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Date: 29th October 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Sustainable Development Advisory Panel** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Thursday, 6th November, 2014** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of interest.
Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 3 Sustainable Development Advisory Panel held on 14th July 2014.

To receive and consider the following reports/presentations: -

- 4 One Planet Development - Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities.

A greener place Man gwyrdach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



- 5 Presentation - Nant y Cwm Farm, One Planet Development.
- 6 Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.
- 7 WLGA Early Adopters Programme for the Well-Being of Future Generations Bill..

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs P. Cook, K. Dawson, C. Elsbury, D. Havard (Vice Chair), K. James (Chair), S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann and J.A. Pritchard

And Appropriate Officers



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON THURSDAY, 14TH JULY 2014 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor K. James - Chairman
Councillor D. Havard - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs P. Cook, C. Elsbury, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

P. Cooke (Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment), P. Rossiter (Energy and Water Officer), S. Martin (Energy Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies had been received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on 10th April 2014 (minute nos. 1-6; page nos. 1-4) were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment (SD&LE), presented the report, which informed the Panel of progress made by the SD&LE Team against the agreed priorities for 2013/14.

The Annual Report is structured to reflect the four areas of work of the Team i.e. Sustainable Council; Education for Sustainable Development; Greener Caerphilly and Rural Development Programme, Sustainable Energy.

Paul Cooke highlighted some of the projects that the Team had been involved with during the past year. The Council continues to hold the Welsh Government backed All Wales Travel Plan Award at Gold Level, a scheme introduced to recognise best practice and commitment to travel planning. In line with its commitment to reducing CO2 emissions from vehicles, the Council has established a Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme as part of a government sponsored initiative to provide a leasing arrangement for low emission cars. Events during National Bike Week encouraged staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work. CCBS's third annual Pedometer Challenge was held over 8 weeks this year, attracting more than 700 participants.

The Team has been working closely with ICT Services, Energy Management and the Carbon Reduction Group in reviewing sustainability issues in relation to the use of ICT equipment and ways in which ICT can support the sustainability agenda. To date 265 Multi Function Printers had been deployed across the Authority and a duplex rate of 58% has saved over 20 million pages since 2008.

The SD&LE Team had also contributed to the successful bids for Arbed projects at Fochriw and Hollybush and a bid had been submitted for projects at Phillipstown/Senghenydd. The Maes yr Onn Farm, off grid project was formally launched by the Minister for Natural Resources and Food in June 2013. The project won the main award at the Royal Town Planning Institute Awards.

The SD&LE Team has close links with Planning and provides support and advice to local people making planning applications to enable them to make their development more sustainable. For example, the Authority received a planning application for a smallholding at Nant-y-Cwm Farm under the One Planet Development legislation. The Team worked closely with Planning Officers to input into the evaluation of the application and interpretation of policy. After a detailed process the Farm became the first One Planet Development in Wales to receive permanent planning permission. As part of the process the applicants produced a detailed management plan and ecological footprint analysis, which demonstrated their commitment to sustainable living, including how they will provide for at least 65% of their basic household needs from land based activity within 5 years.

Members were advised that the SD&LE Team is also heavily involved in the LDP process. It contributes to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan. The Team Leader is also a member of the LDP Focus Group.

Each service area within the Authority is required to produce a Service Improvement Plan setting out what they hope to achieve and how they will deliver their services. Since 2004/05 each service has been required to complete the SD Integration Tool as part of the SIP process. For 2013/14 the SD Integration Tool has been replaced with a new SD Statement for services to complete. Each year the SD&LE Team supports services to complete the SIP and comments on how it addresses the key sustainability issues relating to that service.

The Team has also contributed to successful bids for Arbed projects at Fochriw and Hollybush and has started the process of producing a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) for the County Borough. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been a priority within the Authority since October 2004 when a dedicated ESD Officer was appointed to drive forward the agenda in the County Borough. As at 31st March 2014 all 91 schools had achieved an Eco School award, 11 schools in the County Borough having achieved the prestigious Eco School Platinum Award.

Solar pv panels have been installed on 9 schools in the Heads of the Valley area through the

Solar Schools Project, Phase 1. In partnership with UWHA an additional £71,000 has been secured to install solar pv panels on an additional 7 schools and the Aberbargoed Educational Centre.

The SD&LE Team continues to support the Young Enterprise Education Charity and co-ordinates the work of the Greener Caerphilly Outcome Group to ensure the benefits of working in partnership on environmental issues is maximised. The Caerphilly Environmental Quality Group, a sub group of the Greener Caerphilly Group, was successful in securing an allocation of £20,000 from the Authority's Community Schemes Fund for the Group to undertake priority projects during 2013/14. The funding supported the following projects viz. Pride in your Pitches; Healthy Rivers/River Schools and Go Wild! Pollinators.

In 2011 two Sustainable Energy Officers joined the Team. They are funded through the RDP programme to deliver the sustainable energy element of the programme. The main aim is to engage with farm households and rural businesses to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy and help them to adapt to climate change.

Members of the Panel congratulated officers on their achievements and during the course of the ensuing discussion, asked whether it would be possible for the owners of Nant y Cwm Farm to be invited to a meeting of the Panel to discuss the project in more detail. Paul Cooke agreed to pursue this suggestion.

In terms of sustainable travel and the events that had taken place to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work during National Bike Week, a Member queried whether monitoring was undertaken of the number of staff who cycle to work. Officers responded that this was not possible due to limited resources.

A Member asked whether officers from other departments could be invited to address the Panel to brief Members on the measures they are implementing in terms of sustainable development. It was suggested that a good example would be for officers from ICT Services to be invited to give an update on the savings achieved by the implementation of multi functional printers throughout the Authority.

With regard to the installation of pv panels on schools in the Heads of the Valleys area through the Solar Schools Project, a Member queried whether management committees of the various community centres throughout the county borough could be offered advice on installing pv panels. Paul Rossiter advised that he would be the point of contact in this respect.

The Panel noted the achievements against the priorities set for 2013/14.

5. LOCAL AUTHORITY ENERGY FINANCING SCHEME (LAEF)

Paul Rossiter, Energy and Water Conservation Officer, gave a presentation on the Local Authority Energy Efficiency Fund, which was established in 2004. It is an invest to save scheme designed specifically for energy conservation projects. The scheme is known nationally as SALIX, which is the name of the finance company that provides organisations with capital on behalf of central government. Salix has provided £200k and Caerphilly £419k.

A total of £1.469m has been invested to date and this has resulted in annual cost savings on electricity and gas bills of £371k. Payments to the carbon reduction scheme (carbon tax) have also been reduced by approximately £40k. The Authority's carbon emissions have been reduced by some 2,484 tonnes. The Salix national performance league tables for 2013/14 confirm that Caerphilly has outperformed all other participating Welsh authorities and has compared very well against the majority of the 132 UK wide participating organisations.

Details were received of projects undertaken in 2013/14 together with projects in the pipeline

for 2014/15. The Panel were advised that the plan to switch to LED lights at Risca swimming pool would cost £15,980 to install but would yield annual savings of £5,466 and 19.6 tonnes CO2.

The Chair thanked Mr Rossiter for his informative presentation and discussion ensued on the issues raised. The Panel noted the progress made to date and endorsed the continual investment in carbon reduction technologies.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN REPORT

Paul Cooke presented the report, which informed Members of the ongoing work on Climate Change Adaptation. The Climate Change Act 2008 gave Welsh Ministers the power to issue guidance on climate change impacts and adaptation. It also gave them power to issue a direction requesting bodies with public functions to prepare an adaptation report.

In association with the Caerphilly Living Environment Partnership, a high-level Climate Change Strategy was produced for the borough in 2009. The Strategy identified actions on mitigation (reducing the causes of climate change), adaptation (adapting to the changes) and opportunities. Mitigation is being taken forward by the carbon reduction and management work across the Authority.

The guidance identifies that undertaking a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) is a useful step in developing a Climate Change Adaptation approach. The main aim of the LCLIP is to ascertain if weather events over the study period have had a serious impact on Council activities. The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of researching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events between 2003 and 2013, which impacted on life in Caerphilly. The study identified 89 events of extreme weather.

A series of meetings has commenced to interview representatives from various service areas to verify the data obtained from media sources. These interviews are also being used to identify specific impacts of the extreme weather events on the service, how the service is responding and to begin the process of identifying the most significant events and impacts in order to prioritise and focus future actions. The interviews and follow up work is being compiled into individual reports for each service area, which will identify the main impacts and implications of extreme weather events for that service. These reports will then contribute to an overall report, which will provide a picture across the whole Authority.

Following discussion on the issues raised within the report, the Panel noted the progress being made on Climate Change Adaptation within the Authority.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2014.

CHAIR



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: ONE PLANET DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL COMMUNITIES**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the content of the Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 6, “One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities”.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2010, the Welsh Government published Technical Advice Note 6, “One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities”, as part of its commitment in “One Wales: One Planet”, that: “within the lifetime of a generation, Wales should use only its fair share of the earth’s resources”
- 2.2 TAN 6 states that One Planet Development in the open countryside should provide for the minimum needs of the inhabitants in terms of income, food, energy and waste assimilation over a period of no more than five years from the commencement of work on the site.
- 2.3 Any development must have an initial ecological footprint of 2.4 global hectares per person or less with a clear potential to move to 1.88 global hectares per person over time.
- 2.4 It requires that a management plan, produced by a competent person, should accompany applications and that this should be the basis of a legal agreement relating to the occupation of the site.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 6, “One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities” links to the following strategies:
- Caerphilly Local Development Plan.
 - “Living Better, Using Less”, Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
 - “Caerphilly Delivers” Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In 2010, the Welsh Government published Technical Advice Note 6, “One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities”.

- 4.2 The One Planet Development policy stems from Wales' Sustainable Development Scheme, "One Wales: One Planet", which includes an objective that: "within the lifetime of a generation, Wales should use only its fair share of the earth's resources, and our ecological footprint be reduced to the global average availability of resources – 1.88 global hectares per person in 2003. In 2006 the ecological footprint for each Welsh citizen was 4.41 global hectares.
- 4.3 Planning Policy Wales states that "land based One Planet Development in the open countryside should provide for the minimum needs of the inhabitants in terms of income, food, energy and waste assimilation over a period of no more than five years from the commencement of work on the site.
- 4.4 TAN 6, reflecting Planning Policy Wales, lays out a set of essential characteristics that all One Planet Developments in the open countryside must have. These are that One Planet Developments must:
- Have a light touch on the environment – positively enhancing the environment wherever possible through activities on the site.
 - Be land based – the development must provide for the minimum needs of residents in terms of food, income, energy and waste assimilation in no more than five years.
 - Have a low ecological footprint – the development must have an initial ecological footprint of 2.4 global hectares per person or less with a clear potential to move to 1.88 global hectares per person over time.
 - Have very low carbon buildings – these are stringent requirements, requiring that buildings are low in carbon in both construction and use.
 - Be defined and controlled by a binding management plan which is reviewed and updated every five years.
 - Be bound by a clear statement that the development will be the sole residence for the proposed occupants.
- 4.5 **Minimum Needs.** One Planet Development in the open countryside is required to meet the minimum needs of residents in terms of food, income, energy and waste assimilation from the site. This means that One Planet Development should be broadly self-sufficient, in ways, which have a low environmental impact.
- For food, this means that at least 65% of all occupants food needs are met from produce grown and reared on the site or purchased using income derived from other products grown and reared on the site.
 - For income it means that the site needs to generate enough income to pay for the basic requirements of all the residents on the site, which the site is unable to provide directly. These are clothes, travel, IT / communications, Council Tax and the food needs not covered above.
 - For energy and waste assimilation it means that the site should produce all of the energy needed by the residents of the site (including that needed for any processing) and should assimilate all of the waste the site produces other than very small amounts of either non-biodegradable or hazardous wastes (such as batteries) where alternatives are justified on grounds of greater sustainability. The majority of water needs should also be met from the site. The minimisation of energy and water use, and the minimisation of waste, which cannot be assimilated on the site is a pre-requisite to minimising needs and achieving a low Ecological Footprint.

4.6 **Management Plan.** The policy requires that a management plan, produced by a competent person, should accompany applications and that this should be the basis of a legal agreement relating to the occupation of the site. It also states that the management plan should cover the following areas; a business and improvement plan, ecological footprint analysis, carbon analysis, biodiversity and landscape assessment, a community impact assessment, and a transport assessment and travel plan. The management plan should also provide the evidence that the proposals meet the exceptional nature of One Planet Development in the open countryside. It should:

- Set out the objectives and defines the design strategy / proposals for the site and how people will live there.
- Assess, in association with the Ecological Footprint Analysis, whether or not the essential characteristics and qualifying criteria are met.
- Identify how the development will be phased, when habitation of the site will start, and whether temporary accommodation will be required at the outset.
- Provide the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the development to ensure that it continues to meet all necessary criteria and fulfils its original objectives.

4.7 **Ecological Footprint Analysis.** Ecological Footprint Analysis (EFA) is a relatively well-developed indicator tool of the sustainability of human activities in terms of their impact on the carrying capacity of the planet. It provides a simple measure of the impacts of a person's activities measured as the 'global hectares' needed to support them, based on an assessment of household consumption.

In 2007 there were 1.88 global hectares (gha) available to each person on earth. In the western world personal footprints far exceed this figure. Reflecting that 1.88 global hectares per person is exceptionally hard to achieve in the developed world, TAN 6 requires that the initial footprint of residents of One Planet Developments in the open countryside is set at 2.4 global hectares per person, with clear potential to move towards 1.88 global hectares over time.

4.8 Annual monitoring reports on progress are required, and a full review after five years needs to be undertaken as part of the planning condition. Ultimately failures to fulfil the management plan, if not corrected as the management plan envisages, can be addressed by planning enforcement measures.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Panel note the content of the Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 6, “One Planet Development, Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities”.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

Author: Wayne Grimstead – Area Principal Enforcement Officer
Consultees: Cllr Ken James - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development
Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning
Tim Stephens – Development Control Manager
Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment
Rhian Kyte - Team Leader, Strategic & Development Planning



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) BILL

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the content of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, will place a duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to make decisions that leave a positive legacy for our children, and children's children, and to report on how we are complying with the Act from April 2016.
- 2.2 The Act will set 6 well-being goals and require public bodies to set and publish objectives that maximise the organisations contribution to achieving the well-being goals. Each public body is also required to report annually on progress it has made in meeting its well-being objectives.
- 2.3 The Bill also makes provision for Local Service Boards to be put on a statutory basis as Public Service Boards.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Authority's work on sustainable Development supports the following strategies:
- "Living Better, Using Less", Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
 - "Caerphilly Delivers" Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017
 - Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 On 7 July 2014, the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill was tabled, as the start of its legislative journey through the National Assembly. It is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent in the Spring of 2015 and the commencement of the Duty will be April 2016.
- 4.2 The Act is in 4 parts:
- Part 1: Introduction and Key Concepts
 - Part 2: Overview of the main provisions
 - Part 3: Establishes the office of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
 - Part 4: Establishes a Public Services Board for each local authority in Wales

Part 1: Introduction and Key Concepts

- 4.3 **Purpose of the Act.** The general purpose of the Act is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies, including local authorities, for improving the well-being of Wales take the needs of future generations into account. The aim is for public bodies to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principles

Part 2: Overview of the main provisions

- 4.4 **Well-Being Goals.** The Act sets out 6 well-being goals against which all public bodies must set and publish well-being objectives that are designed to maximise their contribution to the achievement of these well-being goals.
- **A prosperous Wales** - an innovative and productive, low carbon emission, economy that makes more efficient and proportionate use of resources; and which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and well-educated population.
 - **A resilient Wales** – a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.
 - **A healthier Wales** – a society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
 - **A more equal Wales** – a society that enables people to fulfill their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.
 - **A Wales of cohesive communities** – attractive, viable, safe and well-connected.
 - **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** – a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
- 4.5 **Sustainable Development Principle.** In applying the sustainable development principle the Act requires that public bodies take into account:
- The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs.
 - The benefits of taking an integrated approach by considering how: an objective may impact upon each of the well-being goals and the social, economic and environmental aspects and; the impact of the body’s objectives on each other and upon other public bodies’ objectives.
 - The importance of involving those with an interest in the objectives, seeking views and taking them into account.
 - How collaborating with any other person could assist the body to meet its objectives, or assist another body to meet its objectives.
 - How deploying resources to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may contribute to meeting the body’s objective, or another body’s objectives.
- 4.6 **National Indicators and Annual Well-Being Report.** The Welsh Ministers must publish national indicators that may be applied to measuring progress towards the achievement of well-being goals. They must then also report annually on progress towards the goals by reference to the indicators.
- 4.7 **Future Trends Report.** The Welsh Ministers must, within 12 months after the general election, publish a report that contains predictions of likely trends in the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales; and any related analytical data and information that the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate

- 4.8 **Annual Reports by other public bodies.** Public bodies covered by the act, including local authorities, are required to publish annual reports of the progress they have made in meeting their well-being objectives. At the same time the public body must review its well-being objectives, and if they are no longer considered appropriate they must amend them and include an explanation of reasons for any amendment.

Part 3: Establishes the office of Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

- 4.9 The Act makes provision for Welsh Ministers to appoint a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. The Commissioner's general duty is to promote the sustainable development principle and to monitor and assess the extent to which well-being objectives set by public bodies are being met.
- 4.10 The Commissioner may make recommendations to public bodies on how steps can be taken to meet well-being objectives in accordance with the SD principle. A public body must take all reasonable steps to follow the course of action set out in the Commissioner's recommendations.

Part 4: Establishes a Public Services Board for each local authority in Wales

- 4.11 **Public Service Boards.** The Act makes provision for the establishment of a public services board for each local authority area in Wales. The board will have the local authority, Local Health Board, the Welsh Fire & Rescue authority and Natural Resources Body for Wales as members. In addition the board must invite ('invited participants') the Welsh Ministers, the chief constable of the police force in that area, the police and crime commissioner for a police area in that area, a person required to provide probation services in relation to the local authority area and a body representing voluntary organisations in the area.
- 4.12 The aim of each public services board is to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area in accordance with the sustainable development principle. Each board is required to publish an assessment of the state of the economic, social and environmental well-being in its area prior to the production of a local well-being plan.
- 4.13 **Local Well-Being Plan.** Each public services board is required to prepare and publish a "local well-being plan", which must include objectives that are designed to maximise the board's contribution within its area to the achievement of the well-being goals. The objectives in the plan may also be well-being objectives published by the board member's individual public body. The public services board must also review and amend its local well-being plan and produce annual progress reports.
- 4.14 Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committee has power to review or scrutinise decisions made, other actions exercised by its public services board and the board's governance arrangements; and to make reports and recommendations to the board with respect to the board's functions or governance arrangements; and to exercise that power in requiring the board or individual members to attend a meeting of the committee and provide it with explanations of such matters as it may specify.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information only. No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Undertaking work to comply with the emerging requirements of the new Bill has been identified as a key priority in the work programme for the SD & Living Environment Team and is included in the work programme for 2014/15.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Panel note the content of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 There are no current statutory powers however this report is being produced in preparation for the "Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill", which was introduced in July 2014, and will place a statutory duty on local authorities from April 2016.

Author: Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment
Consultees: Cllr Ken James - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development
Cllr Derek Havard - Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning
Paul Rossiter – Energy & Water Conservation Officer
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator
Christopher Davidge, – Procurement Officer
Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.
Tracy Evans – Education for Sustainable Development Officer



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 6TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: WLGA EARLY ADOPTERS PROGRAMME FOR THE WELL-BEING OF
FUTURE GENERATIONS BILL**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the WLGA “early adopter” programme for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, and what involvement in the programme will entail.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, will place a duty on local authorities to make decisions that leave a positive legacy for our children, and children’s children, and to report on how we are complying with the Bill from April 2016.
- 2.2 The WLGA have developed an “early adopters” programme for local authorities to start to work towards the requirements of the Bill immediately. The support from WLGA is free and will also include an opportunity to help to shape the guidance to support implementation of the Bill.
- 2.3 On the 21st August 2014, the Corporate Management Team approved a recommendation for Caerphilly to join the WLGA early adopters programme.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Authority’s work on sustainable Development supports the following strategies:
- “Living Better, Using Less”, Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
 - “Caerphilly Delivers” Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017
 - Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 On 7 July 2014, the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill was tabled, as the start of its legislative journey through the National Assembly.

The Bill will place a duty on public bodies, including local authorities to make decisions that leave a positive legacy for our children, and children’s children. It is designed to provide local authorities with a renewed sense of purpose on the sustainability agenda, and requires us all to think differently and plan over a longer period of time. The Bill requires us to plan so that we recognise challenges before they arise and grasp opportunities as they occur.

- 4.2 The duty will require local authorities to report on how they are complying with the Bill from April 2016. However the WLGA are developing an “early adopters” programme for local authorities to start to work towards the requirements of the Bill immediately.
- 4.3 On the 21st August 2014, the Corporate Management Team approved a recommendation for Caerphilly to join the WLGA early adopters programme. Caerphilly is one of eleven local authorities and three national parks to join the programme.

Support provided by the WLGA

- 4.4 The aim of the support provided by the WLGA is to help participants to take some initial steps to position their authority to respond to the Bill’s requirements. Over time, this should help authorities to develop new ways of working that maximise the benefits of an SD approach.
- 4.5 Caerphilly will receive the following support, which will help to enable us to put in place processes and procedures in line with the requirements of the new Bill:
- a diagnostic self-assessment tool to help an authority to establish its current position and priorities in relation to requirements of the Bill and the ‘building blocks’
 - participation in a webinar series that will help an authority to develop in-house expertise in vital areas (to cover foresighting and the production of ward-based scenarios; integrated reporting; building SD into the budget setting process)
 - links to working groups on integrated reporting and indicator development
 - invitations to free events on policy specific issues such as climate change adaptation and flood and water issues
 - exchange of good practice information between participating authorities
 - networking with other early adopters to share best practice and offer peer-to-peer assistance
 - access to a wide range of support materials via the WLGA website, which is being revamped to provide additional resources.
- 4.6 Importantly, as an early adopter there will also be an opportunity to help to shape the guidance to support implementation of the Bill. This will include an opportunity for local authorities to engage with the WG, WAO and WLGA to shape the guidance covering the reporting, monitoring and requirements of the Bill.

Current situation in Caerphilly

- 4.7 Caerphilly is considered to be one of the leading authorities in Wales on its approach to SD. It is over seventeen years since the Council first approved a sustainable development policy, and set out the five principles of sustainable development that should guide all the actions of the Authority.

Involvement in the early adopters programme would allow the Authority to continue to be at the leading edge of SD in Wales. It would provide a framework for the review of existing structures and process to ensure that they are fit for purpose as guidance and legislation in this area moves forward.

Time and resource implications

- 4.8 Reviewing processes, structures and reporting in line with the emerging requirements of the new Bill has been identified as a key priority in the work programme for the Team Leader for SD & Living Environment and the Education for Sustainable Development Officer for 2014/15. Involvement in the programme will provide support and access to materials to aid this work
- 4.9 It is however a requirement of the programme that there is commitment from senior officers and Members to the process. This would include involvement in the initial self-assessment process and supporting and taking forward work on this agenda as it progresses.

Next steps

- 4.10 The first part of the programme involves senior officer from the authority completing an on line diagnostic questionnaire that will help to establish the starting point for each of the early adopter authorities. The self-assessment questionnaire is structured around the ten building blocks that WLGA believe need to be in place to respond effectively to the new legislation. Twelve senior officers were nominated by CMT to complete the questionnaire.
- 4.11 The responses to the questionnaire will be analysed by the WLGA and a report produced that will identify the current situation and potential areas for action. Following this it is proposed to hold a workshop for those who completed the questionnaire to receive feedback on the results, and to identify a “critical path of actions”. This will then form the basis for the work of the authority as part of the programme.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. There is no financial cost for the support provided by the WLGA.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Undertaking work to comply with the emerging requirements of the new Bill has been identified as a key priority in the work programme for the SD & Living Environment Team and is included in the work programme for 2014/15. It is a requirement of the programme that there is commitment from senior officers and Members to the process. This would include involvement in supporting and taking forward work on this agenda as it progresses.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Panel note the Corporate Management Team decision to join the WLGA programme as an “early adopter” for the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 There are no current statutory powers however this report is being produced in preparation for the “Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill”, which was introduced in July 2014, and will place a statutory duty on local authorities from April 2016.

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