

**SUBJECT: Well-being Assessment**

**MEETING: Public Service Board Select Committee**

**DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to revisit the draft well-being assessment ahead of its approval by the Public Service Board on 29<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 2.3 Following an extensive engagement exercise between August and December 2016 officers produced a draft well-being plan on behalf of the Public Service Board. This was subject to consultation between 16<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

## **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are invited to consider the feedback that has been received in response to consultation and seek assurances that this has been used to refine and improve the well-being assessment.

## **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. 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.
- 4.2 Public Service Boards should expect to be scrutinised on the process of how they agreed their priorities. At the PSB Scrutiny Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> February members considered the draft assessment, questioned officers about its production and indicated areas where it was felt improvements could be made.
- 4.3 In addition to the comments received from the committee, consultation responses been received from a wide range of partners, groups and citizens including the Future Generations Commissioner, Welsh Government, Aneurin Bevan University

Health Board, The Royal British Legion, Arts Council for Wales and more than 20 responses from residents.

- 4.4 The Welsh Government graded their feedback as A (Significant issues to be addressed prior to publication of the well-being assessment); B (matters which are important and would support a better informed well-being plan) and; C (matters which would strengthen the assessment but could be addressed over time). Monmouthshire received no category A recommendations.
- 4.5 At the time of writing this feedback is still being used as part of the process of redrafting the assessment. Key issues that are being addressed are shown in appendix 2 along with an indication of how they have been considered within 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**

Matthew Gatehouse, Policy and Performance Manager  
[matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk)  
01633 644397

### 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.

**Changes to Well-being Assessment following consultation**

The Well-being Assessment is still being finalised to include comments received in the consultation that ran from mid-January to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The summary draft assessment can be viewed [here](#). The revised assessment will be available with the papers ahead of the council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Feedback from Welsh Government – Areas for Development

“This Assessment demonstrates the commitment Monmouthshire PSB has made to embrace the challenge of well-being assessment. Although our evaluation identifies some areas for further development, which is to be expected with such a significant shift in practice over a challenging time-scale, the Assessment engages meaningfully with most of the key areas identified in the statutory and non-statutory guidance. As such it well on the way to achieving the required step-change in the use of evidence and analysis and continued development along this pathway will ensure the PSB is well informed and using evidence in creative and sophisticated ways to aid its decision-making.”

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| <p><b>Category A</b></p> <p>none</p>   |
| <p><b>Category B</b></p> <p>Marginalised groups</p> <p>Specific comments that might develop the assessment further</p> <p>Use of engagement evidence</p> <p>Reflective and Critical Approach</p> |
| <p><b>Category C</b></p> <p>Minor point relating to maps</p> <p>Developing an assets based approach</p>  |

**Feedback from the Future Generations Commissioner**

“The narrative and interpretative style has been complimented by intelligent use of quantitative and qualitative data. It is positive to see that in the main document the data does not drive the narrative, but illustrates the well-being ‘story’. The layout, tables, graphs and illustrations are well used to communicate the key challenges and provide local information. The data and analysis in all sections is of a very high standard.”

We believe the following issues need to be tackled to improve the assessment: significance of the data – more explanation of the significance of the data and key challenges to well-being:

- challenges – provide a clearer analysis of short, medium and long term challenges (and opportunities) to well-being
- well-being goals – a clearer understanding of the relationship between the issues identified and the seven national well-being goals.
- integration across themes – a greater focus on the inter-relationships between the data gathered on the four themes and the implications of this for well-being
- regional context – a greater understanding of Monmouthshire’s inter-relationships between Welsh and English neighbouring authorities and Brecon Beacons National Park, including the potential influence of the City Region Project.
- future trends – greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on well-being in Monmouthshire as a whole and in the five community areas
- moving forward – provide a clearer description of how the assessment data is intended to be used, how data gaps are to be managed and how well-being planning will progress

### Selection of issues and how have responded

| <b>Feedback-</b>   | <b>How we are addressing this</b>   |
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| Provide a clearer analysis of short, medium and long term challenges and opportunities to well-being. (Future Generations Commissioner)  | This is being drafted and will be in place for the document presented to the PSB on 29 <sup>th</sup> March and Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> March  |
| Integration across themes – a greater focus on the inter-relationships between the data gathered on the four themes and the implications of this for well-being (Future Generations Commissioner, Welsh Government, Public Health) | Text has been added under each section to make the links to the 7 national well-being goals more explicit   |
| Disability and Protected Characteristics (MAGIC Group)   | Currently being considered by MCCs equality officer to see how this can be improved   |
| Future trends – greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on well-being in Monmouthshire as a whole and in the five community areas (Future Generations Commissioner, Welsh Government)                  | This will not be addressed in time for the version presented in March. This has been raised consistently across Wales and we will explore how this can be improved working at a regional level. |
| Better reflection of City Deal potential and cross border issues (Future Generations Commissioner, Leader)   | Additional text has been prepared and inserted in the report to reflect the signing of the City Deal agreement since the draft assessment was prepared  |
| Greater prominence to carers and young carers issues (Joint Select Committee)  | We are seeking further evidence from the carers team, particularly with regard to young carers  |
| Infrastructure such as roads and bridges is not given adequate focus given its importance to many other areas of well-being (Joint Select Committee)   | This gap has is recognised and further evidence has been sought   |
| Strengthen references to assets / well-being (Various stakeholders)  | Consultees have provided a number of areas where the report can be strengthened and these are being included where feasible   |

