



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

Name of the Officer Mark Cleaver Phone no: E-mail: markcleaver@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal Tree policy
Name of Service Waste and Street Services	Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed 23/03/18

NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc

1. **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.


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?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive: Evidence shows that trees in the urban area contribute to the local economy through creating more resilient and pleasant places to live and work. The policy provides a	Officers from WSS, Countryside and Planning are working together to develop a green Infrastructure Strategy that takes into account issues such as tree planting to ensure succession in the tree population and to increase resilience in the face of the many treats posed to trees





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>clear rationale for tree work to ensure that resources are not wasted on unnecessary felling or pruning.</p> <p>The policy also provides clarity so that members of the public understand how and why decisions are made and the contribution that trees make to the social, economic and environmental state of the County</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>due to climate change and increasing tree diseases.</p> <p>An e-leaflet is being designed to promote trees in the County and to raise awareness of their value.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Through ensuring that trees are managed for the right reasons in the right way, the County will support biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>The policy only deals with how we respond to issues raised by the public, and does not take a strategic approach to trees in general</p> <p>The Policy does not fully resolve how the county will deal with Special trees</p>	<p>See above</p> <p>The policy references the development of proactive assessment of the County Council's 'Special Tree' resource and the development of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy that will take a positive and proactive approach to trees and other green Infrastructure/natural assets</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>The policy sets out how the Council will ensure that it manages trees both to ensure that they remain safe and to ensure that the residents and visitors benefit from the positive ecosystem services that trees provide including improving well-being</p>	<p>The policy provides guidance on how to respond to concerns raised by trees and information that can be provided to residents to allay their concerns and clarity of how decisions have been made.</p> <p>The policy also gives voice for people who value trees and benefit from their presence, and who do not raise concerns until a tree has been cut down and it is too late.</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>Negative:</p> <p>A challenge of retaining trees in urban areas is that they will often be close to people, property and other built infrastructure. This be a source of complaint/concern. For example, leaves falling in gardens, concern that a trees near their property is unsafe.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Trees contribute to making urban and rural settings attractive places to live.</p> <p>The Policy set out how the Council will ensure that the trees do not pose a safety issue to the public</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>None</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:</p> <p>Trees play an important role in regulating the environment from absorbing pollution at a local level to storing carbon, contributing to global climate regulation. They are important for biodiversity and trees in the urban setting are particularly important for this.</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>The policy does not address tree planting and ensuring that tree canopy cover is maintained or increased</p>	<p>As described above, the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy will address tree planting and strategic planning for trees</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Trees play an important role in regulating the</p>	<p>As described above, the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy will address tree planting and</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?
are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	environment from absorbing pollution at a local level to storing carbon, contributing to global climate regulation. They are important for biodiversity and trees in the urban setting are particularly important for this. Negative: The policy does not address tree planting and ensuring that tree canopy cover is maintained or increased	strategic planning for trees
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive: The tree policy will ensure that all people in Monmouthshire will be treated equally with regard to the management of trees in their area. Negative: None	

2. 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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	The purpose of the Tree policy is to ensure that long term health of our tree stock and the benefits that they confer to society. The Policy is the start of a process towards a broader Green Infrastructure Strategy that will include the long term planning of our tree canopy and other natural assets that reflect the lifetime and management requirements of these assets	

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>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The Policy supports working across MCC departments and is the basis for working with housing associations who have taken on public open spaces as part of the social housing sector to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach to trees is achieved</p>	
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>The Policy is targeted at frequent service requests to MCC and the Policy has been developed in consultation across MCC departments and has been scrutinized by the Strong Communities select committee to ensure that resident's views are represented.</p> <p>The Policy has also been sent to Monmouth Housing Association for comments</p>	
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>The Policy provides clear guidelines as to the rationale for tree work on County Council owned trees and it primarily aimed at informing decision related to reactive service requests.</p>	<p>As the first step on a process to a new Green Infrastructure Policy, a process for a planned, proactive approach to planting and management of trees is being developed during 2018</p>
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>Trees play an important part in a resilient natural environment. Trees are also intrinsically linked to our social and economic wellbeing. However, evidence from NRW shows that our tree population is declining and this will have a negative impact on our wellbeing goals and potentially on issues such as mental and physical health, economic resilience and flooding. The tree policy recognizes these issues and is the first step at controlling this decline with the developing Green Infrastructure Policy set to identify actions to reverse this trend.</p>	

- 3. 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. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link:<http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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?
<p>The Tree Policy provide clarity regarding the management of trees owned by the County Council and therefore should improve access to services as it provides transparency of decision making that will allow staff to be held to account.</p> <p>The process is based on the tree as a community asset with a potential lifespan equivalent of multiple generations. As the decision, making process is based on the tree and location and objective led, the status of the individual making the service request is not relevant other than as below.</p> <p>With regard to the protected characteristics, the QTRA process take account of the land use around the tree whether a school location with children or use by people with disabilities, for example, ensuring that tree management includes the impacts on the relevant group or individual.</p> <p>Access to MCC services in relation to enquiries about the County Council Trees is via the standard routes: Web site, App, phone, letter or contact center ensuring the greatest possible access.</p>			
Age			
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage or civil partnership			
Pregnancy or maternity			

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?
Race			
Religion or Belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			
Welsh Language	As with all public facing documents, the policy will be translated into Welsh.		

- 4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?** For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The tree policy relates to Council owned trees and therefore takes place in public spaces. Individuals may request inspections and ask for trees to be looked at from the private garden. Where this takes place, staff follow the departmental safeguarding policy		
Corporate Parenting	As Above		

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

The policy has been informed by service request information and other tree related enquiries and comments from MCC staff involved in managing trees
 A sweep of other Local Authority tree policies was undertaken with four closely matching the issues highlighted being used as a benchmark.
 Further evidence has been taken from NRW's Urban Tree Canopy Study and from the National Tree Safety Group
 The policy has been reviewed by Strong Communities Select Committee for scrutiny and comments have been incorporated

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 give the key issues arising from the evaluation which will be included in the Committee report template.

The Policy sets out a largely positive approach to improving service delivery. The evaluation identifies some areas where the policy does not meet the full aspirations of the Well-being goals and these shortcomings are well understood with work being carried out to address these, specifically planned inspections, identification of special trees and work towards a broader Green Infrastructure Strategy

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	Progress
Update the planned inspection system and incorporate special tree identification	By October 2018	Mark Cleaver	
Development of new GI strategy	By November 2018	Colette Bosley	Funding for consultancy support secured from WG Tender agreed with CBA to carry out study and complete project

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	April 2019
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet		