



<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Philip Thomas</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644809 E-mail: philipthomas@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Submit a revision to the Council’s Planning Code of Practice</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Planning Services (Planning Policy and Development Management)</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>29 January 2024</p>

1. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

The Code of Practice is intended to guide the procedures by which Councillors (‘Members’) and Officers of the Council deal with planning matters and to set standards of probity and conduct expected of them. Monmouthshire County Council will seek to adopt best practice in its administration of the planning process. It recognises that the public expects the Council to subscribe to the principles of fairness, consistency and objectivity. Members of the Planning Committee have a key role in ensuring that these principles are followed and the Council has stated that the Planning system must be fair and open to all users. Elected Members are critically important in arbitrating between competing arguments.

The Town and Country Planning system involves the Council taking decisions about private proposals for the development and use of land, but in the public interest. Planning law requires that all planning applications be determined in accordance with the adopted development plan unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise. The Council must also take account of representations made by members of the public, in as far as they relate to material planning considerations.

As the planning system affects people's lives and private interests it can be very contentious. It is therefore important that members of the public understand the system and has confidence in its integrity and transparency, and that Members and Officers avoid impropriety or even the suspicion of impropriety.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Disability	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Gender reassignment	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Marriage or civil partnership	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Pregnancy or maternity	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Race	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Religion or Belief	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Sex	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Sexual Orientation	See statement above	None at this stage	See above
Welsh Language	<p><i>.Under the Welsh Language measure of 2011, we need to be considering Welsh Language in signage, documentation, posters, language skills etc.and also the requirement to promote the language.</i></p> <p>Welsh is treated on equal terms as English in the planning process</p>	None at this stage	See above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Poverty	See statement above	None at this stage	See above

2. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!



Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: The Code of Practice seeks to shape an efficient and engaging development management process providing support and guidance for customers to ensure the best development possible for the benefit of local communities and to protect the character and appearance of Monmouthshire. Planning can provide economic investment and growth and can protect acknowledged interests such as local amenity and townscape. Identifying areas for improvement and learning what works well elsewhere can ensure that customers are getting effective advice early in the process which is critical in securing positive outcomes and appropriate forms of development.</p> <p>Negative: None identified.</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: The Code of Practice identifies best practice to make the development management process open, responsive and efficient for our customers.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: Care will be taken to ensure the planning process is consistent, open and transparent via the processes set out in the associated report.</p>




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive: An effective and efficient DM service allows case officers to consider the implications of any development on biodiversity and ecosystems at an early stage in the application process. Officers who are the decision-makers are able to consider the impacts of decisions on ecological interests. This system would not deteriorate as a result of the proposed revisions to the DM process and indeed may provide a more effective system.</p> <p>Negative: None identified.</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: The processes identified should deliver sustainable development in an open manner.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive: A clear and transparent DM process would provide the opportunity for officers to add value to development proposals and provide acceptable forms of the development, which should improve Monmouthshire citizens' access to local services, such as shops, health and recreational/ play facilities, or prevent inappropriate development from harming the amenity of an area, or indeed the health of local people. Development should promote active travel to ensure it is sustainable.</p> <p>Negative: None identified.</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: The approval and delivery of development proposals in the public interest can have a positive impact on health and well-being and foster social and community pride in their communities.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the Planning Team directly and indirectly influences the appearance, viability, safety and connectivity of communities via planning policy and land use planning decisions. Providing clear and effective guidance and support to customers at an early stage in the planning process is more likely to lead to</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: The timely approval and delivery of sustainable development proposals can have a positive impact on the character and appearance of an area, promote well-being and foster social and community pride.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>positive outcomes that enable the best forms of development possible. This is critical in providing sustainable communities. Taking timely and reasonable enforcement action against inappropriate development can reduce impact on local amenity and health.</p> <p>Negative: None identified.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences local social, economic and environmental well-being via planning policy and open and transparent land use planning decisions. The approval of renewable energy proposals will allow Wales to play its part in tackling the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: None</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Positive: Clear and transparent planning decisions promote the value and significance of the historic built environment by ensuring that it is a direct consideration in planning policy and land use planning decisions. Planning decisions generally facilitate the provision of tourist and recreation development, including playing fields and built development. The Welsh language is now a material planning consideration.</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	<p>Better contribute to positive impacts: Timely planning decisions will ensure that proposals foster civic pride through well-designed development in historic areas or through the removal of development that has a negative impact on a heritage designation via enforcement action.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p>
<p>A more equal Wales</p>	<p>Positive: Appropriate and timely development management decisions should bring positive</p>	<p>None.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>benefits to all members of Monmouthshire's population through policies that seek to achieve the five main aims of the Wales Spatial Plan, namely Building Sustainable Communities, Promoting a Sustainable Economy, Valuing our Environment, Achieving Sustainable Accessibility and Respecting Our Environment</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	

3. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p><i>We are required to look beyond the usual short term timescales for financial planning and political cycles and instead plan with the longer term in mind (i.e. 20+ years)</i></p> <p>The LDP covers the period 2011-21. The Council's Development Management function which makes planning decisions seeks to implement the policies of the LDP which promotes sustainable development in an open and transparent manner. By its nature, therefore, it cannot look beyond the next five-year period but the SA/SEA of the LDP would have ensured consideration of the impact on future generations. The revision to the LDP will seek to adopt land use planning policies up until 2033 taking into account the county's socio-economic challenges.</p>	<p>Ensure that the LDP and its policies have been subject to an appropriate level of scrutiny. This also applies to the current revision of the LDP.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Monmouthshire's Planning Service believes in working with its customers (which include not just applicants but the public, other Council departments, other local authorities, third sector agencies and businesses) to improve its offer to its customers to meet their needs. This revised document identifies a clear, fair and transparent process when making decisions on planning applications. It will be subject to scrutiny and endorsement by Members of both the Council's Standards Committee and Planning Committee. Members and officers of the Council have a specific interest in the subject to ensure that decisions are made openly and fairly in the public interest.</p>	<p>Any observations offered by Committee will be taken into account as part of the process towards embedding this document into the Councils' constitution.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p><i>Who are the stakeholders who will be affected by your proposal? Have they been involved?</i></p> <p>This document is subject to consultation with Members of the Council's Standards Committee and Planning Committee whose members have a specific interest in the subject, as well as senior officers of the Council.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The documents aim to is to provide clear processes for the determining of planning applications in the public interest. This would ensure the public have confidence in the planning system and provide the basis for sound decisions to secure much needed sustainable development. Taking timely and reasonable enforcement action against inappropriate development can reduce impact on local amenity and health.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p><i>There is space to describe impacts on people, economy and environment under the Wellbeing Goals above, so instead focus here on how you will better integrate them and balance any competing impacts</i></p> <p>The work undertaken by the Planning Service directly relates to promoting and ensuring sustainable development and its three areas: environment, economy and society.</p>	<p>Improvements to the DM process would facilitate the implementation of the LDP which has been subject to a Sustainability Assessment that balances the impacts on Social, Economic and Environmental factors.</p>

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	None.	None at this stage	n/a
Safeguarding	None.	None at this stage	n/a
Corporate Parenting	None.	None at this stage	n/a

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The revised Code of Practice has been written having regard to good practice as set out in the following:

- The Size and Composition of Local Planning Authority Committees (Wales) Regulations 2017
- Welsh Government Consultation – summary of responses and government response: Planning committees, delegation and joint planning boards, March 2017

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

.This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

The work undertaken by the Council's Planning Service, and in particular the Development Management function, directly relates to promoting and ensuring sustainable development. The updated Planning Code of Practice should provide public confidence in the operation of the service in the transparent and fair processing of applications and in the enforcing of planning matters, and to engage with customers at an early stage of the planning process to ensure the most appropriate forms of development are approved within Monmouthshire. The planning process promotes sustainable forms of development, helping to create jobs and investment, while protecting material interests such as amenity, public safety and biodiversity.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
See recommendations of associated report.	February 2024	The authors of this report; Legal Services

8. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Planning Committee	06 February 2024	