

**Conwy and Denbighshire PSB sub group
Place – Supporting Environmental Resilience**

Next Steps Brief

- 1 To develop strategic environmental principles which each organisation will sign up to ie an organisational charter.
- 2 To use the combined weight of the PSB to be influencers and supporters of environmental resilience
- 3 To invite communities to become environmental pilots to develop innovative projects such as plastic reduction, renewable energy, carbon schemes, environmental planning, bio diversity, green spaces etc. To consider how existing services could work together to provide *enablement* support to the communities. Eg aberporth and surfers against sewerage –this has to be community driven.

Stakeholder event

To invite professionals and interested community leaders to a stakeholder workshop to develop the above brief. The Future Generations Framework for Service Design is a useful framework of questions to prompt discussion.

Notes

The only environmental partnership which is in place is the LRF Local Resilience Forum. This forum focuses on planning for adverse weather. Therefore there is a 'gap' in terms of a collaborative environmental forum.

It was noted that this priority has the potential to support the other two priorities – ie through an environmental community approach, we will support community empowerment and good mental wellbeing.

The group discussed the next steps. It was agreed that the exploration needed to be prioritised on the basis of where the PSB can have the most collaborative impact. It was felt that there are a number of initiatives in place in relation to flood risk. Each bullet point related to 2 areas – communication to the public on key issues and Infrastructure planning. We need to consider where the PSB can add value. All the next steps related to suggestions made at the summer stakeholder workshops. However the suggestions were a mix of strategic and operational ideas and the PSB needs to be clear about its role – as a strategic influencer or to set up specific operational projects. Given the capacity of all organisations, this is about strategic steer to influence existing service provision to be shaped to new innovative ideas. The emphasis is on supporting communities not doing things for them.

1) Strategic Environmental Principles

(Links to well-being plan - be leaders in sustainability & supporting communities, community place plans, improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, buying in resources that are sustainable)

There could be a shared commitment to develop a joint environmental policy statement and relevant supporting detail (eg a joint carbon management plan, a joint approach to supporting the the Courtauld commitment, a joint agreement to reduce plastic etc). All public sector organisations have to be zero carbon by 2030. All organisations could commit to an environmental standard eg green dragon. Climate change is a significant long term issue – water supply requires infrastructure

to pump flow to some areas in the summer. There's a long term risk that we won't have enough water in the future – especially in the summer when the population increases in the area. Future planning needs to take account of this. We need to learn about good practice - what do we do well already which could be rolled out? We need a learning approach – researching good practice and innovation from both each other and elsewhere. We also need to be prepared to challenge each other to improve.

Risks /Opportunities:

All public organisations will have to do this anyway, and there would be real benefits to be gained from doing this in a collaborative way.

2) Using the combined weight of the PSB to be influencers.

(Links to wellbeing plan - produce less waste)

The PSB can influence Government strategic approaches to responsible production and responsible procurement of 'green products'.

Risks /Opportunities:

This is a significant issue but also a much bigger remit that the PSB and even Welsh Government. However the public organisations could influence through agreeing green procurement criteria.

3) Communities as environmental pilots

(Links to wellbeing plan - help communities understand the value of the natural environment, be leaders in sustainability, explain the importance of addressing environmental issues, and a natural environment where wildlife flourishes)

The public sector has a role to be an influencer – such developing guides for businesses and guides for communities. There could be a series of community awareness events – eg a number are taking place on Anglesey in relation to 'plastic free Anglesey'. Consideration should be given to what would incentivise a community eg income generation, reduced bills. Consideration could be given to a green village status scheme. It may not be appropriate to pick 2 locations – rather rotate them for set periods. The communities must be invited – the desire has to come from them. Money is a factor – we need to be mindful of funding opportunities and linking in with existing opportunities eg LEADER, Place Plans, Hireathog. The communities should also represent all backgrounds and this may be an opportunity to work with RSLs. Research needs to be undertaken on how green initiatives got off the ground elsewhere and what funding streams are available for communities to access.

Risks /Opportunities:

This could be resource intensive, and it is questionable whether we have the funds and staff capacity to implement this. However there could be the opportunity to trial innovative ideas and to enable communities to lead change themselves.