

Public consultation of Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB's draft well-being plan

Advice of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Dear Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB and supporting officers,

Thank you again for meeting with our office during the statutory advice period in 2022 to help inform your draft well-being plan.

Your draft well-being plan is now open for public consultation. To fulfil the Future Generations Commissioner's statutory duty of advising PSBs on how they might take steps to meet their draft objectives, this short letter represents our response to your public consultation.

Consulting on your draft well-being plan

The public consultation currently underway is an opportunity for organisations, networks and your residents to share their views on what they believe the PSB can do to improve well-being in your area. It is also an opportunity for your PSB to ensure it's applying the five ways of working in the development of the plan. For example, meaningfully involving people and collaborating with key partners and organisations, alongside using our advice and the feedback of others (from the consultation) to draw out the opportunities for prevention, integration and longer-term solutions.

We encourage you to fully consider the feedback you receive and reflect on how it can help influence the action the PSB might take to drive change in your area.

Overview of the statutory advice period with our office

The statutory advice period with our office ran from 29th June to 5th October 2022. As you will be aware, we did not have sight of a draft well-being plan during this time. Instead, we met regularly with your officers to discuss ideas, themes and thinking for the new well-being plan.

Based on these conversations, we were able to tailor our support and provide iterative advice on the ideas and themes as they developed. Our written advice was shared with your PSB on 5th October 2022 as a summary of these conversations. This was followed-up with further feedback on 14th November 2022, after an early draft of your well-being plan was shared with us. We thank your officers again for their engaged and enthusiastic communication through this period.

Our advice on your draft well-being plan

The draft well-being plan is very clear and accessible. It's particularly positive to see how you have incorporated the key messages from your 2022 well-being assessment and we welcome the 'working differently' section which sets out commitments of the PSB ranging from co-production to longer-term / systems thinking.

Key challenges we have discussed include finding a balance between how broad and/or specific your proposed steps are and how progress against the proposed activity will be measured and monitored. In our earlier advice, we asked if more detail would be included in the final plan on the proposed action (steps) the PSB will be taking, alongside how progress will be measured and which organisations might lead on particular activities. It was therefore reassuring to hear these would be factored in during and after the public consultation.

We reiterate our advice to the PSB to ensure the steps outlined in the final plan indicate the detail of how your objectives will be achieved and that they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). Involving the right people during the public consultation period of your draft plan is a great opportunity to help your PSB achieve this and it is therefore positive to see the focus on co-production where the draft plan states: *“Involvement and citizen voice will shape the design and delivery of the plan.”*

We also encourage you to further consider and demonstrate how your objectives impact or could impact on each of Wales’ well-being goals. This means for each objective you can demonstrate that you are taking steps which maximise your contribution to *all* of the well-being goals. For example, it’s not particularly clear from the information currently set out how the proposed action might contribute to the ‘A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language’ well-being goal. The draft plan simply lists the seven goals and states: *“We believe working in this way will also positively contribute to the seven national Well-being goals.”* This is an area where we expect to see further consideration and evidence in the final plan.

It's positive to see the overarching theme for the PSB’s well-being plan is ‘A More Equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg’ and that this theme will drive every aspect of the PSB’s work. To build on this, we reiterate our earlier advice that reference to diversity and inequality could be better reflected within the final plan. For example, in reflecting how the key challenges and opportunities might be experienced differently by particular groups in the area.

Next steps

While there are significant challenges in the here and now, we encourage you to be bold in the action you plan to take for your communities over the next five years. We will continue to work with our key partners to provide ongoing support to PSBs and wish to reassure you we will not be seeking to penalise PSBs for taking risks and trying things aimed at driving change.

As you continue to receive feedback via the public consultation and work collaboratively to shape your final plan, we will be happy to continue providing our advice and assistance. Please contact Colleen Cluett (your regional lead) and Christian Servini in the first instance if this would be helpful.

Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

1st February 2023

Resources

For your reference, included below is a list of our resources. These are shared for the consideration of the PSB and its delivery groups as your work on particular themes and topics takes shape:

The Future Generations Report	Summary of recommendations	Already shared with PSBs and helpful in understanding the type of action PSBs can take in relation to topics and themes.
	Setting good well-being objectives	Chapter 4 of the Future Generations Report.
	Bite-size products	Drawn from the Future Generations Report, the 'bite-size' products are tailored to areas of work such as planning, transport etc, and include the most relevant ideas and recommendations.
Implementation	Section 20 Review Maturity Matrix	A helpful tool that details steps organisations can take to further embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act and help us achieve the national well-being goals of Wales.
	The 'Future Generations Framework for Projects'	A framework for ensuring public bodies (and others) are using the Act as a framework for thinking.
Long-term	Three Horizons Toolkit	An easy-to-use guide to help public bodies think and plan better for the long-term, by keeping a clear vision and taking future trends into account.
Cost of living	Cost of living: now and in the future	While some of these policy decisions are not within the remit of the PSB, we encourage you to consider what is possible and the power of the PSB to advocate to Welsh Government (and others) on policy change that would benefit your communities.
Procurement	Procuring well-being in Wales	A review into how the Act is informing procurement in Wales, as well as recommendations for public bodies.
Climate change and inequality	Inequality in a Future Wales	Our report with Public Health Wales which highlights the future of work, changing demographics and climate change could increase existing inequalities if the impacts on different groups in society are not factored in.
	Inequality in a Future Wales, part two: Communities and Climate Change in Wales	Focussed on involvement and includes resources for policymakers to implement similar creative futuring techniques to involve communities in long-term thinking.
Skills	Skills through crisis: up-skilling and re-training for a green recovery in Wales	Analysis showing the potential of investment in green jobs and skills for a prosperous, green and equal recovery.
Decarbonisation of homes	Homes fit for the future: the retrofit challenge	Aimed at the Welsh and UK Governments, estimating the funding needed for the decarbonisation of homes in Wales, identifying funding gaps and approaches to addressing them.
Good practice	Case studies	Good examples of how the Act is being implemented on the ground across Wales.