

Taking Monmouthshire Forward

Community and Corporate Plan 2022-28
National Policy

Appendix 1



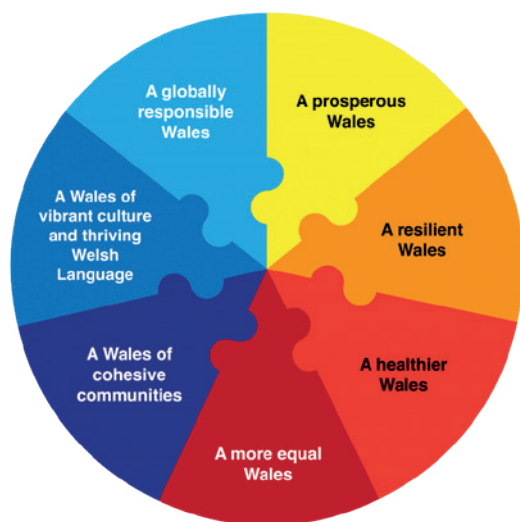
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Appendix - National Policy

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is the fundamental legislation that requires us to carry out sustainable development, this should ensure that present needs are met without compromising future generations in meeting their own needs. When carrying out sustainable development, we have to publish well-being objectives which are designed to maximise our contribution to achieving each of the seven national wellbeing goals and take all reasonable steps to meet the objectives. The seven wellbeing goals are shown in the diagram below while our own well-being goals are incorporated within this plan.



The contribution our local objectives make towards the seven national objectives has been assessed and is shown in the table below

Contribution of Council Well-being Objectives to National Well-being Goals

MCC Well-being Objectives	Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally responsible Wales
Fair place to live 	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Green place to live 		✓	✓		✓		✓
Thriving and ambitious place 	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Safe place to live 		✓		✓	✓		✓
Connected place 			✓	✓	✓		
Learning place 	✓		✓	✓		✓	

In planning our services and taking action to meet our well-being objectives we must consider and demonstrate that we have applied the following sustainable governance principles in our decision-making:

Balancing short term needs with long term needs

Throughout the plan the priorities and actions agreed are forward looking and aim to have a positive long-term impact. The focus on reducing carbon emissions and the health of biodiversity and the environment is extremely important in fighting the effects of climate change which will be around for many years to come. Increasing the energy efficiency of homes is important to alleviating fuel poverty in the short-term, while also having a positive long-term contribution in the form of reduced carbon emissions.

Using an integrated approach, balancing social, economic and environmental needs.

The Council works closely with businesses, communities and partners to deliver its goals. The seven national well-being goals are central to the Council's six objectives and run throughout everything that we do. The table above highlights which of the objectives impacts on each of the seven national wellbeing goals. The links between the different things we want to achieve in the community and corporate plan are set out below. The Council will work together with other partners to help deliver many aspects of the objectives.

Involving others and considering their views.

A range of information has been used to inform the development of the plan, together with workshops held with a range of those with an interest in the county. Monmouthshire County Council aims to involve community members wherever possible. For example, working with landlords and property owners to minimise town centre vacancies and setting out plans to maximise

opportunities to hear the voices of learners in schools to ensure that the new curriculum is working for them.

Working in collaboration with others.

Collaboration is important to us and can be seen within every objective. The Council works with public service partners across Gwent to: improve the social determinants of health; ensure that all homes have good digital connectivity; ensure people are able to stay in their own homes and communities wherever possible, and to create better links with further and higher education.

Putting resources into preventing problems

The plan has a strong focus on prevention, with resources going into preventing problems occurring or getting worse. There is a focus in social care services on trying to prevent crisis and that avoidable hospital admissions are reduced. Another key aim is to maintain and develop early and preventative services for children and families.

The table below illustrates how what we want to achieve in the plan integrates with other commitments.

Integration of commitments in the Community and Corporate Plan

[illegible]

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) provides a legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. The Act requires each council in Wales to keep under review the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements. This means the extent to which:

- it is exercising its functions effectively;
- it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- its governance is effective for securing these.

The mechanism that a council uses to keep its performance under review is self-assessment, with a duty to publish a report setting out the conclusions of the self-assessment once every financial year. Self-assessment will be complemented by a panel performance assessment once in an electoral cycle, providing an opportunity to seek external insights (other than from auditors, regulators or inspectors) on how the council is meeting the performance requirements.

Equality and diversity

All the current decisions made by Council and Cabinet are assessed using an integrated impact assessment which ensures equality and sustainable development are considered fully in the decisions we take.

The Council has a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity. We have a Strategic Equality Plan, produced under the Equality Act 2010, which sets our objectives to deliver better outcomes for people with protected characteristics. Annual monitoring reports provide updates on progress on the action plans in the Strategic Equality Plan and evidence good practice being carried out across departments. These can be found [here](#).

Socio-Economic Duty

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions. Almost any decision the Council makes has some socio-economic impact. This is because of the nature of our responsibilities and the extent to which some groups, communities and vulnerable people rely on public services. Our aim is to properly understand this impact so that we can identify how we can maximise our support, where possible, and try to minimise any negative impact on people in greatest need.

The Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and accompanying Welsh Language standards, place a legal duty on councils to treat Welsh and English equally, to promote the Welsh Language and provide services to the public through the medium of Welsh. We have a Welsh Language Strategy for 2022-2027, which identifies a vision of how the language will look in Monmouthshire in five years and is accompanied by targets to help achieve it. The annual monitoring reports reflect our progress against our Welsh language commitments under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards. These can be found [here](#).

Developing the Plan

Identifying the evidence

We began by gathering a wide range of information to understand the issues that are most important to people. We have developed our understanding of our places and the people who live here through a range of assessments and research including the well-being assessment, population needs assessment, and research for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). We also used a range of existing sources of information and knowledge including our whole authority self-assessment, cabinet priorities and engagement feedback.

Some of the key issues we identified include:

Economic

- Monmouthshire has a competitive economy with excellent potential for growth. There is, however, a low rate of business start-ups compared to the capital region and Wales as a whole.
- The house price to earnings ratio in the county makes it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally.

Social

- There are significant income inequalities within communities, with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales.
- We have an ageing population; while this has many advantages, it will create additional pressure on health and social care.
- There are significant differences in life expectancy, and action is required to address health inequalities and ensure that a range of programmes are in place to increase the opportunities people have to live healthy lives
- There are good levels of educational attainment in the county but some groups, such as those eligible for free school meals and vulnerable children, are not achieving at the same level as the wider population and the gap is not narrowing.

Culture

- The pandemic has reduced visits to cultural attractions that play an important role in well-being, such as museums and theatres, which will affect their viability.
- Monmouthshire enjoys high levels of social capital. Large numbers of people volunteer which helps build connections and is a major contributor to well-being.

Environment

- The rural nature of Monmouthshire means that transport is a significant contributor to the county's carbon emissions, with some areas also experiencing poor air quality.
- The effects of climate change are becoming apparent in Monmouthshire, particularly flooding, which has impacted many communities in recent years.
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Responding to the evidence

As an organisation we are outward-looking and focussed on building relationships with formal and informal community groups enabling the council to progress its priorities in collaboration, where appropriate. As part of this we have held a series of Cabinet Member led collaborative workshops which reviewed the evidence and involved a range of representatives with an interest in Monmouthshire and expertise to help including our staff, elected members, partners, external experts and community members with knowledge and lived experience to develop the strategic direction, main outcomes and priorities for the corporate plan. In broad terms these workshops focused on:

- A strong, fair and local economy
- Health and social care
- Climate change and environment
- Excellent education for life
- Homelessness and housing
- Tackling inequalities and poverty

The contemporary policy challenges that we need to meet, working with our communities, are complex and evolving. The plan has been produced against the backdrop of economic uncertainty with the council facing rising energy prices, inflation and escalating borrowing costs alongside increased demands in children's services, adult social care, homelessness, additional learning needs and home to school transport. These challenges are on a scale we have not seen before.

We will also continue to look at future trends to make sure we consider the things that will affect how we work in the longer-term and are able to capitalise on the benefits of emerging technology. These include areas such as transitioning to net zero, tackling the determinants of health inequality, making sure our children do well, and social care reform.

Recognising the inequality that exists in our communities the Gwent Public Service Board has agreed to become a Marmot region with the intent to implement this approach to undertake evidence-based action to reduce inequalities in Gwent. This will re-focus and accelerate progress towards reducing the root causes of health and related inequalities across Gwent. As part of this, the Public Services Board is using the eight Marmot Principles as the framework for action to reduce inequalities through its Well-being Plan.

As a partner on the Public Services Board, we are working with our partners across Gwent and the vastly experienced support of Professor Marmot and the University College London Institute of Health Equity Team to develop actions in response to the challenges faced across Gwent. This work is informing the development of the PSB's Well-being Plan and the action we need to take locally in Monmouthshire in our Community and Corporate Plan.

The Marmot Principles

- giving every child the best start in life
- enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
- creating fair employment and good work for all
- ensuring a healthy standard of living for all
- creating and developing sustainable places and communities
- strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention
- tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
- pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

An important part of this approach is working together as public services and as communities, to build on the assets we have and develop the solutions to the long-term challenges we face.