

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY**

**MEETING: Lower Wye Area Committee**

**DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To ensure the Committee are aware of the Social Justice Strategy and have the opportunity to consider it ahead of discussion at Cabinet.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the extent to which the priorities identified in the strategy are focused on the issues that are most prevalent in the Lower Wye area.
- 2.2 That the committee provide comments to inform the development of the strategy.

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 During 2016, two significant pieces of legislation came into force, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. Both Acts are underpinned by duties to collaborate with other public bodies, to involve people in the issues that affect them and to concentrate on developing preventative approaches rather than waiting for problems to arise.
- 3.2 In March 2017, the council endorsed two major pieces of work looking at well-being across the county, the Well-being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment. Both highlighted the strengths and opportunities within our communities and used an extensive evidence base to draw out some of the challenges individuals and communities will face in the future. These were used as the evidence base to develop a Corporate Plan that was approved by Council in February and described five well-being objectives and 22 priority areas of activity including delivering social justice and reducing inequality.

- 3.3 The draft Social Justice Strategy provides more of the detail about how we will do this and demonstrates our commitment as a Council to address inequality in our county in order to make our society function better. Using the Community and Partnership team as an enabling body, it provides an approach that will help turn lives around by removing barriers and facilitating practical support and solutions to enable all our citizens to realise their full potential.
- 3.4 This is the first phase of an evolving policy and demonstrates our intention to work as a Council, and in partnership at national, regional and community level, to implement the policy interventions, approaches, support and methods to improve outcomes for people and communities.
- 3.5 This draft Social Justice Strategy sets out our purpose, our intentions and activities for the next four years and the targets by which we will measure our success to ensure that we achieve our goal – to put social justice at the heart of what we do in Monmouthshire.
- 3.6 The Committee has a remit to influence at the interface between strategic and local decision-making ensuring that resources are directed to local priorities. Early consideration on this strategy offers an opportunity to do that.

#### **4. REASONS:**

- 4.1 To ensure that the Area Committee are able to influence the development of the Social Justice Strategy.

#### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

[Corporate Business Plan](#)

#### **6. AUTHOR:**

Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Development

#### **7. CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Tel:** 07557 190969

**E-mail:** [cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk)