

MEETING	Cabinet
DATE	7 June 2016
TITLE	The Public Services Board Well-being Assessment
PURPOSE	Discussion on the well-being area boundaries
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards
CONTACT OFFICER	Geraint Owen, Head of Corporate Support

1. THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT (WALES) 2015

- 1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 is about sustainable development and provides a statutory obligation on public services boards to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of their areas.
- 1.2 The four statutory members of each board are listed in section 29 of the Act and include the local authority, the local health board, the fire and rescue authority for the area and Natural Resources Wales.
- 1.3 All public services boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of well-being in each community and in the area as a whole no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan.
- 1.4 The well-being assessment must identify the geographical community areas on a sub authority level within the area of the Board. The purpose of identifying smaller areas is to recognize a sense of identity within communities and to show differences between areas.
- 1.5 The purpose of the Act, which is to set a statutory requirement on individual bodies and public service boards in order to improve the well-being of areas should not be lost.
- 1.6 The Public Services Board will ultimately decide on the number and shape of the areas following statutory consultation on the Draft Assessment. But, every board is required to consult widely with partners and stakeholders whilst preparing the assessment.
- 1.7 The Cabinet can make suggestions to the Public Services Board regarding possible area boundaries. But it is the Board who will make the final decision addressing the requirements of the Act and statutory obligations regarding method.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 A number of factors have already been considered whilst identifying the smaller geographical areas, such as:
 - the identity of the area
 - the size and population of the area

- the number of areas within each assessment
- data collection considerations
- is the exact 'area' already being used
- the main service centres
- does the area "match" how people live?

3. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.2 Whilst a number of options have been considered, the option of 8 areas has been presented to the Area Forums and then presented to community, town and city councils, as well as Gwynedd residents through an online engagement exercise.
- 2.3 The proposal of 8 areas (**Attachment A**) is based on Gwynedd's main towns, which are:
- Y Bala
 - Bangor
 - Caernarfon
 - Dolgellau
 - Ffestiniog
 - Llŷn
 - Porthmadog
 - Tywyn
- 2.4 On the basis of preliminary work, it would seem that the option of 8 areas is the best proposal in terms of recognizing the identity of the areas and data collection as well as providing an opportunity to recognize the differences between areas.

3. ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

- 3.1 In order to meet the timetable and the Public Services Board meeting on 17 June, all community, town and city councils were sent information regarding the engagement exercise on 9 May.
- 3.2 An online questionnaire was created in order to collect comments from Gwynedd residents. The communications plan to promote the exercise included:
- publishing a press release to promote the exercise and to signpost residents to the online exercise available on the Council website. This led to coverage in the Daily Post (17 May), Herald (18 May), Cambrian News (19 May) and the Chronicle (19 May)
 - publishing 8 messages each on the social media websites Twitter and Facebook
 - publishing an article in the Rhaeadr E-Newsletter to notify Council members of the exercise.
- 3.3 A verbal report on the results of the exercise will be presented in the Cabinet meeting on 7 June.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Following a discussion on the comments from the community councils and Gwynedd residents, Cabinet members are asked to recommend an option of geographical areas for the draft well-being assessment to be considered by the Public Services Board in its meeting on 17 June 2016.
-

Views of the Statutory Officers

Chief Executive

As is clear in the report, there is a the statutory requirement to prepare a well-being assessment and it is evident that the assessment must be on the basis of areas in the llight of the points made in 2.1 of the report. The areas identified appear to be wise options but of course the assessment itself could identify a different pattern for planning work.

As the Head of Finance notes, it is possible that the assessment could raise matters which could lead to spending or investing. But it is clear that needs which could arise from that would have to considered as part of the Council's and partners prioritising arrangements.

Monitoring Officer

As noted in the report, the Well-being of Future Generations Act establishes principles and duties for public bodies on the basis of sustainable development. The act also establishes a governance structure which includes establishing a Public Services Board with specific membership. The Act identifies specific duties for the Public Services Board and one of these is to prepare a well-being needs assessment of the area and identified community areas. In addition, the Act and the statutory guidelines place consulation and engagement duties on the Board whilst undertaking their duties and preparing the assessment. Because of this, although the Cabinet can suggest a way forward to the Board regarding the areas, it must be emphasized that it is the responsibility of the Board as a body to analyse the information and to decide itself on the content of the assessment.

Head of Finance

I note that establishing these areas could raise expectations of action in accordance with the numerous and ambiguous requirements of the Well-being Act, economically, socially and culturally. But the settlement is not known to identify if the the additional relevant burden is financed.

Many of the well-being duties have been considered as commitments in the current Council Strategic Plan. But no additional resources have been identified to deliver more than those projects already planned.

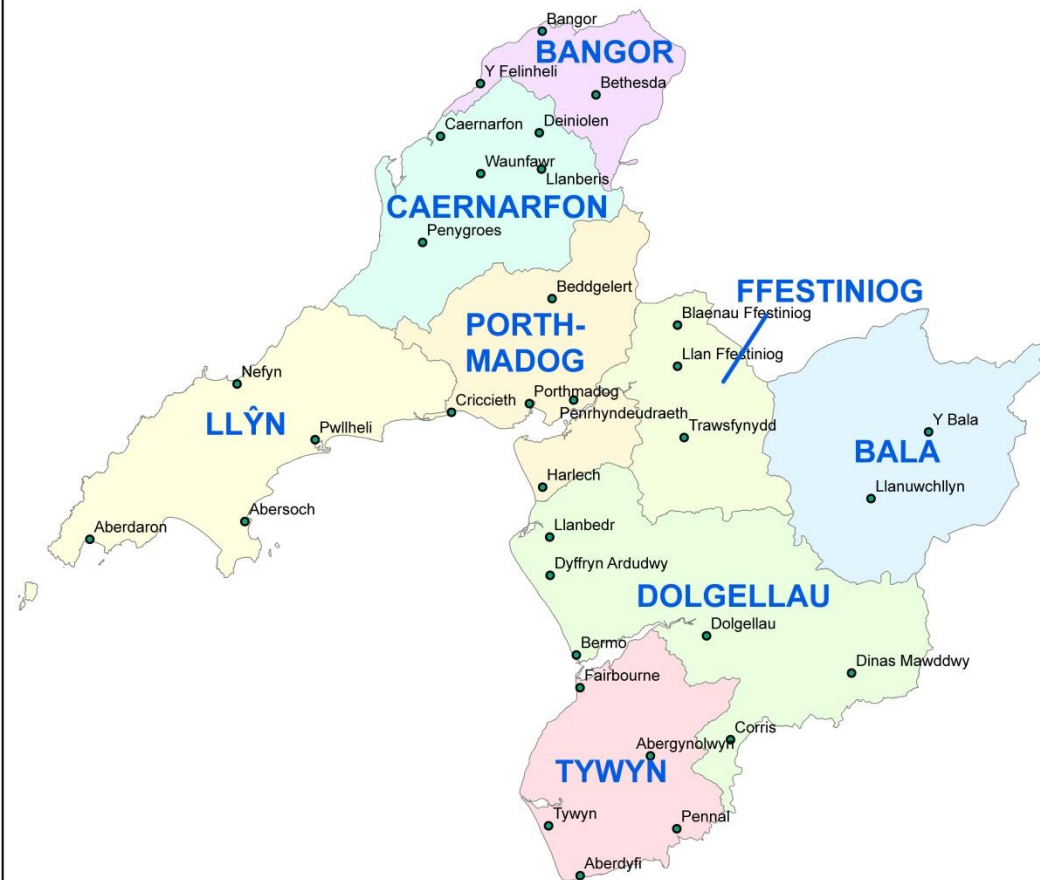
If further developmental resources for the Board or the proposed areas, in order to invest in heritage, leisure activities or other well-being goals, the Cabinet would have to prioritise those within the present provision in the Strategic Plan fund.

Background document

SPSF 3: Collective role (public services boards) Shared Purpose: Shared Future Welsh Government

Attachment A

Ardaloedd Aseiad Llesiant Arfaethedig Proposed Areas for Well-being Assessment



Gwasanaeth Ymchwil a Dadansoddeg, Adran Cefnogaeth Gorfforaethol
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2016 Arolwg Ordnans 100023387

Research and Analytics Service, Corporate Support Department
© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100023387