

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16th MARCH 2016

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee considers the content and requirements of the Act and notes and comments on the proposed steps being taken in Carmarthenshire to ensure compliance.

Reasons:

- This new Act was approved by the National Assembly in 2015 and is due to be implemented from April 2016 onwards.
- The Act applies to 44 public bodies across Wales, Carmarthenshire County Council being one of those.
- The Act aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and seeks to set this principle at the heart of everything Welsh public service does.

To be referred to Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Pam Palmer (Communities)

Directorate: Chief Executive's	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16th MARCH 2016

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The joint foreword to the Act draft guidance by Carl Sargeant and Leighton Andrews notes as follows:

“The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 fulfils our commitment to make sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh public service and fundamentally underpins our ambitions for public service reform. For the first time, the Act gives a legally-binding common purpose - the well-being goals - for national and local government and for other specific public bodies, and details the principle by which the public sector should work together to deliver the long-term well-being of Wales.”

The well-being goals referred to will be the basis for all public bodies to set their individual and collective objectives. The seven goals are as follows:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

The Act sets out core requirements that will shape the way of working of the following:

- Individual role of public bodies;
- Collective role of public services board; and
- Collective role of community councils.

The attached report focuses on the core requirements of the Act and outlines the proposed approach for taking forward each element of the requirements in Carmarthenshire.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Wendy Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities – The Council will need to embed the new seven national well-being goals and five ways of working into all that it does. A new impact assessment process for Council decision making will need to be developed to incorporate and evidence that due consideration has been given to the five ways of working. Consideration will also need to be given embedding this approach to other statutory requirements relating to equality impact assessment (Equality Act 2010) and Welsh language impact assessment (Welsh Language Standards 2015).

The Act also places a duty on Public Services Boards to prepare and publish a local assessment of need and a local well-being plan. Once published, these documents will set the policy and planning framework for public bodies in Carmarthenshire.

2. Legal – The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act was approved by the National Assembly for Wales on the 17 March 2015 and received Royal Assent on the 29 April 2015. The duty applies to named public bodies from April 2016 onwards.

3. Finance – The Council requirements will be developed through the Policy and Performance Management Teams of the Regeneration and Policy Division.

However, since the establishment of the LSB in 2007 Welsh Government have provided funding (either through direct grant or ESF funding) towards the support costs of the requirement on the Local Authority to provide administrative and development support to the LSB. On the 6 January 2016 a letter was received from Welsh Government confirming that this funding support would no longer continue and despite the LSB Chair (Barry Liles) and Vice-Chair (Cllr. Emlyn Dole) asking Welsh Government to reverse this decision as it will have a negative impact on the capability of the new Public Services Board to deliver and add value Welsh Government have since confirmed that they will continue with their proposed course of action. This does leave a funding gap in terms of PSB support staff and possibly limit PSB capability.

5. Risk Management Issues – The Auditor General for Wales will examine the extent to which a public body has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

In addition, the newly appointed Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (Sophie Howe) will be able to review how an individual public body and PSB are meeting their well-being objectives. Public bodies must respond to any recommendations put forward by the Commissioner.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Wendy Walters Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – Specific duties apply to five Town & Community Councils in Carmarthenshire: Llanelli Town Council; Llanelli Rural Council; Pembrey & Burry Port Community Council; Carmarthen Town Council; and Llannon Community Council.

3. Relevant Partners – On-going discussions with current LSB and future PSB members. Specific workshop to discuss arrangements held on 21st January 2016 with first PSB meeting to be held on 12th May 2016.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Shared Purpose: Shared Future – statutory guidance for delivering the Well- being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Cymraeg http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?skip=1&lang=cy English http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en