

<b>REPORT TO</b>	Partnerships and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	12/03/15
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Well-being of Future Generations Bill and Key Priorities of the Gwynedd &amp; Ynys Môn Local Services Board</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brief the Scrutiny Committee on the implications of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill;</li> <li>2. Update the Executive on the transformation journey of the Local Services Board – Key Priorities.</li> <li>3. Invite comments of the Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ol>
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**Key issues for consideration:**

- I. **The Well-being of Future Generations Bill places responsibilities upon public authorities to mainstream sustainable development in their work. It also sets the Local Services Boards as they currently stand on a statutory footing and places specific responsibilities upon them;**
- II. **Raise awareness of the forthcoming Bill and its implications for the Isle of Anglesey County Council;**
- III. **Note progress to date on the Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Local Services Board’s Key Priorities work-stream.**

**1. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS BILL – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

1.1 It is the intention of this part of the proposed legislation to ensure that sustainable development is a core consideration in the strategic decision making process by Welsh Government and other public bodies and to also ensure that their governance arrangements take the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations into consideration. The key objective of the Bill is for public bodies to improve the **economic, social and environmental well-being** of Wales in accordance with sustainable development principles.

1.2 The Bill cites **6 well-being goals** namely:

- A prosperous Wales (the economy);
- A resilient Wales (the environment);
- A Healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities; AND
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

There will be an expectation upon every public body to publish well-being objectives which will aim to ensure a contribution towards realising these goals and to publish an annual report on achievements.

1.3 The Bill also notes the importance of abiding by sustainable development principles when public bodies set and implement the objectives namely:

- 1.3.1 Significance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to respond to long term needs;
  - 1.3.2 The benefits of taking an integrated approach by giving consideration to how the:
    - Objectives can affect each of the well-being goals as well as the social, economic and environmental aspects; AND
    - Objectives of the organisation effect each other and also the effect on the objectives of other public bodies.
  - 1.3.3 Importance of including those with an interest in the objectives and seeking their views as well as taking their views into consideration;
  - 1.3.4 How collaboration with any other body can benefit the organisation to realise its objectives or assist another body to deliver on their objectives;
  - 1.3.5 How utilising resources to prevent problems from arising or intensifying can contribute to the objectives of the organisation or other bodies.
- 1.4 There is now an expectation upon public bodies to set objectives in order to implement these national goals and to consider how they will implement the requirements of the Bill. The response to the proposed legislation could be far reaching but there is an element of discretion around the degree to which the Council may do this and in which way.
- 1.5 It is true to say that a number of other councils and national parks are already working as pilot sites (known as “*early adopters*”) as regards responding to the requirements which is part of a project led by the Welsh Local Government Association. In light of this, the following initial steps are proposed:
- 1.5.1 Wait to learn from the experiences of other public services bodies before committing to any specific county arrangements;
  - 1.5.2 Proportionate implementation and the arrangements of the Council should focus upon ensuring that sustainable development forms a part of its deliberations on the Council’s key decisions (eg matters considered/decided by the Executive);
  - 1.5.3 Draw the attention of the scrutiny regime to the requirements of the Bill so that scrutiny may ensure the Council’s consideration of sustainable development principles.

## 2. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS BILL – LOCAL SERVICES BOARD AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

2.1 The Local Services Boards will become **statutory Public Services Boards**. There will be three levels to their membership:

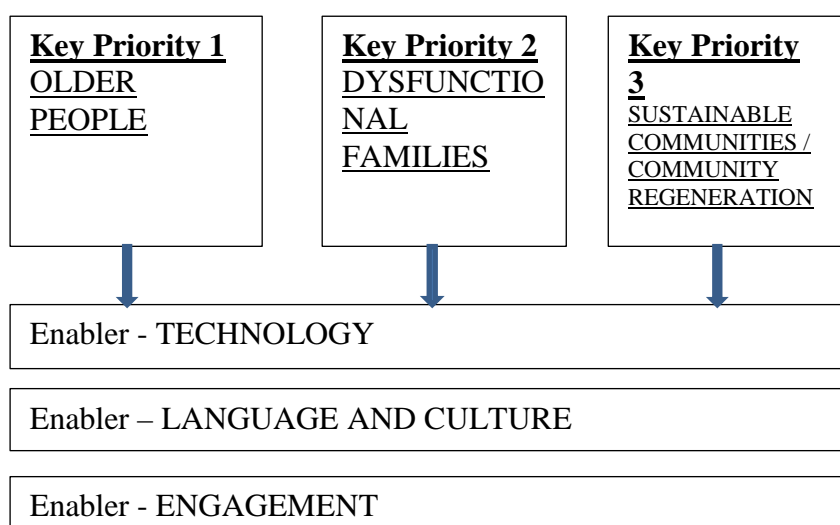
- a. **Statutory Members** – Local Authorities, Local Health Board, Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales [these core members will hold the statutory responsibilities];
- b. **Invited Participants** – bodies that must be invited namely Welsh Government Ministers, National Parks, The Police and Police & Crime Commissioner and the Third Sector;
- c. **Other Partners** – Public Health Wales, Higher and Further Education Establishments, Probation Service and Community Councils.

All partners will not therefore be on an equal footing to the future with the statutory responsibility being with the Statutory Members.

- 2.2** There will be a responsibility upon us to prepare a **Well-being Plan** (to replace the Single Integrated Plan) which will be in synergy with the timeline of local government elections. In preparing the Plan, there will be an expectation upon Public Services Boards to seek the advice of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and forward a copy to Ministers, The Auditor General and the local scrutiny committee. The Well-being Plan will be based upon an **assessment of need** which will need to be completed a year prior to the publication of the Plan and there will be a requirement to consult on the contents with the Commissioner and others (as previously detailed in this paragraph).
- 2.3** There is an expectation upon every Public Services Board to establish well-being objectives for inclusion in the Well-being Plan and to report annually to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Ministers, The Auditor General and the local scrutiny committee. It should be noted that this is in addition to the annual requirements upon the individual public bodies under the Bill.
- 2.4** Ministers will not need to approve the Plan but they will have powers to refer plans considered to be “inadequate” or any under-performance to the local scrutiny committee who must report back on the matter to the Minister. Scrutiny committees can also insist that members of the Board appear before them to submit evidence. Ministers will also have powers to set performance measures if a Board does not set its own performance arrangements in a timely manner.
- 2.5** It is anticipated that the National Assembly scrutiny process associated with the introduction of the Bill will continue over the coming weeks with a view to receiving Royal Assent by April, 2015. All public bodies will be subject to the duties of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill from April, 2016 although the details of the milestones associated with the duties of the proposed Act have not yet been finalised.

### 3. GWYNEDD & YNYS MÔN LOCAL SERVICES BOARD KEY PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the transformation journey of the Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Local Services Board over the past few months. One of the key tasks has been to support the Board to agree a small number of key priorities to be delivered over the next few years. The Local Services Board at its meeting convened on 28 November confirmed the following Key Priorities:



3.2 The Board also delegated the lead responsibility for each Key Priority to named LSB members as follows:

- **Older People** – Health Board (Andrew Jones, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board/Prof. Jerry Hunter, Bangor University resuming joint interim responsibility until details of the Health Board lead have been confirmed);
- **Dysfunctional Families** – Sup. Peter Newton, North Wales Police;
- **Sustainable Communities/Community Regeneration** – Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive Gwynedd Council.

The Key Priorities work-stream leads have responsibility for overseeing the developmental work, unblocking any barriers to progress and reporting on progress to the Local Services Board.

3.3 The current development phase (December, 2014 – June, 2015) is prioritising the work of articulating the:

- Proposals for improving performance through collaborative working;
- Desired citizen and organisational outcomes per Proposal for each LSB partner;
- Evidence base for each Proposal;
- Contribution of LSB partners to each work-stream;
- Delivery structure and governance under the Local Services Board to progress each Key Priority and Enabler.

Draft high level proposals on the 3 Key Priority work-streams will be considered by the Local Services Board at its next meeting to be convened on 31 March, 2015. This work-stream is currently on track and to timescale.

#### **4. DELIBERATIONS OF THE INFORMAL EXECUTIVE**

At a meeting of the Informal Executive convened on 26 January, 2015 consideration was given to the implications of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill. It was resolved to:

- Delay progressing with the implementation of the sustainable development requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill – in order to learn from others' experiences;
- Raise awareness through Scrutiny Committee Members of the implications of the proposed Future Generations legislation;
- Future updates/awareness-raising to form part of the Council's monthly briefing sessions for Elected Members.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

**R1** Note a decision of the Informal Executive at its meeting of 26 January, 2015 to delay progressing with the implementation of the sustainable development requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Bill in order to learn from others' experiences (whom are taking part in the pilot of early adopters);

**R2** Confirm the need to continue to raise awareness as part of the Council's preparations in readiness for the new legislation;

**R3** Note the requirements of the Bill on sustainable development and in particular the future role for scrutineers;

**R4** Note progress to date on the Local Services Board Key Priorities work-stream.