

SUBJECT: Sustainable Development Policy

MEETING: Council

DATE: 28th July 2016

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To provide Council with a revised Sustainable Development Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Council adopt the new Sustainable Development Policy.

2.2 That the Sustainable Development Policy be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework in its constitution.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 In April 2016 the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 became law setting what sustainable development means in Wales. It places a duty on local authorities to apply the sustainable development principle to maximising their contribution to 7 national well-being goals.

3.2 The council was an early adopter of what was then the Future Generations Bill. As part of this approach we worked with Wales Audit Office who produced a report on our preparedness. The results of this work have been presented at Audit Committee and Cabinet and have been used to help us implement The Act.

3.3 Sustainable Development has always been central to how we operate as a council. The authority will now amend its existing policy to reflect The Act and ensure a clear and consistent understanding across the organisation. This will allow the organisation to have coherence across its policy framework and future policies and programmes that are brought to members for decisions will be expected to reflect it. The revised policy is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. REASONS:

4.1 To ensure a clear and consistent understanding of what sustainable development means and ensure a common emphasis and focus across the Council's policy framework.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no specific resource implications arising directly from the adoption of this policy. However all decisions taken by Council or Cabinet need to be assessed in accordance with the sustainable development principle. This is already an established process and is not impacted on by the change in policy.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

6.1 The aim of the Sustainable Development policy is to clearly set out the well-being goals and sustainable development principles to ensure these are embedded in all areas of the council's work.

7. CONSULTEES:

Strong Communities Select Committee
Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet Members

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

6. AUTHOR:

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It is our policy to pursue sustainable development through all of our work.

Monmouthshire County Council, in line with other public bodies across Wales, has adopted the aspirations of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as its definition of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principles to achieve the 7 national Wellbeing Goals:

Wellbeing Goal	Description of the goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

In working to achieve these goals, Monmouthshire County Council will embed the following sustainable development principles into the way we work:

Sustainable Development Principle	What this means
 <p data-bbox="229 555 400 600">Long Term</p>	<p data-bbox="448 421 1386 562">It is important to balance short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs. We are expected to look at least 10 years ahead, although best practice would be to look 25 years ahead.</p>
 <p data-bbox="229 750 400 795">Prevention</p>	<p data-bbox="448 616 1386 757">We need to understand the underlying causes of the problems people and communities face, and then take action early and develop solutions to prevent problems from getting worse or arising in the future.</p>
 <p data-bbox="229 945 400 990">Integration</p>	<p data-bbox="448 810 1386 1025">We need to integrate social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing by demonstrating how we are contributing to all of the wellbeing goals, not just one. We need to resolve, manage and mitigate any potential conflicts between our wellbeing objectives, and make sure that they integrate well with the objectives of other organisations.</p>
 <p data-bbox="209 1162 416 1207">Collaboration</p>	<p data-bbox="448 1028 1386 1137">It is important that we work collaboratively with public bodies, private and third sector partners to achieve our wellbeing objectives, to maximise our collective impact.</p>
 <p data-bbox="220 1357 405 1402">Involvement</p>	<p data-bbox="448 1223 1386 1364">Involving people who are affected by decisions is important and is at the heart of improving wellbeing. Involvement and engagement should reflect the diversity of the population we serve.</p>

In delivering our wide range of services, Monmouthshire County Council aims to contribute to all of the Wellbeing Goals and to embed the sustainable development principles into the way we work.

We will do this by integrating the aims of the Act into corporate, financial and workforce planning, procurement, asset management, risk management and performance management, as well as through all decision making, policies and strategies and communications.

We believe that sustainable development and future generations are crucial aspects to everything that we do, and when working with partners, contractors and other organisations we would expect them to share these values.

April 2016