



NEATH PORT TALBOT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD
WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT



INTRODUCTION DOCUMENT



INTRODUCTION



To meet statutory requirements contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board has prepared a draft assessment of well-being in Neath Port Talbot (NPT). Public Services Boards are required to carry out this process every five years. Our first assessment was produced in 2017.

The assessment seeks to capture the strengths and assets of people and communities across Neath Port Talbot. It also seeks to describe the challenges and opportunities Neath Port Talbot faces now and in the future.

BACKGROUND



The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

This means that the public bodies listed in the Act must do what they do in a sustainable way. To do this, the Act sets out a “sustainable development principle” which is about how the public bodies listed in the Act should go about meeting their well-being duty under the Act.

In this Act “sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Part 2 'improving well-being' section 2 'sustainable development'.

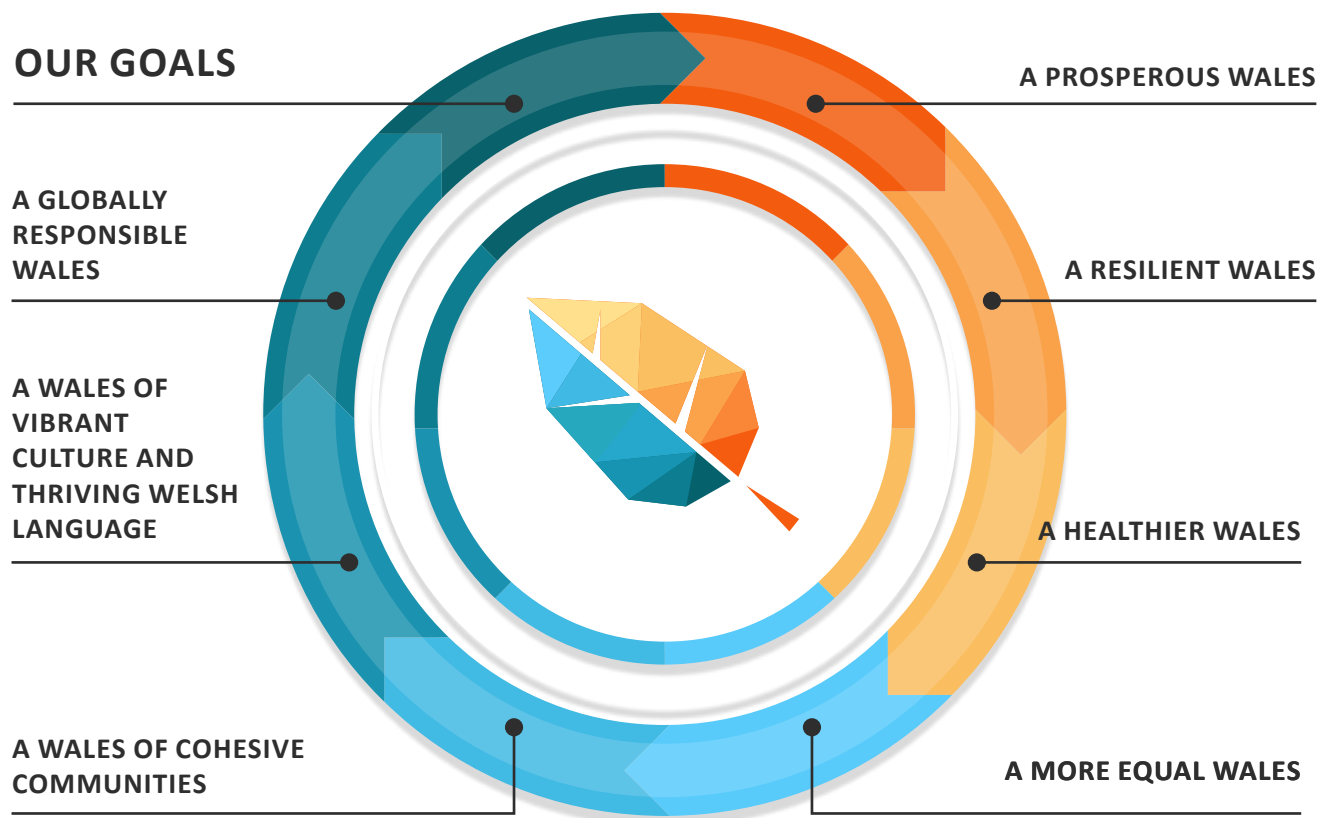


The principle is made up of five ways of working that public bodies are required to take into account when applying sustainable development. These are:

- Looking to the long-term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.
Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.

The Act sets seven well-being goals. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards. The well-being goals must be considered as an integrated set of seven to ensure that the relevant links are made in the context of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

OUR GOALS



A PROSPEROUS WALES



An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

A RESILIENT WALES



A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

A HEALTHIER WALES



A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

A MORE EQUAL WALES



A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).



A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Attractive, viable, and well connected communities.



A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.



A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and culture wellbeing of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

PUBLIC SERVICES BOARDS



The Act establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. The Members of NPT Public Services Board must include:

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales

Each PSB must improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by working to achieve the well-being goals. It will do this by:

- Assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area: and they must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle.
- Setting objectives that are designed to maximise the PSBs contribution to the well-being goals.

They must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

Each PSB must prepare and publish a plan setting out its objectives and the steps it will take to meet them. This is called a Local Well-being Plan. It must say:

- Why the PSB feels their objectives will contribute within their local area to achieving the well-being goals.
- How it has had regard to the Assessment of Local Well-being in setting its objectives and steps to take.



WELLBEING ASSESSMENT



Welsh Government and Future Generations Commissioner's Expectations

The Act sets out what the NPT Public Services Board must do in preparing the assessment:

- Set out the communities that comprise NPT.
- Analyse the state of well-being in each community and the whole of NPT.
- Analyse the state of well-being of the people in NPT.
- Include any further analysis that the Public Services Board carries out for assessing the well-being of NPT.
- Include predictions of future likely trends in NPT.
- Refer to National Indicators issued by Welsh Government.
- Include any other related analytical data and information the Public Services Board considers appropriate.

This is about purpose not process. The assessments are significant because they have an important role in determining the PSB's priorities, and what will be in the local well-being plan.

The Well-being Assessment should:

- Cover all four dimensions of well-being (Economic, Social, Environmental, and Cultural Well-being)
- Draw out the links between the data rather than viewing them in isolation
- The Assessment takes account of the **long-term** needs of the area as well as the short-term.
- The assessment looks at both the PSB area as a whole and at smaller communities and localities within the PSB area.
- The approach taken to preparing the assessment reflects the 5 ways of working.



The assessment is the foundation on which everything else is built.

PSBs should have a robust, objective understanding of their area to inform decisions on where they should focus their combined efforts. It is the point at which we consider everything to enable us to prioritise and not cover everything in our local well-being plan.

It must be noted that due to the pandemic some data sets have been unavailable or out of date and in some areas evidence has been insufficient to gain a clear picture. The timing is also unfortunate in that the most recent Census information available dates back to 2011, with the 2021 information due later this year. This strengthens the need to regularly review the data that informs our work, it should not be limited to a five yearly exercise.

ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT



During the summer of 2021 Neath Port Talbot Council issued a questionnaire as part of an extensive engagement campaign. 'Let's Talk' is an open-ended consultation, acting as an opportunity for the public to talk about what matters to them. The purpose of the questionnaire was to find out about what matters to people living and working in Neath Port Talbot. The feedback will be used to develop a recovery plan for the county borough.

It was agreed that due to the open ended nature of the questions posed the Let's Talk findings would also be suitable to inform the NPT Well-being Assessment. The questionnaire received 1,694 responses. In addition to this a series of online focus groups and in-depth interviews were held involving 30 residents of the Afan, Amman, Dulais, Neath and Swansea Valleys. Further information including the methodology used in this exercise can be found here, [Let's Talk Reports](#) under item 5, Appendix 3 and 4.

STRUCTURE



To meet the statutory requirements of the Act, the draft well-being assessment has analysed the following four pillars of well-being:

- Social
- Economic
- Environment
- Cultural

This has included assessing well-being across the whole area of NPT and in eight community areas. Due to the availability of data breakdown it has been challenging to fully assess the differences between these community areas. We recognise this as an opportunity for improvement. The Public Services Board, back in 2017, identified these areas as the eight community areas that make-up NPT as they were the spatial areas identified in the Council's Local Development Plan. It was agreed that each of the eight community areas is made up of a number of electoral wards, specific areas of the county borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the County Borough Council.

The way we plan, design and build our communities and infrastructure for the future is critical in addressing long-term challenges and ensuring well-being nationally and locally. What communities want and need in the future will fundamentally change as our planet requires rapid decarbonisation and restoration of nature, demographic trends such as urbanisation and an ageing population continue, and as technology continues to change the way we live and work.

Placemaking is a holistic approach to the planning and design of development and spaces, focused on positive outcomes. It draws upon an area's potential to create high quality development and public spaces that promote people's prosperity, health, happiness, and well-being in the widest sense. Taking a place-based approach means rather than starting from one particular policy objective, we start from the needs of real places. We use evidence on the area, as well as the benefits its assets can provide, and explore how national priorities, risks and opportunities are reflected in that place.

While sustainable development underpins our approach to the Wellbeing Assessment in Neath Port Talbot, it is integral that our assessment and subsequent plan is based on the strengths and needs that make our place unique.

The eight community areas are highlighted in the map below:



The PSBs in NPT and Swansea have worked closely together through this process taking a regional approach wherever possible. They have also linked with the Regional Partnership Board who have been developing their Population Needs Assessment in a similar timeframe. This has reduced the need for multiple requests for data and avoided a duplication of resources and effort. There are plans to continue to co-ordinate data collation across the region to retain an up to date picture going forward.

A multi-agency Editorial Group has been integral to the development of the NPT Well-being Assessment. This has included representation from the Council, Natural Resources Wales, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health Wales and Swansea University. A collaborative approach to the overall assessment has been taken and the Editorial group have engaged with as wide a group of partners as possible whilst gathering the required information.

As a supplement to the assessment, NPT PSB, in collaboration with Swansea PSB, has commissioned Swansea University to produce an over-arching analytical chapter to supplement the findings and provide us with a meaningful picture of what our information means for our communities in NPT. Elements of this work form the Summary section of the Assessment. This will be key to informing our next steps as we develop our well-being objectives and plan.



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