

**SUBJECT: WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT – WALES AUDIT COMMENTARY ON OUR PREPAREDNESS, AND TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**MEETING: CABINET**

**DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To share the results of the Wales Audit Office report “Monmouthshire County Council: The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act: a commentary on preparedness” which was carried out alongside the Corporate Assessment.
- 1.2 To outline the key steps that Monmouthshire County Council needs to put in place to implement the Act.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Members note the content of the WAO report.
- 2.2 That Members note and agree to the steps outlined in the timeline to get us ready for the Act.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act achieved Royal Assent in April 2015 and comes into force in **April 2016**.
- 3.2 The Act requires public bodies to **improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing**, by taking action in accordance with the **sustainable development principle** aimed at achieving the Wellbeing Goals.
- 3.3 Wales Audit Office, at our request, carried out a “light touch” assessment of our readiness for the Act alongside the Corporate Assessment in March. The following paragraph is their summary from the report: *“The Council has a clearly stated ambition to implement the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Council also has some building blocks in place, which should provide a foundation on which to build a more embedded and systematic approach to sustainable development. However, at this early stage, there is a lack of consistency in message, understanding and approach, and key business processes are not being utilised to embed sustainable development. This is contributing to a disconnection between the Council’s ambition and practice.”*
- 3.4 This has generated some helpful actions and next steps, as has our work with the WLGA as “early adopters” of the Act, which we are now in the process of implementing as outlined in the attached timeline in order to prepare us for the introduction of the Act.

- 3.5 There are several key milestones for both MCC as a public body and for the Public Service Board that we need to note and act upon. These are outlined in more detail in the attached timeline.

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – Act becomes law.** The Local Service Board (LSB) must become a Public Service Board (PSB). In order to be ready for the implementation of the Act, between now and April 2016, the following steps need to take place:

- Draft Terms of Reference for the PSB
- Review membership of the LSB in readiness for the PSB
- PSB members to undertake detailed training on the requirements of the Act and PSB
- Monmouthshire County Council to establish a new Scrutiny panel to scrutinise the PSB

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – Wellbeing Objectives and Wellbeing Statement** must be published by MCC, demonstrating how we contribute to the 7 wellbeing goals (a Wales which is: Prosperous, Resilient, Healthier, More Equal, Globally Responsible, has Cohesive Communities and a Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh Language) and are implementing the 5 sustainable development principles (long term, integrated, collaboration, involvement and prevention).

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – Wellbeing Assessment** must be published by the PSB. This must assess the state of social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of people, communities and areas, set out future trends and include data analysis and reporting on national indicators. This is far more wide reaching than the previous Needs Assessment requirements.

**May 2018 – Wellbeing Plan** must be published, following at least 12 weeks of consultation, which sets out contribution to the 7 Wellbeing goals and demonstrates the 5 sustainable development principles.

#### **4. REASONS**

- 4.1 The legislation comes into force in April 2016. We will be subject to review by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and for examination by the Auditor General for Wales. In addition, MCC will have responsibility for scrutinising the decisions and actions of the PSB.
- 4.2 In order to meet the requirements of the legislation, both in terms of compliance, but also embracing the “spirit” of the legislation, we need to learn from the WAO report and our early adopters work and implement the measures outlined in the timeline.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The work outlined in this report will be carried out within existing staff resources. At this time there are no additional financial requirements.

#### **6. FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is no need to complete a Future Generations Evaluation, because the report is for information and sets out steps needed to meet a legislative requirement. However, one

would hope that implementing the Future Generations Act would contribute towards the wellbeing of Future Generations!

**7. CONSULTATION**

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

The full Wellbeing of Future Generations Act documentation can be seen here:

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s37945/Well-being%20of%20Future%20Generations%20Wales%20Bill,%20as%20passed.pdf>

and the Essentials summary guide to the Act is here:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsijg/publications/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

The current consultation on the guidance on the Act closed on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

<http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/shared-future-shared-purpose/?lang=en>

“Monmouthshire County Council: The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act: a commentary on preparedness”, Wales Audit Office, May 2015

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**TIMELINE FOR WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT  
IMPLEMENTATION IN MONMOUTHSHIRE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
15 Oct 2015	MCC/LSB	Report to LSB on next steps for transition to PSB	
19 October 2015		National Wellbeing Indicators published	
1 Nov 2015	MCC	Future Generations Evaluation used for all reports for decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training for officers underway (around 60 trained so far)</li> </ul>
16 Nov 2015	MCC/LSB	Deadline for consultation on the Statutory Guidance on the WFG Act – Shared Purpose: Shared Future <a href="http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/shared-future-shared-purpose/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/shared-future-shared-purpose/?lang=en</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation response submitted</li> </ul>
2/3 December 2015		Take WAO report to Cabinet and Audit Committee	
11 Jan 2016		Deadline for consultation on national indicators – How do you measure a nation’s progress? <a href="http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/future-generations-act-how-do-you-measure-a-nations-progress/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities/future-generations-act-how-do-you-measure-a-nations-progress/?lang=en</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation response will be submitted</li> </ul>
Now to 31 March 2016	MCC	Implement learning from Early Adopters work and WAO assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training for report writers (see above) and others (sessions held with Policy and Performance, Scrutiny, Procurement, Finance and Audit, Partnerships and Countryside so far)</li> </ul>

DATE	WHO	WHAT	NOTES
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Member training – general and for Scrutiny</li> <li>▪ Scope and establish new cross cutting Scrutiny panel to scrutinise the PSB</li> <li>▪ Incorporate WFG into the service planning process</li> <li>▪ Incorporate WFG into: Constitution, Member terms of reference, committee terms of reference, governance reports, enabling strategies, financial regs, budget statements, procurement strategy, buyers guide etc.</li> </ul>
	LSB	Put systems in place ready for transition from LSB to PSB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amend LSB terms of reference</li> <li>▪ Review LSB membership</li> <li>▪ Training and awareness raising for LSB</li> </ul>
1 April 2016		WFG Act becomes law	
	PSB	LSB becomes PSB	
31 March 2017	MCC	Latest date for <b>Wellbeing Objectives</b> to be agreed and published.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This has to be reviewed <b>annually</b></li> <li>▪ To avoid duplication Wellbeing Objectives and Statement should be contained in Corporate Plan or equivalent</li> </ul>
	MCC	Latest date for <b>Wellbeing Statement</b> to be published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must demonstrate how we contribute to the Wellbeing Goals and SD principles</li> </ul>
	PSB	Latest date for <b>Wellbeing Assessment</b> to be published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be published 12 months prior to the Wellbeing Plan.</li> <li>▪ Must include: assessment of state of social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing of: People, Communities and Areas; future and long term trends; data analysis; reporting on national indicators</li> </ul>
Feb 2018	PSB	Latest date for consultation on Wellbeing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation must last at least 12 weeks</li> </ul>

DATE	WHO	WHAT	NOTES
May 2018	PSB	Latest date for <b>Wellbeing Plan</b> to be published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1301 209 2040 317">▪ Must be published no later than 12 months after local elections, and 12 months after each subsequent local election.</li></ul>