



# Strengthening our Communities - Tackling poverty and the rising cost of living

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny  
Committee 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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# The Challenges and Opportunities

- Tackling poverty and addressing the cost of living crisis
- Responding to Four Audit Wales Reports
- Review of the Voluntary Sector Compact
- A new Town and Community Council Charter
- Reshaping - Strengthening Our Communities
- Building on and redefining our relationships

# What we Know

- The cost of living is increasing
- People and organisations are concerned about how they will cover their costs
- Some of our communities experience significant deprivation
- Demand for services/assistance is increasing
- Everyone is trying to do more with less
- We need to work collaboratively
- We need to understand the impact of our work
- We need to be more creative

# Audit Wales Reports

- Third Sector Partnership Report – 2021 (Vale)
- Time for Change Poverty in Wales – 2022 (Wales)
- A Missed Opportunity – Social Enterprises – 2022 (Wales)
- Together We Can – Community Resilience and Self Reliance 2023 (Wales)
  
- An integrated response is needed with a focus on engagement and collaboration leading to a new approach and strengthening our communities

# Time for Change Recommendations

- Refreshed National strategy and targets for tackling and alleviating poverty.
- Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty.
- Leadership on the poverty agenda.
- Improve efficiency & effectiveness of grant funded programmes.
- Experience mapping to create inclusive services for people in poverty.
- Single web landing page for people seeking help.
- Streamlining and improving application and information services.
- Complying with the socio-economic duty.

# Time for Change (2022)



The impact of poverty is far reaching and increasingly more difficult for people to deal with

# A Missed Opportunity – Social Enterprises Recommendations (2022 )

- Self-evaluate current Social Enterprise engagement, management, performance and practice.
- Identify opportunities to improve joint working.
- Jointly draft and implement an action plan with timeframes and responsibilities clearly set-out to address the gaps and weaknesses identified through the self-evaluation.
- Formally approve the completed Action Plan.
- Regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees.
- Revise actions and targets in light of the authority's evaluation and assessment of its performance.

# Community Resilience and Self Reliance Recommendations 2023

- To strengthen community resilience and support people to be more self-reliant, local authorities need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place.
- Formally approve the completed Action Plan arising from undertaking an evaluation exercise.
- Regularly report, monitor and evaluate performance at relevant scrutiny committees.
- Revise actions and targets in light of the authority's evaluation and assessment of its performance.



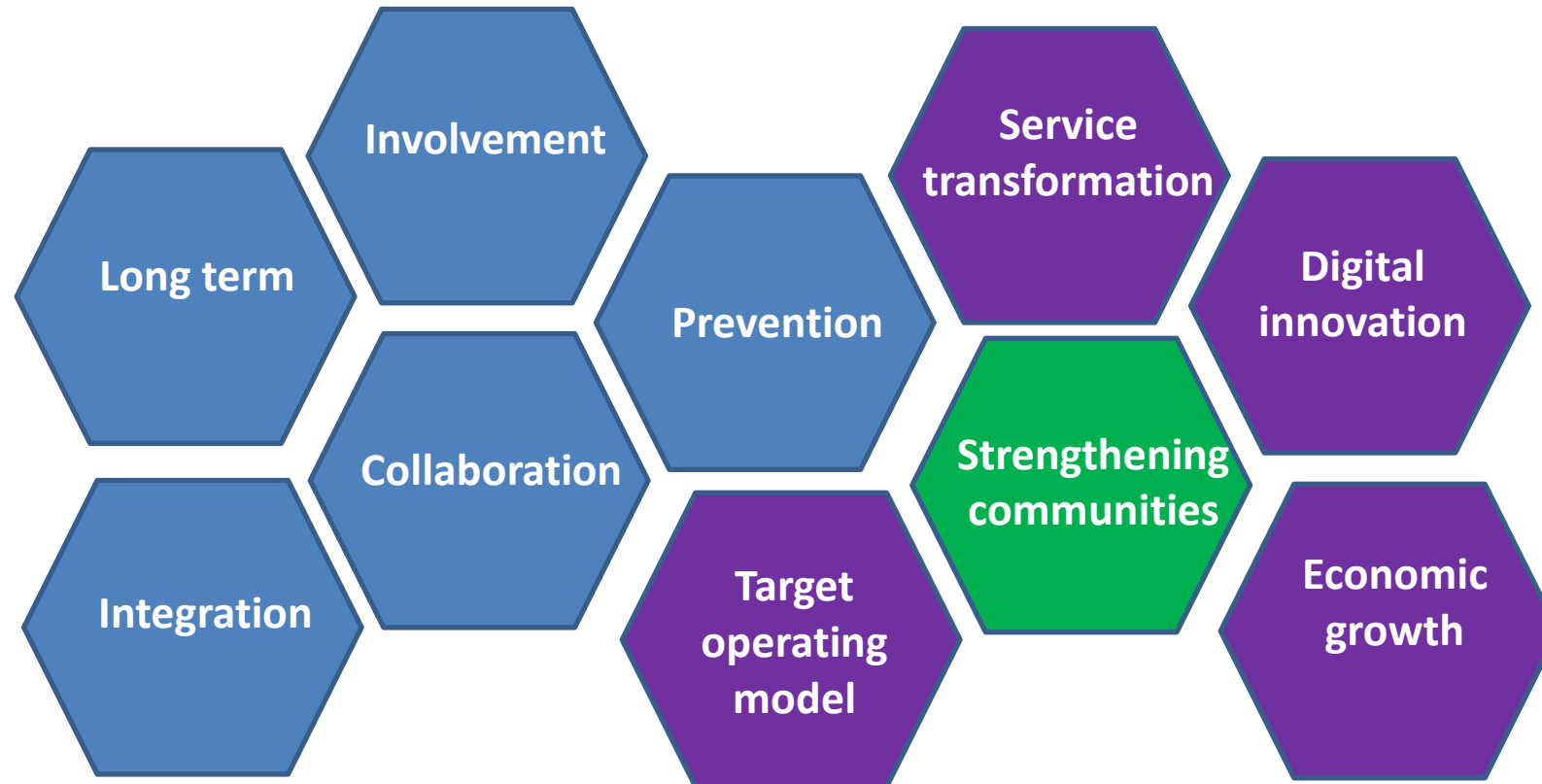
# Third Sector Partnership Working Recommendations (2021)

- The Council should reconsider the checklist set out in the report, in particular: Vision, Corporate strategy, Compact, Understanding engagement with the Third Sector, Designing services , Training, Performance review
- As part of the review of the compact, the Council should reflect how it wants to work with the Third Sector to help deliver its strategic recovery priorities, build on the positive work during the pandemic, and strengthen its application of the sustainable development principle.
- The Council should consider the level of resources and investment required to achieve a more collaborative way of working with the Third Sector and reflect this in its Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- The Council should consider what actions it could take to help the Third Sector adjust to a more collaborative way of working

# What's Happening



# Reshaping – Looking to the Future



# Redefining our Relationships & Strengthening our Communities

Charter between the  
Vale of Glamorgan  
Council and Community  
& Town Councils

2019



## A Compact

Between Glamorgan Voluntary Services

and

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

2017-2021



## Engagement with:

Staff, PSB, Members inc. Member Champions, Town and Community Councils, Social Enterprises, Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee, Third Sector, Community Liaison Committee, Equality Consultative Forum, the public e.g. via Let's Talk and associated focus groups

# Bringing it all Together: An Integrated Approach

This will help:

- Inform our Transformation Programme
- Shape our new Well-being Objectives and the new Corporate Plan
- Provide more clarity to the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector with a new Voluntary Sector Compact
- Revise the approach to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
- Support a review of the Town and Community Council Charter
- Redefine the relationships and our approach to how we work across different sectors including social enterprise
- Strengthen our work to tackle poverty and the cost of living crisis, as a Council and PSB
- Strengthen our Communities

# Recommendations

## That Committee

1. Notes the work being undertaken with regards to tackling poverty and the cost-of-living crisis and the proposed approach for future reporting of progress.
2. Endorses the approach outlined in this report for engaging with a range of stakeholders to determine how the Council can work better with the third sector and social enterprises and increase community resilience through an integrated response to the Audit Wales reports.
3. Note the progress made in response to the recommendations in Audit Wales report 'Time for Change – Poverty in Wales' set-out in Appendix A.
4. Endorse the response to the recommendations in the Audit Wales report 'A Missed Opportunity – Social Enterprises' as set out in Appendix B.
5. Endorse the response to the recommendations in the report 'Together We Can – Community Resilience and Self Reliance' set-out in Appendix C .
6. Notes the proposal to include work to develop the above in conjunction with a new Voluntary Sector Compact with GVS, a review of the terms of reference of the VSJLC and work to revise the TCC Charter into the programme of work outlined in this report whilst recognising that the Compact, Committee and Charter have a broader focus than poverty and the cost of living.
7. Notes the use of the cost-of-living reserve to support those in need.
8. Refers this report to Cabinet (for oversight), Governance and Audit Committee (for noting the response to the regulatory recommendations made), and Community Liaison Committee and Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee (for their comments to be referred to Cabinet for consideration) and that updates on progress are also provided at those meetings.
9. This report is circulated to all elected members and the Public Services Board for information.