

Dear Colleagues,

TeamCaerphilly
BETTER TOGETHER

It's been a while since we updated you on some of the work that continues to take place as part of the 'Team Caerphilly – Better Together' transformation programme.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the transformation team and colleagues in the wider Service Improvements and Partnerships team (or Policy team as we're better known) were called upon to develop and implement the council's 'buddy scheme'. A huge task, involving many hundreds of volunteers, but one that has helped over 1,560 vulnerable people in need of support. The feedback from our residents for the support they received from the amazing volunteers has been so overwhelmingly positive – so thank you to everyone that was involved.

It did mean though that our updates on the council's wider transformation work became a little infrequent as a result. As you'll know from your own areas of work though and Christina and the Leader's regular staff updates, the speed, scale and pace of transformation that has taken place right across the organisation, in some cases almost overnight, as a result of the pandemic has been truly incredible!

In these updates, which we hope to provide at least monthly, we hope to give you a flavour for some of the work that's underway across the council that you may not necessarily be aware of currently – as well as the many opportunities that lie ahead for you to become involved.

Team Caerphilly Programme Board:

The Team Caerphilly Programme Board is made up of the Chief Executive and three Corporate Directors, Cllr Eluned Stenner as Cabinet Member with responsibility for transformation, Sue Richards (our Head of Service), who is leading on the transformation agenda and members of the Transformation team.

The group meet on a monthly basis to review progress on the transformation programme and to discuss ideas linked to the three main elements of the programme: commercialisation, place shaping and service/corporate reviews. The group met recently so we thought it would be timely to offer you a brief update on what was discussed:

Corporate Reviews:

You may be aware that Cabinet last year approved a series of 10 council-wide 'Corporate Reviews', which aim to capitalise on the speed and scale of change brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and embed some of these ways we transformed as a result into a 'new norm' for Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Christina has detailed this in a previous staff update, but if you'd like to read more about these reviews, here is the link to the Cabinet report: [Strengthening TeamCaerphilly.pdf](#)

Each one of the Corporate Reviews is being led by a Head of Service, with support from a member of the wider project team.

We're really keen to make sure that staff have the opportunity to get involved in helping shape these reviews and the work that comes from them – so watch this space, as we'll have more details to follow, but **Your Council Needs You!**

This Team Caerphilly Programme Board saw updates given on three of the review areas; Workforce Development (being led by Lynne Donovan), Volunteering and Community Partnerships (led by Sue Richards) and Information, Insight and Intelligence (led by Liz Lucas).

The Workforce Development one will see some significant work undertaken on a number of areas including a comprehensive corporate induction programme, development of a formal wellbeing strategy, a review of the recruitment process and much more.

The Volunteering and Community Partnerships review is looking at how we can make even stronger links with our communities, as well as the roll-out of the innovative Caerphilly Cares model, a new approach to community engagement – and a corporate volunteering policy.

The Information, Insight and Intelligence corporate review is a huge area of work, covering areas such as a full data audit of that held by the council, a review of legacy digital applications, a standardised approach to reporting data across council services and much more!

More information on what these and the other reviews cover, and how you can get involved, will follow shortly.

Catering service review:

The Catering team were one of the departments that took part in a pilot 'service review' before last year's lockdown. This review saw some exciting opportunities emerge, particularly around the Meals Direct (Meals on Wheels) offer, cashless catering in primary schools, the catering offer within Penallta House linked to the potential reconfiguration of the ground floor, and also some opportunities to streamline some of the most laborious processes.

It was excellent to receive an update on where the team are at – and where things are heading next. More updates to follow on this.

Commercial & Investment Strategy Update:

Just before Christmas, Cabinet agreed to the adoption of the first Commercial & Investment Strategy for the council. As part of the strategy implementation Cabinet also agreed to some 'seed' money for the Licence to Innovate scheme and we hope to have more details about this with you shortly! Get your ideas ready.....

Welsh Government Digital Transformation Fund – successful bid:

Finally, Gwyn Williams in Digital Services updated the Programme Board on an exciting proposal that is in its early stages of development.

Caerphilly, in partnership with Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Councils, has been successful in an 'alpha phase' (early stage) funding bid for a centralised Learning Management System. This system would offer us the opportunity to really improve our learning and development offer as an organisation. Early days, but definitely an interesting proposal. This piece of work has been carried out in partnership with the Safeguarding and the Joint Workforce Development Teams.

Watch this space for more!

We hope you've found this brief update useful. As ever, if you'd like to discuss any ideas with the Transformation team, please feel free to contact us at teamcaerphilly@caerphilly.gov.uk

