

SUBJECT: Well-being Assessment

MEETING: Public Service Board Select Committee

DATE: 16th February 2017

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider the draft well-being assessment ahead of its approval by the Public Service Board at the end of March.

2 BACKGROUND

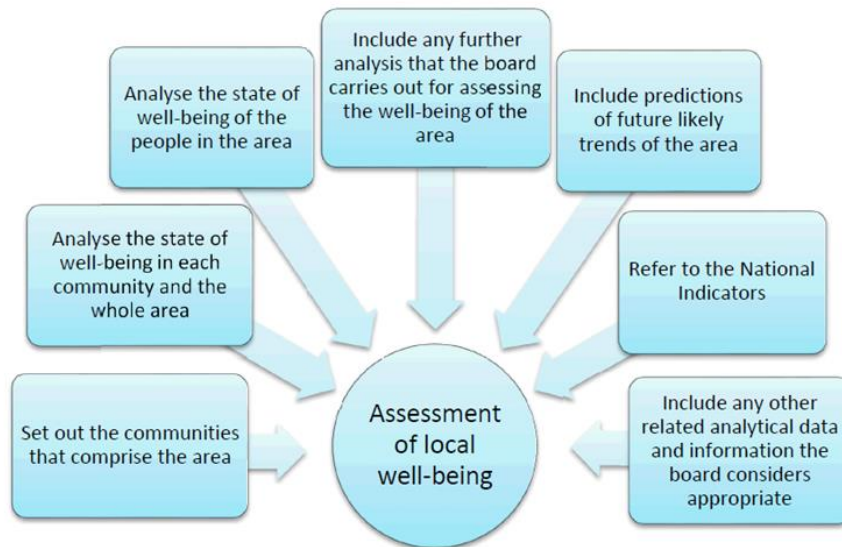
- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving well-being goals.
- 2.2 One of the responsibilities the Act places on the Public Service Board is to prepare and publish a local Well-being Assessment within twelve months of the Assembly elections.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are invited to scrutinise draft Well-being Assessment and the process that led to its development to ensure that the Public Service Board is making sufficient progress towards meeting its responsibilities under the Act.

4 KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act should 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. It sets out in law a definition of sustainable development.
- 4.2 The sustainable development principle incorporates five ways of working that we are required to take into account. These are: Looking to the *long term* so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; Taking an *integrated* approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives; *Involving* a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them; *Working with others* in a *collaborative* way to find shared sustainable solutions; Understanding the root causes of issues to *prevent* them from occurring.
- 4.3 The production of a well-being assessment is a key part of identifying the priorities for the area. The assessment is evidence based and draws on a range of sources, in particular: data; the views of local people; information about future trends and academic research. The diagram below gives a useful snapshot of what's involved:



Source: Shared Purpose: Shared Future Statutory Guidance, SPSF 3

4.4 Public Service Boards should expect to be scrutinised on the process of how they agreed their priorities. To ensure objectivity and robustness of their decisions it is essential to that the process involved the collection and analysis good evidence to ensure that priorities accurately reflect the diversity and variety of issues in the area.

4.5 The [statutory guidance](#) states that a deeper examination of the information and data from sources like those in the diagram above will help the PSB prepare a more rigorous assessment. The PSB will have to look at the long term, consider what the evidence tells members about how to prevent problems from happening or getting worse, and involve other people with an interest in the well-being of the area. Collecting and analysing good evidence is integral to this process. Appendix one draws out some key points from the guidance and could be used to help the committee frame questions as it scrutinises the process of producing the assessment.

4.6 Members were e-mailed a link to the assessment in early February. The summary assessment is included with the agenda while an extended version can be found at www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ourmonmouthshire.

4.7 The following appendices have been included to draw out some of the issues that members may wish to consider:

Appendix 1 – Key points from the Statutory Guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations Act relating to the production of well-being Assessments

Appendix 2 – An overview of the process by which the assessment was produced

Appendix 3 – The main issues emerging from the assessment

5 REASONS

5.1 To ensure that we comply with requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and develop of a robust evidence base that will help us shape the future of the county to meet the needs of current and future residents, visitors and businesses.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The production of the assessment has been carried out within existing resources.

7 EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific implications identified at this stage.

7 AUTHOR

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The Well-being Assessment

There are a number of statutory guidance documents that describe how the PSB should discharge its duties under the Act. The full guidance documents can be viewed at <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>.

This page draws out some key points relating to well-being assessments:

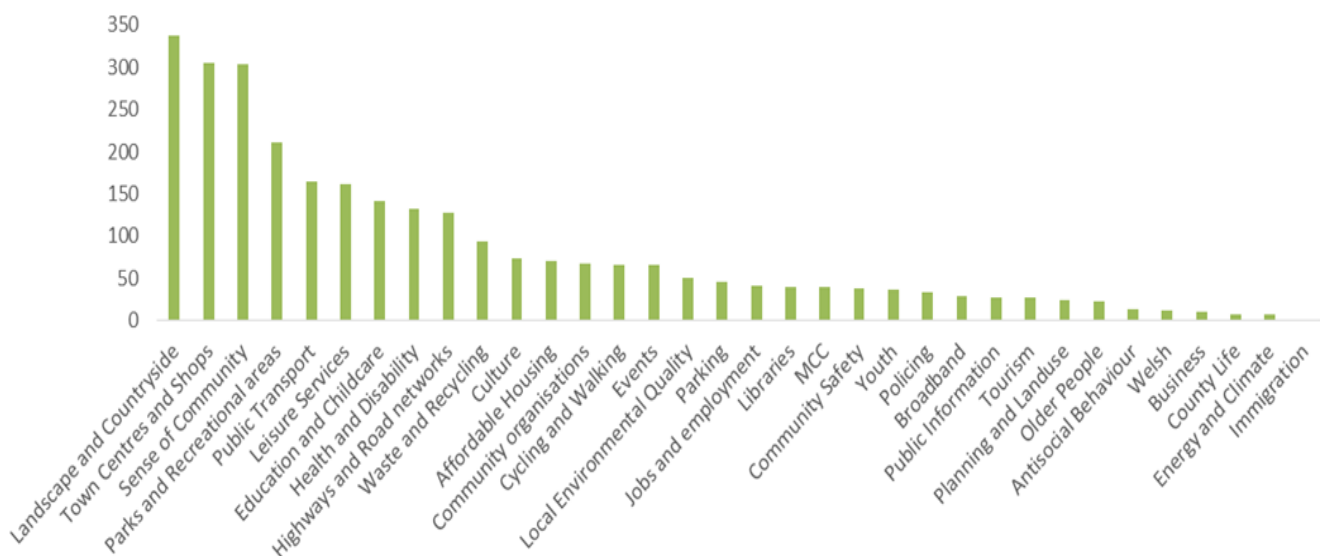
- The assessment must provide an accurate analysis of the state of well-being in each community and in the area as a whole.
- It will be expected that the PSB uses an extensive range of sources from which to assess the state of well-being, for example and statistical data; academic research; and qualitative evidence which captures people's opinions and perceptions.
- In preparing its assessment of local well-being, a board will have the opportunity to capture the strengths and assets of the people and their communities. Boards should recognise and build on these strengths to help improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the area.
- The assessment must identify the geographic community areas which comprise the board's entire area. In Monmouthshire we have decided to define five area clusters based around our largest towns, Usk, Abergavenny, Monmouth, Chepstow and Caldicot.
- Assessing the well-being of each community is intended to ensure that the differences between the various communities within a board's area are analysed.
- In addition to looking at the general economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area the assessment will need to look specifically at the well-being of the people in the area. This includes those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, people possessing a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act, children and young people in need of care and support.
- The assessment must include predictions of likely future trends in the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area to ensure the PSB is taking account of the long term needs of the area as well as the short term.
- The guidance also describes how the use of evidence and analysis could usefully be divided into two main components, namely the "situation analysis" – the painting of a broad picture of well-being within the board's area so that potential priorities for the area can be identified (the assessment of local well-being); and the "response analysis" – the detailed analysis of individual issues and themes to inform the development of the local well-being plan.

Our approach to producing the Well-being Assessment

The assessment captures the strengths and assets of people and their communities rather than focusing purely on need. An asset based approach recognises the contribution of individuals, community organisations and the importance of relationships. Rather than a purely data driven document the assessment is built from an extensive range of sources including census and statistical data; qualitative evidence which captures people’s opinions and perceptions as well as giving context to quantitative data and academic research. We also make comparisons with other geographies, sometimes within the county and sometimes at a regional or national level.

Collaboration is an important principle of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and so we worked with other PSBs in the Gwent area to ensure that there was some consistency in the data we used as many of the partners involved such as Gwent Police and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board span all five council areas in Gwent. Data Unit Wales were commissioned to produce a set of core data items and this was supplemented locally with data from a wider range of sources. You can see these data throughout the report.

These were used as part of an extensive community engagement exercise to test whether the data reflected peoples’ lived experiences – we called this *Our Monmouthshire*. Between August and December 2016 staff from a range of public services in Monmouthshire attended over 80 events speaking to more than a thousand people to get their views about what is good about Monmouthshire and what would make it better. Visual displays including maps and future trends postcards were used to help people to think about how they would like Monmouthshire to be in the long term and to frame the questions within a broad context. The chart below shows the topics that people mentioned most often. You can see a full summary of our approach to engagement and the issues people were talking about in the extended version of the assessment.



Involving people from as wide a cross section of the community as possible has been important as part of working towards a more equal Wales. The Older People's Commissioner for Wales and the Children's Commissioner for Wales have both stated the importance of ensuring that the voices of older and younger people are heard, so efforts were made to ensure that we involved young and old and people with protected characteristics.

Academic reports and policy papers were identified and key messages drawn out to help understand some of the broader issues and opportunities. The assessment also includes some predictions of likely future trends in the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area using a range of national research and local intelligence.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act emphasises the importance of working in an integrated and joined up way. Although this well-being assessment is structured around economy, society, environment and culture, it is important that issues or problems are not dealt with in isolation. For example, the environment can have a positive or negative impact on health, and culture and heritage can contribute significantly to the economy.

This matrix shows how the themes and topics covered in the well-being assessment contribute to multiple well-being goals.

	Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally responsible Wales
Jobs and employment							
Worklessness and inequality							
Education and skills							
Health and Well-being							
Transport and access to services							
Isolation							
Child Development							
Emotional Health							
Ageing Well							
Population Needs Assessment							
Landscape and Countryside							
Air and Water Quality							
Climate Change							
Waste and Recycling							
Language							
Faith and Religion							
Landscape and Heritage							
Community and Social Action							
Cultural Attractions							
Sport and Leisure							

Emerging Issues – Extract from the Draft Well-being Assessment

The assessment has been developed from a wide-range of evidence. It highlights a number of strengths on which we can build a future for the people and communities of Monmouthshire and also a number of problems and challenges that need to be addressed.

The issues below are those that have emerged most clearly from the evidence we have assessed, this includes responses from individuals through extensive involvement, data, future trends, academic research and policy papers. The assessment does not attempt to prioritise these in any way, it merely highlights the evidence that public service partners can use to undertake the next phase of their work in developing a well-being plan for the area.

During the consultation phase between January and February 2017 we seeking the views of the public as to whether we have identified the right issues based on the evidence presented as part of the assessment.

Challenges and Opportunities Facing Public Services in Monmouthshire

- There is inequality between communities and within communities.
- Wage levels available locally are low, coupled with high property prices, making it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally
- With an increasingly globalised economy and technological advances tomorrow's workforce will need a very different skillset to those of today's school leavers
- Limited public transport, particularly in rural areas makes it harder for people to access jobs, services and facilities. This could be exacerbated by rising fuel prices but there are also future opportunities from things like automated vehicles.
- Adverse childhood experiences have a negative impact on people's long term health and economic prospects and can be perpetuated through the generations
- There is a need to increase healthy behaviours with a particular focus on the first thousand days of a child's life
- Reducing levels of physical activity which along with dietary changes are leading to growing levels of obesity. This is likely to lead to an increase in long-term conditions associated with it such as type 2 diabetes
- An ageing population brings many opportunities, however there are also challenges for service provision and increases in the number of people living with long term conditions.
- The natural and built environment needs to be protected and preserved for future generations, due to risks from development, climate change and pollution
- There are human health impacts of air pollution, especially in Usk and Chepstow
- Water pollution is a concern, especially from changing agricultural practices
- Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding, as well as many other risks, so mitigating climate change and building resilience is crucial
- There is a need to increase accessibility of arts, culture and heritage and to ensure adequate provision of Welsh medium education
- Monmouthshire has high levels of social capital and volunteering. By taking an asset and placed based approach there is an opportunity to improving well-being.