



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE - 20TH MARCH 2013

**SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LOCAL SERVICE BOARDS**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minister for Local Government and Communities, Carl Sargeant has written to Chairs of Local Service Board (21 February 2013) to seek views on a Local Service Board discussion paper, this paper is presented within the report for both information, and wider discussion by the Voluntary Sector Committee. The Voluntary Sector is represented on Caerphilly Local Service Board by Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, with Mike Bridgman (Assistant Director GAVO) sitting on the Local Service Board.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents the Discussion Paper for Local Service Boards on the Sustainable Development Duty and Collaborative Working, sent by the Minister Carl Sargeant to the Chairs of LSBs. The discussion paper expands on the proposals of the White Paper (**Welsh Government | Sustainable Development Bill – White paper**) to ensure that partnership working is placed on a more stable long term footing within the Sustainable Development duty.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 From April 2013 a Single Integrated Plan will come into being, as required by the Welsh Government, for the delivery of the local Community Strategy within the Caerphilly borough. The intention of the Single Integrated Plan is to integrate, simplify and rationalise the framework of community planning.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In December 2012, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development published for consultation a White Paper proposing a Sustainable Development Bill (consultation closed 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013). Through the proposed Bill this Local Service Board (LSB) discussion paper has been sent to Chairs of LSB seeking views on using the Sustainable Development Bill to include legislation to put integrated planning on a single statutory footing, simplifying the framework within which local partners work together to improve well-being embodying the principles of sustainable development, and to clarify and strengthen the role of LSBs. Views are sought either collectively from the LSB, or through individual members on the discussion paper by the end of March 2013, with views used to inform the drafting of the legislation over the summer. Comments on the paper are required to be emailed to Paul Harrison at - paul.harrison2@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

4.2 The discussion paper (contained in appendix 1) seeks views on:

- considering proposals to place integrated planning on a single statutory footing and simplifying existing legislation relating to planning and partnership working;
- aligning the strategic planning cycle with the local electoral cycle in a way which encourages longer term planning;
- ensuring partnership planning and commissioning is evidence based and that performance management is focused on outcomes;
- considering proposals to make local service boards statutory, without incurring additional running costs. Note the new statutory LSB core membership proposals do not include two current 'core' members of LSBS; the third sector (through CVCs) and the Welsh Government. Views are sought on whether the third sector and the Welsh Government should be statutory members of LSBs, or whether there should be a looser relationship, such as through invitation;
- considering proposals to enable groups of LSBs to form 'delivery groups' to undertake commissioning functions;
- ensuring partnership working is subject to cross-cutting duties such as the Equalities duty;
- strengthening accountability and assurance of partnership working by requiring the scrutiny of integrated plans and delivery by local government scrutiny committees, and by giving a role to the Auditor General for Wales to assess the quality of decision making by LSBs, through the main provision of the Sustainable Development Bill
- for the Single Integrated Plan to become a "Well-being Plan" replacing the community planning duties outlined in the annex to *Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery*

## 5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Equalities is an overarching principle in ***Caerphilly Delivers***, the Single Integrated Plan for the Caerphilly borough. From the onset of the publication of the Community Strategy for the Caerphilly Borough in 2004, equalities has been embedded into all work around community planning.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The discussion paper is calling for greater use of 'pooled budgets' by LSBs in delivering single integrated plans.

## 7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

## 8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 This is a Welsh Government consultation issued to the Chairs of Local Service Boards.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The report is provided both for information, and wider discussion by the Voluntary Sector Committee.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To provide the Committee with the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in this Local Service Board discussion paper.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Relates to the Welsh Government's proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Discussion paper for Local Service Boards - the Sustainable Development Duty and Collaborative Working