

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: September 2016

Item No:

**Subject** Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

**Purpose** To provide an update on the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, progress to date by Newport City Council and to agree the next steps.

**Author** Will Godfrey, Chief Executive

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. Progress is already being made across the organisation to meet the requirements of the Act, with further work scheduled over the next few months. As part of this work, the Council is required to agree and publish a set of Wellbeing Objectives by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**Proposal** To note progress of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and agree the next steps in the work programme, including the process for setting the Council's Wellbeing Objectives.

**Action by** Chief Executive  
Head of People and Business Change

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Directors (People and Place)
- Heads of Service
- Cabinet Members – Community Work and Skills, and Deputy Leader

**Signed**

## Introduction

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG Act) became law in Wales on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. To do this they must set and publish wellbeing objectives.

The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. There are 5 things that public bodies need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

The Act establishes a statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. This role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the wellbeing goals.

The Act also establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. These will replace existing Local Service Boards (LSBs) and will be statutory. The PSB will be responsible for publishing an assessment of local wellbeing and a Local Wellbeing plan.

Statutory guidance is available 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future' is available to help public bodies respond to the duties and powers they now have under the Act. Further information about the Act is available on the Welsh Government [website](#).

## Implications for Newport City Council

The guidance on the Act is clear – it requires public bodies to maximise their contribution to improving the wellbeing of Wales. The Act provides a framework for better decision making by ensuring public bodies take account of the **long term**, focus on **prevention**, take an **integrated** and **collaborative** approach, and **involve** people in policy making and planning and delivery of services.

The Act places a duty on specified public bodies to:

- Adopt the Sustainable Development Principle
- Work towards 7 national wellbeing goals
- Focus work on future generations
- Take a central role in the establishment and scrutiny of a Public Services Board (PSB)

- Take a central role in the development of a Wellbeing Plan based on a long term needs assessment
- Respond to a new accountability framework including reporting and review by the Auditor General Wales

The Act has implications for how the local authority will work in future and Part 2 of the Act places an individual wellbeing duty on public bodies. Key areas where change needs to happen include:

- Corporate Planning
- Risk Management
- Workforce Planning
- Performance Management
- Financial Planning
- Procurement
- Assets

## **Wellbeing Objectives**

All individual public bodies covered by the Act are required to set and publish Wellbeing Objectives. The local authority is required to set and publish its Wellbeing Objectives no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, and review them on at least an annual basis, or as required. Organisations can decide to change one or more of their wellbeing objectives after this point, and there is no deadline or fixed point in time where this should happen. In addition, the local authority must publish a statement about their wellbeing objectives at the same time that they publish their wellbeing objectives. To avoid duplication, both requirements should be contained in the Corporate Plan (or similar document). The Act requires that the statement, published when the wellbeing objectives are published, must explain:

- Why the public body considers that its wellbeing objectives will contribute to the achievement of the wellbeing goals
- Why the public body considers that its wellbeing objectives have been set in accordance with the sustainable development principle. Explain how it will involve people with an interest in achieving the goals
- Steps taken to meet the wellbeing objectives
- How each public body will govern itself to meet its wellbeing objectives
- How each public body will keep the steps it takes to meet its wellbeing objectives under review
- How each public body will ensure that resources, including financial, are allocated annually for the purpose of taking steps to meet its objectives
- When each public body expects to meet its wellbeing objectives
- Any other relevant information

Wellbeing objectives should be based on the extent to which they contribute to the wellbeing goals and are consistent with the five ways of working. Evidence can come from different sources, however, as a minimum public bodies are required to take into account the Future Generations Report published by the Future Generations Commissioner.

## **Public Services Board**

Section 36 of the Act sets out the collective wellbeing duty on Public Services Boards (PSB). The PSB is responsible for:

- Publishing an assessment of local wellbeing for their area, by April 2017
- Preparing and publishing a Wellbeing Plan, by April 2018
- Reporting annually on progress

## Progress

Following a report to Cabinet in March 2016, the following progress has been made:

- One Newport PSB established in April 2016, with new partner arrangements. PSB meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Deputy Leader
- New scrutiny arrangements established, with a policy review group set up and relevant training to be provided to all Members
- Local Assessment of Wellbeing is underway, working with partners across the region. Other assessments, including the Social Services and Wellbeing Population Assessment, are fully integrated. This will include the development of ward to community profiles. Local assessment will be published for consultation in January 2017, before being agreed and published by April 2017
- Engagement programme is underway with various activity including surveys ([haveyoursay](#)), events and focus groups, working with partners through the engagement group (Cabinet Member Community Work and Skills [report](#) Aug 2016 refers)
- Working with service managers across the Council to embed the key principles of the Act into decision making processes, including service planning, business improvement, performance management, audit, procurement and finance. Existing systems will need to be adapted to accommodate any changes and refocus of principles and timescales. Guidance is available to support managers in this process.
- Briefing sessions with service areas and partners, and awareness raising of the Act through reports, briefing notes, presentations, newsletters, Intranet, social media, etc. This work is ongoing with supporting information about the Act shared across the organisation on a regular basis
- Revising key documentation and tools, including all report templates, fairness and equality impact assessments, business cases for change, budget consultation arrangements, and risk register.

## Next steps

The next steps will be to embed the principles into service planning and delivery. Work is already ongoing to ensure we are compliant with the requirements of the Act, and further work is required to consider the longer term, examine our existing approaches and make changes accordingly. Support for this will include guidance for management, changes to key processes and documentation, engagement with partner organisations, and engaging further support where required.

## Wellbeing Objectives

The Council must set and publish Wellbeing Objectives and a Wellbeing Statement by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Taking into account the timescales, existing policies and decision making processes, and the local government elections in May 2017, the suggested approach is as follows:

- 1) Develop and publish a set of Wellbeing Objectives, based on the national Wellbeing Goals by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017
- 2) Link the existing Improvement plan objectives and other current plans and policies to the Wellbeing Objectives
- 3) Review the Wellbeing Objectives, as part of the Corporate Plan development 2017.

The Wellbeing Objectives to be drafted for approval January 2017, and reviewed accordingly.

## Work Programme - Communication and Information

The following draft work programme has been in place to enable the Council to meet the requirements of the Act from April 2016.

Action / Deliverable	Method	Deadline
Briefings (Leadership team, members, service areas, team meetings)	Meetings	Complete – Jan-May 2016
Communications (Intranet, bulletins, staff newsletter, social media)	Various	Ongoing
Cabinet Report	Report	Complete – February 2016
Engagement group briefing	Report	Monthly meetings
Service Plan guidance updated	Guidance	Complete
Corporate Induction training	Training	Complete – course updated
Assessment of Local Wellbeing – task and finish group established. Project plan agreed	Meeting	Ongoing
Your Wellbeing survey launched	Survey	Launched July 2016
Cabinet Member report on engagement	Report	Complete – August 2016
Develop proposals for Wellbeing objectives	Report	Ongoing - August 2016
Engagement – programme of events	Various	Ongoing until October 2016
Briefings and training for Councillors	Workshop	October 2016
PSB member briefing	Meeting	September 2016
Report templates updated	Report	September 2016
Wellbeing Assessment – Newport profile and community profile development	Report	October 2016
Wellbeing Assessment overview report	Report	November 2016
Community council member briefings	Meeting	December 2016
Cabinet to agree Wellbeing Objectives	Report	January 2017
Wellbeing Assessment consultation	Various	January/February 2017
Wellbeing Assessment to Scrutiny	Report	February 2017
Wellbeing Assessment agreed by PSB	Meeting	March 2017
NCC Wellbeing Objectives and Statement published	Report	March 2017
Corporate Plan developed	Report	May 2017

Future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet as required.

### Financial Summary

There are no direct costs or financial implications to the authority arising from this report. Any implications as a result of implementation of the WFG Act will be subject to a separate report(s).

### Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Not properly preparing for the implications of the Act	Medium	Low	Work programme developed and being implemented, with regular briefings across the organisation. Cabinet will receive update reports as implementation of the Act progresses and will respond to	Chief Executive

			any further consultation accordingly. The Council is a statutory member of the PSB and will be involved in the implementation of the Act.	
Publication of the Wellbeing Objectives	Medium	Low	Approach proposed and if agreed will be implemented immediately. Report to Cabinet in January to approve objectives.	Chief Executive

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act will have a significant impact on all Council policies and priorities. The main purpose of the statutory guidance is to help public bodies to respond to the duties and powers they now have under the Act. This will enable the Council to use this information to inform and align all Council policies and priorities.

### Options Available

The options available are:

1. To note progress of the implementation of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
2. To agree the next steps, and the approach for developing the Wellbeing Objectives

### Preferred Option and Why

Options 1 and 2 are the preferred options. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act places a duty on public bodies to improve wellbeing in accordance with the sustainable development principle. The progress to date, next steps and the future work programme will assist with this requirement. The Council is required to set and publish Wellbeing Objectives by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and the suggested approach will meet this duty.

### Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications arising from this report itself, though as noted in the report, there will be significant changes in how and what Local Councils do in the future, much of it at early stages of developments.

The requirements of the Act around engagement and consultation will increasingly be crucial as the Council continues to make difficult budget decisions which affect services to the public. The budget strategy will need to take into account the Act and proposal will need to be aligned with its principles

### Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act imposes a statutory duty on the Council to work with key partners to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of future generations by establishing plans and strategies for delivering the national well-being goals set out in the legislation, in accordance with the sustainable development principle. Good progress has been made in implementing the legislation, through the early adopters programme. The Council has taken a central role in the establishment of the new statutory Public Services Boards, which replaced the existing LSB as from April 2016, and has put in place the necessary governance and Scrutiny arrangements. The Local Well-Being assessment has started and this is being co-ordinated and integrated with other needs assessments. The next steps are for the Council to ensure that the sustainability principle is firmly embedded in service planning and delivery.

## **Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

There are no staffing implications although workforce planning will continue to develop in line with the requirements of the Act

The Council must respond to the duties and powers it now has under the Act. Significant progress has already been made across the organisation and with key partners, and the work programme sets out how the Council will continue to work towards implementing the requirements of the Act. This will enable the Council to use this information to inform and align all of its policies and priorities. The approach for developing the Wellbeing Objectives is fully supported and will allow the Council to meet its requirements within the set timescales.

## **Comments of Deputy Leader (as Chair of Local Service Board)**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act creates has established the Public Services board as outlined in the report. As Chair of the Public Services Board I endorse the progress outlined in the report which will also be reported to our statutory partners.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member for Community, Work and Skills**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act is a wide ranging piece of legislation that has the potential to significantly affect the way we plan and deliver services and how we engage with individuals and communities within Newport. Ensuring that the decisions we take today don't have an adverse effect on future generations to come is a challenge however the work planned will support developments in engagement and the necessary changes to the way we work.

## **Local issues**

No impact on individual wards.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

Not applicable.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The proposal does not require a Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable.

## **Consultation**

Not applicable.

## **Background Papers**

Cabinet Report March 2016: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/documents/s4690/04%20WFG%20Act%20PSB%20February2016%20DRAFT%20v2.pdf>

Cabinet Member Report August 2016: Consultation and Engagement

<https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/documents/s6287/01%20CM%20Report%20budget%20and%20WFG%20final.pdf>

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016