



Relationships with Community and Town Councils

Will McLean

Head of Policy and Engagement

Changing times

- ▶ The relationship with Community and Town Councils is subject to change from a number of directions:
 - ▶ Financial Constraint placed on Local Authorities through continued austerity
 - ▶ The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
- And
- ▶ A will to localise services to ensure service delivery and local resilliance

The Charter

- ▶ A document of its time
- ▶ Set out a County wide relationship
- ▶ Focused on 'customer service' aspects
- ▶ Meant that the Authority was held to account but did not enshrine a partnership relationship
- ▶ The Community and Town Councils participated but did not engage - e.g. attended meetings but did not provide agenda items or areas for debate / future development.

Financial Constraint

- ▶ 'A local Fund'
- ▶ Mandate 21 - £500,000
- ▶ Discussions with all Town Councils and now moving on to Community Councils
- ▶ Specific description of services 'at risk' and associated costs
- ▶ Clusters and 'hinterlands' the next stage

Wellbeing of Future Generation Act

- ▶ **Sustainable Development**
- ▶ The Act requires you (all specified bodies) to carry out sustainable development. Section 2 of the Act defines this as:
- ▶ “sustainable development” means 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 the well-being goals
- ▶ Therefore sustainable development is a way of doing things rather than an end in itself. The Act makes it the core principle that guides how a public body operates. Carrying out sustainable development does not mean that it is an ‘add-on’. It is how you best make sense of the responsibilities you hold.
- ▶ You must use sustainable development to shape **what** you do, **how** you do it, and how you **communicate** (via reporting) the difference you are making to achieving the well-being goals. These are the three aspects of what you have to do under the Act.

Wellbeing of Future Generation Act

- ▶ That now means our four Town Councils fall under the auspices of the Act.

But

- ▶ We want to have an excellent local relationship because that is what will help deliver our vision of 'Sustainable and Resilient Communities'
- ▶ We recognise the value of Community and Town Councils
- ▶ Whole Place provides the vehicle
- ▶ We have spoken to the Community and Town Councils - County Liaison Meeting and One Voice Wales regional meetings

Thanks and Questions

