



LRM
PLANNING
LIMITED

APP11/2

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Appeal under Section 78

PEDW Reference APP/L6940/A/20/3265358 and
APP/L6940/A/21/3282880

Craig yr Hesg Quarry, Glyncoch, Rhondda Cynon Taf
Hanson UK

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May 2022



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Appendix 1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Well-Being Objectives

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Council's Corporate Plan

2020 – 2024

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council



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A message from the Leader of the Council

We have already made a real difference. Over the past four years, the Council has delivered on its first Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead 2016-2020, and has invested nearly £400m in priority areas such as:

- **£170m** - 21st Century Schools;
- **£85m** - Highways, Transportation and other infrastructure;
- **£15m** - parks, play areas, leisure centres and outdoor sports facilities; and
- **£95m** in regeneration of our town centres and community assets.

As we look to the future, we want to build on what we have achieved to date and make sure that every town and community in Rhondda Cynon Taf is a great place to live, work and play.

The pace of change in the world is fast, especially in the technology industry, so it is important that we keep up with the pace of change and make the most of the opportunities that come our way, such as technology that enables independent living. In doing so we will embrace change and be innovative in the way that we deliver services to residents. This new Corporate Plan sets out how we intend to continue to invest for the future.

Like all councils, we are continuing to face a difficult financial challenge. More and more people are needing our services, and there is also an increasing uncertainty about the levels of funding in the future. This means that we have had to make some tough decisions around where we prioritise and spend our resources. It has also presented us with opportunities to be innovative. We have had to think about alternative ways of working and more efficient means of delivering services to ensure that we retain the high standards of provision that residents expect. This includes ensuring that there is robust management of our budgets and our contracts, reducing our management and back office costs and ensuring we deliver value for money to the tax payer.

Careful long-term financial planning is key to ensuring that this approach remains successful. Over the past four years we have had the lowest cumulative increase in Council Tax across Wales and we will seek to ensure that Council Tax continues to be affordable over the next four years. The increases we have introduced are the minimum we need to balance the books and pay for

Rhondda Cynon Taf is a great place to live, work and play, and despite the continuing public sector austerity, the County Borough has great potential to become more prosperous and successful over the course of the next few years.



essential services, such as safeguarding our older and younger residents. The budget consultation feedback supports this approach, and there will also be an opportunity to have your say on the level of Council Tax set each year. I am always grateful for the feedback we receive through the annual consultation exercise as it helps to inform us what areas you want to see the Council prioritise for the forthcoming year.

We always listen and look to respond to the outcomes. For 2019/20, the 3.6% rise in Council Tax that the Council approved is less than the 4.45% average increase that residents indicated they would be willing to pay to protect our services and well below the all-Wales average increase of 6.15%.

Despite the challenges, I am remaining ambitious and positive in my outlook for Rhondda Cynon Taf and the people that live and work here. Our plan sets out three main priorities and how we propose to deliver a series of corresponding commitments to achieve these.

Having a clean, pleasant and well-maintained environment remains at the top of the list. We know that efficient recycling and waste collections, welcoming green spaces, clean streets and well-maintained roads are some of the ways we can best support the quality of residents' daily lives. So we will continue to take tough action to tackle environmental crimes such as fly tipping, dog fouling and littering.

As we continue to work to reduce the day-to-day running costs of the Council to make savings, we are investing heavily in the future infrastructure of the County Borough. We have already set aside £170m to invest in building new schools, extra care homes, improvements to our roads and pavements, our green spaces, leisure centres, libraries and community buildings. We have already made good progress in enhancing our town centres to create the environment where businesses flourish and where people want to live, work and visit. Further investment is planned bringing jobs and homes into the town centres and opportunities for leisure and social activities.

The investment in the Council's infrastructure is likely to exceed £400m by the end of the four year period as new schemes come to fruition, and we maximise the benefits of the Welsh Government's investment in the South Wales Metro and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal investments.

Our ambition is for everyone to be as healthy, independent and prosperous as possible throughout their lives. Enabling access to a good education, developing skills and decent employment opportunities are all key priority areas. As we embrace the changes ahead, we remain absolutely committed to ensuring the effective safeguarding of our vulnerable children and adults. This commitment will not change. We will continue to seek to reduce the number of children looked after through early intervention and prevention and look for innovative ways to support our older population.

In the context of reducing budgets and growing demand pressures, the traditional role of the local authority as service deliverer is changing. Working with partners such as the police and health service is essential in tackling the complex and multi-faceted challenges facing our communities and core services. We will also see a different relationship with communities continuing to emerge – one where we work together and both residents and businesses take a shared responsibility for themselves and the communities they live and work in. We are lucky to have strong business, voluntary, community and religious groups across RCT, and they will continue to play an important role in developing this new dynamic throughout the County Borough.

Our greatest challenge will be to deliver the Council's commitment to being "A net-zero Green House Gas Council by 2030" which is 20 years earlier than the recommendation of the UK Committee on Climate Change. This is a challenge we are taking seriously and we look forward to receiving the support from all local residents and businesses in working together to change the way we live our lives to achieve this aim.

I hope this Corporate Plan helps you to understand more about how the Council is approaching the challenges and opportunities over the next four years, and how we can work together for an even better Rhondda Cynon Taf.

A. Morgan

Councillor Andrew Morgan
Leader of the Council



Get in touch...

Let us know what you think of this plan



Via the web:
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/sayit or www.rctcbc.gov.uk/reportit



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Get involved in our consultations
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/GetInvolved



Via the Consultation Team:
consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk



Via the Cwm Taf Engagement Hub
www.ourcwm Taf.wales



Find the contact details of your local Councillor
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/councillors



If you are interested in taking over the running of a Council run building or service:
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/RCTTogether

What we want to achieve

The Council’s vision is:

“For Rhondda Cynon Taf to be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous.”

The Council’s purpose and the reason why it exists is:

“To provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.”



Our Priorities

The Council is committed to delivering three main priorities:

Ensuring
PEOPLE
are

independent,
healthy,
and successful.

Creating
PLACES
where people are

proud to live,
work, and play.

Enabling
PROSPERITY
creating the opportunity
for people & businesses to

be innovative,
be entrepreneurial
and fulfil their
potential & prosper.

Our priorities and our commitments below, provide a framework that guides everything we do.

section

3

PEOPLE:
Are independent, healthy and successful.



Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life



We will deliver this by...

- Opening new Extra Care schemes for people that need additional support to remain living independently;
- Providing enablement services that help people regain or increase their independence;
- Using technology to enhance independence and assist with care;
- Offering support for carers;
- Providing support and equipment that allows people to stay more independent at home;
- Commissioning a range of community based provision to enable people to remain actively engaged within their community.

Encouraging all residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing



We will deliver this by...

- Delivering new indoor and outdoor sporting facilities and enhancing existing sporting facilities such as changing rooms and outdoor play areas;
- Ensuring participation in sport and physical activity is accessible and inclusive for all by maintaining low cost, high value provision;
- Giving residents access to health and wellbeing information and activities through the GP referral schemes, and other health and wellbeing intervention programmes;
- Increasing levels of engagement and participation in the arts and culture, whilst developing our theatres to become more inclusive and accessible to the whole community;
- Continuing to develop community hubs where residents have the opportunity to meet, socialise and access a range of Council and other services.

Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs



We will deliver this by...

- Working with the local Health Board and GPs to provide more health and care services closer to home;
- Working with Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB to achieve timely discharge from hospital for patients;
- Offering, and signposting to prevention support for people to stay active and more independent in the community;
- Continuing to offer support to working age adults with mental health needs;
- Introducing a social prescribing model for referring people to interventions in the community, including: exercise classes, adult education classes, Digital Fridays, Library reading clubs etc.

Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do



We will deliver this by...

- Seeking to reduce the number of children looked after through working with families to intervene early where issues arise with the focus on intervention and prevention to keep families safe together;
- Improving the social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people by increasing the range of specialist services available;
- Preventing young people from getting involved in violence, crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour through a range of cultural, sporting and other forms of early engagement and intervention;
- Being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers, and supporting and involving them in securing the most suitable housing, employment, education or training provision;
- Working in partnership with Welsh Government, strive to reduce child poverty, providing services that encourage and build resilience of children and their families.



section

4

PLACES:

Where people are proud to live, work and play.



Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint



We will deliver this by...

- Supporting residents to reduce waste and increase recycling to 80% by working with them, and businesses on initiatives that promote waste minimisation and re-use materials;
- Investing in technology to increase the amount of waste we recycle and reuse locally;
- Working with residents, landlords and agents to improve recycling rates across all dwellings;
- Working with residents and communities to reduce the number of incidents of littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and illegal parking, using enforcement powers as necessary;
- Procuring a vehicle fleet that is fit for purpose yet has a limited impact on the environment;
- Creating a circular approach to recycling and reusing waste material such as plastic at every opportunity. This will include developing the Eco Park at Bryn Pica;
- Eliminating single use plastics and such as coffee cups across schools and other council facilities.

Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality



We will deliver this by...

- Continuing to improve the condition of our roads and pavements and investing in our bridges, retaining walls and sustainable flood drainage systems;
- Encouraging the use of public transport through the development of the South Wales Metro, walking and cycling through an investment in active travel initiatives;
- Working with Welsh Government and the Regional Transport Authority to continue to improve access to public transport and explore opportunities to bringing back disused public transport, such as rail lines, for bus routes and active travel;
- Exploring opportunities to develop a cycle network to major destinations in the County Borough without impeding main traffic routes;
- Promoting and investing in the roll out of electric vehicle charging opportunities;
- Using enforcement to increase compliance and support traffic to move smoothly and safely.

Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe



We will deliver this by...

- Supporting the voluntary, community and faith sectors to help build active communities, creating the capacity for meeting the needs of residents within their communities;
- Working with the police and Community Safety Partnership to prevent and deter anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in our towns;
- Delivering a multi-agency response to all forms of violence and the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults;
- Preventing radicalisation and supporting victims of hate crime, including raising awareness.

Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces



We will deliver this by...

- Investing in the parks infrastructure, including playgrounds, pavements, seating areas and horticultural facilities, and developing masterplans for our major parks that will deliver significant improvements;
- Delivering natural carbon storage solutions such as those provided by trees, peat bogs, marshy grassland and other natural habitats across the County Borough to enhance air quality and reduce the impact of greenhouse gasses;
- Offering community grants for creating greener space, encouraging community groups to invest in small and medium scale greening projects in urban locations across the County Borough;
- Exploring opportunities to create and use our own green sustainable energy such as micro hydro-electric schemes which utilise natural river and water course features;
- Bringing cultural and sports events to our parks, such as the National Eisteddfod for Wales in 2024, and Glamorgan County Cricket to Ynysangharad Park to play T20 competitions, investing in the parks infrastructure to hold such significant events.



section

5

PROSPERITY:

Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.



Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise



We will deliver this by...

- Supporting new businesses to open up in town centres and existing businesses to expand their offer through a wide package of financial support and interventions;
- Where the private sector is unable to tackle empty or rundown sites and premises in town centres, the Council will proactively acquire specific key strategic sites and, in partnership with Welsh Government, seek to develop suitable town centre solutions;
- Developing a tourism offer that encourages people to come to the County Borough and includes attractions such as the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels, the Zip World Experience, Royal Mint Experience, The National Lido for Wales and the Welsh Mining Experience at the Rhondda Heritage Park. We will support businesses to develop a range of complementary services including offering accommodation in our town centres, such as boutique hotels, quality bed and breakfast and AirBNB locations;
- Continuing to keep town car park charges to a minimum and make it easier for shoppers to visit town centres using public transport or active travel;
- Supporting local small and medium sized businesses to supply goods and services to the Council and to recruit the best local talent available into a range of roles from apprenticeships and graduates to leadership positions.

Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough



We will deliver this by...

- Considering a radically different approach to mobility in the new Local Development Plan to create a socially just, zero-carbon mobility plan. This shifts mobility away from the car by eliminating the conditions that make cars necessary. For example, by 2030, we need to ensure that half of all journeys will need to be taken by bus, bike or walking. All remaining journeys will be via electric vehicles;
- Developing town Centre strategies for our principal town centres, which values the uniqueness of each town, whilst building on the benefits of the Metro and including new office accommodation to increase town centre employment, and homes above shops to create footfall in the towns;
- Delivering of major road schemes such as the dualling of the A4119, the Cross Valley Link, the Llanharan By-Pass and the A465 Cynon Valley link road;
- Investing in a number of Park and Ride facilities across the County Borough at key strategic Metro sites, including Junction 34 of the M4;
- Ensuring all homes and businesses have at least access to superfast connectivity, with all key industrial and commercial hubs having access to ultrafast connectivity;
- Leading on the master planning of the new settlement at Llanillid and the connectivity with the M4 and existing rail connections;
- Supporting housing developers to bring forward major housing developments on former brownfield sites, such as former Cwm Coking Works in Beddau and the former Phurnacite Works in Aberaman.

Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education



We will deliver this by...

- Improving pupils' achievement and narrowing the attainment gap;
- Improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities;
- Supporting children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning through an improved early years' system and childcare offer;
- Investing in new and replacement 21st Century Schools, whilst also meeting the demand for Welsh language provision throughout the County Borough;
- Supporting schools to successfully introduce and embed the new curriculum, raising the standards of educational performance for all pupils;
- Supporting pupils to understand the world of work and access good careers advice and guidance.

Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents



We will deliver this by...

- Increasing the land supply for new sustainable, low carbon homes through an updated Local Development Plan or Strategic Development Plan from 2021;
- Ensuring that new housing and commercial developments include solar, where feasible, and have the capability to generate, store and use renewable energy onsite;
- Supporting small and medium sized house builders to develop new housing through access to the City Deal Housing Investment Fund;
- Providing a comprehensive self-build homes support service, including mortgages, for local people to build new homes on Council owned sites ("Plot Shop" Scheme);
- Continuing to build Extra Care and specially adapted homes for elderly and vulnerable residents, develop innovative housing solutions for younger people in need, and provide suitable housing solutions for the homeless;
- Continuing to bring back empty properties back into use through a range of interventions and support;
- Continuing to support responsible local landlords and agents to ensure we have a good quality, affordable private rented sector. We will maintain our targeted enforcement approach against bad landlords and unsafe rented housing, maximising the Council's regulatory intervention powers to improve housing conditions.

Helping people into work and better paid employment



We will deliver this by...

- Working with partners to provide employment support, utilising remaining European Funding;
- Offering employment schemes and apprenticeships in the Council, on the regeneration sites, and through other Council contractors;
- Offering specific support to help people find work such as care leavers, people with disabilities and Universal Credit claimants;
- Promoting apprenticeships across the County Borough, and supporting businesses to make use of the apprenticeship levy;
- Continuing to support working parents back into employment through the Welsh Government's 30 Hours Childcare offer.

6 Our Approach

To achieve our vision, to make progress in delivering these priorities and respond to the significant financial challenges we continue to face, we will:

Live within our means by

- Delivering services that matter most by making decisions to prioritise our limited resources;
- Providing value for money for the taxpayer and ensuring we are transparent in how we operate, maintaining low Council tax increases compared to other Welsh councils;
- Taking every opportunity to reduce the Council’s running costs;
- Taking the steps to further reduce the Council’s carbon footprint to ‘Net Zero’ through a sustainable approach to the procurement of energy, supplies and services;
- Ensuring Council vehicles, commissioned home to school transport vehicles, bus operators and taxi vehicles are fit for purpose and are as environmentally friendly as possible.

Be an efficient and effective Council by

- Managing our finances and contracts robustly;
- Providing residents and businesses with the assistance they need at the first point of contact and greater access to online services and support;
- Treating residents equally, with understanding and respect, with all having access to quality services, whether they wish to engage with the Council in English or Welsh.

Maximise opportunities by

- Taking a commercial approach to generating income, and looking for new opportunities to generate revenue from our assets. This includes generating green energy for use in local buildings and homes;
- Making use of digital and evolving technology and innovation to help us achieve better outcomes and become more efficient;
- Capitalising on opportunities from Welsh Government, City Deal, or private sector investment growth and development to boost the local economy, creating local jobs through major initiatives, such as the Metro.

Share responsibility by

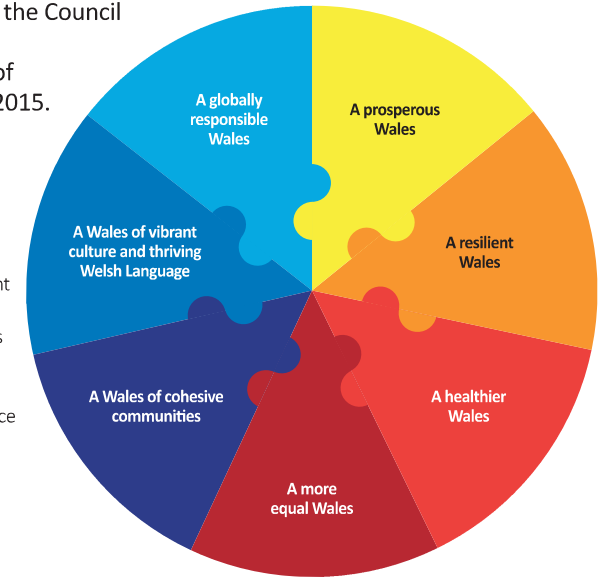
- Working with residents and the community to share responsibility, helping communities to do more for themselves and give them more control over what they can do to support local people in their communities;
- Focusing on prevention and early help in local communities so residents can live independently for as long as possible;
- Working in partnership with other public sector providers to maximise the impact of our resources on improving public services.

7

Well-being of Future Generations

In preparing this Corporate Plan, the Council continues to take account of the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Act focuses on improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It makes public bodies, such as the Council, think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven national Well-being Goals:



- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The Council’s approach to the [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#) is to embed its requirements into the Council’s business. The Priorities contained on this Corporate Plan also serve as the Council’s Well-being objectives.

This Corporate Plan sets out a vision, priorities and principles that continue to maximise the Council’s contribution to the seven national Well-being goals. The national goals, together with the five Ways of Working, will continue to be incorporated into the detailed action plans that will deliver the Council’s three priorities.



section



How we contribute

Examples of how the Council's Corporate Plan contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals currently include:

	PEOPLE	PLACES	PROSPERITY
PROSPEROUS WALES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention with families to keep them families safe together. • Improving the social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people by increasing the range of specialist services available. • Being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers. • Continuing to offer support to working age adults with mental health needs. • Offering specific support to help people find work such as care leavers, people with disabilities and Universal Credit claimants. • Continuing to support working parents back into employment through the Welsh Government's 30 Hours Childcare offer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people and traffic moving on well-maintained roads and pavements. • Progressing schemes that will benefit communities now and in the future including improved public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities for businesses to emerge and flourish. • Building new homes. • Creating opportunities for jobs. • Providing schools where all children can achieve the best they can. • Developing Tourism offer and supporting businesses to meet the needs of visitors. • Ensuring all homes and businesses have at least access to superfast connectivity, with all key industrial and commercial hubs having access to ultrafast connectivity.
RESILIENT WALES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing site disturbance and material waste with shorter construction schedules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in and valuing our Green Spaces. • Delivering natural carbon storage solutions such as those provided by trees, peat bogs, marshy grassland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting biodiversity by protecting existing habitats where possible.
HEALTHIER WALES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people to stay as well as they can for as long as they can by encouraging increased activity. • GP referral schemes, and other health and wellbeing intervention programmes. • Offering and signposting to prevention support for people to stay active and more independent in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to tackle environmental crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in our playgrounds, leisure centres and community facilities in schools. • Ensuring new housing and commercial developments have capacity to generate, store and use reusable energy. • Making it easier for shoppers to use public transport or active travel to our town centres.
MORE EQUAL WALES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that residents can access services, no matter what their background or circumstances. • Social prescribing for referring people to interventions in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that our residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy our parks and green spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities to all our residents to improve their digital skills. • Keeping Car Park charges to a minimum.

	PEOPLE	PLACES	PROSPERITY
WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and GPs to provide more health and care services closer to home. • Helping people to stay in their own homes for longer. • Providing Extra Care facilities for people that need additional support. • Working with residents and the community to share responsibility, helping communities to do more for themselves and give them more control over what they can do to support local people in their communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining a targeted enforcement approach against bad landlords and unsafe rented housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing empty properties back to life. • Improving housing for all our residents and creating pleasant neighbourhoods in which communities can thrive. • Providing self-build home support service.
A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE & WELSH LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing engagement and participation in the arts and culture and developing our theatres to become more inclusive and accessible to the whole community. • Preventing young people from getting involved in violence, crime, exploitation and anti-social behaviour through a range of cultural, sporting and other forms of early engagement and intervention. • Providing more opportunities for our residents to communicate with the Council and each other in Welsh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and sports events for all in our parks. • Progressing plans for Eisteddfod. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting RCT as a visitor destination. • Ensuring equal access to the Welsh Language across our services.
WALES GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring home to school transport vehicles, bus operators and taxi vehicles are fit for purpose and are as environmentally friendly as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council fleet that limits impact on environment. • Circular approach to recycling and reuse. • Eliminating single use plastics across the council and schools. • Progressing the Eco Park in Bryn Pica. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to create and use our own green sustainable energy such as micro hydro-electric schemes which utilise natural river and water course feature. • Increasing the supply of low carbon homes.



Appendix 2 Cwm Taf Public Services Board Well-Being Objectives

BWRDD
GWASANAETHAU
CYHOEDDUS

CWM TAF

PUBLIC
SERVICES
BOARD



OUR CWM TAF

CWM TAF

WELL-BEING PLAN

2018-2023

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JB 47295-45 • March 2018
Cabinet & Public Relations @ RCTCBC

Foreword:



The Well-being of Future Generations Act is a groundbreaking law that provides a unique opportunity for all public services to work differently together, involving communities in shaping our long term future and improving well-being for all. We have a great history of close partnership working in Cwm Taf and we now have this opportunity to build on that in new, exciting and sustainable ways.

We have heard from our communities that we have many assets. We greatly value our heritage, culture and beautiful landscapes. Our unique and close knit communities are supportive and nurturing environments where people want to volunteer their time, skills and experience to help others. We have also learned that we are living longer, which is a great achievement.

We know that we have challenges to overcome with many of our communities being amongst the poorest in Wales, with ill health, lower paid jobs and skill shortages. Transport links are difficult and expensive for some. As leaders of public services in Cwm Taf we also recognise that loneliness and isolation are key issues for many of our residents of all ages.

These assets and challenges, together with our communities have shaped this Well-being Plan. It is ambitious and will require our public services to work in new and different ways. The Well-being Plan will continue to develop as we learn together from this. In particular, we will be working together in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

We are committed to make this happen, to be radical in our thinking, clever in the use of all our resources and involve our communities in shaping and delivering better well-being for all in Cwm Taf.

Professor Marcus Longley

Chair of the Public Services Board

Summary:

This Well-being Plan is the result of more than two years work with the involvement of our communities being central to it. Initially a **Well-being Assessment** was undertaken, looking at the assets and challenges of our communities in terms of their social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. We looked at data, long term population, environmental and economic trends and had many conversations with our communities.

We then used all this information to develop draft Well-being Objectives and a Plan and again engaged on this with our communities, partners, Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner, among others. We heard overwhelming support for the Objectives and also advice and suggestions to further strengthen the Plan.

The Cwm Taf Public Services Board sees this Well-being Plan as a huge opportunity to strengthen our work as “One Public Service”. This approach is already set out in a **Statement of Intent** which introduced new principles to guide how we work together in the future:

“The members of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board are committed to developing a collaborative public service that puts the people in our communities at its centre.”

Our ambition for what this plan will deliver is also clear:

“We work as One Public Service, with communities, to support the development of resilient communities that are informed, connected, active and resourced and have the ability to adapt to and influence change and improve well-being.”

We have listened to our communities, identified our Well-being Objectives and prioritised what we need to do to achieve them, which is summarised on the next page. In delivering the Plan we will also directly link and boost the asset of volunteering with the challenge of loneliness and isolation and make the most of this in each of our objectives.

Our next step is to make this Plan a reality. We will develop and implement a delivery plan with detailed steps and actions to complete, continue to involve our communities to shape our work and share our progress as we go.



The Plan on a Page:

Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives and Steps

Cross-cutting Objective:
Immediate

TACKLING LONELINESS & ISOLATION

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

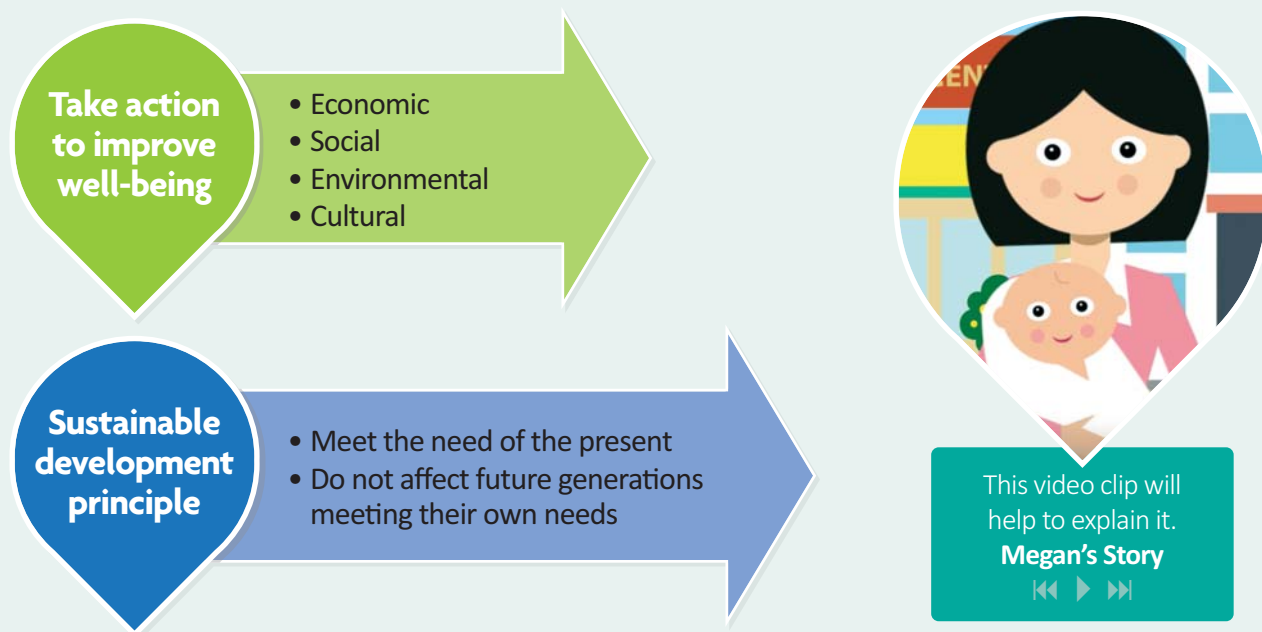
	THRIVING COMMUNITIES	HEALTHY PEOPLE	STRONG ECONOMY
OBJECTIVES	1 To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.	2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.	3 To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.
STEPS: Immediate (1-2 years)	1.1 Develop Community Zones as an area or place based approach focussing support to improve outcomes for our areas with the greatest challenges.	2.1 Work with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives e.g. First 1000 days, working with older people to stay fit and healthy for as long as possible.	3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term	1.2 Work with our communities to provide consistent messages, links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities.	2.2 Collectively promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging "One More Healthy Behaviour" for all staff and citizens.	3.2 Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term	1.3 Work with and support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.	2.3 To work together as public services and with our communities to reduce levels of obesity.	3.3 To make the most of the investment and return opportunities of the £1.229 billion City Deal locally within Cwm Taf.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term			3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.
VISION: Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well coordinated community volunteers and public services with ACE informed and thriving communities. A safe, healthy environment which people use, value and enjoy. The communities shaping services to meet the needs of residents and visitors. A better understanding of our natural assets and how our actions impact on them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the frailty of our ageing population by improving the rates of the population that have 4 or 5 healthy behaviours to 20%. Improve the rates of healthy life-expectancy and life expectancy in Cwm Taf to the average Wales. People of all ages spend time outdoors, using and enjoying their local environment to improve their health and well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage opportunities for development and regeneration as the City Deal delivers jobs and returns on its investments, including attracting hotels. Supporting the development of a clean economy. A sustainable, energetic and expanding economy with employment rates equalling the UK average. A vibrant tourist industry attracting people from near and far, enjoying our natural environment, history and culture.

The Well-being Plan and why we need it

In 2015, the Welsh Government made a new law in Wales called the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**. This followed conversations with many thousands of people across Wales about the “Wales we want”. From these conversations, the Government found out what most mattered to people in Wales, things like climate change, the environment, skills, education, jobs and health.

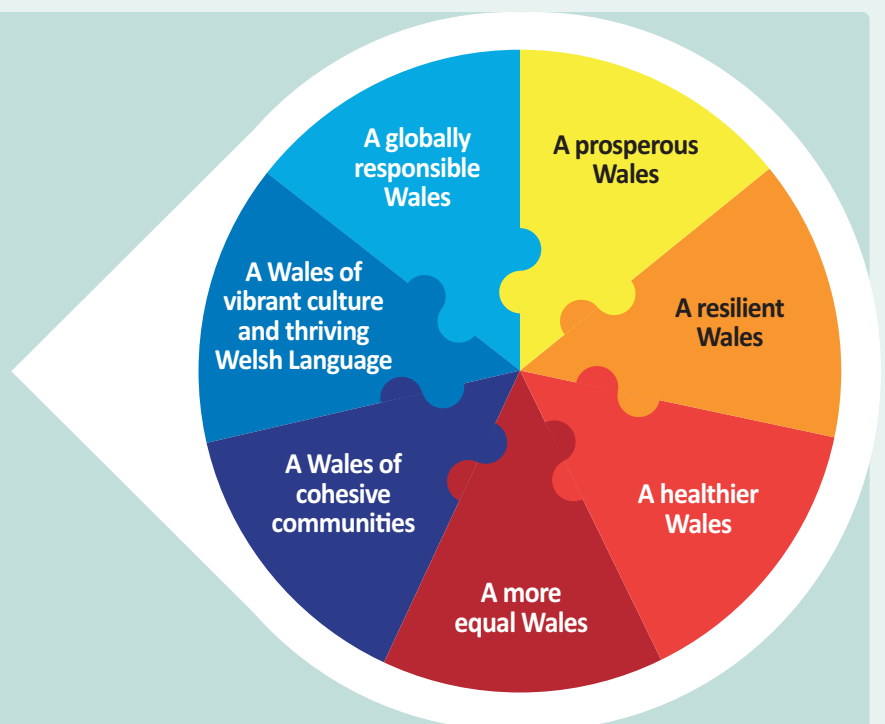
This new law puts the citizens of Wales in the centre of everything public services do to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and has the sustainable development principle at its heart. This means that all public services need to work in a way that improves well-being for people today without doing anything that could make things worse for future generations of babies, children, young people, adults and older people, in other words all our families, young and old, and our friends and neighbours.

Sustainable Development



Well-being Goals for Wales

The Well-being of Future Generations Act asks all our public services, e.g. councils, health, police, environment, fire and third sector organisations to work together to improve well-being for everyone in Wales. This is a new approach to improve public services in a sustainable way. We will all work towards these seven new goals.



The Well-being of Future Generations Act also asks individual public services to act sustainably and apply five ways of working:



1 LONG TERM

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.



2 PREVENTION

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.



3 INTEGRATION

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



4 COLLABORATION

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

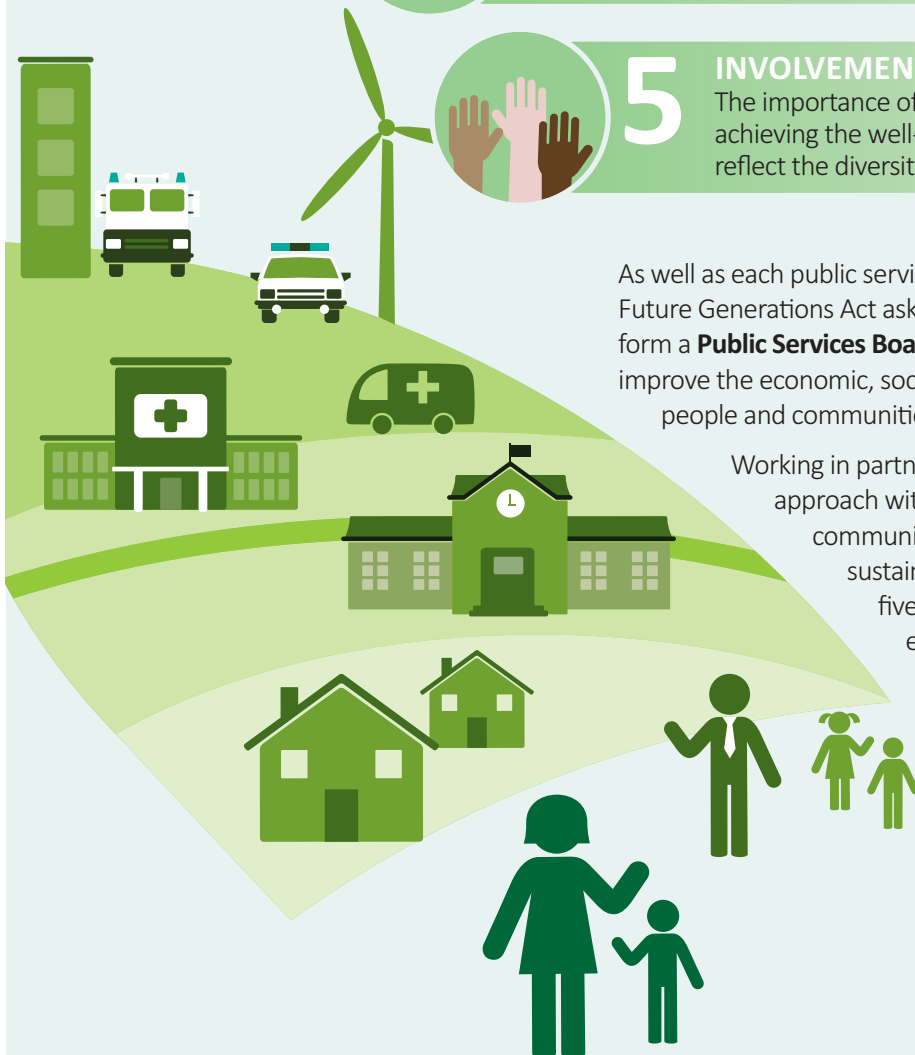


5 INVOLVEMENT

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

As well as each public service working in this way, the Well-being of Future Generations Act asks all public services to come together and form a **Public Services Board** so that we can work better together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of people and communities in our area.

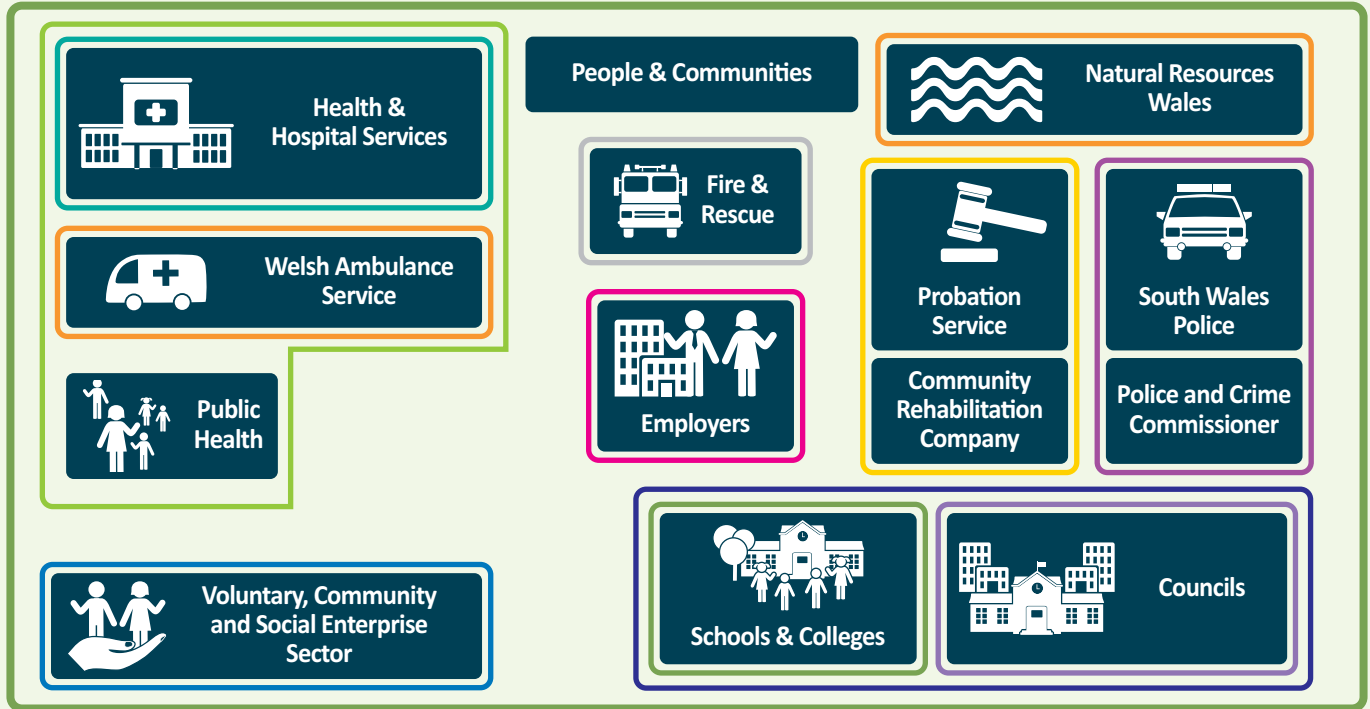
Working in partnership is not new, but there is a new approach with the Public Services Board working with our communities to improve their well-being in a sustainable way to meet the seven goals and the five ways of working. Importantly, we are encouraged to think long term, so this is the first stage of a long term plan for Cwm Taf.



...working together and doing things differently

Locally, our public services have agreed to come together across the Cwm Taf area, including Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. The Cwm Taf Public Services Board agreed to develop a collaborative public service that puts the people in our communities at its centre.

It is about breaking down barriers between public services and changing the way they work so that we prevent problems from happening rather than having to react to them. This diagram shows the many services we have in Cwm Taf:



Resources

Collectively the Public Services Board have many resources including staff, land and buildings. Although there is no new money to support different ways of working, we recognise that in working together and involving our communities, we can be more efficient, provide more focused services, share our assets and have a much bigger impact locally. We will develop radical and innovative ways of working, creating the momentum needed to improve the well-being of all in Cwm Taf.

How we will work together with our communities to deliver our Well-being Plan

In October 2016, the Public Services Board agreed a **Statement of Intent**:

The members of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board are committed to developing a collaborative public service that puts the people in our communities at its centre.

We intend to lead our organisations through a change in culture to a more innovative, integrated and preventative way of doing things for the benefit of people who live and work in Cwm Taf now and in the future. We will use our influence as a Board to encourage other public organisations to adopt the same approach and to make a collective effort in overcoming any legislative, financial or practical barriers to achieving our intent.

We aim to shift focus from reacting to problems and challenge 'crisis management', seeking to make decisions for the long term benefit of people in Cwm Taf. We aim to focus our joint efforts far more on better outcomes for the people we serve through understanding and tackling the causes of problems and preventing situations from arising.

To do this, we aim to be radical, removing the divisions between services to develop a way of working that makes sense to us and to the people and communities we serve.

To understand what that means, we will be involving people, in an equal relationship to the Board, to design, deliver and improve services.

This will involve working together with citizens, and within our own organisations, in a different way through making some high-risk decisions and attempting the things that seem too difficult to do.

As a Board, we intend to spend our finances in a different way, continue to train our staff to get to the root of issues and give permission to staff to support and enable people to live better lives.

In meeting this statement and further defining how we will achieve this intention, we have developed leadership principles to guide us going forward.

Cwm Taf Public Services Board will work as One Public Service with residents and communities to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being to achieve the Sustainable Development Principle at the heart of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This means that we will act in a way to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of our future generations to meet their own needs.

In doing this, our ambition is that:

We work as One Public Service, with our communities, to support the development of resilient communities that are informed, connected, active and resourced and have the ability to adapt to and influence change and improve well-being.

To achieve this we will adopt the following leadership principles in our decision making to meet the five ways of working and identify where we can have a more collective and powerful impact:



Thinking Long Term

We will use the responses to our consultation and engagement to state the longer term vision and aspirations of our communities, alongside data and information on long term trends to help us plan our services now and for the future. Where there are gaps in our knowledge we will seek advice and research, where possible, to best inform us.



Preventing problems happening or getting worse

We will seek preventative measures that can be woven into each of our objectives and steps going forward. Priority will be given to predicting and preventing problems arising, then acting early when problems arise to improve the situation and prevent things getting worse and then to reduce harm from established problems. Information from the Well-being Assessment, long-term trends and community engagement will be used to guide how we work in this way alongside evidence of what works. Where evidence is not available, we will seek research opportunities to gain local evidence to inform us.



Working better together and with others

We will work together to jointly develop and implement intelligence led, innovative and creative approaches to achieving our Well-being Objectives. To do this we will challenge ourselves at Public Services Board and sub groups to ensure we have the best partners from the public, private, academic and third sector along with the voice of citizens, with lived experience, to inform and challenge ourselves in line with the expectations of our communities.



One Public Service

Working together and with our partners, communities and citizens, we will provide services that are seamless at the point of delivery. We will consider our services from our citizens' perspectives and where appropriate and possible co-locate staff, provide joint training, share our buildings and land in the best interest of our communities. Where there are obstacles to this approach we will work with partners and Welsh Government to resolve them.



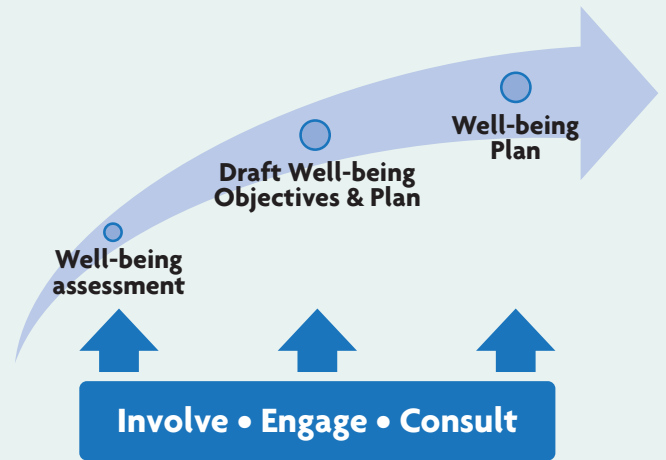
Involving our communities

We will continue to involve our communities in informing, shaping and implementing plans. Building on the Community Zone approach we seek an ongoing conversation to jointly produce solutions, meeting the expectations for One Public Service for Cwm Taf. We will involve people with lived experience to inform our plans, building on our ground breaking work locally to tackle domestic abuse.

How we developed the Well-being Plan

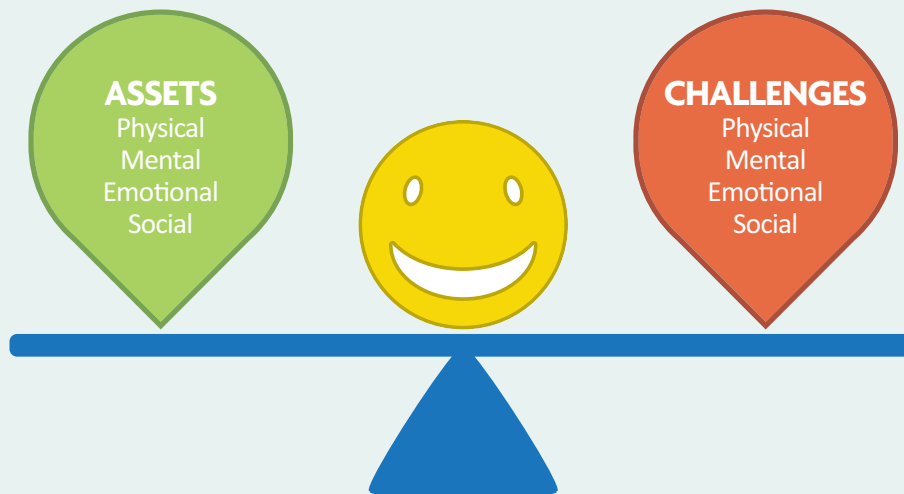
Last year we published a **Well-being Assessment** of the people and communities of Cwm Taf. In preparing this we talked to hundreds of people e.g. people who live, work and use public services across the Cwm Taf area, community groups and anyone else that wanted to have their say.

The findings from this Assessment were used to help to start more detailed work to find out what is most important and what can be done to improve people's well-being. This was set out in Draft Well-being Objectives and Well-being Plan for the Cwm Taf area. We continued our conversations with our communities and others such as Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner to get views on the draft Objectives and Plan.



Well-being

Well-being is about people having the 'assets' they need to meet the 'challenges' they face in their everyday lives. These assets can include skills, family support, education and good health. Challenges could be poor health, bullying, neglect or violence at home. When people have more challenges than assets their well-being dips. Similarly if someone has many assets but few challenges, they may not feel fulfilled and that can also tip the see-saw, as shown:



Differences in opportunity, experience and health can have a poor effect on wellbeing. This can show itself in high levels of anxiety, depression, addictive medication, alcohol and drug misuse. In addition, we know that being fit, active, not smoking, a healthy weight and eating fruit and vegetables can protect our well-being.

Source: Adapted from Dodge R, et al (2012)
The Challenge of defining wellbeing, International Journal of Well-being, 2 (3) 22-235

What the Well-Being Assessment told us

The main information we learned from the Well-being Assessment is:

Cultural well-being

- People need to feel part of their community and many want to offer their time, skills and connections.
- Our heritage and history, landscape and buildings should be celebrated and used in the future.
- Taking part in things seems to be good for everyone's well-being.
- Language is an important part of who we are and makes us feel like we belong.



Economic well-being

- Growing a resilient local economy that recognises the limits of the global environment.
- Helping the movement of people throughout Cwm Taf.
- People in decent work improving their overall wealth.
- People gaining new skills and qualifications to tackle the challenges they face.
- Development that facilitates a growing local economy and recognises the limits of the global environment.



Environmental well-being

- A healthy natural environment is the foundation for sustained economic growth, prosperity and resilience.
- Cwm Taf's environment, urban and countryside, has an important part to play in improving people's health and well-being.
- People want to live in a clean, safe environment and increasingly want to help manage their local areas.
- Communities face significant risks from a changing climate, now and in the future.
- Cwm Taf's unique wildlife is increasingly fragmented and under threat but people can make a difference and help wildlife thrive.
- Children are spending less time outdoors but access to safe, natural play space outdoors has been shown to improve children's physical and emotional well-being.



Social well-being

- Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are improving in Cwm Taf. However, outcomes for our population are determined by the inequalities that persist.
- A good start in life is fundamental to the well-being of future generations.
- Preventing ill-health across the population improves well-being and reduces inequalities.
- Ageing well in Cwm Taf: meeting the needs of an older population.
- Mental well-being: building resilient communities.
- Personal resilience and community cohesion.
- The quality of the home and environment has a substantial impact on well-being.
- A change of focus for Cwm Taf: from deficits to assets.



Links to other plans

The Wellbeing Plan is the overarching plan for Cwm Taf and the Public Services Board is the overarching partnership board. There are other partnership boards that sit under the PSB, including the Mental Health Partnership Board, the Area Planning Board, the Community Safety Board and the Safeguarding Board. These Boards will each have their own plans for their area of responsibility and can contribute to this Wellbeing Plan.

Another new law, the **Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014**, to improve the wellbeing of people who need care and support and carers who need support. A **Population Needs Assessment** was carried out by the Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board to help develop an Area Plan for these services in Cwm Taf. There are parts of both plans that affect the wellbeing of people in our communities and it is important that they each work well together and complement each other. For example, the Area Plan has a strong focus on connecting people to their communities and providing information and signposting. This has been clear in the Wellbeing Assessment and features in Wellbeing Plan. In developing both plans we will keep strong links to make this work well.

As well as this, the **Environment (Wales) Act, 2016**, puts in place a process to help plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more sustainable and joined up way. Natural Resources Wales must publish Area Statements, primarily for the purpose of helping to implement the national natural resources policy. For Cwm Taf, the Area Statement covers the South Central Wales area and must consider how other plans and policies, such as the Well-being Plan, could be integrated with the statement or vice versa.

How the Public Services Board work with other bodies:



As other information becomes available, that can also help to shape the Well-being plan we will include it. For example, there has recently been an assessment carried out for community safety. Following a review of the evidence, the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment will focus on several core theme areas:

- Improving service access and provision to reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities.
- Divert and prevent offenders and reduce re-offending.
- Protecting vulnerable people against violence, harm and victimisation.
- Keeping communities safe from acquisitive crime.
- Improve our environment and reduce environmental crime.
- Improve road safety.
- Improving consultation and engagement.



In addition the Welsh Government has established a **Ministerial Task Force** to improve prosperity in the South Wales Valleys. The recent report of this Valleys Task Force has suggested a number of actions including a Valleys Landscape Park to promote the natural environment and tourism. The Task Force's priorities for action by 2021 are:

1 Good quality jobs and the skills to do them.

2 Better public services.

3 My local community, including a Valleys Landscape Park.

The Welsh Government has also published “**Prosperity for all**” a strategy setting out how it will work with the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all. There are four key themes and five priority areas, as shown:

Key themes:

- Prosperous and secure
- Healthy and active
- Ambitious and learning
- United and connected

Priority areas:

- Early years
- Housing
- Social care
- Mental health
- Skills and employment

All this information has helped, along with our conversations with our communities, to develop this Well-being Plan.

Listening to our Communities and feedback on our Draft Well-being Plan

Analysis of the responses to the consultation and engagement on the Draft Well-being Plan was undertaken by the Data Unit Wales. The **report** is available on the PSB's website, **Our Cwm Taf**.

The conclusions from the responses received and any common or emerging themes are highlighted here. These may not be specific to one of the objectives and, in some cases, may be relevant to all three.

In reaching the emerging themes, information was considered from every source. The following are extracts from the conclusions in their report with a response from the Public Services Board:

Are these the right objectives?

"This is a key question. Although the Well-being assessment was a thorough exercise with public engagement, and received praise from the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government, moving from that stage to a set of draft objectives and a draft Well-being plan requires a lot of decisions to be made, and a lot of evidence and information to be considered.

To some extent, much of the information we have considered for this analysis does not consider if the draft objectives are the right ones. The responses from the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government barely consider the content of the objectives, choosing to focus on process and organisation instead.

However, where responses do directly comment on the content of the objectives, they are overwhelmingly positive across all sources of information. They agree with the objectives themselves and the actions suggested to meet them. Where respondents have disagreed, this was often in a constructive manner, suggesting alternative or additional actions to meet the objectives."

The Public Services Board was very pleased with the extent of engagement and responses on the Draft Well-being Plan. The overwhelming support for the objectives and steps is welcomed and reflects the participation in each stage of the process from the Well-being Assessment, engagement of partners in developing the Draft Well-being Objectives and in the consultation and engagement process.

Strong support for objectives and draft Well-being Plan

"The Public Services Board should remember that across all engagement for this exercise, there was strong support for your draft objectives.

Responses to online consultation questions were overwhelmingly in support of the proposed content and aims of the objectives. The written responses and engagement events also mirrored this view."

"There is clear ambition in the draft Plan, which is welcomed, and each objective is set out clearly. The narrative is well-written and comprehensive, and the vision for the area is distinct."

Welsh Government

"It is good to hear that you have identified that you want your PSB to work collaboratively to put people in your communities at its centre, with an ambition to break down barriers between public services to change the way you work."

Future Generations Commissioner

The Public Services Board was reassured that where responses directly comment on the content of the objectives and actions to achieve them, they are overwhelmingly positive across all sources of information. There was agreement with the objectives themselves and the actions suggested to meet them. Where constructive comments have been received, they have helped provide further detail in the Well-being Plan.

Potential for increased use of existing assets and facilities

“Throughout the online consultation responses and engagement events, participants expressed a desire for more activities and community events.

This included:

- *formal and informal learning opportunities;*
- *the development of community groups;*
- *using the natural environment and countryside in Cwm Taf to facilitate activities; and*
- *the promotion of existing groups, clubs and activities that would improve participation, engagement with other people and physical/mental health and well-being.*

The common theme across all these suggestions was that existing assets and facilities could be used as venues to host these activities. Respondents commented that across all public sector organisations, there is a large portfolio of locations and buildings (schools and Merthyr Tydfil College were mentioned specifically) that are closed or under-utilised at evenings, weekends and during non-term time. Whilst some are already being used, there is potential to make many more facilities available to the public, groups and organisations, and to promote their potential use.”

The PSB understands that common theme across all these suggestions was that existing assets and facilities could be used as venues to host additional activities. The Well-being Plan supports this, is promoting an asset based approach and will continue to involve communities in the planning and delivery of the actions identified.

Improving overall well-being - physical and mental health

“Overall well-being was a priority across all the consultation exercise. However, the focus was clearly about improving the physical and mental health of the population. This included the provision of opportunities for organised and self-directed physical activity, supporting older people to reduce loneliness, the increased availability of leisure facilities, and utilising the natural environment to facilitate more physical activity.”

Public Services Board believes improving overall well-being and meeting the sustainable development principle is the

main purpose of this plan. This includes physical, mental, emotional and social well-being. Improving and promoting physical activity, both in facilities and the natural environment, is directly included in Objective 2 and many of the actions in Objectives 1 and 3 will also support this. Increasing participation will help reduce loneliness and isolation for all citizens, including older people.

Improve timeliness of access to all health provision

“This issue was raised across all engagement events and was also frequently referenced in online consultation responses. The concerns were about the geographical location of services, with many being concentrated in the two general hospitals in the Cwm Taf area when a community-based approach would be preferred. Difficulties accessing services in a timely manner was also a concern. The timeliness issue related to out-patient and referral services, where waiting times were considered too long. Many respondents outlined the difficulties when contacting their GP surgery in the first instance, and then the waiting time before they could get an appointment.

There were also a large number of responses wanting mental health services to improve. These focused mainly on reducing the stigma attached to mental health issues and improving access to, and the quantity of services.”

Public Services Board has Cwm Taf University Health Board as an active partner. The Health Board is keen to consider the feedback as part of its planning processes and is already committed to improving access and timeliness and providing services as close to home as possible. For example Stay Well @Home is a joint health and social care service to provide a rapid package of care to patients to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. Also the community Hospitals Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda and Ysbyty Cwm Cynon and the Health Parks in Keir Hardie, Merthyr Tydfil and Dewi Sant, Pontypridd provide a range of health, social and mental health care services both at the site and in the community including GPs, outpatients, district nursing, community midwifery, health visitors and school nursing, dietitians, speech therapists and mental health teams.

The Public Services Board has also prioritised action in the Well-being Plan to help people keep healthy for as long as possible, which will contribute to reducing preventable demand on healthcare services and make better use of capacity. The Mental Health Partnership Board is a part of the Public Services Board and action is being progressed to improve mental health services, with a range of partners working together.

Need and opportunity to work differently

“One of the guiding principles, from the passing of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, through the guidance provided by Welsh Government, and up to the development of the Future Generations Commissioner’s policy stance and advice, has been that the Act is not about ‘business as usual’.

The Act and the creation of Public Services Boards, have been promoted as an opportunity for public sector organisations to work differently. Indeed, it has been pointed out that persistently poor outcomes across some services and indicators mean that doing the same thing is not an option.

It is clear, from the formation of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board and the development of your draft Objectives and Well-being Plan, that you have approached this challenge head-on. Indeed, there are comments from the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government acknowledging the progress already made.

However, they both encourage you to follow through on these promises and deliver your Well-being Plan in a way that promotes a new style of partnership working and engages with a wider range of partners.

There were responses from the consultation that hinted at a public cynicism towards the proposals, that it had all been seen before. There was also a request from some respondents asking for more engagement and more information sharing around progress on the Well-being Plan. It might be the case that by addressing the latter point, you also deal with the former.”

The Public Services Board believes the purpose of this Well-being Plan is to demonstrate how we can improve well-being in Cwm Taf by working differently together. The Public Services Board has agreed a Statement of Intent and Leadership Principles to support and guide new ways of working, both detailed in this plan. We appreciate that people want seamless services and to be involved in shaping these and we are committed to make this happen.

We will publish and communicate our progress to keep our communities informed and share opportunities for involvement.

Communications and engagement with all sectors of the community

“Both the formal responses, from the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government, highlight the work you have done to engage across all sectors, previously on your Well-being Assessment and now on your draft Objectives and Well-being Plan.

Some responses from this engagement, particularly from young people, highlighted the fact that more engagement would be welcomed.

This highlights the challenging position the Public Services Board finds itself in. The Public Services Board has met, and gone beyond, the statutory requirement to consult on your draft Objectives and Well-being Plan. However, large-scale engagement can be resource intensive, expensive and technically challenging, and the legislative requirement to complete this work is predominantly within existing resources. Some responses highlight innovative and cost-efficient ways to continue to engage with the public that could be considered (working in schools directly with young people, using existing groups and channels, etc.).”

The Public Services Board has a Public Engagement Group, with the community and voluntary sector leading this. We have worked hard to get our communities involved in our Well-being Assessment and our Well-being Plan. We have also started conversations with communities in the Upper Rhondda Fach and Gurnos to promote meaningful involvement in shaping our Community Zones and we will learn from this approach going forward.

The Public Engagement Group has also initiated a research project to specifically engage young people, including seldomly heard groups and communities who may experience barriers to involvement, funded by the Open Government Programme and including both Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner’s Office. We will be looking at how young people feel in relation to their involvement in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and, in particular, how the Cwm Taf Public Service Board, including elected members, deliver on the sustainable development principle and goals in relation to the five ways of working. There will be an emphasis on the involvement of young people, including how feedback is taken forward to action and how young people hold the Public Services Board to account for its actions.

The PSB will use this intelligence to help us have ongoing meaningful conversations with communities and the workforce, together with resources and a structure to do so, to embed involvement of all our communities including seldom heard groups and communities.

Our Well-being Objectives

We have listened to all the feedback we have received from our communities and others, as well as local information and evidence of what works. We will continue to work with our communities to develop new and different solutions in implementing our Objectives. The contribution of our Objectives to the national Well-being Goals is outlined in Appendix 1.

Cross Cutting Objective

TACKLING LONELINESS & ISOLATION

Cross-cutting objective:
Immediate

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them. This is a cross-cutting step supporting the delivery of all our Objectives.

People want to feel a part of their community and many want to offer skills and connections. We will help to remove any barriers to volunteering, focus involvement and support for those that are lonely or isolated and stand back when the communities are growing their own success. This will include:

- a. Working with our communities to understand what is important to them and how together, we can help to build support to make improvements.
- b. Target volunteering to include people who are lonely or isolated, either through joining in or receiving support.
- c. Connecting people interesting in volunteering, along with their specific interests, resources and skills. This will provide opportunities to children and young people as well as adults e.g. linking opportunities for young people doing the Welsh Bacalaureate or Duke of Edinburgh awards with local volunteering opportunities and encouraging public service employees to enable more volunteering in public services that help inspire others. This links to Objective 3.1.
- d. Advertise volunteering opportunities on behalf of community groups, third sector, public service organisations and businesses.
- e. Help with the official parts of volunteering e.g. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, advice on supervision and health and safety risk assessments.
- f. Recognition and celebration of volunteering and its achievements in our communities.

This will initially be focused in the three priority steps in each Objective. We will develop a greater understanding, with our communities, of why people volunteer, what barriers there may be to volunteering and how new, innovative opportunities could be developed.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

OBJECTIVE

1 To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

STEPS:
Immediate
(1-2 years)

1.1 Develop Community Zones as an area or place based approach focussing a preventative approach to support to improve outcomes for our areas with the greatest challenges.

With our communities, we will work to join up our services in the heart of our communities. It is difficult to describe them now, as we want to work with our communities to make sure they are what they need. When children have difficult times or suffer abuse or distress this can often lead to poor outcomes for them as children and into adulthood. These are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). By working together we will develop vulnerability profiles, sharing our information, to help target support to those who need it most, provide training and skills with our staff and communities to prevent and reduce the effect of ACEs to help all our citizens thrive.

- a.** The approach will start in two of communities, Gurnos and Upper Rhondda Fach. The Zones will be worked up with the local communities to show how it will work for them. These Zones could include NHS, social services, schools and job centres working together with third sector to provide services for local communities using local assets. Years 1-2.
- b.** The learning from these communities will be used as the approach is rolled out across communities in Cwm Taf, with priority given to areas where there is greatest need. Years 2-5.

This objective is cross cutting and links to all other objectives and steps and as the other steps are developed they can be trialled with these communities.

STEPS:
Short to
Medium
Term

1.2 Work with our communities to provide consistent messages, links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities.

What we will explore:

- Consistent advice from all public sector staff.
- Our Cwm Taf the Public Services Board web site.
- DEWIS a website providing information on social care, health and third sector organisations across Wales.
- Local community information boards.
- Community Zones.
- Physical signs.

This will be guided by our communities, particularly in the Community Zone areas and opportunities to link this with volunteers will also be explored (Cross-cutting objective and step 1.1).

STEPS:
Short to
Medium
Term

1.3 Support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.

People told us that they wanted to live in clean and safe environments. Across the valleys there are a growing number of individuals and groups who want to use, manage and take ownership of their local open, green spaces. As well as bringing people together, this will improve mental and physical health, benefit wildlife, and bring a sense of ownership to places that can foster local pride and reduce crime and anti social behaviour. It will also attract people to the “Valleys Landscape Park” which is being developed by the Valleys Task Force. We will explore options to encourage and support this by:

- a.** Review our public land assets to maximise their contribution for communities and ecosystem resilience.
- b.** Helping groups to take ownership or adopt open green spaces.
- c.** Helping groups to improve rundown buildings for community use.
- d.** Helping groups to develop creative activities in our community spaces.
- e.** Helping people who have poor mental health, are lonely or have damaged the local environment to get involved in local projects.

We will prioritise these actions in our Community Zone Areas, in conversation with our communities.

VISION:
Long Term

- Well coordinated community volunteers and public services with ACE informed and thriving communities.
- Safe and pleasant environments and green spaces, where people are proud to live and participate.
- Communities shaping services to meet the needs of residents and visitors.
- A better understanding of our natural assets and how our actions impact on them.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

OBJECTIVE

2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

STEPS: Immediate (1-2 years)

2.1 To target our support in the areas with the biggest challenges, working with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives.

Preventing things before they happen makes the best sense, but if we cannot prevent them we will act early to help improve and stop things getting worse. There are some areas where this approach has an even better effect:

- a. In the early years and especially the First 1000 days from pregnancy to age two years, is the most important time of development. Together with parents, parents to be and child care providers, we can help provide the best environment for our children to have a great start in life. This is an approach which can help our youngest people have the best outcomes in life. In Community Zones we can work together to help overcome the challenges facing people, including help to gain skills, services, linking to local jobs or volunteering opportunities or participate in local activities. Working with our communities and pulling together our services we can help get the right support to the right people at the right time.
- b. Working together with older people to stay fit and healthy for as long as possible is in everyone's best interest. We know that as we live longer it is even more important that we can be well enough to enjoy our older years. This is a time, as many retire, that we can spend more time involved in our communities. Being active, involved and enjoying healthy lives helps us live longer and reduces loneliness and isolation.

Many of us will spend a third of our lives in old age, and as we hope to live independently, robust in body and mind, with a wide social circle, we will need to be active and healthy, to be "Super-agers". Our older generations have the skills, experience and time that can benefit our communities and especially our younger generations, linking these two areas.

STEPS: Short to Medium Term

2.2 Collectively promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging "One More Healthy Behaviour" for all staff and citizens.

The five healthy behaviours are:

1. Not smoking.
2. Keeping a healthy weight.
3. Regular physical activity in line with national guidance.
4. Eating a healthy diet including 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day.
5. Reducing alcohol and substance misuse.

We will:

a. Promote healthy behaviours with our staff.

Our staff makes up about one quarter of the workforce in Cwm Taf and have big impact on our communities, with most living in the area. Together, we will support our staff to improve healthy behaviours with healthy workplaces and by supporting volunteering. This will build on the One More Healthy Behaviour campaign trialled in Cwm Taf University Health Board, sharing the learning among partners.

b. Promote healthy behaviours with citizens.

We will promote and support our communities to take advantage of local opportunities and support services in a coordinated way, providing reliable information, signposting and access to services. We will promote "social prescribing" in our services, where improving life style is the best way to improve health. Social prescribing enables services to connect people who need social, emotional or practical help to improve their lifestyles to local services in their community. It is also an opportunity for people to develop their own services.

In promoting these opportunities, we will make links to accessing the natural environment, sports, heritage, arts, culture and language to provide a range of fun and engaging activities. We will collaborate with national bodies, including Sport Wales, Arts Council for Wales, National Museums of Wales and National Library of Wales as well as local groups.

HEALTHY PEOPLE

OBJECTIVE

2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

STEPS: Short to Medium Term

2.3 To work together as public services and with our communities to reduce levels of obesity.

As levels of obesity in children and adults are rising in Cwm Taf it is having a bad effect on our health, both physical and mental. There are many causes including poor access to healthy food, low levels of physical activity, easy access to fast food, reliance on cars, comfort eating due to bad experiences and low incomes to name but a few. There is no simple answer, so we need to work together to improve. Ways we can work together include:

- a. Making the most of opportunities to walk and cycle to work and school with safe routes to schools, community venues, the natural environment and new Metro links to encourage walking and cycling.
- b. Integrate outdoor activity into daily lives e.g. daily mile and outdoor learning in schools, identifying walking routes near workplaces to encourage activity in breaks and walking routes in every community.
- c. Improving menus in publicly controlled food outlets to offer more healthy choices.
- d. Using our Local Development Plans, planning laws and publicly owned land to increase safe access to the outdoors, walking and cycling with a healthy range of food outlets.

The Valleys Landscape Park will provide more opportunities for activity in the natural environment and transport hubs in the new Metro will help us combine walking and cycling with trains and buses. Maximising and promoting opportunities in the Community Zone areas and local assets, as part of the First 1000 days work and with older people will be prioritised to support the delivery of this plan.

VISION: Long Term

- Reduce the frailty of our ageing population by improving the rates of the population that have 4 or 5 healthy behaviours to 20%.
- Improve the rates of healthy life-expectancy and life expectancy in Cwm Taf to the average Wales and reduce inequalities.
- People of all ages spend time outdoors, using and enjoying their local environment to improve their health and well-being.

STRONG ECONOMY

OBJECTIVE

3 To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

STEPS: Immediate (1-2 years)

3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities.

There are skills shortages in many of our public services now and as our population ages there are opportunities to “grow our own” by targeting training for adults and young people in areas such as nursing, health and care support, social work, foster care, medicine and allied health professionals. There is also an opportunity for generic public service apprenticeships providing placements in partner organisations to build the future workforce. In addition, people may wish to take on a number of different roles across public services with coordination and support e.g. working in different organisations and recognising their skills.

- a. Promote the advantages of the use of the Welsh language and bilingualism in gaining skilled employment across sectors in Wales.
- b. Through employability programmes, provide a gateway to skills, experience, qualifications and employment for those who are not in work supported by the anti-poverty programmes of the Welsh Government, along with higher and further education.
- c. Targeted early support with education and the employability programmes for more vulnerable residents e.g. children who are looked after and people in the criminal justice system.
- d. Linking residents who are out of work with local job opportunities e.g. guaranteed interviews for residents in new supported businesses and the public sector on completion of programmes will provide incentives.
- e. Commit to the living wage in Public Services Board organisations and promote it for suppliers and commissioned services.

New ways to target support to those with the greatest need will be trialled in Community Zones with vulnerability profiling for people and families. Long term trends will be used to look at future job opportunities, especially in developing technologies, low carbon industries and care of older people, working with the Valleys Task Force.

STEPS: Short to Medium Term

3.2 Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park.

Areas for development include:

- a. Cycling and mountain biking networks and centres and links to the Brecon Beacons National Park. Lots of people use these attractions for leisure and play.
- b. Mapping of cultural and heritage sites and buildings by local historians, community stewards and volunteers to promote them and share information with the community and visitors.
- c. Walking routes from every town and village centre with colour coded routes of different lengths and challenge, again, supported by local historians, community stewardship and volunteers to include points of interest and creativity. This will also support objectives 1 and 2.
- d. Coordinated approach to supporting the small businesses to establish tourist support services as part of town centre regeneration schemes e.g. bed and breakfast, cafes, restaurants, outdoor supplies, local produce and gifts, regenerating town centres. This will include a joint approach to tackling negative aspects such as homelessness, drug equipment and antisocial behaviour and is closely linked with Objective 1.3.
- e. Market our Valleys as a place to live, work and play, making the most of the Valleys Landscape Park.

Our approach in involving our communities will support this work, in finding active travel routes, creating small and local business opportunities and encouraging a focus around the culture, heritage and language.

STRONG ECONOMY

OBJECTIVE

3 To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

STEPS: Short to Medium Term

3.3 To make the most of the investment and return opportunities of the £1.229 billion City Deal locally within Cwm Taf.

The City Deal provides opportunities to attract investment, particularly in innovative communication technology and promote development in areas serviced by the Metro across South Wales. Public Services Board opportunities include:

a. Make the most of the opportunities to deliver regeneration in areas served by the Metro:

- i. Looking at public sector land and property to identify opportunities for development or joint use close to Metro stops. This can encourage jobs, tourism and easier access to services and linked to the planned development of the Valleys Landscape Park.
- ii. Provide support to make it easier for people to bring jobs and visitors into the area. Support for innovators, entrepreneurs, small businesses, social enterprises as well as the innovation, information and communication technologies.
- iii. Look at how community transport across the valleys could be expanded and linked in, for example, building on volunteer-led community transport.

b. A coordinated approach to sustainable land use planning, economic and housing development:

- i. Identify the potential for green infrastructure to deliver multiple benefits, including reducing congestion and associated air pollution.
- ii. Understand the predicted impacts of climate change and how they may affect residents and the services they receive.
- iii. Maximise redevelopment of brown field sites and limit green field development.

Working closely with the Valleys Task Force and the City Deal Authorities will provide important opportunities to influence decisions, investment, planning and pollution control on a regional basis, in support of this Plan.

STEPS: Short to Medium Term

3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.

This will include:

- a. Tackle fuel poverty by promoting the Warm Homes Programme, community energy schemes and home insulation. Community Zones can be used to target support and signpost community members, exploring opportunities from our public land and assets.
- b. Support for an increase of well insulated, affordable, smaller units of social housing, supporting town centre regeneration.
- c. Work with older people to develop a range of homes in dementia friendly communities e.g. smaller unit accommodation, retirement complexes, extra care facilities, care homes and sheltered accommodation.

VISION: Long Term

- Encourage opportunities for development and regeneration as the City Deal delivers jobs and returns on its investments, including attracting hotels.
- Supporting the development of a clean economy.
- A sustainable, energetic and expanding economy with employment rates equalling the UK average.
- A vibrant tourist industry attracting people from near and far, enjoying our natural environment, history and culture.
- People have more options for active and sustainable travel.

Next Steps

We will continue to work together to share and achieve the ambition and objectives in this plan, finding innovative, radical and more effective ways of working for the benefit of our communities.

Our next steps include:

Continue our conversations with our communities to deliver One Public Service

Our journey through our Well-being Assessment to our Well-being Plan has involved many conversations with our communities across Cwm Taf. The next stage of this journey will be to make this a routine part of the way we work to improve our services and the well-being of the people of Cwm Taf. This new way of working will challenge us, but we are committed to create the momentum and allow the innovation needed to deliver One Public Service.

A detailed delivery plan

As work streams are initiated, Leads will be appointed to take work forward with relevant partners. We will use the Framework for meeting the Well-being Objectives, five ways of working and contribution to the seven National Well-being Goals developed by the Future Generations Commissioner. A detailed delivery plan will be produced with actions, timescales, key milestones, performance and outcome indicators and accountability for delivery. The delivery of the Objectives at pace is at the forefront.

Increase public awareness about the Public Services Board

A communications and engagement strategy is being developed by the Public Engagement Group. This will outline how the Public Services Board and the individual organisations that are part of it can:

- raise the profile of the Public Services Board to increase awareness of its work;
- communicate its key work streams simply;
- involve residents and communities in helping to identify solutions to the wider issues facing their community and;
- report on progress.

Reporting

The Public Services Board will receive updates on the progress against the delivery plan and any difficulties encountered. The decisions made at these meetings will be detailed in the minutes and will be made available on Our Cwm Taf website. In addition, in line with the communications and engagement strategy, progress will be shared publicly through a range of methods.

There is also a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of both Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils, made up of Councillors from both Councils. The role of this committee is to scrutinise decisions and governance arrangements of the Public Services Board and to make any recommendations. It may also carry out additional functions required by Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner.

As the Public Services Board we will prepare and publish a report on each full year's activity. The first report will be available in July 2019 and annually after that until the next Well-being Assessment is undertaken following local government elections. The report will include the steps taken since the Well-being Plan was published to meet the objectives, progress against National Indicators or other performance measures and any other information the Public Services Board thinks would be helpful. Copies of the Annual Report will also be shared with Welsh Ministers, the Future Generations Commissioner, the Auditor General and the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Acknowledgments

The Well-being Plan was developed by a task group, Chaired by Angela Jones, with membership from across the PSB partners including: Andrew Morgan, Adrian Williams, Ann Unitt, Caroline O'Neill, Chris Hole, Christian Servini, Christopher Lee, Craige Wilson, Earl Smith, Einir Sion, Gaynor Davies, Ian Davy, James Watkins, Jim Dyson, John Selliwood, Lee Jones, Lesley Lawson, Mark Thomas, Nicola Cowan, Nicola Davies, Nicola Kingham, Nigel Williams, Paul Mee, Phil Ashby, Rae Baker, Richard Erskine, Sarah Bowen, Sian Nowell, Simon James, Sue Walker, Suzanne Davies, Tim Davies.

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Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Contributions to the seven Well-being goals

A PROSPEROUS WALES

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

2 Cross Cutting Objective

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

1.3 Support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.

3 To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities.

3.2 Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park.

3.3 To make the most of the investment and return opportunities of the £1.229 billion City Deal locally within Cwm Taf.

3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.

A RESILIENT WALES

A nation which maintains and enhances a bio diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

1.3 Support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.

3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.

A HEALTHIER WALES

A society in which people's physical and mental well being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

2 Cross Cutting Objective

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

2.1 To target our support in the areas with the biggest challenges, working with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives e.g. First 1000 days, working with older people to stay fit and healthy for as long as possible.

2.2 Collectively promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging "One More Healthy Behaviour" for all staff and citizens.

2.3 To work together as public services and with our communities to reduce levels of obesity.

A MORE EQUAL WALES

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

2 Cross Cutting Objective

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

1.1 Develop Community Zones as an area or place based approach focussing support to improve outcomes for our areas with the greatest challenges.

2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities.

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

2 Cross Cutting Objective

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

4 To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

1.3 Support communities to provide consistent messages and links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities.

A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

2 Cross Cutting Objective

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities
a. Promote the advantages of the use of the Welsh language and bilingualism in gaining skilled employment across sectors in Wales.

3.2 Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park. Our approach in involving our communities will support this work, in finding active travel routes, creating small and local business opportunities and encouraging a focus around the culture, heritage and language.

A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

1.3 Support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.

3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.



Appendix 3 Welsh Government's Well-Being Objectives



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

PUBLICATION

Programme for government 2021 to 2026: Well-being statement

The Well-being statement sets out how our well-being objectives meet our statutory duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Introduction

The Programme for Government (June 2021) sets out the 10 well-being objectives that the government will use to maximise its contribution to Wales' 7 long-term well-being goals and the steps we will take to deliver them.

This document, the Well-being Statement, sets out how we have set our well-being objectives in line with our statutory duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act).

It outlines:

- How our well-being objectives were set, including how we have set them in accordance with the sustainable development principle.
- How our well-being objectives maximise our contribution to the well-being goals as specified in the Act.
- How we will take the steps needed to meet the well-being objectives, supported by effective resourcing and governance.

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Our well-being objectives for 2021 to 2026

The Programme for Government sets out the 10 well-being objectives which we believe will make the greatest contribution towards the well-being goals.

Each well-being objective is accompanied by the individual steps which we propose to take. There are specific steps against each of the 10 well-being objectives – these are set out in the Programme for Government, and we will report on our progress annually as required by the Act.

Our well-being objectives draw on the areas that are devolved to us under the Government of Wales Act 2006, and also consider how we can best use the broader levers at our disposal to help achieve the 7 well-being goals. They focus on the key enablers which allow people and communities to prosper and thrive both now and in the future, as well as ensuring we preserve and restore Wales' natural environment and resources for future generations.

Welsh Ministers have a distinctive role under the Act as their duty to set well-being objectives is triggered every 5 years by the Senedd Cymru election. The 2021 Senedd Cymru election provided an opportunity for people across Wales, including for the first time 16 and 17 year olds, to have their say on the action needed to create a stronger, greener, fairer Wales for current and future generations. Our well-being objectives are designed to reflect this powerful electoral voice, ensuring that people can see the future they voted for happen in practice.

Our well-being objectives will focus on the areas where action is needed to respond and recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, whilst also laying out a stable foundation for the future. They will enable us to make a difference for everyone, at every stage of their lives, irrespective of where they live, their background or circumstances.

Each well-being objective contributes to all, or a number of the well-being goals and both the well-being objectives and steps will be kept under review. Importantly, the well-being objectives continue the journey towards achieving the 7 well-being goals.

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The 10 well-being objectives

The 10 well-being objectives are:

- Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare.
- Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise.
- Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people.
- Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms.
- Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future.
- Push towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive.
- Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation.
- Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work.
- Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do.
- Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage.

How the well-being objectives were set

The well-being objectives have been designed to reflect our priorities for protecting and developing our economy, our society, our environment and our culture. They focus on key factors such as personal wellbeing, fair and rewarding work and open access to our rich national culture and environment – the factors that help everyone live meaningful and purposeful lives.

They are based on the functions that we exercise, both formal devolved powers and more informal levers of influence and cooperation – taking the lessons from previous government terms and using these to identify where we can do more or do things differently. They address the strategic challenges we face, including the climate and nature emergency.

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Our well-being objectives are supported by the practical action we will take and will also help public bodies and individuals in Wales to maximise their own contribution to our country's collective future.

In setting our well-being objectives we have taken account of the first Future Generations Report, which was published by the Future Generations Commissioner in May 2020. Since the report was published, the First Minister and Welsh Government have continued to engage with the Future Generations Commissioner, and this dialogue has been an important part of our ongoing consideration of the report.

The report includes suggested improvements under each well-being goal and a flowchart of how to set good well-being objectives, and we have considered these suggestions when defining our well-being objectives. We are confident that our well-being objectives and our planned approach to delivery will join the dots between areas and represent a radical and challenging programme of government. In line with the report's suggestions, they are set out clearly in language which is easy to understand.

We have provided an illustration of how the well-being objectives contribute to each of the well-being goals below, and we will continue to use all reasonable opportunities to understand and exploit the connections across our well-being objectives.

The well-being objectives have been set in accordance with the sustainable development principle and the 5 ways of working:

- **Long term**

Our well-being objectives recognise the key current and future challenges facing Wales including the climate and nature emergency, the impact of four decades of deindustrialisation and the consequences of leaving the EU. They are also set in line with the Understanding Wales' Future resource, drawing on our analysis of the global factors and local considerations which are likely to impact on Wales in the longer term.

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Our well-being objectives and the associated steps set out appropriate, long term actions to address the key strategic challenges Wales faces both now and in the future. Our approach to these challenges, and future reviews of our well-being objectives, will draw on the Future Trends Report 2021 once it is published.

• **Integration**

The well-being objectives relate to each other and form an integrated approach. They mutually reinforce each other by focussing on common themes such as strengthening our communities, supporting people across their life course and drawing on our vibrant culture and rich natural resources.

As a set of well-being objectives they will build on progress towards the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, enabling us to take more sustainable action as we evaluate our key decisions in relation to the objectives.

Importantly, the well-being objectives and steps have been designed to support an integrated approach to delivery. They will be collectively owned by the First Minister and Cabinet and progress will be reported to them regularly, ensuring that opportunities to deliver more through the integration of policies and programmes are identified early and acted upon.

• **Prevention**

Our well-being objectives have been designed to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.

They focus on acting quickly to identify challenges at an early stage across all areas of our work, giving people and communities the resources and support they need to thrive in a way which is sustainable.

This is just as true on a longer term, strategic level. Our well-being objectives

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represent the areas where we need to work with partners to break down barriers, focus on the transition between services and understand the changing needs of people through the various stages of their lives, both now and in the future, wherever they live in Wales.

• **Involvement**

The 2021 Senedd Cymru election allowed people across Wales to have their say on the activity needed to create a better Wales. The well-being objectives reflect this electoral voice, ensuring the action people voted for is delivered in practice.

The well-being objectives themselves and the steps towards them reflect the importance of continuous involvement across the Senedd term. They recognise that involving people in the policies and services that affect them is the best way to take a sustainable, needs-led approach to delivery. The well-being objectives consider all of our ongoing engagement with social partners and stakeholder groups, ensuring that the insight they provide is reflected in our approach.

Our well-being objectives also draw on our ongoing conversations with people in Wales, such as the 'Our Future Wales' engagement exercise undertaken last year. Over 2,000 responses were received through the Our Future Wales mailbox, and an analysis of these responses has informed our well-being objectives.

• **Collaboration**

Maximising our contribution towards the well-being goals will require us to work closely with delivery partners and others, and this principle is firmly embedded in the well-being objectives. We will use the mechanisms at our disposal to engage, collaborate and succeed with others – working with stakeholders, progressive networks and diverse voices across Wales.

Cooperation and collaboration rather than competition and division will

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underpin our well-being objectives including our commitment to work in social partnership. We will build on our collaborative response to the coronavirus pandemic that saw government and its partners working seamlessly and effectively to deliver at pace.

The cyclical nature of the legislation and setting of new well-being objectives after a Senedd Cymru election provides a regular mechanism to take stock and look forward to the next 5 years of action to further embed the Act at the heart of Government and everything it does.

We will continually improve and reflect on how we are acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in delivering the well-being objectives, drawing on the regular engagement with our partners and stakeholders.

We have also considered the potential impact of our well-being objectives on other public bodies, and we will continue our approach to engaging with public bodies on the national implementation of the Act. We will use these existing mechanisms to understand the effect of our well-being objectives on other public bodies.

Maximising our contribution towards the well-being goals

Our well-being objectives reflect the areas where we can make the greatest individual and collective contribution to the well-being goals – particularly with regards to the most vulnerable in society.

The table sets out how each well-being objective contributes to the well-being goals in accordance with the sustainable development principle:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

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7. A globally responsible Wales

+ Direct contribution

● Opportunity for broader contribution

Well-being objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare	+	●	+	+	+	●	●
Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people	+	●	+	+	+	●	●
Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future	+	+	●	+	+	+	+
Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation	+	+	●	+	●	+	+
Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do	+	+	+	●	+	●	+
Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise	+	●	●	+	+	+	+
Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms	+	●	+	+	+	+	+

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Well-being objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Push towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive	+	+	●	●	+	+	●
Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work	+	+	+	+	+	+	●
Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage	+	●	●	●	+	+	+

It is important to emphasise that the well-being objectives should be understood not just in terms of their individual contribution to the well-being goals, but also through the lens of how they mutually reinforce each other as a closely aligned set.

This means that each of the well-being objectives makes a contribution to all of the goals at least indirectly, and that their cumulative value increases when they are combined. Each wellbeing objective takes us towards the well-being goals with meaning and purpose – but their full impact can only be seen when they are considered together.

Delivering against the well-being objectives

We are committed to exploring all reasonable steps within our powers to achieve the well-being objectives, and the commitments set out in our Programme for Government are the strategic steps and actions we will take. Embedding the well-being objectives in our Programme for Government ensures that they will sit at the heart of government from the outset and throughout this Senedd term.

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This government is elected for the period 2021 – 2026 and in line with the Act our well-being objectives are set for this period. We expect to deliver the well-being objectives between 2021 – 2026, as part of our longer term obligations of improving outcomes for people and communities in Wales.

The well-being objectives and the corresponding steps will be collectively owned by the First Minister and Cabinet and supported directly by the First Minister's office; ensuring that all parts of government are working together with urgency and pace.

The Welsh Government civil service will support Welsh Ministers in discharging their duties under the Act including delivery of the well-being objectives and steps in the Programme for Government. The Permanent Secretary is responsible for the ongoing action to embed the sustainable development principle in the Welsh Government civil service.

Our supporting paper to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the Well-being of Future Generations Act published in January 2021 sets out how we have embedded the Act into the workings of government over the past 5 years. The paper provided detail of those actions and the strategic implementation framework we put in place in 2020 to better reflect and communicate the breadth and scope of the Act within government. We will continue to take this approach as we deliver our well-being objectives this term.

As well as reporting progress towards our well-being objectives in our Annual Report, the Welsh Government Annual Accounts will continue to provide detail of how the civil service governs itself to deliver Welsh Ministers' objectives – including how we are meeting our duties under the Act. The Act is designed to make sustainable development the central organising principle of government and public bodies, and we will ensure that the operation, governance and mechanics of government continues to improve to respond to these requirements.

We will use our budget process to ensure that resources are allocated to deliver the well-being objectives and the corresponding steps in each year of this term, and we will continue to publish the Budget Improvement Plan to show how we are refining and optimising this process. Our well-being objectives and broader

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obligations under the Act will be considered in the 2022-23 draft budget, which will be published alongside an updated Budget Improvement Plan.

We will continue to put involvement, engagement and collaboration at the forefront of our approach, drawing on the resources provided by the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner's Office as well as our own experiences and knowledge and that of our partners and stakeholders. We will listen to good ideas wherever they come from – this is a government committed to working together for the benefit of everyone.

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WELSH GOVERNMENT

Programme for Government – Update

This refreshed version of the Programme for Government incorporates the Co-operation Agreement. Responsibility for the commitments that directly contribute to our well-being objectives will rest with the First Minister and the full Cabinet as these will require the highest level of co-ordination and integration across the whole of government.

Ministers will take direct responsibility for the remaining commitments. Both sets of commitments will be treated with equal weight – the distinction between the two reflects the allocation of responsibilities and not their relative importance or priority.

In those areas covered by the Co-operation Agreement Ministers will work with Plaid Cymru under the terms of the Agreement.

Provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare

We will:

- Establish a new medical school in North Wales.
- Provide treatments which have been delayed by the pandemic.
- Deliver better access to doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals.
- Reform primary care, bringing together GP services with pharmacy, therapy, housing, social care, mental health, community and third sector.
- Prioritise investment in mental health.
- Prioritise service redesign to improve prevention, tackle stigma and promote a no-wrong door approach to mental health support.
- Roll out child and adolescent mental health services ‘in-reach’ in schools across Wales.
- Introduce an all-Wales framework to roll out social prescribing to tackle isolation.
- Review patient pathway planning and hospice funding.
- Develop an HIV action plan for Wales.
- Introduce an autism statutory code of practice on the delivery of autism services.

Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people

We will:

- Pay care workers the real living wage and working with social partners through the Fair Work Forum consider further steps towards parity of recognition and reward for care workers.
- Increase apprenticeships in care and recruit more Welsh speakers.
- Establish an expert group to advise by April 2022 on the practical steps towards delivering a national care service that is free at the point of need.
- Legislate to further integrate health and social care services.
- Support innovative housing development to meet care needs.
- Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work.
- Deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision.
- Continue to support our flagship Flying Start programmes.
- Prevent families breaking up by funding advocacy services for parents whose children are at risk of coming into care.
- Provide additional specialist support for children with complex needs who may be on the edge of care.
- Explore radical reform of current services for children looked after and care leavers.
- Eliminate private profit from the care of children looked after.
- Fund regional residential services for children with complex needs ensuring their needs are met as close to home as possible and in Wales wherever practicable.
- Strengthen public bodies in their role as ‘corporate parent’.

Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future

We will:

- Deliver the Young Persons Guarantee, giving everyone under 25 the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment.
- Create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships.
- Put social partnership on a statutory footing through the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.
- Use the new network of Disabled People's Employment Champions to help close the gap between disabled people and the rest of the working population.
- Strengthen our Economic Contract.
- Support the Wales TUC proposals for union members to become Green Representatives in the workplace.
- Support the creation of a Community Bank for Wales.
- Develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies.
- Enable our town centres to become more agile economically by helping businesses to work co-operatively, increase their digital offer and support local supply chains, including local delivery services.
- Seek a 30% target for working remotely.

Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation

We will:

- Launch a new 10-year Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for zero-carbon economy.
- Deliver the Digital Strategy for Wales and upgrade our digital and communications infrastructure.
- Create a modern legislative basis for transport in Wales.
- Lift the ban on local authorities setting up new municipal bus companies.
- Legislate to modernise the taxi and private vehicle sector and address the problems of cross-bordering.
- Implement our new Wales Transport Strategy.
- Build on the success of our concessionary travel scheme for older people and look at how fair fares can encourage integrated travel.
- Work towards our new target of 45% of journeys by sustainable modes by 2040, setting more stretching goals where possible.
- Take forward the Burns Commission report for Newport.
- Develop a new major routes fund to improve the attractiveness and biodiversity of areas alongside major transport routes in Wales.
- Create a new system of farm support that will maximise the protective power of nature through farming, recognising the particular needs of family farms in Wales and acknowledging ecologically sustainable local food production.
- Introduce a transition period to the new farm support scheme, including continuing stability payments, beyond the current Senedd term.

Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do

We will:

- Commission independent advice that will examine potential pathways to net zero by 2035.
- Pursue devolution of powers needed to help reach net zero, including management of the Crown Estate in Wales.
- Work towards the establishment of an Environmental Governance Body, a statutory duty and targets to protect and restore biodiversity.
- Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics.
- Introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses.
- Create a National Forest to extend from the North of Wales to the South.
- Harness the economic, cultural, and recreational potential of the National Forest as part of progress towards a sustainable timber industry.
- Develop a Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food in Wales.
- Introduce legislation to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining and ensure coal tip safety; strengthening local authority powers to protect the public and the environment.
- Introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales, consistent with World Health Organisation guidance and extend the provision of air quality monitoring.
- Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
- Support 80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres.
- Uphold our policy of opposing the extraction of fossil fuels in Wales, both on land and in Welsh waters, using the powers available to us.
- Expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces.

Continue our long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise

We will:

- Fund up to 1800 additional tutoring staff in our schools.
- Build on our School Holiday Enrichment Programme.
- Continue to meet the rise in demand for Free School Meals resulting from the pandemic and review the eligibility criteria, extending entitlement as far as resources allow and at least to all primary school children.
- Invest in the learning environment of community schools, co-locating key services, and securing stronger engagement with parents and carers outside traditional hours.
- Explore reform of the school day and the school year.
- Develop a sustainable model for supply teaching that has fair work at its heart.
- Improve the teaching of Welsh history in all its diversity and complexity as a mandatory part of the new curriculum.
- Take the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill through the Senedd.
- Develop a new mission-based national innovation strategy to be implemented across government and by the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research.
- Increase the opportunities for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in the Seren Network.

Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms

We will:

- Implement and fund the commitments made in our Race Equality Action Plan.
- Explore legislation to address pay gaps based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and other forms of discrimination.
- Ensure public bodies and those receiving public funding address pay disparities.
- Pilot an approach to the Basic Income.
- Ensure the history and culture of our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities are properly represented by investing further in our cultural sector and museum network.
- Make our Welsh public transport system more accessible to disabled people.
- Continue our strong partnership with voluntary organisations across the range of our responsibilities.
- Implement targets around Gender Budgeting.
- Strengthen the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy to include a focus on violence against women in the street and workplace as well as the home.

Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive

We will:

- Establish a National Music Service.
- Introduce legislation permitting local authorities to raise a tourism levy.
- Legislate to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision.
- Streamline the process for implementing Welsh Language standards.
- Implement Welsh Language standards on public transport; regulators in the health sector; newly established public bodies and water companies; and begin work on implementing standards on housing associations.
- Support an increase in Welsh-speaking spaces, including workplaces.
- Create a Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan.
- Explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales and provide additional investment to develop enterprises to improve Welsh-based media and journalism.
- Pursue the case for devolution of broadcasting and communication powers.
- Engage with the arts, culture and heritage sectors to develop a new culture strategy.
- Invest in our theatres and museums, including committing to Theatr Clwyd, establishing the Football Museum and the National Contemporary Art Gallery.
- Support the application to identify the slate landscape of North West Wales as a World Heritage Site.
- Develop plans for a Museum of North Wales.
- Promote equal access to sports and support young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs.

Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work

We will:

- Build 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.
- Establish Unnos, a national construction company, to support councils and social landlords to improve the supply of social and affordable housing.
- Reform housing law and implement the Homelessness Action Group’s recommendation to fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevention and rapid rehousing.
- Publish a White Paper to include proposals for a right to adequate housing including fair rents and new approaches to making homes affordable for those on local incomes.
- Take forward actions to cap the number of second homes, bring more homes into common ownership and licence holiday lets.
- Support cooperative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts.
- Create a timber based industrial strategy that can develop and sustain the high value production and processing of Welsh wood.
- Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains.
- Explore where services and contracts can sustainably and affordably be brought back into a strengthened public sector.
- Ensure that each region in Wales has effective and democratically accountable means of developing their future economies.
- Keep regional partnership working under review with local partners.
- Make 20mph the default speed limit in residential areas.
- Ban pavement parking wherever possible.

Lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future, and give our country the strongest possible presence on the world stage

We will:

- Establish an independent, standing commission to consider the constitutional future of Wales.
- Introduce legislation to reform the Senedd, based on 80 to 100 Members; a voting system, which is as proportional – or more – than the current one and introduce gender quotas in law.
- Promote and support the work of the UK-wide Constitutional Commission being established by the UK Labour Party.
- Establish a Peace Academy – Academi Heddwch – in Wales.
- Seek to reform council tax to ensure a fairer and more progressive system.
- Reform local government elections to reduce the democratic deficit.
- Put in place a £65 million international learning exchange programme.
- Reinvigorate our twinning relationships across the EU through a Young People’s Twinning Fund.

Well-being objectives

Wales is unique in having made a promise that we will protect the interests of future generations as well as meeting the challenges of the present day.

The initial Programme for Government published in June 2021 set out the 10 well-being objectives we are working towards this term, as well as outlining the steps we are taking to deliver these goals. Delivering these objectives will maximise our contribution to the well-being goals.

This revised and extended Programme for Government maintains our commitment to these 10 well-being objectives.

These objectives will allow us to deliver a more prosperous, more equal and greener Wales in line with the sustainable development principle,

addressing the extraordinary challenges Wales faces and creating a sustainable foundation for future generations to build on. Our commitment to these objectives is unchanged.

What has changed in this revised Programme for Government is that we have expanded and in some cases refined the steps we are taking to deliver the objectives in practice. The revised steps, as set out in this document, will allow us to drive further progress against the objectives and create better outcomes for people in Wales now and in the future. They take a radical and progressive approach to the pressing challenges ahead of us, ensuring we will make a real difference for people across Wales.

The ten well-being objectives are:



This government is also committed to delivering on a range of activity that sits in individual portfolios. Portfolio Ministers will lead on these commitments and work with Plaid Cymru where these areas form part of the Co-operation Agreement.

Health and Social Services

Continue to fund the NHS bursary.

Keep prescriptions free in Wales.

Continue to provide free PPE for health and care staff.

Fund NHS Wales Test Trace Protect service.

Establish a NHS National Executive.

Focus on end of life care.

Invest in and roll-out new technology that supports fast and effective advice and treatments.

Explore how the sanctuary model can be expanded, including through piloting specific community based facilities, to help support young people in crisis including in the evenings or at weekends.

Introduce e-prescribing and support developments that enable accurate detection of disease through artificial intelligence.

Invest in a new generation of integrated health and social care centres across Wales.

Establish three new Intensive Learning Academies to improve patient experiences and outcomes.

Tackle the stigma experienced by those living with HIV.

Create a Chief Social Care Officer for Wales.

Cap the costs of non-residential social care at the current £100 maximum per week.

Maintain the capital limit (for care) at £50,000.

Launch a National Social Care Framework.

Strengthen support for carers through a Covid hardship fund in 2021.

Fund a short-break respite scheme to help carers.

Develop more than 50 local community hubs to co-locate front-line health and social care and other services.

Fund a dedicated post in every local authority to champion work to make Wales an age friendly nation.

Improve the interface between continuing health care and Direct Payments.

Roll out baby bundles to more families.

Continue to support and uphold the rights of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.

Support our national Fostering Wales scheme.

Economy

Expand the use of shared and degree apprenticeships.

Progress our Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission for Wales.

Strengthen Regional Skills Partnerships.

Expand Personal Learning Accounts.

Build on the success of the Wales Union Learning Fund.

Campaign for the under-funded Health and Safety Executive to be devolved to Wales.

Expand the Development Bank of Wales' patient capital funds.

Increase the use of equity stakes in business support.

Build on our approach to the Foundational Economy and develop a Backing Local Firms Fund to support local businesses.

Provide greater support for worker buyouts and seek to double the number of employee-owned businesses.

Deliver on our 10-year £100m Tech-Valleys programme.

Work with the OECD and local government on possible longer term institutional structures for Arfor and the Valleys and fund phase two of the Arfor programme.

Help key areas of our economy, such as aerospace and steel, to innovate, grow and reduce their carbon footprint.

Act to protect Welsh language place names.

Provide free access to the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2022.

Ensure that Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic histories are properly reflected throughout our cultural and heritage sectors including in our National Museums.

Invest in our world-class sports facilities.

Invest in new facilities such as 4G pitches.

Establish a Creative Skills Body.

Consider establishing a Creative Industry Research and Development Fund.

Help businesses to work co-operatively to support local supply chains, including local delivery and logistics services.

Insist that Wales gets its fair share of the Shared Prosperity Fund and the so-called Levelling Up Fund from Whitehall.

Argue for closer economic and research ties with the EU.

Retain the Welsh Government's Office in Brussels.

Implement our new Export Plan.

Climate Change

Support the development of a register of empty buildings and help small businesses move into vacant shops.

Develop new remote working hubs in communities.

Press the UK Government for a fair share of vital rail infrastructure and R&D investment for Wales.

Give Transport for Wales new powers to better integrate rail, bus and active travel.

Develop new Regional Transport Plans.

Deliver £800m of new rolling stock for our railways and ensure that 95% of train journeys are on new trains by 2024.

Progress plans for a metro in North Wales and Swansea Bay.

Explore opportunities for multi-modal extensions to our Metro networks, such as an integrated transport system for the North West Corridor and across the South Wales valleys.

With Transport for Wales (TfW) explore the development of transport links between the north and south of Wales, including how to protect potential travel corridors on the western coast of Wales.

Press the UK Government to electrify the North Wales mainline.

Develop the Global Centre of Rail Excellence in the Dulais Valley.

Explore options for workers to take an ownership stake in our national transport assets.

Invest in bus services and complete major new bus infrastructure projects.

Expand flexible demand-responsive travel across Wales.

Explore extensions of the MyTravelPass for reduced-cost travel for young people.

Work to make the bus and taxi vehicle fleet zero-emission by 2028.

Work with Transport for Wales and local authorities to strengthen the promotion of walking and cycling.

Support innovative new social enterprise schemes such as bike maintenance repair cafes and bike recycling schemes.

Develop new Active Travel Integrated Network Maps.

Work with schools to promote Active Travel and Road Safety.

Build a sustainable future for our key air and sea ports.

Establish a new transport performance board.

Modernise transport grants.

Invest in travel options that encourage public transport and support walking and cycling.

Support innovation in new renewable energy technology.

Support communities to create 30 new woodlands and connect habitat areas.

Strengthen the protections for ancient woodlands.

Fund additional flood protection for at least 45,000 homes.

Deliver nature-based flood management in all major river catchments to expand wetland and woodland habitats.

Commission an independent review of the local government section 19 and Natural Resources Wales reports into extreme flooding in winter 2020-21.

Ask the National Infrastructure Commission to assess how the nationwide likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure can be minimised by 2050.

Legislate to strengthen the requirements for the use of sustainable drainage systems that provide wildlife habitat.

Begin to designate Wales’ inland waters for recreation, strengthening water quality monitoring.

Establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline.

Bring together a place-based zero waste challenge network of organisations to support cultural change in businesses and communities.

Work towards the creation of Ynni Cymru, a publicly-owned energy company for Wales.

Expand renewable energy generation by public bodies and community groups in Wales by over 100MW by 2026.

Enforce a moratorium on the consenting of all large incineration facilities.

Continue to improve existing homes, helping us tackle fuel poverty, create much needed jobs, training opportunities, and supply chains.

Reform the current system of building safety, including a second phase of the Welsh Building Safety Fund, so that people feel safe and secure in their homes.

Explore the feasibility of introducing local authority mortgages.

Legislate to enact the recommendations of the Law Commission in relation to leasehold reform.

Ensure that estate charges for public open spaces and facilities are paid for in a way that is fair.

Implement the renting homes Act to give renters greater security and develop a national scheme restricting rent to local housing allowance levels for families and young people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness.

Ensure Rent Smart Wales landlords respond quickly to complaints of racism and hate crime and offer appropriate support.

Develop masterplans for towns and high streets.

Empower communities to have a greater stake in local regeneration.

Develop community recycling facilities in town centres and promote repair and re-use facilities to encourage zero-waste shopping.

Create more community green space in town centres.

Repurpose public space for outdoor events, markets, street vendors, pop up parks and ‘parklets’.

Education and Welsh Language

Strengthen the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

Invest more than £1.5bn in the next phase of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme.

With local authorities, transform learning environments, develop net-zero carbon schools and open up school facilities for local communities.

Review Adult Education to increase the numbers of adults learning in Wales.

Provide additional counselling provision throughout the next Senedd term.

Support schools and teachers to deliver our world-leading Curriculum for Wales.

Expand the proportion of the education workforce who can teach and work through the Welsh language.

Incentivise the increase of Welsh medium provision in all education settings.

Establish and implement a single continuum of Welsh language learning.

Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy to support school leaders.

Implement the new Additional Learning Needs Act.

Expand the teaching of modern foreign languages in our schools.

Invest in the Pupil Development Grant.

Protect the Educational Maintenance Allowance for young learners.

Maintain our commitment to provide free breakfasts for all primary school pupils.

Appoint a Cabinet level minister to develop and take forward the proposals of the Youth Board for Wales.

Legislate for a new framework for youth services in Wales.

Support the democratic role of local authorities in education provision.

Promote parity of esteem between vocational and academic routes in Welsh education.

Reform qualifications and expand the range of ‘made in Wales’ vocational qualifications.

Examine how a greater degree of federation can support education leadership across Wales.

Explore how to strengthen professional learning communities.

Expand the role of and increase funding to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

Expand the Pupil Immersion Programme.

Introduce a pilot project which will incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help teach Welsh in schools.

Offer summer schools at each Welsh university for Seren foundation learners; expand current partnerships and set up new pilots in other Welsh institutions.

Address the recommendations from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group.

Finance and Local Government

Not take more in Welsh rates of income tax from Welsh families for at least as long as the economic impact of coronavirus lasts.

Develop further effective tax, planning and housing measures to ensure the interests of local people are protected.

Strengthen the autonomy and effectiveness of local government to make them more successful in delivering services.

Reduce the administrative burden on local authorities.

Change the performance framework for local government to better enable innovation, transparency, and local ownership.

Explore how to set meaningful targets to increase Welsh based public sector procurement levels beginning with a detailed analysis of public sector supply chains.

Promote the purchasing of made-in-Wales products and services.

Explore how the establishment of a National School for Government might contribute to the principle of a One Wales Public Service.

Commission evidence to understand the prospects for devolved public finances and the future needs of Welsh public services.

Consider new ways to address any future funding gaps, grow our tax base and consider the funding implications of any recommendations from the Constitutional Commission.

Social Justice

Expand the income maximisation work and the Single Advice Fund.

Explore the necessary infrastructure required to prepare for the devolution of the administration of welfare.

Progress the Fair Work Commission's recommendations.

Expand the 'Ask and Act' and 'Don't be a Bystander' training and awareness campaigns.

Establish an equalities legal service to provide support on unfair or discriminatory employment practices.

Incorporate the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People into Welsh law.

Address fully the recommendations from the Monuments and Street Names Audit.

Create a Race Disparity Unit alongside an Equality Data Unit to ensure an inclusive evidence base to inform decision making in government.

Ensure the justice elements of the Race Equality Action Plan are robust and address these matters with the police and the courts.

Expand our Access to Elected Office programme.

Implement the recommendations of the Reflecting Wales in Running Wales: Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for Public Appointments in Wales (2020 – 2023).

Support Prides across Wales by sponsoring Pride Cymru, establishing a Wales-wide Pride. Fund and appoint a Wales Pride Coordinator.

Use all available powers to ban all aspects of LGBTQ+ conversion therapy that are in our powers and seek the devolution of any necessary additional powers.

Trigger a request to devolve the Gender Recognition Act and support our Trans community.

Work with the tech companies and media platforms to tackle hate crime and misinformation.

Embed period dignity in schools.

Expand our free period provision in communities and the private sector.

Maintain our funding of 500 Police Community Support Officers and expand their number by 100.

Rural Affairs and North Wales

Develop a national model for regulation of animal welfare, introducing registration for animal welfare establishments, commercial breeders for pets or for shooting, and animal exhibits.

Improve the qualifications for animal welfare inspectors to raise their professional status.

Require CCTV in all slaughterhouses.

Ban the use of snares.

Restrict the use of cages for farmed animals.

Forbid the culling of badgers to control the spread of TB in cattle.

Support active farmers and landowners based in Wales to encourage woodland creation on less productive land and explore ways of drawing investment for woodland creation that secures local ownership and control.

Work with the farming community to deploy the Water Resources Regulations 2021 taking an approach targeted at those activities known to cause pollution.

Constitution

Work for a new and successful United Kingdom, based on a far-reaching federalism.

Press the UK Government for a more thoroughgoing federal reform of our constitution and inter-governmental relations.

Challenge the UK Internal Market Act and its attack on devolution and champion the rights of the Senedd to legislate without interference in areas devolved to Wales.

Strive to prevent the UK Conservative Government using the Internal Market Act to fund interventions not supported by the people of Wales.

Pursue the case for the devolution of policing and justice.

Develop a set of Codes of Welsh law.

Make the case for clear and stable tax devolution for Wales.



**Appendix 4 Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal
(extract relating to Craig Yr Hesg Quarry)**



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL:
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2006-2021**



DEPOSIT DRAFT PLAN

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT (SEA)**



**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
REPORT**

JANUARY 2009

Prepared by:



enfusion



- 0.10 From these studies, the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the LDP and the SA were identified, as set out in the following table:

Key sustainability Issues/ opportunities identified for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Potential for increased flooding in low lying areas.
Issues of water supply in dry summers and decreases in water quality arising from inadequate drainage systems.
High levels of out commuting and reliance on the private car for transportation.
Development pressures on areas of cultural or archaeological heritage that are not protected by statutory designations.
Increased road development and access routes.
Increasing levels of deprivation, ill health and drug related crime.
Depopulation and loss of economic activity from the valleys and northern area.
Opportunity to stimulate the local economy, through increased tourism
Opportunities for renewable energy projects – range of scales and technologies.

SA Framework

- 0.11 An SA Framework was compiled and it included SA Objectives that aimed to resolve the issues and problems identified; these were used to test the draft plan as it was being prepared. This was included in the SA Scoping Report that was sent to statutory consultees. Comments were invited and received from a number of these organisations, which helped to improve the SA Framework. The following is a list of the SA Objective Headings.

SA Objective headings	
1. Housing	9.. Landscape
2. Culture & heritage	10. Biodiversity
3. Communities	11. Water
4. Health	12. Climate Change
5. Economy	13. Energy
6. Employment	14. Land & soils
7. Transport	15. Waste
8. Built Environment	16. Minerals

SA OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 0.12 Each stage of the preparation of the Deposit Draft Plan was appraised systematically using the SA Objectives. Where significant adverse effects, including environmental effects, have been predicted, the SA sought where possible to identify means of offsetting these effects, including through the revision/ amendment of policies. Where it was considered that there were opportunities to enhance the sustainability of the proposals, recommendations were made. The appraisal recognised 7 categories of predicted effects, as illustrated in the following key.

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK

	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
1	Housing: SEA topic population and human health	
	Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver good quality housing ▪ Promote a mix of housing size, type and tenure within each settlement? ▪ Promote housing that meets the requirements of those with special needs? ▪ Help meet affordable housing needs to allow local people to remain within communities? ▪ Protect and enhance the existing housing stock including the characteristic terraces
2	Culture and Heritage: SEA topic cultural heritage	
	Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance areas and buildings of historical, archaeological or cultural importance, and the historic landscape ▪ Have regard for the entire historic environment, whether protected by legislation or not. ▪ <i>Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage, including landscape, archaeology and language</i> ▪ Protect and enhance the industrial heritage ▪ Promote the retention of the Welsh language ▪ Promote sustainable access to cultural sites
3	Communities: SEA topic population	
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage provision of local community facilities and employment opportunities in accessible locations ▪ Help reduce disparities between the northern and southern wards ▪ Promote access to education for all ▪ Consider the needs of vulnerable groups ▪ Plan places with opportunities for active citizenship to promote community engagement ▪ Accommodate meeting places for different cultures ▪ Promote mixed development ▪ Provide equality of access for all
4	Health: SEA topic human health	
	Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote provision of and access to healthcare facilities ▪ Prevent unacceptable levels of noise, light, odour and air pollution ▪ Provide spaces such as allotments which will promote healthy eating ▪ Protect existing open spaces ▪ Promote provision of facilities for physical recreational activities and play ▪ <i>Public access to natural greenspace</i> ▪ <i>Air quality indicators including NOx and ozone figures</i>
5	Economy: SEA topic population	

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
	Provide for a sustainable economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage local growth, especially in areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity ▪ Encourage appropriate inward and indigenous investment ▪ Support the rural economy ▪ Promote good quality sustainable tourism ▪ Ensure the allocation of land to accommodate the economic needs of the population ▪ Maintain an appropriate land bank ▪ Promote healthy town centres
6	Employment SEA topic population	
	Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximise employment opportunities ▪ Provide various opportunities for a range of skills levels ▪ Provide jobs in accessible locations ▪ Accommodate training facilities to help develop a flexible skills base ▪ Promote good quality jobs within key sectors ▪ Reduce the need for out commuting from the Borough for work ▪ Support the retail hierarchy ▪ Promote healthy, vibrant and attractive town centres
7	Transport: SEA topic population and climatic factors	
	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable modes of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide for alternatives to the private car and improve public transport links within an integrated transport strategy ▪ Improve the existing road and rail network, especially to provide access to isolated areas ▪ Provide for safe and attractive walking and cycling ▪ Provide for appropriate levels of car parking to serve the needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf ▪ Reduce the need to travel in new developments
8	Built Environment: SEA topic material assets	
	Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure high standards of design in all new development ▪ Protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, but recognise the role of innovation in the built environment ▪ Promote methods of sustainable construction ▪ <i>Energy and water efficiency of new buildings and developments</i> ▪ Promote Green Infrastructure for people and wildlife ▪ Promote high density development where appropriate
9	Landscape: SEA topic landscape	
	Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the improvement of the landscape where it has been degraded as a legacy of previous industrial use

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance designated areas ▪ Increase opportunities for enjoyment of the countryside where appropriate
10	Biodiversity: SEA topic biodiversity, fauna and flora	
	Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance valuable wildlife habitats and species, both those statutorily designated and those of local value ▪ Avoid and, where possible, reverse habitat fragmentation ▪ Improve, protect and enhance the biodiversity within the water environment ▪ Integrate protection and creation of habitat into the design of new development from the outset ▪ Promote ecologically based land management
11	Water: SEA topic water	
	Promote <i>sustainable water management including promoting use of sustainable drainage systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce and/or avoid pollution to water <i>environment</i> ▪ Promote use of sustainable drainage systems ▪ Manage and avoid exacerbating flood risk especially along river frontages ▪ Manage and reduce flood risk rivers, minor water courses and sewerage by adopting SUDS and avoiding flood risk areas for new development ▪ Use water efficiently ▪ Protect groundwater sources ▪ Prevent new development that will exacerbate current foul drainage problems
12	Climate Change: SEA topic climatic factors	
	Manage the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider the likely impacts of climate change on all types of infrastructure, existing and new ▪ Provide habitat routes to allow species to adapt to the changing environment ▪ Minimise greenhouse gas emissions ▪ Contribute to a carbon-neutral community ▪ <i>Reduce flood risk to people, property and maintain integrity of floodplain.</i>
13	Energy: SEA topic climatic factors and air	
	Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote energy efficiency ▪ Encourage the development of renewables, including micro-generation ▪ Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all new developments
14	Land and soils: SEA topic soil	
	Promote efficient use of land and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage safe restoration of previously developed land ▪ Re-use previously developed land and buildings as a priority, where appropriate ▪ Optimise use of greenfield land ▪ Prevent and control pollution to land

Table 3.1 SA FRAMEWORK		
	SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the Policy ...?
15	Waste; SEA topic water, soil, human health and population	
	Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further improve on good recycling performance including provision of facilities (domestic and commercial) ▪ Avoid, reduce, re-use, recycle and recover before disposal to landfill ▪ Support development of alternatives to landfill, including composting facilities and energy from waste ▪ Promote self sufficiency in terms of waste management where appropriate
16	Minerals: SEA topic material assets	
	Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguard mineral resources ▪ Reuse and recycle aggregates on site

3.17 Undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Local Development Plan involved appraising the Preferred Strategy and the subsequent Deposit Plan against the SA Framework. For each option/policy, a matrix is prepared. Within the matrix, a 'score' is assigned for each sustainability objective using the key shown below. This score is accompanied by commentary, evidence and references as appropriate setting out the justification for the score. The scores and commentary are then used to identify opportunities to reduce conflicts with sustainability objectives, and increase the progression of more sustainable outcomes.

Table 3.2: Sustainability Appraisal Key	
DG	Development actively encouraged as it would resolve an existing sustainability problem
LG	No Sustainability constraints and development acceptable
B	Neutral effect
Y	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation and /or negotiation possible
O	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues ; mitigation or negotiation difficult and /or expensive
R	Absolute sustainability constraints to development
?	Unknown effect

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (**NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15**)

Land adjacent to Craig yr Hesg Quarry, Pontypridd is identified as a Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource.

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (**NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15**)

SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
1	Housing Provide for the overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities	No direct impact on the provision of housing.	LG		
2	Culture and Heritage Promote, protect and enhance the Culture and Heritage including landscape, archaeology and language	No direct or specific impact.	B		
3	Communities	No direct or specific impact.	B		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)					
SA Objective		Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	Promote integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all				
4	Health Provide an environment that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being	Mining has potential impacts on health through air and noise pollution but this offsets this with Policy AW17 which protects established settlements.	B		
5	Economy Provide for a sustainable economy	Minerals are an essential requirement for the economy providing the raw material for infrastructure. This does not apply only to the local economy but also to the national economy. Positive impact.	LG		
6	Employment Provide for a diverse range of job opportunities	As above.	LG		
7	Transport Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable	There may be some short term adverse impact but no long term effect due to the finite resources.	?		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	modes of transport			
8	Built Environment Provide a high quality built environment that promotes community pride	LG		
9	Landscape Improve, protect and enhance the countryside	LG		
10	Biodiversity Protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of wildlife habitats and native species	LG		
11	Water Promote sustainable water management including promoting	B		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
	use of sustainable drainage systems			
12	Climate Change Manage the effects of climate change	Y		
13	Energy Increase the supply of renewable energy and reduce energy consumption	Y		
14	Land and Soils Promote efficient use of land and soils	LG		
15	Waste Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill	LG		
16	Minerals	LG		

Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource (NOW POLICIES AW 14 & 15)				
SA Objective	Nature of the sustainability effect of policy (including magnitude, timing, duration and reversibility of effects where known).	Assessment	Evidence and reference	Suggested mitigation and enhancement measures (<i>those in italics are already proposed in the Plan</i>)
Promote efficient and appropriate use of minerals	Borough contributes to the national and regional requirement for minerals. Sterilisation of resources is avoided.			
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The use of non renewable materials does not meet the overall objective of sustainable development, although opportunities exist e.g. for habitat creation/ restoration as part of overall restoration activities. It is accepted that materials are required for essential infrastructure projects and that the plan is fulfilling its statutory obligation to include such policies, additionally sourcing materials close to where they will be used minimises the negative effects of transport.</p>				



Appendix 5 Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan Review Report (extract relating to Minerals)



Rhondda Cynon Taf

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Diwygiedig 2020-2030

Revised Local Development Plan 2020-2030

**Rhondda Cynon Taf
Local Development Plan 2006-2021**

Review Report

November 2019



regional level at Bryn Pica and Hirwaun Industrial Estate, and a sub-regional level at existing and allocated B2 employment sites.

- 4.5.3. To date, the total permitted waste management capacity stands at 9.95 hectares, equating to 79.6% of the lower capacity requirement or 45.9% of the higher capacity requirement as set out in the RWP. No further waste management capacity has been permitted since the 2015-2016 AMR. Notwithstanding this, annual monitoring has consistently considered that waste monitoring targets and objectives are being met in every AMR since the adoption of the LDP.
- 4.5.4. PPW has been revised a number of times since the adoption of the LDP to reflect ongoing changes in national planning policy and guidance. Such changes include the publication of TAN 21 *Waste* (2017) and a set of sector plans related to the overarching waste strategy for Wales 'Towards Zero Waste', most notably the Collections, Infrastructure and Markets (CIM) Sector Plan (2012). RWP requirements have since ceased to apply in respect of planning policy matters, and PPW no longer requires their further revision. The CIM Sector Plan moves away from the RWP approach of land-take based calculations, and towards a methodology focussing on the need for waste management facilities considering future capacity.
- 4.5.5. PPW requires development plans to demonstrate how national policy and the CIM Sector Plan (in addition to any updated position adopted in the waste planning monitoring reports and any form of waste management priorities relevant to its local area) have been considered in the preparation of LDP policies. Given that policy CS 9 was based on a now out-of-date and obsolete RWP, an LDP revision will need to examine how the policy takes account of the changes to national planning policy and the CIM Sector Plan's movement away from land-take based calculations.

4.6. **Minerals**

Policies CS 10, AW 14, SSA 25

- 4.6.1. The LDP's Minerals policies were prepared in the context of the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) of the South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (SWRAWP) (2008) and Mineral Planning Policy Wales. The LDP's minerals policies have met and exceeded their monitoring target every year since the adoption of the LDP by maintaining a 10-year land supply.
- 4.6.2. The Planning Authority's position on minerals is updated by the RTS, which is reviewed approximately every 5 years, as required by national guidance (MTAN 1). This is in order to ensure that an adequate and steady supply of aggregates can be maintained throughout Wales.
- 4.6.3. The RTS identified a potential land-bank shortfall of permitted aggregate reserves, and accordingly, Policy SSA 25 identifies a Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource on land adjacent to Craig yr Hesg quarry, Pontypridd. A full application for the phased extraction of 10 million tonnes of sandstone aggregate at a western extension to this existing quarry, is currently being considered by the Council. Should this be approved, this would significantly improve RCT's land-bank.

- 4.6.4. The RTS 1st Review (2014) sets an annual apportionment for primary aggregates of 0.69 million tonnes per year, or 17.25 million tonnes over 25 years for Rhondda Cynon Taf. This identified a potential shortfall in the latter part of a longer-term revised LDP plan period, which is to be considered as part of the LDP revision. The RTS 2nd Review is however expected to be published in the near future and will provide further updated directions regarding the apportionment required by RCT.
- 4.6.5. Additionally, LDP policy AW 14 safeguards coal resources, among other resources, from development that would unnecessarily sterilise them or hinder their extraction, as was required by national planning policy at the time. In general, this policy has been considered in many applications, although in reality, these have typically been on sites where the minerals have already been sterilised by surrounding development.
- 4.6.6. One major note with regards to safeguarding, is the UK and Welsh Government's energy policy to remove coal from energy generation. PPW (Ed. 10) now advises that coal resources no longer require safeguarding, while proposals for opencast, deep-mine development or colliery spoil disposal should not be permitted. Any LDP revision will require further consideration regarding whether the safeguarding of coal resources can be justified any longer.

4.7. **Environment**

Policies AW 7, AW 8, AW 10, NSA 13, NSA 24, NSA 25, NSA 26, SSA 22, SSA 23,

- 4.7.1. The LDP strategy recognises that the natural environment of Rhondda Cynon Taf has seen considerable changes over the past 30 years. As the presence of heavy industry has subsided the visual and wildlife qualities of the Borough have been able to thrive. The Northern Strategy Area of the County Borough boasts exquisite landscapes and biodiversity, whilst the south is characterised by undulating hillsides and Vale fringe.
- 4.7.2. The strategy recognises that there is considerable pressure on these characteristics, particularly in the south and therefore seeks to strike a balance between development and the protection of the natural environment. The strategy is based on providing high-level protection for important features, as well as providing a basis for positive policies on issues such as design, conservation and amenity provision. The environment topic is a theme that is crosscutting through a number of policies. The topic will be looked at as a whole but a commentary of some of the specific environmental policies are discussed below.
- 4.7.3. Policy AW 8 – Protection and enhancement of the Natural Environment. This policy is the main environmental protection policy in the LDP.
- 4.7.4. The policy seeks to preserve and enhance Rhondda Cynon Taf's natural heritage by protecting it from inappropriate development. The policy specifically protects SINC's, RIG's and other locally designated sites, in addition to protecting important features of the landscape and nature conservation. The policy also makes