

Report

Chair of Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 25 November

Subject **Future Generations Commissioner's Self-Reflection Tool Feedback**

Purpose The purpose of this report is to present the self-reflection tool feedback received from the Future Generations Commissioner (the Commissioner) and update on the next steps to support our ongoing commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Author Head of People & Business Change

Ward All wards

Summary The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a well-being duty on all public bodies listed in the Act. Newport City Council is one of 44 public bodies listed in the Act, which are required by law to work to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Commissioner has a duty to monitor progress of each of the named bodies in delivering against the well-being objectives they have set for themselves. To aid this process the office of the Commissioner designed a self-reflection tool which provided us with the opportunity to review the progress made during the year April 2017-March 2018. We have now received feedback and recommendations from the Commissioner of the self-reflection tool process. This report considers the outcome of that work and how the council can progress its implementation of the Act.

Proposal **To consider the feedback and endorse the recommendations made to support progress in implementing our well-being objectives and the Act.**

Action by Heads of Service

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Directors
- Heads of Service
- Performance & Research Business Partner
- Senior Policy & Partnership Officer

Signed

Background

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a well-being duty on all public bodies listed in the Act. Newport City Council is one of 44 public bodies listed in the Act which is required by law to work to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The well-being duty specifically states:

- 1) *Each public body must carry out sustainable development;*
- 2) *The action a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development must include:*
 - a) *Setting and publishing well-being objectives that are designed to maximise the contribution to the achieving each of the well-being goals.*
 - b) *Taking all reasonable steps (in exercising functions) to meet those objectives.*

The Commissioner has a duty to monitor progress of each of the named bodies in the Act in delivering against the well-being objectives they have set for themselves. To aid this process the office of the Commissioner designed a self-reflection tool which provides us with the opportunity to review the progress made towards meeting our well-being objectives during the year April 2017-March 2018.

The main purpose of this self-reflection tool is to assist the Commissioner to assess the extent to which our well-being objectives have been met for the period as described primarily through our annual report, or through other appropriate evidence. We have now received feedback and recommendations from the commissioner of the self-reflection tool process. This report considers the outcome of that work and how the council can progress its implementation of the Act.

In December 2018, we as a council completed the voluntary self-reflection tool which was designed to enable organisations to:

- Reflect on progress to date against their stated well-being objectives.
- Establish an internal benchmark against which to review next and future years' progress.
- Provide a way of comparing progress with other public sector bodies in Wales and identify which organisations we can learn from and provide lessons.
- Synthesise the strengths and weaknesses and set out the local lessons for change.

The information captured by the council in the tool will inform the Commissioner's future advice and assistance.

The [full feedback](#) received from the Commissioner has been summarised with suggested actions and can be found in Appendix 1. This provides feedback for all local government organisations, supported by specific recommendations for Newport City Council.

Listed below are the main points that require action. More detail can be found in Appendix 1 with proposed actions which will allow us to progress this work as resources allow.

a) Main points

Specific feedback for Newport City Council

- 1.1.1: Consider how we change our approach to risk management in relation to the Act.
- 1.1.4: Ensure consistent application of the Act throughout the organisation.

- 1.2.3: Consider becoming a “Fair Work” employer.
- 1.4.4: Shift from acute spending to preventative spending.

General feedback for all Local Government

- 2.1.3: Look at the seven areas of change to see how we are adapting how we work - corporate planning, financial planning, workforce planning, procurement, assets, risk management.
- 2.2.7: Consider how we are moving from 'making simple changes' to 'leading the way' in contributing to our national well-being goals.
- 2.3.1: We would encourage critically revisiting objectives and steps in your Corporate Plan on a regular basis.
- 2.3.2: Ensure we consider the Act when responding to consultation responses relating to the Local Government Bill.

b) Corporate Plan Annual Report

Much of the feedback relates to inclusions in the next iteration of the Corporate Plan Annual Report. Appendix 1 references where this is applicable. This feedback was received too late to incorporate in to the Annual Report for 2018-19 so will be considered for inclusion in the 2019-20 report.

c) Guidance

Some of the feedback relates to reviewing and considering guidance. Again, Appendix 1 references this where applicable.

Appendix 1 to this report outlines the key points for the Council and suggested actions for us to consider as we continue to develop as an organisation.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Newport City Council specific feedback is structured around our well-being objectives as detailed in our Corporate Plan 2017-22:

Objective 1: To improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities.

Objective 2: To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment

Objective 3: To enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient

Objective 4: To build cohesive & sustainable communities

Options Available and considered

Option 1: To consider the feedback and endorse the suggestions made to support progress in implementing our well-being objectives and the well-being duty of the Act.

Option 2: To consider the feedback but not endorse the suggestions made to support progress in implementing our well-being objectives and the well-being duty of the Act.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1: To consider the feedback and endorse the suggestions made to support progress in implementing our well-being objectives as we continue to develop as an organisation.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no specific financial issues arising from the Report. However, there is the requirement to ensure that there are clear links between the Act and our budget setting process and Medium Term Financial Planning.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which sets out the feedback and recommendations received from the Future Generations Commissioner regarding the Council's self-reflection tool process.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

As author of the report my comments are included.

The five ways of working of the sustainable development proposal have been considered throughout the information captured in the self-reflection tool and the feedback from the Commissioner.

There are no direct HR implications arising from the report.

Local issues

Not applicable

Scrutiny Committees

Not applicable

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

The development of the five ways of working will support our engagement and participation work, including with children and young people.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The self-reflection tool is to assist the Commissioner to assess the extent to which our well-being objectives have been met for the period April 2017 - March 2018 as described primarily through our annual report, or through other appropriate evidence.

The five ways of working of the sustainable development proposal have been considered throughout the information captured in the self-reflection tool and the feedback from the commissioner.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Consultation

Senior managers were consulted on the feedback and suggested actions.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Newport City Council Self-Evaluation Tool Feedback

Newport City Council Self-Evaluation Tool

[Future Generations Commissioner for Wales – Self Reflection Feedback for Newport City Council](#)

[WFG \(Wales\) Act 2015 - the essentials](#)

[WFG \(Wales\) Act - SPSF 1: core guidance](#)

Dated: 15 November 2019