



FUTURE GENERATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON THURSDAY, 9TH JUNE 2016 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor K. James - Chairman

Councillors:

K. Dawson, C. Elsbury, C.P. Mann, L. Jones, J.A. Pritchard.

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors D. Havard, S. Kent and M. Adams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

As this was the first meeting of the Future Generations Advisory Panel there were no previous minutes to consider.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair confirmed that it had been agreed at the previous Council meeting that Councillor D. Havard should be Vice Chair of the Panel.

5. CHANGING FROM THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, outlined the recent restructure which had resulted in the creation of a new Corporate Policy Unit, managed by Kath Peters, within his Division.

The new unit includes Performance, Community Safety (Partnership staff), Equalities & Welsh Language and a new Policy Team, managed by Paul Cooke. This restructure was, in part, in response to the new Well-Being of Future Generations Act (WFG) which requires a more joined up approach to corporate policy.

RH outlined that the WFG Act places duties on the Authority itself as a public body, and also places duties to collaborate as part of a Public Services Board (PSB). There will be a requirement to demonstrate that future generations are considered in our processes and decision making. Scrutiny committees will have a role in this process, and P & R Scrutiny Committee will have specific responsibility to scrutinise the PSB.

RH outlined that although the FGAP will not be a formal scrutiny committee, it is anticipated that it will play an important role in ensuring that the Authority discharges its duties by advising and acting as a “sounding board”. RH confirmed that the minutes and recommendations of the FGAP would go to Cabinet.

RH suggested that Members of the Panel could receive e mails between meetings seeking their views and comments on relevant issues and reports.

The Chair thanked RH for his presentation, and stated his hope that the good work undertaken by the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel would continue through the transition to the FGAP.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel. She confirmed that these had been developed in consultation with the Chair of the Panel and Democratic Services. KP confirmed that the new ToR had been based on those of SDAP, but amended to incorporate the new duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

Members asked to have a stronger emphasis on future generations included in the ToR, including a reference to the “SD principle” in the Act.

It was noted that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sustainable Development was also designated as the “Future Generations Champion”. It was agreed that Members of FGAP should have a role to act as advocates and to promote sustainable development as part of their activities across the Authority.

It was agreed that the ToR should include an aim to support officers and Members to make sustainable decisions, and to understand their role in ensuring the Authority complies with its duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

It was agreed that the Policy Team would amend the draft ToR as discussed and circulate for comment/agreement.

7. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 – CCBC’S ORGANISATIONAL AND COLLABORATIVE DUTIES

Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, provided a presentation on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) and the Authority’s duties under this new legislation. She confirmed that the WFG 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.

KP outlined the 7 Well-Being Goals included in the Act; a more prosperous Wales; a resilient Wales; a healthier Wales; a more equal Wales; a Wales of cohesive communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and a globally responsible Wales –

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.

KP confirmed that the Act establishes public services boards (PSBs) which replace former Local Service Boards. PSBs member organisations have a duty to collaborate and to maximise their contributions to the Well-being Goals.

PSB’s must undertake and publish a local well-being assessment (LWBA) by May 2017, then publish a local well-being plan by May 2018.

The LWBA must assess the state of well-being NOT need in the area. It should consider the state of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the whole local authority area, and identify “community areas”. The LWBA should consider the views of people living in the area, and engage with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, people with protected characteristics, children, looked after children, people who need care and support

KP explained that the work to gather the evidence and analysis of data sources had begun with the Data Unit Wales providing assistance. A Gwent-wide group has been established to co-ordinate collaborative work. The LWBA must consider the identified 9 statutory assessments, National Indicators for Wales, and include predictions of likely future trends

KP confirmed that a programme of engagement events was being planned over the summer period, with the work being led on behalf of the Public Service Board by the Corporate Policy Unit

Corporate Responsibilities

KP confirmed that from the 1st April 2016 the Act places new duties on 44 public bodies in Wales. Each organization has a responsibility to meet the legally binding common purpose to contribute towards 7 Well-being Goals for Wales

CCBC must set its own Well-being Objectives that define how we will meet the Well-being Goals by the 31st March each year. At the same time we must publish a Well-being Statement that sets out how our objectives meet the national goals, how we have acted sustainably in selecting our objectives, how we will govern ourselves, how we will review, how long it is going to take and how we will allocate resources.

KP explained that the statutory guidance that accompanies the Act lists a core set 7 organisational activities that are common to the corporate governance of public bodies. The guidance identifies that applying the Act to those activities is likely to most effectively secure the type of change it is attempting to achieve. Core guidance references the 7 Core Organisational Activities and the expectation associated with each:

- Expectation that **Corporate Planning** is the mechanism to set Well-being Objectives and that it links to the PSB's Well-being Plan
- Expectation that **Financial Planning** will consider the '5 Ways of Working' particularly when considering delivering for the long-term
- Expectation that **Workforce Planning** will support the cultural change needed
- Expectation that **Procurement** will apply the Wales Procurement Policy definition of sustainable procurement and encourage other organisations to contribute to the Well-being Goals
- Expectation that **Asset Management** will be for the benefit of communities over the long-term
- Expectation that **Risk Management** will frame risks against the Well-being Goals and the '5 Ways of Working' over the short, medium and long-term
- Expectation that **Performance Management** will track progress towards the Well-being Goals

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TIMELINE

Kath Peters circulated a copy of the timeline for activities identified as part of the work required to comply with the Act. In particular the Act requires the LWBA to be completed by the end of March 2017.

She highlighted the events over the summer to build the evidence base and to engage with residents. The draft of the LWBA would be going to the meeting of the PSB on the 6th December, and to P&R Scrutiny on the 17th January.

9. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Rob Hartshorn suggested that the Corporate Policy Unit prepare an initial outline for a work programme for the Panel based on the requirements of the Act and discussed in the agenda item on the timeline. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the forward work programme should be a standard agenda item for future meetings.

Members identified that future meetings should include reports and presentations on key topics, including those from external organisations, as they felt that this had been an important element supporting the work of SDAP in the past.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2016.

CHAIRMAN