

SUBJECT: Draft Well-being Plan
MEETING: Bryn y Cwm Area Committee
DATE: 14th March 2018
DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the draft Well-being Plan prior to its publication and consider how the challenges and opportunities for the Bryn y Cwm area raised in the Well-being Assessment could be addressed

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving well-being goals.
- 2.2 One of the responsibilities the Act places on the Public Service Board is to prepare and publish a well-being plan and well-being objectives for the county. This draws on the evidence in the well-being assessment that was approved by the PSB and endorsed by council in March 2017.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are invited consider the objectives and steps set out in the draft Well-being Plan.
- 3.2 Members are invited look at the evidence from the Well-being Assessment for Bryn y Cwm and consider how the Well-being Plan steps need to develop to respond to Bryn y Cwm issues (summary attached in Appendix 1).

4 KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Monmouthshire is facing some pretty big challenges, demographic changes, climate change and adapting to the potential of new technology. Our current way of delivering public services will need to change if we are to address these issues head-on and maximise well-being for current and future generations.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act aims to ensure that public bodies 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. Each PSB must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them. This needs to be published no later than one year after the last council election.
- 4.3 The plan must describe how the Board will improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the county by setting local objectives which maximise its contribution to the seven national the well-being goals. There are two elements to the plan, objectives and the steps to meet those objectives.

4.4 The PSB adopted four draft well-being objectives based on the [well-being assessment](#). The draft objectives were then subject to a fourteen week statutory consultation period with the Future Generations Commissioner, then a well-being plan was developed to put in place the steps necessary to deliver the objectives. The [draft Well-being Plan](#) was subject to a statutory 12 week consultation period which ended on 8th February (Plan on a Page summary is attached as Appendix 2).

4.5 The complex nature of the challenges raised in the well-being assessment means that there are not off-the-shelf or ready-made solutions that can be applied. If these challenges could be addressed easily then they would probably not have arisen in the assessment. The PSB is here to address these complex issues and to convene the experts around the issues that cannot be solved by a single public body acting in isolation. Many of the steps will be about exploration and identifying what works. Consequently the document does not contain a detailed action plan.

4.6 A detailed action plan will be developed over coming months. The PSB have agreed to publish the Well-being Plan in April 2018, and in developing the subsequent action plan to give consideration to the timing of actions and identifying a lead agency for each area of work. This will also be the opportunity to identify whether some actions will be focussed on particular geographical areas.

5. REASONS

5.1 To update the Committee on the Well-being Plan progress and begin to consider how issues faced by Bryn y Cwm can be addressed by the proposed objectives and steps.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The production of well-being plan has been carried out within existing resources. As individual steps are delivered, PSB partners will have to give consideration to how they will be resourced.

7 WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

7.1 At this point the steps are not sufficiently developed to conduct a comprehensive evaluation. The Public Service Board is a collaborative endeavour and leads for projects will be drawn across a range of organisations who will have their own arrangements in place for reporting and decision-making. Evaluations will need to be completed by the appropriate bodies in line with their own governance arrangements.

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Area Profiles

Abergavenny and Surrounding Communities

The area around the market town of Abergavenny includes mountains and moorland and the Brecon Beacons National Park, former industrial areas, including part of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and rolling countryside, woodland and farmland. The area is heavily used for tourism and walking and cycling.



The area has important wildlife sites, including the River Usk and areas of woodland of European importance, plus many sites of national and local importance. Threats to habitats include grazing and recreation pressure on peat uplands, woodland fragmentation, tree disease and habitat loss due to development.

Abergavenny town has good access to well used natural green spaces, although less so in the north of Abergavenny and rural areas. Urban tree cover is higher than the Monmouthshire and Welsh average. Parts of Abergavenny are prone to flooding, and historically there has been a tenfold increase in floodplain deposits since before the nineteenth century. With climate change this risk will increase. Water quality of rivers in the area varies from good to poor, with the upland Rivers Honddu and Clydach of poor quality because of barriers to physical migration of fish. There are some Groundwater Source Protection Zones in place to protect underground drinking water from pollution. Air pollution on the Merthyr Road, Abergavenny has increased and is being closely monitored.

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The Abergavenny area has an extremely vibrant and varied voluntary sector working in the environmental and sustainability field, which is a great asset.

Abergavenny is steeped in history with regards to the Welsh language and the area has hosted the National Eisteddfod twice, most recently in 2016 and is also the home of Cymreigyddion y Fenni – the Abergavenny Welsh Society and Welsh primary school, Ysgol Gymraeg y Fenni. The area is also the most diverse in terms of ethnicity, although people of white ethnicity make up the vast majority of the population, proportions of mixed race and Asian ethnicities are the highest in Monmouthshire.

Our Monmouthshire engagement responses demonstrate the importance of the landscape and countryside to people’s lifestyle, along with the area having a strong sense of community and many festivals and events including cycling and a food festival.

Abergavenny and the surrounding areas have the highest proportion of residents aged 65 and over (26.2%) and aged 85 and over (3.7%) in Monmouthshire. The area also has a number of parts that suffer from deprivation. 6 of the 11 top 20% most deprived areas in Monmouthshire are in the area. The most significant deprivation factors vary in different areas and include community safety, employment and education. Access to services is a

particular issue for some parts of the area, for example Crucorney is amongst the top 50 most deprived areas in terms of access to services in Wales.

The area has the lowest proportion of working age people in Monmouthshire who are economically active. It has the highest proportion of people in receipt of employment related benefits at 10.3%, however this is still below the Welsh average. Even within small areas there can be significant variations, for example the proportion of people in income deprivation is above the county average but ranges from 6% in Crucorney to 28% in Cantref.

The Flying Start scheme is available to parents with children aged 0-4 in parts of Lansdown, Croesonen and Cantref in North Abergavenny.

At the headline level educational attainment is good. However, as with other parts of the county there are differences linked to socio-economic background with those eligible for free school meals not performing as well as the all pupils group. There are also differences in attainment depending on where people live with key stage 4 level 2 inclusive ranging from 33.96% to 84.66%.

Abergavenny has the fewest residents of the five areas in Monmouthshire who report their health is very good or good (77%), the other areas have over 80% of people who are positive about their health. Some areas in Abergavenny have comparatively higher rates of people living with a long term limiting illness and cancer incidences. These areas tend to be amongst the more deprived areas, for example Croesonen is the fourth most deprived area in Monmouthshire, particularly for education and is also amongst the areas with the lowest proportion of people who felt their health was very good or good (75%) and has a higher rate of people living with a long term limiting illness.

Abergavenny has the highest volume of recorded crime in 2015/16 in Monmouthshire, despite a 13% decrease in crimes between 2014/15 – 2015/16. A total of 1,376 crimes were recorded which was 33.4% of the total crimes in Monmouthshire in 2015/16. The area also had the highest number of ASB incidents (661 incidents), despite a large reduction by 24.7%, and accounted for 3 in 10 of all Monmouthshire's ASB incidents. Some wards in the area, Llanover and Llanelly Hill, had amongst the highest number of fires attended in Monmouthshire. Over the same period, the second highest number of road traffic collisions in Monmouthshire attended by South Wales Fire and Rescue were in Llanover.

The town centre is vibrant with a strong and thriving market. The issue of the development of a supermarket on the former livestock market site continues to divide opinion.

Overall retail vacancy rates in Abergavenny town centre have risen since the low level recorded in 2005, 4.1%. However, in the most recent surveys 2014 (5.1%) and 2015 (5.8%) the vacancy rate has been lower than at any point in the last 15 years, apart from 2005. The average pedestrian flow has shown a steady decline over the past 15 years.

