



Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Mark Hand</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644803 E-mail: markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Budget mandate B09 – Planning Service – Income Generation.</p> <p>Increase Development Management income line by £40k (net) due to Welsh Government decision to increase mandatory planning application fees from 01/10/15.</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Planning</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>13/09/2015</p>

1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: reducing the net cost of the planning service will ensure the statutory service remains sustainable and jobs are retained within MCC and wealth generation externally is enabled via planning decisions. The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences use of resources, wealth creation and employment, via planning policy and land use</p>	<p>Not all of the fee increase has been put forward as a budget saving, because the Welsh Minister explicitly states that the additional planning application fee income must be reinvested in service improvements, which would in turn benefit customers and stakeholders. The proposed</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>planning decisions. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial.</p> <p>Negative: the service will be more expensive for customers, and therefore does not generate wealth for all in itself, but this is a result of a WG decision to increase application fees.</p>	<p>mandate is considered to be the maximum reasonable compromise.</p> <p>NB The Welsh Government has recognised that planning application fees do not achieve cost recovery, in fact achieving approximately only 60% of the costs incurred in determining planning applications. However, being a mandatory statutory service the fees are set by the Welsh Government so MCC cannot increase the fee further.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences biodiversity and ecology via planning policy and land use planning decisions. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial.</p> <p>Negative: n/a.</p>	<p>Not all of the fee increase has been put forward as a budget saving, because the Welsh Minister explicitly states that the additional planning application fee income must be reinvested in service improvements, which would in turn benefit customers and stakeholders. The proposed mandate is considered to be the maximum reasonable compromise.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences access to healthy lifestyle choices via planning policy and land use planning decisions. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial.</p> <p>Negative: n/a.</p>	<p>Fees are waived for people who are registered disabled and applying for planning permission to adapt their homes. (This is a requirement of the mandatory fees set by Welsh Government).</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences the appearance, viability, safety and connectivity of communities via planning policy and land use planning decisions. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial to securing these outcomes.</p> <p>Negative: Increased application fee costs would adversely affect customers, however it will have greatest impact on the biggest applications which are typically submitted by large companies. For smaller scale applications, e.g. house extensions, the application fee is minimal compared to the project costs (e.g. application fee = £190, typical extension = £30k build cost).</p>	<p>Fees are waived for people who are registered disabled and applying for planning permission to adapt their homes.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the planning section directly and indirectly influences the appearance, viability, safety and connectivity of communities via planning policy and land use planning decisions. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial.</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	<p>Not all of the fee increase has been put forward as a budget saving, because the Welsh Minister explicitly states that the additional planning application fee income must be reinvested in service improvements, which would in turn benefit customers and stakeholders. The proposed mandate is considered to be the maximum reasonable compromise.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the post indirectly influences these matters via planning policy and land use planning decisions. The Welsh language is now a material planning</p>	<p>Not all of the fee increase has been put forward as a budget saving, because the Welsh Minister explicitly states that the additional planning application fee income must be reinvested in service improvements, which would in turn benefit customers and stakeholders. The proposed</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>consideration. Ensuring the service is financially sustainable is therefore beneficial.</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	<p>mandate is considered to be the maximum reasonable compromise.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Positive: The area of work undertaken by the post indirectly influences equality and the ability of people to meet their potential, via planning policy and land use planning decisions.</p> <p>It is important to note that the increased application fees are the result of a Welsh Government decision: this is not in the control of MCC. Access to the planning service as a customer would not be disproportionately altered as a result of the protected characteristics of age, gender reassignment, race, religion or beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership. Applications to modify homes by people who are registered disabled are exempt from application fees. Charities receive a discounted fee.</p> <p>Negative: none.</p>	<p>None.</p>

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p><i>We are required to look beyond the usual short term timescales for financial planning and political cycles and instead plan with the longer term in mind (i.e. 20+ years)</i></p> <p>The fee increases are the result of a WG decision. The use of the increased fees to reduce the net cost of the planning service seeks to maintain the sustainability of provision of this vital statutory service. The budget mandate notes concerns regarding the volatility of the development industry at present as economic recovery is underway.</p>	<p>Budget trends will be closely monitored to ensure the revised income line is sustainable.</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Ensuring the planning service is properly resourced will enable effective community engagement to be maximised. Reducing the net cost of the service via increased income helps to sustain the current level of service.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p><i>Who are the stakeholders who will be affected by your proposal? Have they been involved?</i></p> <p>The application fee increases are the result of a WG decision, following public consultation, as part of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p>The increased income line proposed as part of this budget mandate will be subject to Member and public consultation as part of the budget setting process.</p>	<p>The forthcoming budget setting consultation process.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The proposal seeks to avoid making cuts to the service by using additional income to reduce the net cost of service delivery. The economy is showing signs of recovery, which in turn means increased development activity and an increase in the number of complex planning applications. Ensuring that a sustainable and effective planning service remains in place is essential to aiding economic recovery and delivering the Council’s objective of building sustainable and resilient communities.</p>	
 <p>Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p><i>There is space to describe impacts on people, economy and environment under the Wellbeing Goals above, so instead focus here on how you will better integrate them and balance any competing impacts</i></p> <p>The work undertaken by planning service directly relates to promoting and ensuring sustainable development and its three areas: environment, economy and society. It is important to ensure this work is adequately resourced, which this proposal seeks to achieve by reducing the net cost of the service without reducing capacity.</p>	n/a

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	None	None	This proposal seeks to reduce the net costs of the planning service by increasing the income line by £40k. The increased income is a result of increased mandatory planning application fees, which are set by the Welsh Government.
Disability	None	None	Planning application fees are waived for people who are registered disabled and applying for planning permission to adapt their homes. (This is a requirement of the mandatory fees set by Welsh Government).
Gender reassignment	None	None	This proposal seeks to reduce the net costs of the planning service by increasing the income line by £40k. The increased income is a result of increased mandatory planning application fees, which are set by the Welsh Government.
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	See above
Race	None	None	See above
Religion or Belief	None	None	See above
Sex	None	None	See above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	None	None	See above
Welsh Language	<p><i>Under the Welsh Language measure of 2011, we need to be considering Welsh Language in signage, documentation, posters, language skills etc.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	None	See above

4. **Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?** For more information please see the guidance note <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Equality%20impact%20assessment%20and%20safeguarding.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	None.	None as a direct result of the budget mandate proposal. Increased planning application fees may have a minor adverse impact where property extensions are needed to facilitate care, however these mandatory fees are set by Welsh Government.	n/a
Corporate Parenting	None.	None.	n/a

5. **What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

Based on the fee income over the last 5 years, the 15% increase in mandatory planning application fees, decided by the Welsh Government, is expected to equate to £69.5k additional fee income per annum. This budget mandate proposes to increase the Development Management income line by £40k. Not all of the income increase has been put forward under this mandate for several reasons. Firstly, the Welsh Minister has explicitly stated that the increased fee income must be reinvested into improving the planning service. Secondly, fee income is uncertain and has varied significantly over recent years. It is directly affected by the UK economy and housebuilding, as well as by other external factors such as changes to renewable energy feed-in tariffs which will see a significant reduction in large scale renewables applications and associated planning fee income. Thirdly, the new legislation includes a provision for application fees to be refunded if an application is not determined within a specified timescale. While every possible effort will be taken to avoid refunding a fee, it would take only one significant application fee to be refunded to negate the fee income increase. The fee income budget line has already been increased significantly over the recent years, having increased by £220k (60%) since 2010. Consequently, there is now little scope for income fluctuations.

6. **SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

This section should give the key issues arising from the evaluation which will be included in the Committee report template.

The work undertaken by Planning directly relates to promoting and ensuring sustainable development. It is important to ensure this service is adequately resourced, which this proposal seeks to achieve by reducing the net cost via increased income rather than via service cuts. Full consideration has been given to the financial implications, which are sustainable in the foreseeable future in the context of the challenging financial climate facing Local Authorities.

In terms of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, there are no direct implications as a result of this budget mandate proposal to amend the income line.

There are no implications, positive or negative, as a direct result of the budget mandate for corporate parenting or safeguarding.

7. Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Budget setting consultation			
Apply the increase planning application fees in line with Welsh Government.	October 2015		

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	In line with the SIP and usual budget monitoring. Full review of mandate April 2017.
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