

Committee: **Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **19th October 2022**

Report Subject: **Council's Corporate Plan 2022/27**

Portfolio Holder: **Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services and Performance – Cllr Steve Thomas**

Report Submitted by: **Damien McCann, Interim Chief Executive**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	Various sessions held	11.10.22			19/10/22		26/10/22	Exec CLT 4/10/22 11/10/22

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 For Members of the Corporate Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee to consider the Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/27 prior to approval and sign off at Council.
- 1.2 The Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/27 is attached at appendix 1.

2. Scope and Background
Legislative Requirements

- 2.1 In order to comply with relevant legislation the Council is required to produce a Corporate Plan, outlining its intentions for the coming years. The Plan has been written to cover the current 5 year political cycle from 2022 to 2027.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is required to fulfil the requirements as outlined within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Blaenau Gwent's Corporate Plan

- 2.3 The Corporate Plan 2022/27 sets out an ambitious programme of activity for the Council over the next five years and beyond. The priorities, also referred to as Well-being Objectives, have been developed in order to support communities to thrive. The Corporate Plan is the Council's commitment to the communities of Blaenau Gwent, to provide modern and high quality services which support economic growth and well-being.
- 2.4 The Plan outlines four high level priorities, each of which will be underpinned by solid and sustainable business plans, which describe the activity to be undertaken by each service area of the Council, ensuring the Council can be held to account for what it has promised to deliver.

- 2.5 The four high level priorities are:
- Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
 - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities
 - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place
 - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
- 2.6 The Council has a responsibility to the people of Blaenau Gwent to help improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. By setting a small number of strategic priorities within the Corporate Plan it will allow efforts to be concentrated on delivery in these areas and ultimately, help to improve the quality of the lives of residents.
- 2.7 The priorities have not been developed in isolation and alignment has also been made to the Marmot Principles (further detail is found in appendix 1) and the priorities from the Gwent Public Service Board Plan (PSB) Well-being Plan.
- 2.8 The table below highlights the links between the Corporate Plan 2022/27, the Marmot Principles and the Gwent PSB's Well-being Plan.

Corporate Plan 2022/27	Marmot Principle	Gwent Well-being Plan
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give every child the best start in life • Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives • Create fair employment and good work for all • Ensure a healthy standard of living for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to create an equal Gwent for all
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities • Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced to maximise the well-being benefits that

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together’. 	nature provides to current and future generations
An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create fair employment and good work for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to create an equal Gwent for all
Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes 	We want to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe and confident communities

2.9 The Corporate Plan also outlines a new Council Vision:
‘Blaenau Gwent – a place that is fair, open and welcoming to all by working with and for our communities’.

2.10 A core set of Council Values has also been identified for all staff and Members to follow:

- Respectful
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Accountable
- Supportive

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 CLT and Executive have undertaken a review of the Corporate Plan 2022/27.

3.2.1 **Option 1 – Support to the Content of the Draft Corporate Plan, prior to approval at Council for publication**

Consider and support:

- the priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan, noting that these are high level and strategic and further detail and operational activity will be identified as part of the Council’s business planning process;
- the Council’s new Vision; and
- the Council’s Values.

3.2.2 **Option 2 – Make Amendments to the Draft Corporate Plan, for consideration by Council prior to publication**

Provide alternative options to:

- the priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan, noting that these are high level and strategic and further detail and operational activity will be identified as part of the Council’s business planning process;

- the Council's new Vision and strapline; and
- the Council's Values.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 The document is the Council's Corporate Plan, setting out the most important areas for implementation in the short to medium term.
- 4.2 The Corporate Plan has been written to align to the priorities as identified in the Gwent Public Service Board Well-being Plan.

Legislative Requirements

- 4.3 The Council is currently under two pieces of legislation:–
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and
 - Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 4.4 The Council has specific duties are part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to produce Well-being Objectives and a Well-being Statement. The priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan also act as our Well-being Objectives and the Corporate Plan also acts as our Well-being Statement.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

There is a statutory requirement to have an agreed and published Corporate Plan in place.

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

There are no specific financial implications as a result of the development of this Plan, however, the Corporate Plan priorities will be used as the basis for budget setting and in allocating resources as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There is a risk that without a clear and published set of Council priorities, governance arrangements; budgetary allocations; service planning and decision making could be adversely affected.

5.3 ***Legal***

The Corporate Plan also meets our statutory legislative obligations. If the Plan were not approved or did not meet the legislative requirements this would be a reputational risk to the Council, potentially resulting in corrective action.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There are no specific staffing or workforce implications as a result of the Plan. The Corporate Plan emphasises the need to work with partners as well as with communities (utilising all available resources) in pursuing the achievement of the Council priorities.

Officers will be required to establish robust business plans which will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

There is an ongoing process of gathering a wide-range of information to understand the issues that are most important to people in our area. We have also looked at future trends to make sure we consider the things that will affect how we work in the longer term.

6.1.2 It is important that we can demonstrate progress against the Council priorities outlined in the Plan and be held to account against them.

6.1.3 A suite of Key Performance Indicators, which underpin the priority areas, will be reviewed to ensure they show progress of the priority areas moving forward.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The Corporate Plan identifies the key areas of activity for the Council over the next five years. These will have direct benefits for the people of Blaenau Gwent.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Engagement remains a key priority for the Council and these proposals are intended to continue this work and ensure that all services are focussed on their customers and communities through strong engagement and communication.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Plan addresses the need to balance short and long term needs within the community and to improve the overall resilience and sustainability of the Council.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Plan aims to work in a preventive way, identifying need before it escalates.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Outcome Statements have been written to identify contributions from across different service areas and this will help us to deliver our 'One Council' approach by working together to deliver better outcomes for our communities.

6.7 ***Integration(across service areas)***

The Plan references the need to be clear about the Council's role in the delivery of services now and in the future and how it can work with its communities, partners and businesses to improve the overall well-being of the area.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The Plan includes specific reference to decarbonisation and prioritising activity around this agenda.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***

Across Gwent, all councils, including Blaenau Gwent, will work towards becoming a region that aims to tackle and reduce inequalities, based on the Marmot principles (further detail in appendix 1). The Council will work across all public services in the area to ensure that our policies, approaches and resources are geared towards creating a fairer, more equal society for today's residents and future generations. This will be at the centre of how we develop and deliver our services across early years, education and skills, transport, housing, places and spaces, and jobs and businesses. As an anti-poverty council, we will do everything within our power to support people trapped in poverty and those who are most vulnerable. By valuing and promoting good health, education and learning we can help people to reach their full potential. This in turn will contribute to creating better informed and connected communities throughout Blaenau Gwent that are fair, open and welcoming to all; where everyone gets to play an active part.

6.9b ***EqIA***

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and no negative impact on the protected characteristics have been identified.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The business planning process is aligned to the Corporate Plan and feeds the information within the Joint Finance and Performance report.

7.2 Progress of the Corporate Plan is highlighted within the Joint Finance and Performance report.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 Corporate Plan 2022/27*