

SUBJECT: Community and Corporate Plan

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 27th October 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose, principles and priorities alongside some of the steps we will take to deliver these.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council approve the Community and Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 That Cabinet endorse the adoption of the six goals in the plan as the Council's Well-being Objectives in accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Following the elections in May 2022, the new Cabinet began to articulate the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the county. Starting with a series of collaborative workshops, high-level political ambition has been converted into a whole authority strategic plan that sets the direction for the organisation for the coming years.
- 3.2 The plan has been produced against the backdrop of economic uncertainty with the council facing rising energy prices, inflation and escalating borrowing costs alongside increased demands in areas such as children's services, adult social care, homelessness, additional learning needs and home to school transport. These challenges are on a scale we have not seen before.
- 3.3 The ambition outlined in the document looks to the long-term and is focused on the well-being of current and future generations. The actions cover the first steps of the journey and will be reviewed alongside the development of the council's new medium-term financial plan to make sure that our spending follows clear priorities. A full community and corporate plan, containing measures and targets, will be published in early 2023 alongside the first budget to be set by the new Council.

- 3.4 The document establishes a clear purpose to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life and sets the goals for Monmouthshire to be a:
- **Fair place** to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
 - **Green place** to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
 - **Thriving and ambitious place**, full of hope and enterprise;
 - **Safe place** to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
 - **Connected place** where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to others;
 - **Learning place** where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.
- 3.5 These are underpinned by a series of actions that will ensure that the organisation is able to deliver on its ambition. The Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee will receive reports to ensure decision-makers are accountability for delivery.
- 3.6 The plan is scheduled for discussion and endorsement at Cabinet on 19th October. However approval of the organisations Corporate Plan is a decision that sits with full Council as it is part of the organisation’s policy framework as set out in the constitutions.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 The plan contains commitments to action relating to equalities, social justice, corporate parenting and safeguarding.
- 4.2 An integrated impact assessment has been completed and accompanies this report. The Community and Corporate Plan applies the ways of working outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This includes taking a long-term view and developing preventative approaches. The Plan details some activities that require further work which will be subject to individual decisions in accordance with the council’s constitution including completing equality and future generations evaluations where appropriate.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Every choice we make carries an opportunity cost. Some of these commitments – such as the building of new schools – have already been approved by council as part of an agreed policy position while others are in the early stages of development. Each new proposal brought forward to deliver against these goals will be subject to an individual decision in accordance with the council constitution.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 The Community and Corporate Plan sets out clearly the council's purpose. It contains specific objectives which can be measured over time. A full measurement framework will be developed in the coming months and will feature in the next iteration of the plan in early March 2023
- 6.2 The actions to deliver the plan will be embedded in the service business plans of individual teams. Headline quantitative measures and progress updates will be made available to the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee. A full evaluation of progress will be produced annually.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To ensure that high-level political ambition is converted into a clearly articulated strategic plan that sets the direction for the organisation and gives clarity to council staff and partners.
- 7.2 To ensure that resources can be aligned with the organisations priorities and provide a basis for the organisation's work to be evaluated as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 7.3 To ensure that the Council has clear Well-being Objectives as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Rising costs will mean that we will not be able to keep doing everything that we have done in the past in exactly the same way. Each of the activities in the community and corporate plan carries some resource implications. This initial plan will be delivered within the budget set by the previous council for the 2022-23 financial year.

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

This document was developed through a series of workshops involving councillors from all political parties alongside experts and people from different organisations.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR:

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12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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