

**SUBJECT: Wellbeing Assessment and Objective Setting**

**MEETING: Council**

**DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present and seek approval for a series of inter-related assessments and plans that have been produced in response to new legislation.
- 1.2 The four documents are:
- i) The Well-being Assessment produced on behalf of the Public Service Board;
  - ii) The Population Needs Assessment for the county of Monmouthshire;
  - iii) The Council's proposed Well-being Objectives and Well-being Statement; and
  - iv) The Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 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. It also places a duty on individual public bodies to set well-being objectives by the 31st March each year.
- 2.3 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides the statutory framework to deliver integrated health and social services and preventative services to support people and carers of all ages, as well as families and communities. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare a regional population needs assessment (PNA) in relation to people requiring care and support.
- 2.4 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. The preparation of a forward plan assists in complying with the new duties and is currently a requirement on all Public Authorities. The work undertaken to meet the duty will assist the Council to maximise contributions to Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are invited to endorse the Well-being Assessment ahead of its approval by the Public Service Board on 29<sup>th</sup> March.
- 3.2 That members approve the Population Needs Assessment.

3.3 That members approve the Council's well-being objectives and statement their publication, subject to any amendments requested by Council today, and with an understanding that the objectives will be re-considered by Council following the local government elections in May 2017.

3.4 That members approve Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan.

#### **4 KEY ISSUES**

4.1 These reports could each stand-alone in their own right, however there are clear inter-relationships between them which make it prudent for members to consider them together, albeit with separate recommendations.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a well-being duty on public bodies to act jointly via Public Service Boards (PSB) to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the seven well-being goals. The four statutory members of the PSB are the Local Authority, Local Health Board, Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales, other organisations are also invited. As part of this responsibility the PSB has produced a well-being assessment which assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Monmouthshire. The summary is included as appendix 1 of this report. The extended assessment can be downloaded from <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-monmouthshire>

4.3 The production of a well-being assessment is a key part of identifying the priorities for the area that the Public Service Board will work to progress. 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.

4.4 The assessment 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. These are shown towards the end of the summary document. The issues will be used public service partners can use to undertake the next phase of their work in developing a well-being plan for the area. The assessment has been scrutinised by the newly formed PSB Scrutiny Committee and was scrutinised by a Joint Select Committee alongside the Council's proposed Well-being Objectives on 27<sup>th</sup> February. The Well-being Plan will be finalised in Spring 2018.

4.5 The purpose of the Population Needs Assessment is to ensure that local authorities and Local Health Boards jointly produce a clear and specific evidence base in relation to care and support needs and carers' needs, to underpin the delivery of statutory support functions and inform planning and operational decisions. The PNA is included as appendix 2 of this report. It has been jointly developed across the by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Gwent Transformation Team. This sets out the common priorities across the region and suggested actions.

4.6 The Population Needs Assessment dovetails with the Well-being Assessment and should enable the council to focus on preventative approaches to care and support needs and provide the information required to support resource and budgetary decisions; ensuring services and outcomes are targeted, sustainable, effective and efficient. The PNA was developed through extensive engagement with the regional citizen panel, provider forum and regional executive director leadership group; as well as local groups such as youth forums, older people's forums, carers groups and

parenting networks. Engagement was also supported by the Council and PSB through the 'Our Monmouthshire' engagement exercise.

- 4.7 Following the publication of the regional report each local authority and health board are required to prepare and publish a plan setting out the range and level of services they propose to provide. The first area plans must be published by 1 April 2018 and there will be a need to ensure links between the Area Plan and the local authority Well-being Plans required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act to facilitate collaborative working between the two legislative duties and avoid duplication.
- 4.8 The Council also has a responsibility under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to set its own well-being objectives. To achieve this the organisation must:
- Set and publish well-being objectives by 31st March 2017
  - Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives
  - Publish a statement about well-being objectives
  - Detail arrangements to publish an annual report of progress
- 4.9 The Council is still required under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set annual Improvement Objectives and produce an Improvement Plan. Welsh Government is consulting on a proposal to repeal Part 1 of the Measure which would remove this requirement in future years. Following discussions with regulators and the WLGA it has been deemed sensible to combine the two requirements in a single set of clear objectives to be published by 31st March.
- 4.10 The emerging well-being objectives set out in appendix 3, bring together the latest evidence from the draft well-being assessment, policy and legislation to set out how we will strive to deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.11 One of the fundamental approaches advocated by the Act is a shift in focus from gains in service output to a stronger link between the actions of public bodies and the outcomes that enhance the quality of life of citizens and communities both now and in the future. This means that the measures aligned to the objectives will have a longer term focus and members should not always expect to see changes in metrics in the short or medium term. However the Well-being Plan will also make reference to some of the organisational focus needed to ensure that our organisation remains relevant and viable for the next generation, while continuing to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses in the here-and-now.
- 4.12 In order to meet the legislative requirement of approving and publishing the Wellbeing Objectives by 31st March 2017, further details on actions that will be taken to deliver the objectives and metrics to evaluate progress are still being developed. With the pending elections in May 2017 it is proposed the objectives will be further developed, including this detail, and presented to the newly formed Council following the elections in May and subject to discussions with the incoming administration.
- 4.13 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public authorities must seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems. This means that the Council must take a pro-active approach to improve and not reduce biodiversity when carrying out functions. The preparation of a forward plan assists in complying with the new duties and is currently a requirement on all Public Authorities. This plan is included as appendix 4.

- 4.14 The work undertaken to meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty will assist the Council to maximise contributions to Well-being Goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 4.15 The work of other key organisations that Monmouthshire County Council can collaborate with to maximise delivery under the Act has also been considered e.g. Wye Valley AONB, Gwent Wildlife Trust and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Objectives have subsequently been developed which cover key areas of the Council's work including proposals to adequately consider biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in decision making at all levels, environmental education and awareness raising, management of land for biodiversity and partnership working at a landscape scale to maximise benefits.

## **5. REASONS**

- 5.1 To improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the county in a way that is consistent with the evidence produced as part of the Well-being assessment, Population Needs Assessment and the priorities of the Council.
- 5.2 To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
- 5.3 To ensure that the authority is compliant with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 5.4 To meet the authority's duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems when exercising its functions.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None at this stage. Any new specific projects brought forward to deliver the council's proposed well-being objectives will be subject to separate decisions in accordance with the council's constitution.

## **7. FUTURE GENERATIONS ASSESSEMENT INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 Neither the Well-being Assessment or Population Needs Assessment propose a change in services. A Future Generations Evaluation has been completed for the well-being objectives and the Biodiversity Plan.
- 7.2 The underpinning Area and Well-being plans, which include the actions to deliver the aspirations in both assessments, may set out new ways of working in relation to prevention, but both action plans will be presented to council prior to agreement.
- 7.2 If the Biodiversity Plan is adopted it will have positive effects on all well-being goals, particularly help towards delivery of the well-being goal for resilience, and will meet all of the sustainable development principles. Monitoring will be via the Environment Partnership Board and statutory reporting will be undertaken on progress in 2019

## **8. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act strengthens national safeguarding arrangements for older people as well as reinforcing safeguarding as 'everyone's business' and the duty to report concerns. The Act also introduces new arrangements for fostering arrangements and care leavers 'When I am ready' and increases the age of care leavers from 18 to 21 years of age.

## **9. CONSULTEES:**

Cabinet

Senior Leadership Team

The Well-being Assessment and Population Needs Assessments were developed following extensive public engagement.

All plans have been scrutinised by the relevant select committee

The Well-being Assessment has been revised to reflect feedback received from members during the consultation stage. This includes: greater reference to infrastructure; more detail on Magor and Undy in the Severnside area profile; reference to the signing of the City Deal; inclusion of more housing content and more prominence of carers issues and the updating of some ward data. The Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee will examine the process on 14<sup>th</sup> February and consider how views expressed in the consultation phase have been incorporated into the assessment.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

## **11. AUTHORS**

Matthew Gatehouse, Policy and Performance Manager  
01633 644397 / 0778 555 6727  
matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Richard Jones, Policy and Performance Officer  
01633 644733  
richardjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Phil Diamond, Theme Lead, Gwent Transformation Team  
07904 921532  
phil.diamond@torfaen.gov.uk

Kate Stinchcombe, Biodiversity & Ecology Officer  
01633 644684  
katestinchcombe@monmouthshire.gov.uk