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**Date: 17th February 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Sustainable Development Advisory Panel** will be held in the on **Thursday, 25th February, 2016** 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

	Pages
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 the 5th November 2015 (min nos. 1-5).	1 - 4
To receive and consider the following reports/presentations: -	

**A greener place Man gwyrdach**

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



4	Gelligaer Solar Schools Project.	5 - 10
5	Lammas Eco Village Visit and One Planet Development Update.	11 - 16
6	Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.	17 - 24

**Circulation:**

Councillors M.A. Adams, Mrs A. Blackman, 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, 5TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor K James - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs A Blackman, C Elsbury, P Leonard, C P Mann, J A Pritchard

Together with:

P Cooke (Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment); A Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

The Chair had sent a message to confirm he would arrive late, prior to the commencement of the meeting. It was moved and seconded that Councillor C Elsbury Chair the meeting until Councillor K James arrived.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Adams and H.A. Andrews.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on the 28th May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT (SD AND LE) TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 AND PRESENTATION**

Members were informed of the progress achieved by the Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team against the priorities for 2014/15. The team continue to raise awareness of the key sustainable development issues, which affect the Authority and to implement projects designed to improve the sustainability of the Authority.

The team annual report highlight the work of the team, including the work in partnership with the Sustainable Development Core Group, the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP) and the Greener Caerphilly Outcome Group. The report identified where each of these groups has been involved and their role in providing support and promoting a culture where sustainable projects can develop with or without their direct involvement. The annual report is structured to reflect the four areas of work, namely sustainable council, education for sustainable development, greener Caerphilly and rural development programme (sustainable energy).

Some specific achievements in 2014/15 include:

Assessing the Authority's ability to adapt to climate change which involved interviews and consultation with 43 senior officers from across all 18 of the Authority's Services.

71% of schools have achieved a Green Flag (the highest award) under the Eco Schools programme. Ten schools have achieved their second Eco School green flag award, with twenty-two schools also achieving their third flag and working towards their platinum award. sixteen schools have achieved the coveted Eco Schools Platinum Award.

Sustainable Energy advice was given to 51 farms and rural businesses in 2014/15.

The SD & LE Team secured a total of £126,037 of funding for projects in 2014/15.

Members were informed of new legislation that will come into effect in April 2016 (Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and outlined the principles of the Act that will make public bodies listed, do what they do in a sustainable way with a more joined up approach.

The Officer confirmed that a health and wellbeing survey questionnaire had been distributed to staff and in total 1,014 responses were received in relation to the 2014/15 survey. The overall average level of understanding of sustainable development from the 2014/15 survey was 2.37 per cent. This was down from 2.5 in 2008 and further down from 2.6 in October 2007.

The Committee were informed that six events promoting sustainable travel during 2014/15 under the salary sacrifice scheme, 390 members of staff purchased bikes and 116 staff members purchased new gas cars (with a further 46 awaiting delivery).

Reference was made to the current pedometer challenge (which runs across Wales) and confirmed that 338 members of staff participated this year and walked 27,000 miles.

Members were updated regarding the literacy and numeracy framework and how the areas had been identified using E5DGC which has been mapped against the literacy and numeracy framework for years 2, 6 and 9 with suggested activities, website links and resources identified for each of the elements within the framework. These documents will support schools embedding the requirements of the new literacy and numeracy framework within their curriculum planning and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching. Resource packs are available for teachers and also website links provided.

The Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team co-ordinate the "Greener Caerphilly" outcomes theme of the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan. The work is based around three themes:

- (1) improved local environmental quality;
- (2) reduce the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change;
- (3) maximise the use of the environment for health benefits.

The group operates a small grant scheme which requires at least a pound for pound match funding to encourage maximum powerful input. In 2014/15 the community scheme provided funding with £12,431 to support six projects.

Members were updated in relation to the Rural Development Plan (RDP). The aim of the project is to engage with farm households and rural business to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy and help them to adapt to climate change. RDP funding came to an end at the end of December 2014.

The SD and LE Team secured an additional £126,037 to contribute to the ongoing work in 2014/15 and monitored the progress of paragraph 4.23 of appendix 1 attached to the officer's report.

A Member queried the issue of solar panels in local schools and wanted to make a public tribute to Paul Cooke with his hard work and commitment in the progress made to date.

Concerns were raised in relation to the percentage of workforce and their knowledge and understanding of sustainable development.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his informative report and presentation and noted the achievement against the priority set for 2014/15.

## **5. LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT PROFILE**

Mr Cooke updated Members in relation to the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) and the recommendations approved by the corporate management team on the 30th July 2015.

The Authority is required to make progress in adapting to climate change and to report annually on its progress. Meetings were undertaken with 43 senior officers covering each of the 18 service areas within the Authority. 128 impacts were identified, of which 33 were rated as high priority for further assessment. The report identifies a total of 14 recommendations divided into two areas: the first is existing work and reviews where consideration of climate change adaptation issues should be included and the second is specific additional work on climate adaptations issues.

Members were informed that the Climate Change Act 2008 gave Welsh Ministers the power to issue guidance on climate change impacts and adaptation. The Minister expects all key reporting authorities to make continued progress in preparing for a change in climate and identified the challenge as being to embed consideration of climate change impacts and possible response into decision making processes. Statutory guidance was published setting out the detail of what is required. The guidance is in five parts, based on a management system styled approach.

The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of pre-searching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events, during the study period between January 2003 and December 2003 the research identified 89 severe weather events. As part of the next stage of the process, interviews, workshops and questionnaires were used with 43 senior managements across the 18 service areas within the authority to verify the data and to identify priority impacts. The study also identified that the authority was subject to numerous changes being driven by external factors including the financial climate and new legislation.

The report recommends the twin-track approach with some high level issues such as a review of key policies, being combined with some further work on specific impacts relating to individual service areas.

The completion of the LCLIP will mean that the steps outlined in Part 1 of the Welsh Government's statutory guidance will be complete. The next steps, set out in Part 2, are for those impacts identified as being of high priority, to go forward for further investigation, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment.

Members noted the progress being made on the Climate Impact Profile within the Authority.

The meeting closed at 4.57pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

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CHAIR



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 25TH FEBRUARY 2016**

**SUBJECT: GELLIGAER SOLAR SCHOOLS PROJECT**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel with an update of the Gelligaer Solar Schools Project.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Gelligaer Solar Schools Project supports CCBC's actions identified in the Carbon Reduction Strategy to reduce the authority's carbon emissions by 2019.
- 2.2 The project involves securing £31,600 funding from the Gelligaer Community Council to install solar photovoltaic panels on up to four schools and structural and asbestos surveys on up to an additional three schools in the Gelligaer ward area.
- 2.3 There is unspent area forum budget for the Glan-y-Nant and Tir-Y-Berth partnership within the Gelligaer community Council area, which could be used to support the Gelligaer Solar Schools project.
- 2.4 There are unspent area forum budgets for certain partnerships, which could be used to fund solar photovoltaic panels on schools in the areas with sufficient funds available.
- 2.5 Any feed in tariff (FIT) payments received for the installations will be paid directly to the schools with the installations.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Gelligaer Solar Schools Project supports the following strategies and priorities:
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Welsh Government (2010)
  - One Wales, One Planet (2009), the Sustainable Development Strategy for Wales
  - Wales Environment Strategy (2006)
  - Caerphilly Delivers - Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017
  - Caerphilly Climate Change Strategy (2009)
  - Caerphilly Carbon Reduction Strategy
  - Living Better, Using Less, the Sustainable Development Strategy (2008)

## 4. THE REPORT

### 4.1 Background

#### 4.1.1 Caerphilly Schools Project (Phase 1 and 2)

In January 2009 the Sustainable Development Team and United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) developed the concept and proposal for the Solar Schools project to take advantage of the Heads of the Valley under spend at the end of the 2008/09 financial year. £315,000 was secured from the Heads of the Valley Regeneration Fund to install solar photovoltaic systems on sixteen schools and one education centre in the Heads of the Valley area of the Caerphilly County Borough. UWHA commissioned the contractors to undertake the installations and the Sustainable Development Team managed the project. Educational resources were also developed for all primary and secondary schools in the county borough as part of the project.

4.1.2 In July 2015 the Sustainable Development Team gave a presentation to the Gelligaer Community Council on areas of the work undertaken by the team. The Gelligaer Community Council has received a one off community benefit fund payment for 2015/16 of £40,000 from a developer who has installed a solar farm in their area. They were keen to use the funding to support environmental projects in their area and following an update on the Caerphilly Solar Schools Project, were keen on the idea of a solar schools programme.

4.1.3 A desk top study was undertaken on the nine schools in the Gelligaer ward area to determine the initial suitability of each site, including orientation, possible asbestos issues and if any of the schools had been identified by the authority as suitable for a solar PV installation. The nine schools in the Gelligaer Community Council Ward area are:

- Glyngaer Primary School
- Derwen Deg Primary School
- Tir-Y-Berth Primary School
- Ysgol Penallta
- Hengoed Primary School
- Ystrad Mynach Primary School
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Alta
- Lewis Girls School
- Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre

4.1.4 Estimated prices were provided to the Gelligaer Community Council for solar PV installations, structural and asbestos surveys and EPC ratings so they could decide what to fund.

### 4.2 The Gelligaer Solar School Project

4.2.1 The Gelligaer Community Council agreed to offer £31,600 to fund the following:

- Structural and/or asbestos surveys to be undertaken on six schools. Installation of solar PV systems on three schools and Energy Performance Certificates for three schools.
- The 3 schools to be installed with solar systems in the first instance for 2015/16 are:
  - (i) Glyngaer Primary School
  - (ii) Hengoed Primary School
  - (iii) YGG Bro Allta
- Structural and/or Asbestos surveys to be undertaken at a further 3 schools in 2015/16:
  - (iv) Ystrad Mynach Primary School
  - (v) YGG Penalltau
  - (vi) Derwen Deg Primary School
- Investigate the feasibility of solar panels on the canteen building at Tir-Y-Berth Primary School.



- 4.2.2 The Solar PV installations will be gifted to the schools and the schools can claim the feed-in tariff's (FIT's) to spend on environmental projects.
- 4.2.3 The solar panels installed are <4Kw systems costing £7,525 each (not including asbestos surveys), with an estimated electricity generation of 3,196Kwh per year and a CO<sub>2</sub> saving of 1.836 tonnes per school.
- 4.2.4 Following a tender process with Procurement using the ESPO Framework 2838 for renewable energy solutions, only one company replied to the tender, who have since been awarded the contract. These are Campbell and Kennedy, based in Glasgow with additional offices in Bracknell, Aberdeen and Ireland. They have undergone first phase vetting by Corporate Health & Safety and their insurance documentation has been approved by the Corporate Finance Department.
- 4.2.5 The breakdown of costs is:
- Site survey                    £125 per site
  - Structural survey        £250 per site
  - Asbestos survey        £1,000 (approximate, depends on level of survey)
  - Solar PV installation    £6,650 per site
  - EPC Certificate        £500 per site
- 4.2.6 To cover the requirements of the Gelligaer Community Council, the costs would be:
- 6 site surveys            £750
  - 6 structural surveys    £1,500
  - 3 EPC Certificates    £1,500
  - 3 Installations        £19,950
  - 3 Asbestos surveys    £3,000
  - Total cost of £26,700
- 4.2.7 To undertake an additional installation, and install solar PV systems on four schools, with Tir-Y-Berth Primary being the fourth school, there would be an additional cost of £8,525 (£125m for site survey, £250 for structural survey, £500 for EPC certificate, £6,650 for the installation and £1,000 for an asbestos survey), bringing the total project cost to £35,225. With £31,600 funding provided from the Gelligaer Community Council, the Sustainable Development Team would need to seek £3,625 funding to make up the shortfall.
- 4.3 The Feed-In Tariffs
- 4.3.1 The feed-in tariffs (FITs), which came into affect on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, are financial rewards for generating renewable energy in the form of generation and export tariff. The FIT's have reduced significantly over the past few years as the popularity of renewable technology has increased. For <4Kw solar photovoltaic systems installed on or after 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and before 31st March 2016, the feed-in tariff's are:
- Higher Rate: 4.39 pence per kilowatt hour
  - Middle Rate: 3.95 pence per kilowatt hour
  - Lower Rate: 0.87 pence per kilowatt hour
- 4.3.2 The higher, middle and lower rates depend on the buildings ECP rating (Energy Efficiency) and multiple ownership of FIT registered PV systems.
- The lower rate is payable if the system provides power to a building and the building does not have an EPC certificate showing it's energy efficiency in bands A to D
  - The medium rate is payable for multiple ownership, where the system owner has a total of 25 FIT registered PV installations.
  - The higher rate is payable if neither of the above two conditions apply

#### 4.4 Maintenance

- 4.4.1 The solar photovoltaic panels have no moving parts, and are largely maintenance free and are guaranteed by the manufacturer for 10 years. The 10-year warranty is handed over to the school after the PV cells have been installed. The installation includes a 1-year warranty.
- 4.4.2 The only other major component of the system is the inverter, which is guaranteed for 10 years. If the inverter needs replacing in future years, the current cost of an inverter is £1,000, although this is expected to fall over time. The typical life of an inverter is approximately 15 years.

#### 4.5 Installations

- 4.5.1 The installations will take place during February and March 2016. Each installation is expected to take between 3 to 4 days, with minimal disruption to the school. All contractors working on site will be DBS checked and, if required for any asbestos requirements, CAT B trained.

#### 4.6 Area Forum Budgets to support additional installations

- 4.6.1 There is a substantial underspend in certain area forum budgets, some of which could potentially be used to fund additional solar PV systems on schools in the respective areas. The Sustainable Development Team are proposing to work with the partnerships with significant underspend to investigate installing solar PV systems on schools in their areas.
- 4.6.2 Within the Gelligaer Community Council ward area, there is an under spend of £1,028 for the Glan-y-Nant and Tir-Y-Berth partnership. This could potentially be added to the £31,600 funding from the Gelligaer Community Council to make up some of the shortfall so we can undertake installations on four schools in the Gelligaer Community Council ward area.
- 4.6.3 There are also large underspends in the following partnerships, which could potentially be used to fund solar PV systems on schools in the relevant areas:
  - Penyrheol £15,950 (Cwm Ifor Primary School)
  - Crumlin £6,563 (Crumlin Primary School)
  - Pontllanfraith £11,417 (Pontllanfraith Primary School, Bryn Primary School, Penllwyn Primary School)

### 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 The total funding secured from the Gelligaer Community Council is £31,600. This will cover the cost of structural and asbestos surveys on six schools and installations on three schools, provided that there are no unexpected costs identified in the asbestos or structural surveys.
- 6.2 To complete installations on four schools, the total cost would be £35,225, leaving a shortfall of £3,625. Additional funding will need to be secured to complete installations on four schools.
- 6.3 The unspent area forum budgets for the partnerships in the Gelligaer Ward (Glan-y-Nant/ Tir-Y-Berth) could be used to increase the budget to help cover the cost of solar PV installations on four schools.

- 6.4 If we are unable to secure any funding from the partnerships in the Gelligaer Ward area, the Sustainable Development Team will seek to secure funding to make up the shortfall to undertake four installations.
- 6.5 The unspent Area Forum Budgets for other partnerships within the county borough could also potentially be used to fund solar PV installations on schools in their areas.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no initial personnel implications associated with this report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 See list below.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Members of SDAP note that £31,600 has been secured to undertake installations of solar photovoltaic systems on schools in the Gelligaer Community Council ward area.

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

- 10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 There are no statutory powers.

Author: Tracy Evans, Education for Sustainable Development Officer  
Consultees: Cllr Ken James – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development  
Cllr Derek Havard - Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel  
Christina Harray Corporate Director, Communities  
Bleddyn Hopkins – Assistant Director, Education  
Keri Cole – Chief Education Officer, Education  
Colin Jones – Head of Performance and Property Services  
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning  
Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services  
Nicole Scammell – Acting Director of Corporate Services  
Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment.  
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator  
Paul Rossiter – Energy & Water Conservation Officer  
Steve Martin - Principal Contracts Officer (Energy)

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 25TH FEBRUARY 2016

**SUBJECT: LAMMAS ECO VILLAGE VISIT AND ONE PLANET DEVELOPMENT  
UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members of the Panel on the site visit to Lammas Eco Village, and to seek the views of the Panel on the recommendation to discuss the value of further work with stakeholders regarding One Planet Development in the county borough.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In Nov 2014 SDAP received a report on Technical Advice Note 6 "One Planet Development", having been the first Planning Authority in Wales to approve an application under this legislation.
- 2.2 The Panel requested a visit to the Lammas Ecovillage in Pembrokeshire to further consider the potential regeneration opportunities offered by one planet developments. The visit was held on the 4th August 2015
- 2.3 The Authority has taken a proactive approach one planet developments by including one planet developments as one of the identified exceptions to the settlement boundary policy in the draft replacement Local Development Plan.
- 2.4 At this stage it is not clear how much demand there would be for a Lammas type development in Caerphilly. It is recommended that officers discuss, with stakeholders, potential demand for one planet developments in the county borough to assess the value in further work.

### **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 Welsh Government published Technical Advice Note 6 "One Planet Development", Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities" as part of its commitment to "One Wales, One Planet" that "within the lifetime of a generation, Wales should use only its fair share of the earth's resources".
- 4.2 TAN 6 sets out a set of essential characteristics that all One Planet Developments in the open countryside must have: -
- They 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.
- 4.3 The policy also requires that a management plan, which will form the basis of a legal agreement relating to the occupation of the site, should accompany applications. The management plan should provide evidence that the proposals meet the exceptional nature of One Planet Development in the open countryside. Annual monitoring reports on progress are required and a full review after five years needs to be undertaken as part of the planning condition. Failure to fulfil the management plan if not corrected as the management plan envisages, can be addressed by planning enforcement measures.
- 4.4 Caerphilly County Borough Council became the first Local Authority in Wales to grant planning permission under the One Planet Development legislation, when permission was granted for Nant y Cwm Farm.
- 4.5 At the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting on the 6th November 2014 the Panel received a presentation from Dan and Sarah Moody, of Nant y Cwm Farm on their experience and their life on their One Planet Development at Nant y Cwm Farm.
- 4.6 As a result of the report and presentation, the Panel requested a site visit to the Lammas Eco Village in Pembrokeshire to further explore the potential for regeneration that One Planet Developments might offer. A visit was undertaken by 12 members and officers on the 4th August 2015. The visit included presentations on the background to the development, a site tour and discussions on the potential role of One Planet Developments in regeneration.

#### **Background and information from site tour**

- 4.7 The Lammas Ecovillage is a low-impact, off-grid ecovillage near Crymych in Pembrokeshire, West Wales, comprising nine households and a community hub on a 76 acres (31 ha) site. Buildings are constructed of natural materials and energy obtained from renewable sources. Planning permission took some years to obtain, but has established a replicable template for similar future developments in Wales.
- 4.8 The ecovillage is centered on a Community Hub, from which courses, conferences and open days are run. It was constructed using local timber, straw bale insulation and locally sourced aggregate as well as incorporating various green technologies (such as a masonry stove, passive solar heating and a wood-fired kitchen). Funding for the Community Hub came from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

- 4.9 The project has been designed as a replicable template - with each household purchasing a 1000-year agricultural lease from the organisation which provides them with autonomy and security. Electrical power is generated from a series of micro photovoltaic installations along with a 27kW hydro generator. Heating power is supplied from timber (either waste timber from woodland management or from short-rotation-coppice biomass plantations). Domestic water comes from a private spring and other water needs are predominantly met from harvesting rainwater.
- 4.10 The nine smallholdings demonstrate a range of natural building techniques though there have been challenges over compliance with building regulations which led to some of the residents being taken to court by Pembrokeshire County Council. These issues have since been resolved.
- 4.11 The concept for the Lammas ecovillage is that of a collective of eco-smallholdings working together to create and sustain a culture of land-based self-reliance. The project supports a permaculture approach to land management – in which human beings are considered an intrinsic part of the ecosystem. As a result the approach to environmental management is one of stewardship for future generations rather than exploitation for short term gain.
- 4.12 The 76 acre site was previously a single sheep farm which was barely sustaining the couple who farmed it. The pasture was compacted and relatively unproductive. Biodiversity and Soil health indicators were poor. Since its purchase in 2009 the project has worked to create a new infrastructure across the landscape that supports a wide spectrum of ecologies that in turn will provide for the diverse needs of its human inhabitants. Trackways have been created across the site and water patterns have been mapped and harnessed to retain as much water in the landscape as possible. Wild plants and native trees have been planted alongside specific plants chosen for their adaptability and productivity. Animal husbandry techniques are employed by residents as a method of managing landscape evolution whilst simultaneously providing meat, dairy and fibre produce. The project now supports 9 families who produce between 40% and 85% of their livelihood directly from the land.
- 4.13 The residents of the ecovillage have come from all walks of life and whilst some have experience of low-impact living and natural building, many have none. They have all purchased plots costing between £35,000 and £40,000, and have 5 years to establish their holdings. Water, woodland and electricity are managed collectively and the plots are largely dedicated to growing food, land-based businesses, growing biomass and processing organic waste. Land-based enterprises include fruit and vegetable production, livestock and bees, woodland and willow crafts, value-added food production, seed production, and vermiculture (the farming of composting worms).
- 4.14 Under the planning conditions the project reports to Pembrokeshire County Council each year, setting out its progress against a series of performance indicators that include traffic generation, land-based productivity, and ecological footprinting. The project is required to substantially meet its needs from the land and demonstrate positive environmental, social and economic benefit.
- 4.15 The dwelling houses, workshops and barns have all been designed and built by the residents themselves, with help from volunteers. For the most part they are built from local natural materials or recycled materials. With the dwellings there have been issues in demonstrating compliance with building regulations, and whilst there are currently no outstanding issues with building control officers, this continues to be a significant hurdle for low-impact builders. Low-impact construction is by its very nature, organic and low-cost. The dwellings that have been completed in the ecovillage have cost between £5,000 and £14,000.

## **Discussion on the regeneration potential of One Planet Developments**

- 4.16 Following the site tour a discussion was held with residents of Lammas and representatives of the One Planet Council on the regeneration potential offered by one planet developments.
- 4.17 The previous use of the 76 acre site as a sheep farm barely supported 2 people. The Eco village provides up to 85% of the livelihood of 9 families with individual businesses and links to other local communities and businesses.
- 4.18 Whilst this type of development and life is not for everyone, it was identified that there is growing demand for sites for this type of development. It was not however clear how much demand there would be in “the Valleys” and in Caerphilly County Borough in particular.
- 4.19 Individuals would be able to apply for planning permission based on TAN 6 guidance, however it was discussed that greater regeneration potential was offered by the Lammas model with a number of families working together providing a range of businesses.
- 4.20 It was agreed at the meeting that officers in Regeneration and Planning should consider the discussions and information from the visit, and provide recommendations on any potential opportunities for Caerphilly County Borough.

## **Recommendations from subsequent discussions**

- 4.21 It is considered that there are potential environmental and regeneration opportunities created by developments such as Lammas. The legislation and the “Lammas model” provide a context and blue print for potential future one planet development projects.
- 4.22 TAN 6 enables individuals to apply for planning permission for one planet developments. However the Authority has taken a proactive approach, and has acknowledged that one planet developments can occur outside settlement boundaries, by including reference to one planet developments in the draft replacement Local Development Plan. Under county-wide policy CW 19, criteria C, one planet developments has been identified as one of the identified exceptions to the settlement boundary policy.
- 4.23 At this stage it is not clear how much demand there would be for a Lammas type development in Caerphilly. One approach could be to consult with the One Planet Council and other stakeholders to gauge interest and to assess the benefit of further work in promoting one planet developments in the county borough.

## **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 information from the site visit and discussions held at Lamas Eco Village. That the Panel endorse the recommendation to discuss, with stakeholders, potential demand for one planet developments in the county borough to assess the value in further work.

## **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: 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 of Sustainable Development Advisory Panel  
Christina Harry – Corporate Director - Communities  
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning  
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Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.  
Tracy Evans – Education for Sustainable Development Officer  
Ian Raymond – Performance Management Unit  
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator.  
Natasha Ford – Supplier Relationship Officer Procurement Svcs.  
Steve Martin – Principal Contracts Officer (Energy)

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 25TH FEBRUARY 2016

**SUBJECT: WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the content of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and draft statutory guidance.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act places a duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with sustainable development principles, and to report on how we are complying with the Act from April 2016.
- 2.2 The Act sets 7 well-being goals and a sustainable development principle which is made up of “5 ways of working”.
- 2.3 In September 2015 the Welsh Government issued draft statutory guidance on the Act for consultation. The statutory guidance sets out the specific responsibilities on local authorities, as individual organisations and with other public bodies as part of 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 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with sustainable development principles, and to report on how we are complying with the Act from 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 area 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, environmental and cultural 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 7 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 more prosperous Wales** - An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work
  - **A resilient Wales** - A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with health functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
  - **A healthier Wales** - A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviors 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 communities
  - **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
  - **A globally responsible Wales** – A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.
- 4.5 **Sustainable Development Principle.** The Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. The principle is made up of **five key ways of working** that public bodies are required to take into account when applying sustainable development. These are:-
- Looking to the **long term** so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
  - Taking an **integrated** approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their priorities;
  - **Involving** a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them;
  - Working with others in a **collaborative** way to find shared sustainable solutions;
  - Understanding the root causes of issues to **prevent** them from occurring.
- 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, environmental and cultural 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 area in Wales**

- 4.11 **Public Services 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, environmental and cultural 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.

**Draft Statutory Guidance**

- 4.15 In September 2015 Welsh Government issued draft statutory guidance on the Act for consultation. The statutory guidance sets out the specific responsibilities on local authorities, as individual organisations and with other public bodies as part of Public Service Boards.

## Individual role (Public Bodies)

### 4.16 Public bodies covered by the Act must (in carrying out sustainable development)

- Set and publish well-being objectives
- Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives
- Publish a statement about well-being objectives
- Publish an annual report of progress
- Publish its response to a recommendation made by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

### 4.17 Setting well-being objectives

Public bodies must, when they are carrying out sustainable development, set and publish objectives, known as well-being objectives. The well-being objectives must be designed to maximise the contribution of the public body to achieving each of the well-being goals.

The identification of the well-being objectives should flow from having a clear view of the contribution the public body can make to the seven well-being goals, and the vision of the public bodies.

The application of the sustainable development principle, which provides the five ways of working of sustainable development, clarifies how an organisation must identify its well-being. Only when a public body can demonstrate it has taken into account the sustainable development principle in the setting, taking steps and meeting of its well-being objectives will it be compliant with the Act.

The first set of well-being objectives will be agreed and published no later than 31 March 2017.

Public bodies must publish a statement about their well-being objectives at the same time that they publish their well-being objectives.

### 4.18 Meeting well-being objectives

Public bodies are required to take all reasonable steps (in the exercise of their functions) to meet the well-being objectives they set.

### 4.19 Reviewing well-being objectives

The Act requires that each year public bodies must review their well-being objectives as part of their arrangements for reporting on them.

### 4.20 Annual reporting – taking an integrated approach

Each public body is required to report on the progress it has made in meeting its well-being objectives for the preceding financial year.

The Act does not state the structure and content for annual reports, but public bodies will need to demonstrate that:

- their well-being objectives are contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals;
- they are taking all reasonable steps to meet their well-being objectives; and
- their well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle.

To reflect the well-being objective setting process, the reporting arrangements should be central to the main activities of the public body. WG do not expect the report to be an additional document or piece of work. Public bodies are encouraged to look for opportunities to bring together existing reporting arrangements in a more integrated way as part of the Act.

### 4.21 Responding to recommendations of the Commissioner

Public bodies will have three options when responding to the recommendations of the Commissioner. They may:

- accept the recommendation(s) and take all reasonable steps to follow them;

- reject the recommendation(s), or part of it, on the basis of that there is a 'good reason' for not doing so; or
- reject the recommendation(s) because there is alternative course of action available.

Public bodies must publish their response to recommendations made by the Commissioner under the Act.

### **Collective role (public services boards)**

#### **4.22 Operating a public services board**

The Act establishes a statutory board, known as a public services board, in each local authority area in Wales.

The four statutory members of each board are the Local Authority, the Local Health Board, the fire and rescue authority for an area and Natural Resources Wales.

A reference to a public services board is a reference to the members of that board acting jointly, and any function of a public services board is a function of each member and can only be exercised jointly. This means unanimous agreement is needed in order for public services boards to publish assessments of local well-being and local well-being plans.

All the members must be in attendance at a meeting of a public services board for the decisions made during that meeting to be considered valid.

A public services board must hold a meeting, chaired by the Local Authority, no later than 60 days after the date on which the board is established.

The public services board will be required to engage with key partners in the area who have a material interest in the well-being of the area, or who deliver important public services, in the preparation, implementation and delivery of the work of the board.

#### **4.23 Assessing the state of well-being in the area**

A public services board must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. It is vital that this assessment provides an accurate analysis of the state of well-being in each community and in the area as a whole. There is significant weight placed on the validity of this assessment due to the impact the findings and analysis will have in choosing the objectives to be set out in the local well-being plan.

The board must explain in their local well-being plan how their local objectives and any steps they propose to take have been set with regard to any matters mentioned in the assessment, and should be reassured that those objectives are sufficiently robust to stand up to local scrutiny.

The assessment must identify the geographic community areas within the board's overall area. It is intended that these 'communities' are localities within the board's area which are large enough to show differences between them and have a sense of identity but not as small as electoral wards. Since official statistics are generally resolved down to the recognised ONS Lower Super Output (LSOA) areas it would make sense for the community areas identified to correspond with multiple LSOAs rather than cut across them.

#### **4.24 Predictions of likely future trends**

The assessment must include predictions of likely future trends in the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area. The analysis must refer to a future trends report published by the Welsh Ministers to the extent that it is relevant to the assessment of well-being in the area.

#### 4.25 Preparing a Local Well-being Plan

Each public services board must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them.

A board's first local well-being plan must be published no later than 12 months following the first local government ordinary election following commencement of Part 4 of the Act. The board must then publish a local well-being plan no later than 12 months after each subsequent ordinary election.

The local well-being plan will set out how the board intends to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by setting local objectives which will maximise the contribution made by the board to achieving the well-being goals in its area.

There are two main elements of a local well-being plan:

- a) The local objectives; and
- b) The steps the board proposes to take to meet the objectives

#### 4.26 Local objectives

In line with the sustainable development principle the local objectives should seek to adopt an integrated approach to delivering against the well-being goals – considering how the objectives may impact on each of the goals (and on the other local objectives). One objective could deliver against multiple goals.

The objectives included in the local well-being plan must accord with the sustainable development principle, namely the need to ensure that action taken by public bodies to improve the well-being of people now doesn't detrimentally affect the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The board must take all reasonable steps to meet the local objectives they have set, to deliver on collectively. It is for the board to form its own judgement of what steps it would be reasonable to take, on the basis of its own knowledge and consideration of the circumstances and characteristics of its area.

#### 4.27 Involvement (engagement and consultation)

In preparing both its assessment of local well-being and its local well-being plan, each public services board is required to consult fully

#### 4.28 Reporting on progress

A public services board must prepare and publish a report no later than 14 months after the publication of its first local well-being plan. This is intended to enable the board to report on the full year's activity.

Subsequently, an annual report must be published no later than one year after the publication of each previous report.

In the year following a ordinary local government election, when a new local well-being plan is being prepared and published, there is no requirement to also produce an annual report.

#### 4.29 Local accountability

Local integrated planning will only be effective if the members of the public services board take joint responsibility themselves for securing improvement, with local democratic processes providing appropriate challenge and support. For this reason, the Act gives the Welsh Ministers relatively few powers and relies predominantly on the role of local government scrutiny to secure continuous improvement.



## **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 at this time.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Undertaking work to comply with the emerging requirements of the new Act has been identified as a key priority in the work programme for the SD & Living Environment Team. A working group including officers from Policy and Performance Management has been set up to consider the implications and the best approach for the Authority.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Panel note the content of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and draft statutory guidance.

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

- 10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Author: Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment  
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