

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

13 September 2016

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Wynne Jones
Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance**

SUBJECT: Impact Assessment – a process for effective decision making

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Impact Assessment, previously the Single Integrated Impact Assessment, has been developed over the past year by a project team of officers with expertise in the key areas covered. Completing the Impact Assessment (IA) will enable services to evidence that they have considered the following:

- The Council's strategic vision and priorities;
- Welsh Language;
- Equalities;
- Well-being of Future Generations Act;
- Sustainable Development Principles;
- Communication and Engagement;
- Safeguarding;
- Corporate Parenting;
- Community Cohesion;
- Risk Management.

This will ensure that the council is meeting its legislative and regulatory requirements, shaping the outcome from the beginning rather than justifying it at the end.

1.2 The Impact Assessment, and supporting guidance, was tested on the autumn budget proposals for 2016/17. The project team members attended several Operational Management Teams during this period to explain and promote the new process and additional support sessions were made available to officers to help complete the new template. These smaller sessions were used by project team members to gather feedback, amending the template or guidance accordingly to make it user friendly and effective. A series of training sessions have been arranged for the coming months so that staff can be further supported in the use of the IA as they are developed against savings proposals for consideration in the budget proposals for 2017/18.

1.3 In general the feedback from services has been positive with the benefits of examining the wider implications of decisions being

understood. However, as many of the budget proposals had already been agreed, there were few opportunities for mitigating actions to be put in place. This further highlights the need to undertake an assessment early in the process. A review of the IAs completed during this period was undertaken with further amendments being made in light of this.

- 1.4 The project team is confident that the Impact Assessment is now sufficiently well developed to be formally adopted as a considered approach for policy/change objective/budget saving proposals.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that mandatory use of the Impact Assessment of policy/change objective/budget saving proposals be agreed and formally adopted.
- 2.2 Well completed impact assessments will facilitate improved decision making, based on evidence, which considers the wider implications for the service, the council and communities of Powys. It will demonstrate that the council has shown due regard for the corporate, legislative and regulatory requirements placed upon it.

3.0 One Powys Plan

- 3.1 The Impact Assessment supports the aims of the One Powys Plan and the development of the new Well-being Plan, introduced by the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 3.2 The approach also supports the council's intent to implement the corporate improvement plan with the impact on the council's four priorities being a key consideration in developing the IA.

4.0 Options Considered/Available

- 4.1 The council could chose not to adopt the use of the Impact Assessment. However this could potentially mean that services were not showing due regard to the corporate, legislative and regulatory requirements placed on the council.
- 4.2 The council could continue to use the existing Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessments. The Impact Assessment offers a more holistic approach, which is being advocated by Welsh Government and the Wales Audit Office.

5.0 Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 5.1 Adoption of the Impact Assessment will facilitate improved decision making that evidences due regard for the corporate, legislative and regulatory requirements placed on the council. The approach is pragmatic, providing more robust evidence of how the corporate priorities and risks have been considered.

5.2 Early indications from Wales Audit Office have been favourable, with the approach being potentially highlighted as a piece of good practice.

6.0 Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

6.1 The Impact Assessment addresses the requirements of current equalities, Welsh language and sustainability legislation as well as safeguarding, poverty and risk elements.

7.0 Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

7.1 Safeguarding and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requirements have been incorporated into the Impact Assessment and accompanying guidance.

8.0 Local Member(s)

8.1 The proposal would operate across all wards.

9.0 Other Front Line Services

9.1 The proposal impacts all services.

10.0 Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, BPU)

10.1 The proposal impacts all services.

11.0 Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

11.1 The proposal does not directly impact our partners. Undertaking a quality impact assessment will improve our understanding of the impact for stakeholders

12.0 Corporate Communications

12.1 **Awaiting comment**

13.0 Statutory Officers

13.1 **Awaiting comment**

14.0 Members' Interests

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
The mandatory use of the Impact Assessment of policy/change objective/budget saving proposals be agreed and formally adopted.	This will facilitate better decision making, based on evidence, which considers the wider implications for the service, the council and communities of Powys.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: