

Agenda



Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2022

To: Councillor J Hughes

Item	Wards Affected
1 <u>WFG Act 2022</u> (Pages 3 - 14)	

Contact: Anne Jenkiss, Governance Team Leader
Tel: 01633 656656
E-mail: Cabinet@newport.gov.uk
Date of Issue: 18 March 2022

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Report

Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

Part 1

Date: 23 March 2022

Subject Newport City Council progress on Well-being of Future Generations Act

Purpose To update on actions undertaken in relation to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Author Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Ward All wards

Summary The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in April 2016 and is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a well-being duty on Newport City Council and other public bodies and the Council's well-being goals and well-being objectives are set out in the Corporate Plan.

This report updates on progress since the previous report in 2020 using the areas of focus set out in the Commissioners Future Generations Report.

Proposal For Cabinet Member to review and endorse the actions set out in this report to enable the council to meet the well-being goals and the council's well-being objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

Action by Cabinet Member, senior managers.

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Heads of Service
- Policy Partnership & Involvement Manager
- Housing & Assets Manager
- Service Manager Integrated Family Support

Signed

Background

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) came into force in April 2016 and is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is designed, to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As one of the 44 bodies named in the Act, the council must consider the Act in everything it does.

Well-being Goals

Seven well-being goals give clarity of the shared purpose of the public bodies listed in the Act for the long-term well-being of Wales.

- 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
- 7) A globally responsible Wales



Sustainable Development Principle (five ways of working)

The Act also puts in place a sustainable development principle, which sets out the way the council must go about meeting its duty under the Act.

Long term	The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
Prevention	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives.
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.
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.
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.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

The Act requires the appointment of a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. The Commissioner's role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and support public bodies listed in the Act to work in a sustainable way towards achieving the well-being goals. The Commissioner has a range of duties and powers under the Act.

The Commissioner's Report

One of the duties of the commissioner is to publish the [Future Generations Report](#). This contains the commissioner's assessment of the improvements public bodies should make to achieve the well-being goals. The last report was published in May 2020 and a [Cabinet report](#) identifying progress against the Commissioner's recommendations was provided in November 2020. This report will update on further progress since that date using the 8 areas of focus set out in the Commissioner's 2020 report:

- 1) Leadership and Change
- 2) Land Use, Planning and Place-making
- 3) Transport
- 4) Housing
- 5) Decarbonisation and Climate Change
- 6) Skills for the Future
- 7) Adverse Childhood Experiences
- 8) Health & Wellness System

1) Leadership and Change

Further, integrate the well-being goals and sustainable development principle to the seven areas of change as set out in the Act will enable the council to embed the Act into everything it does. The seven areas of change are: Corporate Planning, Performance Management, Risk Management, Financial Planning, Procurement, Workforce Planning, and Assets

Progress 2021/22

Work has already commenced on developing the Council's next five-year Corporate Plan that will commence in 2022 following the Local Government Elections. The Council's Corporate Plan is aligned to the Well-being Goals set in the Well-being Act. The development and delivery of the Plan considers the strategic priorities of the Council's Cabinet and as well as consider other strategic priorities at national, regional, and local levels.

The Local Government and Elections Act 2021 has placed new requirements for local authorities to 'Self-Assess' the effectiveness of their governance, performance and resources. For Newport Council the new requirements are seen as an evolution in our governance and performance reporting as over the last three years we have been working towards integrating and aligning service delivery with the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2017-22. The Council's [Corporate Annual Report](#) has been providing an overview of what the Council has achieved and assessing where can improve the delivery of services. This report will be used as the main reporting mechanism to meet the requirements of the Act.

Risk Management has been integral in the delivery of Council services and decision making at all levels of the organisation. The Council has an established risk management governance and process in place with a Risk Appetite statement in its Policy that sets out how the Council will manage its opportunities and risks.

Over the next year the Council will be reviewing and updating its key performance, risk and governance policy documents that will support the delivery of the new Corporate Plan, new organisational structure and meet the requirements of the Local Government Act.

Newport Council sets an annual budget that is aligned to the delivery of services and the Council's Corporate Plan. As part of its budget setting process the Council also reviews its medium-term plan. From 2022/23, local authorities will have 3-year budget settlements which will improve the Council's ability to set longer term plans to deliver its strategic priorities and to manage budget pressure areas. Every year the Council engages with Newport residents to decide where it spends its funding and priorities. This year's budget reflected the feedback from residents in setting the strategic priorities in 2022/23.

The Council's Procurement Strategy has taken into consideration the Well-being Commissioner's priorities for fair and local procurement; ethical employment in supply chains, ethical consumption, Welsh language, sustainability, carbon management and social value. The Council is also working towards adopting TOMs in how it procures goods and services. This approach puts social value and climate change at the forefront of officer decision making and improve the delivery of services.

This year, Newport Council launched its Wellness at Work policy which replaces the Council's sickness policy. The new policy puts the well-being (physical and mental) of the individual as they return to work. All managers are being provided training and support to help them support individuals. The Council's three staff network groups to provide the Council's LGBTQ+, disabled and Black and Minority Ethnic staff a voice in the decisions that are made and to ensure new / existing staff have safe spaces to meet.

The last two years has seen the Council evaluate the use of its buildings, vehicles and assets used by the Council and communities. The Council's 'New Normal' project and Climate Change strategy will be examining how the Council uses its assets and considering how hybrid working can maximise the use of its resources. The Council has been at the forefront of installing solar panels across its estate, implementing electric vehicle charging points in car parks and using electric vehicles such as refuse vehicles. This will be continuing over the next five years modernising how the Council deliver its services to the people of Newport.

2) Land Use, Planning and Place-making

Plan, design and build our communities and infrastructure for the future to address long-term challenges and ensure well-being nationally and locally. This will help protect and enhance our ecosystems, strengthen our communities by ensuring they can get together, access the right services and facilitate healthy and active lifestyles. There is a need to support modal shift and identify land for clean energy production and new ways of working and living.

Progress 2021/22

The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) is currently out for consultation and will seek to continue to build on the current LDP's vision to create green, safe and resilient communities all within the scope of achieving sustainable development.

Sustainable Travel Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has also now been developed and published and supplements policies in the adopted Newport Local Development Plan. It is designed to promote sustainable travel in new developments.

3) Transport

Work with our partners to plan and provide an integrated, frequent, low carbon and accessible transport network that is affordable. This will reduce air pollution and promote environmental resilience whilst equalising opportunity.

Progress 2021/22

The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter was launched in November 2020. 23 organisations across Gwent, including NCC, have signed up to the Charter so far. Partners are working together and sharing best practice to reach the 15 commitments in the charter.

Active Travel has been a priority area over the past 2 years. A public awareness campaign was launched last year with an animated [video](#) shared via social media. In Newport, active travel route improvements have been made at Tredegar Park, Old Tredegar Park Golf course, Coed Melyn, Monkey Island and via the addition of the Devon Place bridge. Three primary schools have been selected to take part in a traffic free school streets pilot. The pilots are currently under development and Sustrans are working with the schools to ensure parent engagement and encourage behaviour change prior to the pilots starting. After several rounds of public consultation, the Active Travel Network Map is now complete and will be used to plan future active travel developments over the next 5 years.

The introduction of electric vehicles, which were first used to deliver Council services in 2018, has increased significantly, with the Council now aiming to have replaced all cars and light vans with electric alternatives by April 2022. Electric vehicle chargers have also been installed across multiple Council sites to support the transition away from fossil fuelled vehicles by 2030. In 2021, the Council was the first Welsh Local Authority to invest in a fully electric refuse collection vehicle (RCV). Six refuse vehicles will be electric by April 2022, and the entire fleet of RCVs will be fully electric by the end of the decade. We have also installed 50 public electric vehicle charge points across the city, mostly in Council run public car parks. The next phase of EV charging installations will include on-street residential chargers and rapid charging hubs.

The South East Wales Transport Commission (SEWTC) produced its final report in November 2020 which recommended against construction of the M4 relief road and instead called for a focus on building capacity in public transport, particularly between Cardiff and Newport and encouraging cycling both within and between Newport and Cardiff.

The OneNewport Sustainable Travel group is engaged in this work and consultation is currently occurring on plans to introduce new bus and cycling routes on roads between Newport and Cardiff. This work also links to the development of the [South Wales Metro](#) system.

4) Housing

Work with our partners to provide good quality, affordable, low carbon, well designed homes and communities that promote positive physical and mental well-being and reduce inequality, poverty and improve life chances.

Progress 2021/22

The Welsh Government awarded Social Housing Grant of £7.2 million for Newport for 2020/21 and it is anticipated that the full £12.4 million allocation will be spend in 2021/22. The total number of affordable housing units to benefit from Social Housing Grant over the 2-year period is 383. These developments will help to meet housing need identified through the Local Housing Market Assessment which will be updated in 2022/23.

NCC collaborated with a housing association to submit two successful bids to the Welsh Government's Innovative Housing Programme. An extension to the Loftus Garden Village development and a new development at the former Ladyhill Day Centre both by Pobl will provide 57 new affordable homes. These highly sustainable developments will enable low carbon living and provide affordable warmth to residents. Homes will be manufactured off site and use pre insulated timber frames. Both developments are due to start on site during 2022.

Utilising Welsh Government capital and revenue funding, the council is responding to the pressures of Covid19 and resulting housing need by expanding the number of units of supported housing by six new supported housing schemes and reconfiguring Housing Support Grant to ensure the most vulnerable households can improve their housing, wellbeing and health. During the last period, despite new ways of working, over 3,200 vulnerable people have continued to be supported by our in-house teams and commissioned partners including support for people in Temporary Accommodation and an increasing number of people sleeping rough. The Council has also strengthened its collaborative working with statutory health and Prison & Probation services, especially in relation to mental health and substance misuse provision.

Welsh Government phase 2 capital funding has enabled the authority to work in collaboration with partner Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and a third sector provider to develop an additional 25 units of accommodation across 3 sites to support move on for those in temporary accommodation. The funding has also enabled a joint collaboration with an RSL to develop a housing support hub, which will provide housing advice, information and support to residents within the City.

The authority has increased collaboration with stakeholders when delivering adaptations to the private sector for elderly and vulnerable residents of Newport through membership of the Regional Partnership

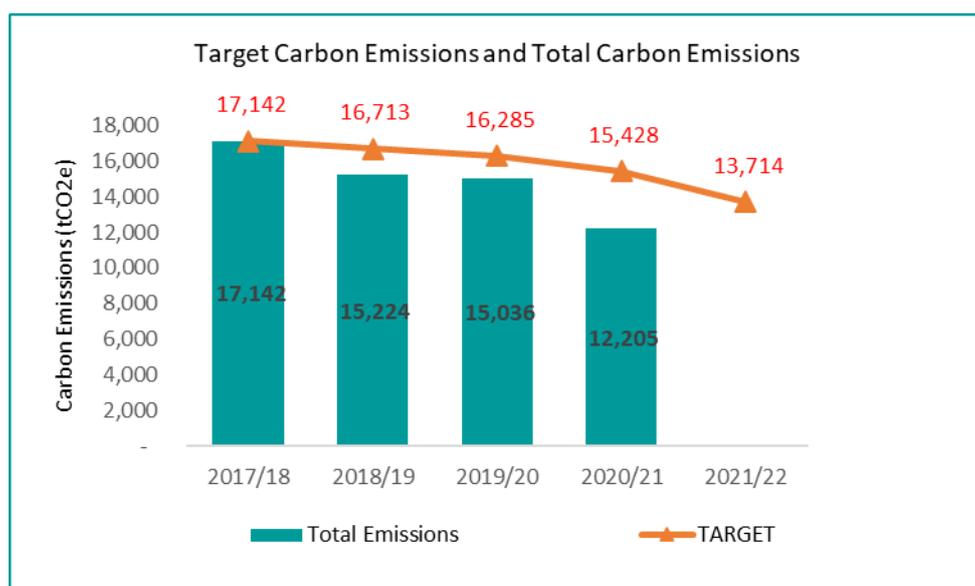
Board. Engagement with an increased number of stakeholders will be strengthened during 2022/23 with the adoption of Welsh Government's Housing Adaptations Strategic Framework. Increased collaboration will improve the quality of life for residents of Newport and reduce hospital admissions.

5) Decarbonisation & Climate Change

Work with partners and communities to integrate decarbonisation and climate resilience in to all that the council does whilst adapting to and preparing for the future impacts of climate change. Climate change is likely to be the biggest challenge for our future generations which will impact in many ways.

Progress 2021/22

Great strides have been made to reduce organisational carbon emissions in line with targets in the Carbon Management Plan.



Targets have been exceeded over the last three years which has resulted in a 29% reduction of scope 1 and scope 2 emissions. The graph above shows the reduction achieved in scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

To continue and widen this good work an organisational Climate Change Plan 2022-27 has been developed. The Plan sets out the themes, priorities, actions, and milestones that we need to take as a Council over the next five years to:

- Reach net zero carbon as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

This is a key document for the Council and will shape the Council's climate change mitigation and adaptation journey over the next five years.

A City-wide Climate Change Strategy that will support communities to decarbonise is also planned.

In addition, a Newport wide Local Area Energy Plan is under development which provides an understanding of the nature, scale, rate, and timings of changes that need to be made for Newport's transition to a net zero energy system by 2050. This includes all the power and heat demands across the local authority area for Industry, Commercial sector, Public Sector, Domestic and Transport. Based on progress to date, in June the plan will be published and implementation will begin.

6) Skills for the Future

Work with our partners to provide people with education and the opportunity to develop the right set of skills for their future to improve life outcomes including, health, socio-economic position and life expectancy. The world is changing quicker than at any time in living memory. These changes have profound implications to the future of work, community and well-being.

Progress 2021/22

The Council is part of OneNewport's Right Skills Intervention Board. Through this partnership, the Council works with Coleg Gwent, University of South Wales, Careers Wales, Department for Work and Pensions, GAVO and others to deliver skills-related work as part of Newport's Well-being Plan. The Board has reviewed its work in the light of the recommendations of the Future Generations Commissioner, which pointed to the importance of skills development not only for economic well-being, but also for social, environmental and cultural well-being. The Board has recently reviewed long term potential skills challenges to identify new priorities for action.

The recent focus has been on working with Newport businesses to deliver online careers events for students in our schools that highlight opportunities in key employment growth sectors in the city. To date these have been delivered in the digital sector and the healthcare, social care, childcare (Foundational Economy) sectors; a third event is being developed for the environmental/green sector. Through these events, our young people have been able to hear from, and engage with, major local employers on the job roles they offer and the skills they will be looking for. They also receive advice from partners on educational and training pathways into these careers available to them locally. The recorded sessions are providing an ongoing careers resource for students and several of the businesses involved are now partnering with local schools. Newport City Council participated as an employer in the Foundational Economy event.

Other initiatives include:

- supporting economically inactive people in Newport who wish to, to develop skills appropriate to the film and TV sector, which is seeing significant growth in South Wales.
- review by partners of the post-16 further and higher education offer in Newport in the light of future skills needs, and to aid progression and participation. The potential for a new city centre Coleg Gwent campus is providing additional stimulus for these discussions.
- provision of digital literacy / skills programmes for social well-being and in line with the Council's Digital Strategy to support digital inclusion. Free 6-week "Get Connected" essential digital skills course underway, supplemented by further Adult Continuing Learning programmes and basic skills support.
- interventions with a network of learning providers to prevent young people from becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- carbon literacy (climate change) training being delivered to support environmental well-being
- supporting the Council's Welsh Language Strategy for cultural well-being
- ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) and employability support for specific groups

Work is ongoing to support schools with the introduction of the new Curriculum for Wales. This will enable schools to strengthen the skills that young people develop and support them to become:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

Schools and their leaders are also being provided with opportunities to work in partnership with Higher Education, Further Education, businesses, Careers Wales, training providers and other organisations. This approach will help to ensure the curriculum offer at pre-16 and post-16 is relevant; that learning is authentic and equips young people with the right skills for the future; and supports our work to minimise the number of young people who do not enter employment, further education or training on leaving school.

7) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Work with our partners to help to prevent and mitigate the impacts of ACEs and build resilience in families to prevent these experiences being passed through generations. ACEs include problems such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse, growing up in a home where there is drug abuse, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, parental separation, incarceration or mental illness.

Progress 2021/22

Undoubtedly, the past 2 years dealing with the global Covid pandemic has impacted on services. However over the last year the Neighbourhood Hub model and professionals working within it have continued to enhance partnerships. This has included professionals from voluntary and statutory services, e.g. significant partnership working with Save the Children in the North of the City and expansion of the WG Early Integration Transformation Programme working with Public Health and ABUHB as a regional approach.

The neighbourhood model has facilitated some of the key outcomes of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan responding to the challenges Cymraeg 2050 brings. These initiatives have strengthened relationships with partners and have led to co-location of professionals working together as a team within the Hubs to promote positive outcomes for children and young people. The focus of the Early Years Integration Programme has been on identifying the family's own priority areas through 'what matter's' discussions facilitated by the multi- agency team.

Support for children and families affected by ACEs continues to be offered through a wide range of interventions available within the Hubs and virtually. These are closely linked to key policies and programmes such as Families First, Flying Start, Youth services, early help and more recently Summer of Fun and Winter of Well- Being. There has also been involvement with other initiatives such as Newport Youth Academy. Support from these agencies is triggered through referrals to the 'one front door / SPACE Wellbeing panel' along with direct agency referrals.

Support to families from services is offered through a range of settings in the community, including home visits, youth clubs, community hubs, schools and outreach in the case of some such as Youth Provision. The majority of families and children accessing services via the neighbourhood hubs and wider agencies in the community have lived experiences of trauma and ACES. Engagement is key, as is building relationships and collaborative working with partners, using tools such as the Early Identification Toolkit, Joint Assessment Framework and Distance Travelled toolkits. The early identification toolkit has also been used successfully in broader initiatives delivered through the Neighbourhood Hub teams such as the School Healthy Enrichment Programme.

8) Health & Wellness System

Support the development of a national wellness system to improve the nation's health and wellness and reduce demand on services by shifting resources to supporting prevention within the context of the wider determinants of health.

Progress 2021/22

The challenges faced by our social care and health sectors over the past 2 years have been extensive and it has been recognised that this will continue to be challenge in the long term. Over the last 2 years Community Impact Assessments have been undertaken that have examined the impacts that the pandemic has had on our communities and most disadvantaged groups. Using this information we have targeted funding through the Participatory Budget work that enables local groups and organisations to deliver their projects to support people that have been disadvantaged through the Pandemic. A second Participatory Budget using funding from Newport Council and Health is currently being undertaken with voting events occurring in March 2022.

The previous report also focused on the area of access to green space for play, recreation and exercise as this is promoted strongly within Newport through our Green and Safe Spaces Intervention.

Within this area we work alongside a strong network of local community groups. Some projects of particular note are:

- Working alongside Greening Maindee, a community group which aims to increase access to green spaces within Maindee (see this [report](#) for more information)
- Duffryn Community Link have also secured funding through the Big Lottery Create Your Space Programme for a Woodland Routes to Wellbeing [project](#)
- Several partners have been involved in clearing the mass fly tipping on the 'Road to Nowhere', now dubbed 'Road to Nature'. Ongoing partnership meetings and work by Friends of Road to Nature group continues to enhance the area and deter fly tipping

We are also involved in several projects to enhance biodiversity in Newport including Bee Friendly City, Local Places for Nature project, Trees for Cities (planting 100 fruit trees in parks, green spaces, Schools and Local Nature Reserves), the Road to Nature and the Buglife Pollinator Project, as well as the work of the [Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership](#).

Changes to PSB Structure and Development of the next Wellbeing Plan

The biggest change that has occurred since the last report is the move from the Newport Public Service Board (PSB) to a regional Gwent PSB model. Discussions had been ongoing for several years about the advantages of taking a regional approach to the requirements of the WFG Act within Gwent. The final meeting of the Newport PSB as a statutory body was held in June. The OneNewport Partnership continues its valuable work in supporting the delivery of the current Wellbeing plan and other local partnership priorities.

The Gwent PSB is currently in the final stages of developing the new Wellbeing Assessment, which is due for sign off by the PSB on March 10th. To support this, local area assessments were created supported by consultation with local partners. The Gwent Assessment drew on the Future Trends report released by Welsh Government in December 2021 which highlighted the importance of considering trends such as population growth and demographic changes, planetary health and limits and inequalities. The local area assessments use the Future Trends report as guidance rather than a framework due to the difference of focus between the regional and local views.

It is also anticipated that the change to the Council's management structure will improve on our ability to deliver against the wellbeing objectives by introducing clearer responsibility for delivery across service areas and improving communication between different areas.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

This report sets out the action and projects that the council have undertaken and are currently delivering in the course of implementing the Act. These projects have been costed separately and funding identified through existing budgets and/or relevant grants.

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
The council does not meet its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to improve the well-being of current and future generations in a sustainable way.	Medium	Medium		Corporate Management Team / Heads of Service

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

[OneNewport Local Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)

[Corporate Plan 2017-22 & the Strategic Recovery Aims](#)

[Climate Change Plan 2022-27 Consultation Draft](#)

[Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-26](#)

[Sustainable Travel Strategy](#)

[Carbon Management Plan 2018-22](#)

Options Available and considered

The options available to Cabinet:

- 1) To note the progress made as set out in this report and continue to endorse the Areas of Focus to ensure the Council continues to progress with its implementation of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 2) To note the progress made as set out in the annual reports and reject the Areas of Focus and Recommendations.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 is preferred, as this will enable the council, working alongside its partner and communities to Improve the overall well-being of current and future generations

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no adverse budgetary implications as a result of this report which updates on progress against actions identified in the Corporate Plan to support the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. These actions have been funded either via the core revenue budget, the Capital Programme or the use of external grants. The continuation of these actions or any future actions, which will form part of the development of the new Corporate Plan, will need to be appropriately funded and, where relevant, considered as part of the medium term financial planning process.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report. The report updates the Cabinet Member on the progress made in meeting the Council's well-being goals and objectives, with specific reference to the 8 areas of focus and recommendations set out in the last Future Generations Report issued by the Future Generations Commissioner in 2020. The report confirms that good progress has been made in each of the areas of focus, despite the impact of the Covid pandemic, and identifies further areas of planned improvement.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

From an HR perspective, there are no staffing implications.

This report gives a clear synopsis of the areas of focus set out by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' 2020 Report and highlights the progress made by the council against these areas of focus.

Scrutiny Committees

No consultation has been undertaken with any Scrutiny Committees.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

This is an information-only report so a full FEIA is not required. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the focus of this report. All projects undertaken in relation to the act are assessed to make sure that they are in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the council's Socio-economic duty. The Act also considers the impacts of Welsh Language, and the Council has a Welsh Language Strategy to support this.

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken when developing the current PSB Well-being Plan and has also been conducted for the development of the draft Gwent Wellbeing Assessment.

Background Papers

[Cabinet Report November 2020](#)

[Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

[Future Generations Report 2020](#)

Dated: 23 March 2022

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