
MatthewGatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Richard Jones, Policy and Performance Officer
RichardJones@monmouthshire.gov.uk