
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Implications for Cardiff

Reason for the Report

1. To assist the Committee's understanding of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act in terms of:
 - a. the national policy context for which the Council will need to strategically prepare;
 - b. the Council's current partnership delivery arrangements;
 - c. the Committee's role and purpose in the scrutiny of partnership arrangements; and
 - d. the implications within the Act for Scrutiny.

Background

2. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG) received Royal assent on 29 April 2015. It is anticipated that all public bodies will be subject to the duties under the Act from April 2016.
3. The purpose of the WFG Act is to ensure that the governance arrangements in public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales take into account the needs of future generations. The aim is for public bodies to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales in accordance with the detailed sustainable development principles and well-being goals that are prescribed by the Act.

4. Under the new legislation, public bodies have a duty to “pursue a common aim” to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales. The Act requires public bodies to apply sustainable development principles and take into account:
 - a. the importance of balancing short term needs with the ability to meet long term needs;
 - b. the benefits of a more integrated approach;
 - c. the importance of involving those with an interest in the objectives;
 - d. seeking views and taking them into account
 - e. collaborative working to meet objectives; and
 - f. the use of preventative measures to contribute towards meeting objectives.

The Cardiff Partnership Board

5. This Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the work of the Cardiff Partnership Board (CPB). The CPB is the successor to the Cardiff Local Service Board (LSB), set up in 2007 as part of a Welsh Assembly Government initiative to establish pilots in six areas across Wales, prior to LSBs being set up in every Welsh local authority area. The CPB consists of South Wales Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, The City of Cardiff Council, Cardiff Third Sector Council, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and the Wales Probation Trust, with further organisations contributing as appropriate. The CPB strengthens local public service management to tackle challenges from a citizen perspective. To achieve this, the Board are responsible for overseeing the performance of city-wide programmes and work streams to address major issues in Cardiff.

Scope of the Scrutiny

6. To facilitate this scrutiny and ensure a broad and balanced picture, the Committee will hear from a representative of the Local Government Transformation and Partnership Team of Welsh Government, Claire Germain; an independent representative from the

office of the Sustainable Commissioner, Cynnal Cymru, Rita Singh; the Council's Partnership Manager, Rachel Jones and Scrutiny Manager, Paul Keeping. The Partnership Manager and Scrutiny Manager roles will be central to delivering the Council's responsibilities under the new statutory requirements required by the WFG.

7. The witness panel will assist Members to form a good understanding of the national policy context for partnership working, and the practical challenge of delivering the vision locally, prior to Committee's scrutiny of the work of the Cardiff Partnership Board and the *What Matters* Report on 12 January 2016.

Supporting Information

8. The report attached at **Appendix 1** provides Members with an overview of the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 with specific focus on the role of the Public Service Boards (PSBs), the requirement for local authorities to designate a local government scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB, and the Act's provisions regarding resourcing the scrutiny of Public Service Boards.
9. Also attached, at **Appendix 2**, is an 'Essentials' guide to the WFG Act, published by the Welsh Government as an accessible quick reference to the full version of the Act, which is available by following this link:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/pdfs/anaw_20150002_en.pdf.
10. The consultation on the Statutory Guidance for the WFG Act 2015 closed on 16 November 2015. If Members wish to familiarise themselves with this consultation, the document can be accessed by following this link:
<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/consultation/150907-spsf-3.0-collective-role-public-services-boards-en.pdf>.
11. For ease of reference, attached at **Appendix 3** is the key chapter within the consultation for the purposes of this scrutiny: **Chapter 6 – Local Accountability**. The Council's response to the consultation can be found at **Appendix 4**.

12. Finally, at **Appendix 5** Members will find a visual explanation of how the new statutory requirements of the WFG Act might integrate with the Council's existing strategic planning publications.

Legal Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the contents and the requirement of the Act in relation to the discharge of its local accountability role, and the establishment and the function of the Public Service Board;
- II. Consider the information presented in this report and at this meeting; and
- III. Decide whether it wishes to make any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet as it prepares to deliver corporate planning that improves the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales in accordance with the detailed sustainable development principles.

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