

SUBJECT:	Community Engagement Review
MEETING:	Stronger Communities Select
DATE:	20th JULY 2017
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

1.0 To present the findings and recommendations of the draft Community Engagement Review (Appendix A) for scrutiny, requesting Members consider:

- the findings of the Review and associated conclusions / recommendations; and
- the proposed 'Way Forward' for a newly defined Community and Partnership Development Team (Appendix B).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 The Select Committee scrutinises the findings of the review, making recommendations as appropriate.

3.0 KEY ISSUES:

BACKGROUND

3.1 In October 2015, a review of community governance was undertaken to analyse the role of local decision making within Area Committees and to understand the Authority's level and type of community engagement and its direct relationship to how local needs and solutions are identified, developed and delivered.

3.2 Monmouthshire has four area committees; Bryn y Cwm; Severnside; Lower Wye and Central Monmouthshire. Their purpose is to:

- engage the community in area working to help the council shape major proposals affecting specific areas advising the Authority of the associated implications for the area;
- lead the community planning process;
- ensure services are properly co-ordinated on a local level;
- encourage effective cross sector collaboration; and
- provide a forum for community debate and to make Executive decisions on matters within areas provided they are within the Council's policies and budgetary allocations and do not adversely affect other areas.

4.0 REASONS

4.1 In October 2016, there was a recognition that in light of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and the Authority's evolving Future Monmouthshire programme, there was a need to extend the review to address the following objectives:

- Clarification of the strategic direction required to meet legislative requirements and enable asset and place based delivery;
- Repurposing of the Authority's Whole Place team;
- Identification of joint working opportunities internally to enable a streamlined approach;
- Assessment of new roles in the provision of impartial advice across the county's five strategic settlements – Abergavenny, Monmouth, Caldicot, Chepstow and Usk;

- Understand how Section 106, the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy and Area Committee Grants can be used strategically to address resource implications for a sustainable, place and asset based approach; and
- Reconfiguration of the community governance model to preserve the leadership role of Council Members and encourage wider community participation.

4.2 REVIEW FINDINGS

The review identified the following findings:

4.2.1 Community Engagement and Partnerships

- The current lack of community engagement/partnership coordination is leading to missed opportunities to share and maximise resources and intelligence;
- The current lack of Town/Community Council engagement is resulting in an Authority and Public Service Board (PSB) disconnect and lack of knowledge of needs and priorities, which extends to surrounding local communities. (*The PSB is a statutory partnership that aims to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in Monmouthshire by strengthening joint working across all public services. The Board brings together key decision-makers to improve public services*).
- There is a current disconnect between the PSB, internal partners and funding opportunities to address local community needs and priorities effectively.

All of the above leading to gaps in meeting legislation requirements to apply a strategic approach to enable cross county coordinated delivery.

4.2.2 Community Governance

- The role of ward Members is key to how communities participate and engage in their local area;
- Key legislation and the formation of the five cluster areas (in line with five strategic settlements) is important to the future shape of community governance and relationship to Area Committees; (*Cluster Areas were established by the Authority in 2016 to improve communication and relationships with Town/Community Councils by providing an opportunity to include Town/Community Councils in strategic policy and to highlight funding opportunities, thus enabling local and spatial thinking. Cluster Areas provide the conduit for county wide organisations to share thinking and support, providing a bridge between Community/Town Councils, Area Committees and the Authority's Senior Leadership Team (SLT)*);
- The role of Area Committees provide a clear link between Cluster Areas and Authority decision making; with a key opportunity for communities to have a voice and participate in local democracy. In March 2017, the Authority approved the piloting of a new model in Bryn y Cwm, whereby Area Committees will be retained as the sole structure, providing a clear link between Cluster Areas and Authority decision making with a view to supporting joint working and adopting a strategic approach to coordinated funding opportunities;
- The new Community Leadership Academy is designed to increase the participation and quality of community leadership by providing a suite of learning and development opportunities, upskilling members as well as community organisations to enable a common approach;
- Area committee grants need to work in a more integrated manner, providing a smarter use of funding aligned to maximise impact and value;

4.2.3 Section 106

- S.106 contributions are well managed with robust monitoring processes but are not focussed on outcomes or long term impacts that meet local or strategic needs;
- There is a current lack of strategic community engagement and data sharing resulting in missed opportunities to address medium to long term priorities;
- The current lack of promotion of S.106 projects results in missed opportunities to encourage wider community participation to address longer term needs.

4.3 **REVIEW CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.3.1 As the Well-being of Future Generations Act requires co-delivery with partners, the current disconnect between the PSB, the Authority and the local community needs to be addressed. To enable this, community engagement needs to be repositioned within a more centralised role. There is also a need to address the current lack of specialist support in strategic PSB areas such as health and well-being issues, isolation, ageing well, community cohesion, etc.
- 4.3.2 The current services structure also provides little support for the Authority in their Cluster Area activities whilst the current lack of direct Town/Community Council engagement/liason is leading to a further disconnect with communities and a lack of knowledge of needs and priorities.
- 4.3.3 In making its recommendations the review addressed the current challenges advocating a restructure of two service teams i.e. Whole Place and Partnerships with the additional need to bring in the Programme Lead for the Community Empowerment which includes the Authority's volunteering programme 'A County that Serves' and the Community Leadership Academy, all working together as the newly defined Community and Partnership Development Team. Strategic, working links also being made to the future role of a Community Infrastructure Levy Officer and the existing Community Well-Being and Enterprise Development Leads, to ensure maximisation of funding resources and reduce the potential for service duplication (A full copy of the review can be found in Appendix A with the proposed 'Way Forward' plan for the redefined team illustrated in Appendix B).

5.0 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any resulting financial implications as a result of the Community Engagement review will be presented to Cabinet in Quarter Three of 2017.

6.0 **CONSULTEES**

Community Engagement Review process across several service areas
Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet Members
Stronger Communities Select
Relevant staff/team members

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Community Engagement Review

Appendix 2 – 'The Way Forward' for the Community and Partnership Development Team

Appendix 3 – Future Generations Evaluation

8. FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Forward Plan for the Community and Partnership team provides a framework to work with communities and partners to help bring about social change and improve the quality of life in our county. The team will act as enablers; unlocking potential and supporting sustainability through collective impact; providing a resource and tangible link between local communities and a wide range of partners; enabling the delivery of measureable and sustainable programme of activities that will constantly look to the future.

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10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact)

<p>APPENDIX THREE</p> <p>Name of the Officer Cath Fallon Phone no:07557 190969 E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REVIEW: FINDINGS AND FORWARD PLANS</p>
<p>Name of Service: Enterprise – Whole Place and Partnerships</p>	<p>Date: Future Generations Evaluation 12th July 2017</p>






NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc.

1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>To ensure much valued local services are maintained and by their nature provide employment, growth and an increasingly skilled workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping services open but with more community focus and coordination – helping knit communities together. • Positive engagement and coordination with community focused services. •
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Close working with countryside and planning ensuring funding is maximised for longer term community benefit.</p>	<p>The service will seek to develop partnerships to access new forms of funding to secure partnership action.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive impact by working with the community to ensure quality services are provided to encourage a fit and healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>Working with key partners through PSB will ensure that physical and mental health through activity is widely available and that the service is central to this by working directly with its communities.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The service will seek to improve community engagement and connection with local priorities leading to service improvements.</p>	<p>To ensure the service focuses on encouraging community cohesion as one of it's and social drivers.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>The service will work to ensure high standards are met and maintained that do not conflict with the global drivers.</p>	<p>Any decisions taken will take into account global and well-being issues as part of its day to day processes.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>The service will contribute where possible to the local culture and heritage and the Welsh language which will remain part of the core values going forward.</p>	<p>Any decisions taken will seek to conserve the cultural identity of the county.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>The service will work with all age ranges and deliver a comprehensive package for all of its communities.</p>	<p>With the ability to better market and understand data there will be opportunities to target areas of the community that may not currently be aware of the offer.</p>

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The attached Forward Plan provides a framework which will guide the future delivery of the service, balancing short term needs with longer term aspirations.</p>	<p>The service will continue to make a concerted effort to assist by mobilising a strong and committed network of volunteers</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The services have some key partners from funding, grants and delivery of service. As the Forward Plan unfolds all major stakeholders and partners will be involved.</p>	<p>The service will deliver a full community development and engagement programme.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The main focus of the service is to engage with our communities.</p>	<p>The engagement process will be constantly reviewed and evaluated to ensure the views of all those who have an interest are taken into account.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The aim of the proposed Community and Partnership Development Team is to work with communities and partners to help bring about social change and improve the quality of life in our county.</p>	<p>The new Forward Plan includes actions that will focus on bringing about societal change utilising a partnership approach.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The opportunity to develop a new way of delivering the service and sustaining its long term future should give the opportunity to better connect wellbeing outcomes to other partners and bodies. The service contributes to the wellbeing goals and staff are to demonstrate and understand their input into the wellbeing goals whilst also considering the impact.</p>	<p>One of the key drivers of the offer is to view communities as co-producers rather than service recipients. The team will promote existing and establish new networks that can provide caring, mutual help and empowerment, ultimately enabling communities to control their own futures.</p>

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Consider the impact on our community in relation to this e.g. how do we engage with older and younger people about our services, access issues etc. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.	n/a	n/a
Disability	What issues are there are around each of the disability needs groups e.g. access to buildings/services, how we provide services and the way we do this, producing information in alternative formats, employment issues.	n/a	n/a
Gender reassignment	Consider the provision of inclusive services for Transgender people and groups. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.	n/a	n/a
Marriage or civil partnership	Same-sex couples who register as civil partners have the same rights as married couples in employment and must be provided with the same benefits available to married couples, such as survivor pensions, flexible working, maternity/paternity pay and healthcare insurance	n/a	n/a
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>In employment a woman is protected from discrimination during the period of her pregnancy and during any period of compulsory or additional maternity leave. In the provision of services, goods and facilities, recreational or training facilities, a woman is protected from discrimination during the period of her pregnancy and the period of 26 weeks beginning with the day on which she gives birth</i>	n/a	n/a

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Race	<i>Think about what the proposal will do to promote race equality with the aim of: eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between persons of different racial groups. Also think about the potential to affect racial groups differently. Issues to look at include providing translation/interpreting services, cultural issues and customs, access to services, issues relating to Asylum Seeker, Refugee, Gypsy & Traveller, migrant communities and recording of racist incidents etc.</i>	n/a	n/a
Religion or Belief	<i>What the likely impact is e.g. dietary issues, religious holidays or days associated with religious observance, cultural issues and customs. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	n/a	n/a
Sex	<i>Consider what issues there are for men and women e.g. equal pay, responsibilities for dependents, issues for carers, access to training, employment issues. Will this impact disproportionately on one group more than another</i>	n/a	n/a
Sexual Orientation	<i>Consider the provision of inclusive services for e.g. older and younger people from the Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual communities. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	n/a	n/a
Welsh Language	<i>Under the Welsh Language measure of 2011, we need to be considering Welsh Language in signage, documentation, posters, language skills etc. and also the requirement to promote the language.</i>	n/a	n/a

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	<i>Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect.</i>	n/a	The service will work closely with the Safeguarding Lead to ensure the well-being of our volunteers.
Corporate Parenting	<i>This relates to those children who are 'looked after' by the local authority either through a voluntary arrangement with their parents or through a court order. The council has a corporate duty to consider looked after children especially and promote their welfare (in a way, as though those children were their own).</i>	n/a	n/a

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

This report is founded upon the following:

- Community Governance Review 2015;
- Community Engagement Review 2017
- The Medium Term Financial Plan;
- The 'Way Forward' for the Community and Partnership Development Team

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The proposed Forward Plan for the Community and Partnership team provides a framework to work with communities and partners to help bring about social change and improve the quality of life in our county. The team will act as enablers; unlocking potential and supporting sustainability through collective impact; providing a resource and tangible link between local communities and a wide range of partners; enabling the delivery of measureable and sustainable programme of activities that will constantly look to the future.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Agreement of the key recommendations as detailed in the Community Engagement review.	July – September 2017	Cath Fallon	
Approval of the Forward Plan	July – September 2017	Cath Fallon	
Delivery of the Forward Plan	2017-2021	Cath Fallon/Claire Marchant	

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	On going
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Approval of the Community Engagement Review and Forward Plan	July – September 2017	<i>This will demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development throughout the evolution of a proposal.</i>