

## **Policy Statement in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015**

**The purpose of this statement is to set out the Council's approach to the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015, in respect of its statutory responsibilities as an individual public body.**

Within the terms of the WFG Act, the Council has responsibilities within the Public Services Board as an active partner in the development and delivery of the Well-being Plan, to be published by April 2018. However, the Council is also listed as an individual public body subject to the Act. The Council will meet its individual duties by making sure it is maximising its contribution to the seven national well-being goals and publishing well-being objectives that demonstrate how services are doing so. The Council must plan and make all decisions based on the five ways of working set out in the WFG Act, i.e. the 'sustainable development principles'.<sup>1</sup>

The Council's Corporate Plan '*The Way Ahead 2016-20*' sets out a vision for 'a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all', with a focus on meeting the challenges ahead. '*The Way Ahead*' also sets out the Council's commitment to meeting the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

The requirements of the WFG Act apply to all corporate and service functions of the Council. It is the Council's belief that the commitments of the Act are best met by ensuring that its requirements are integral to, and not separate from, the Council's business. The Council is already changing its processes which reflect these commitments e.g. in setting the Council's Improvement Priorities, strengthening governance and performance processes.

By setting out the Council's position in respect of the WFG Act, this policy statement further demonstrates the Council's commitment to meet the Act, as well as providing a transparent framework for Elected Members and staff. It will also give the Future Generations Commissioner and the Wales Audit Office assurance that officers and elected Members are seeking to embed the Act into our working practices.

It is likely that the Council's arrangements to meet, monitor and report the requirements of the WFGA will develop over time as will the understanding of all parties, including the Commissioner's Office of Welsh Government and Wales Audit Office.

The Cabinet is responsible for ensuring the Council meets the duties of the Act; however, embedding the sustainable development principles into service planning, commissioning, delivery and monitoring is the responsibility of all staff. Elected Members are expected to support and challenge this process to ensure the Council is delivering for future generations.

The Council will:

- Apply the 'spirit' of the WFG Act to Council processes to ensure the requirements of the WFG Act are fully embedded and avoid any additional burden to the leadership, management and governance of the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the *Essentials* guide to the Well-being of Future Generations Act for more details:  
<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

- Meet the requirements of the WFG Act through our corporate planning processes, including reporting and monitoring arrangements, in ways that align with and/or strengthen the Council's existing processes.
- Respond to the WFG by providing necessary information and training to officers and Elected Members.
- Be an active participant in Public Service Board arrangements.
- Continually test the Corporate Plan and its priorities to ensure that it fully complies with the requirements of the Act and strengthen if required.