

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Draft Improvement Plan 2016-17
<b>MEETING:</b> Strong Communities Select Committee
<b>DATE:</b> 28 <sup>h</sup> April 2016
<b>DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED:</b> All

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To provide members with the opportunity to scrutinise the Improvement Objectives contained in the Improvement Plan 2016-17 ahead of a decision by Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That members scrutinise the five Improvement Objectives proposed in the Improvement Plan and the extent to which the actions are likely to achieve the objectives and improve outcomes for communities.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 The setting of annual Improvement Objectives and the production of an Improvement Plan are statutory requirements under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
- 3.2 The Improvement Plan is produced in two parts. This is the forward looking section of the plan and is focused on commitments and aspirations. It presents an opportunity to set the key actions that will deliver the Council's priorities of education, support for vulnerable people, supporting business and job creation and maintaining locally accessible services.
- 3.3 The Improvement Plan 2015-17 was published in May 2015 and contained five objectives closely aligned to delivering the Council's priorities. The improvement objectives for 2016/17 are a continuation of five objectives set in May 2015;
- We will improve at all key stages of education.
  - We will safeguard people, whether young or old, while reducing people's dependence on social care.
  - We want to enable Our County to thrive.
  - Maintaining locally accessible services.
  - We want to be an efficient, effective and sustainable organisation
- 3.4 The information for scrutiny today focusses on the detail of the Improvement Objectives for 2016/17, which will be contained within the full Improvement Plan. The objectives have been reviewed and updated to continue relevant activity that was already committed in the objective and include any new actions that have been identified. The Improvement Objectives are currently subject to a public consultation which will run until until 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 and feedback from the consultation will be incorporated into the objectives, as relevant, prior to being put forward for approval by Council on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- 3.5 This is a draft plan for scrutiny and at this stage some parts of the plan are not fully completed and targets not finalised, these will be completed ahead of the decision by council, but this will still provide members with sufficient information to scrutinise the plan. The latest performance data for 2015-16 has been included where appropriate.

This allows members to understand the objectives for the year ahead in the context of the most recent performance. However members should be aware that at this stage these measures have not yet been subject to audit and therefore may change prior to publication.

- 3.6 Some changes have been made to the format plan to reflect latest legislation, respond to feedback from the Wales Audit Office as well as our own learning. These are:
- Explaining the structure of the objective so everyone understands why certain information is included.
  - Continuing to ensure clearer links between actions and measures with associated targets for improvement.
  - Embedding the Well-Being of Future Generations Act requirements in our planning, including considering how our activity contributes to Welsh Government 7 wellbeing goals
- 3.7 During 2016-2017 Monmouthshire County Council will undertake two substantial assessments of need and wellbeing within the County as a consequence of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. The information that is gained during this work will provide a much deeper evidence base to inform the publication of the council's well-being objectives by 31st March 2017 (a requirement under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act). At the point of developing the wellbeing objectives a fundamental rethink of improvement objectives will be undertaken in line with the principles of the Act.
- 3.8 Part two of the plan, focusing on what we achieved in 2014-15 will be presented to Council in October when full audited information becomes available for publication. Prior to that select committees will be presented with reports showing progress against the objectives set for 2015-16.

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

- 4.1 To set out clearly some of the main actions that the council is committed to in the year, enabling teams to align their work programmes with the authority's priorities for improvement and ensuring that the organisation can be held to account against its commitments.
- 4.2 To comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 This plan draws together key activities that will already have been agreed by members or which will be brought forward for decisions in the year ahead, each will come with separate resource requirements. Production of the plan itself has no resource implications.

#### **6. CONSULTEES:**

Senior Leadership Team

Wider views on the priority areas of activity have been identified through the programme of Monmouthshire Engages events held over recent years that have helped inform the development of the plan. While the feedback from the public consultation will be incorporated into the objectives, as relevant, prior to being put forward for approval by Council on May 12th.

**7. AUTHORS:**

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