

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 06 November 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Future Generations Report and the Audit Wales Report - No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act
Purpose of Report:	To consider the Future Generations Report and the Audit Wales Report- No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the draft responses to the recommendations in both reports.
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no ward Member consultation has been undertaken. The development of individual initiatives is subject to appropriate consultation activity
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: - The Future Generations Report is a statutory report which the Future Generations Commissioner must publish every five years in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The report was published in April 2025. - The Future Generations report includes fifty recommendations. Public bodies have been asked by the Commissioner to respond to the report and this report details the findings and recommendations within the report and the Council's response. - The Audit Wales report No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act was also published in April 2025 and builds on audit work undertaken with individual bodies. This report details the key findings and recommendations in the Audit Wales report and again is a statutory requirement of the Auditor General associated with the Act. - This report and appendices also detail work being undertaken in line with recommendations in both reports including work on prevention, climate change, healthy eating and the Real Living Wage.	

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet considers the findings and recommendations in the Future Generations Commissioners Report and approve the draft response as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B for submission to the Future Generations Commissioner.
2. That Cabinet notes the findings and recommendations in the Audit Wales report 'No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act' and consider them alongside the Future Generations Commissioner's Report and the draft response attached as Appendix A and Appendix B
3. That Cabinet endorses the proposal that this report is shared with the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To enable Cabinet to consider the report and submit a response to the Future Generations Commissioner regarding the recommendations in the Future Generations report published in April 2025.
2. To enable Cabinet to consider the Audit Wales report and respond to the recommendations.
3. To enable partners to consider the findings and recommendations in the reports and the Council's response.

1. Background

- 1.1 The [Future Generations Report](#) is a statutory report which the Future Generations Commissioner must publish every five years in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The report was published in April 2025.
- 1.2 The report is based on extensive evidence and includes an assessment of progress so far with regards to implementing the Act, targeted advice and examples of positive change already happening in public services.
- 1.3 The report includes fifty recommendations. Some recommendations are for Welsh Government, some are for public bodies and some are for both. Public bodies have been asked by the Commissioner to respond to the report. The recommendations are intended for bodies to progress in the coming five year period.
- 1.4 The Future Generations Report was published alongside the Audit Wales report [No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act](#). The report builds on audit work undertaken with individual bodies. There are four recommendations in the report and they are all for Welsh Government.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

Future Generations Commissioners Report

- 2.1** The Council was an early adopter of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and has worked across the organisation, with partners and the team at the Future Generations Commissioners Office to embed the Act.
- 2.2** Vale 2030, the Council's Corporate Plan details the Council's five well-being objectives and the steps that will be taken to achieve the stated objectives.
- 2.3** Officers from across the Council have welcomed the support of the team at the Future Generations Commissioners Office to embed the Act in their work and the themes in the Future Generations report are consistent with many of the challenges and commitments in Vale 2030.
- 2.4** The Council has been asked to specifically comment on the recommendations that are for public bodies and to indicate a status as below. Appendix B details all the recommendations, who they are for and where appropriate the status we have awarded it.
- **Adopted** (we have already adopted this recommendation)
 - **Accept** (we will be adopting this recommendation / it is in progress)
 - **Accept in principle** (we want to do this / we agree with this idea; we do something similar already; or we know we can do this or something similar, but there may be practical issues with delivery / we cannot implement it in full at this stage)
 - **Reject**
 - **Not applicable**
 - **More information needed**
- 2.5** In addition to responding to the recommendations for public bodies the Council has also taken the opportunity to comment on a number of the recommendations for Welsh Government as these will potentially have implications for the Council if accepted by Welsh Government. A letter (Appendix A) has been drafted for the Leader to send to the Future Generations Commissioner to accompany the detailed responses to the recommendations.
- 2.6** To assist in developing the response to the recommendations there have been a number of discussions and meetings. These include the Public Services Board (PSB), our Strategic Leadership team (SLT), Project Zero Board, Insight Board, Public Participation Network and Strategic Partnership Group. In addition, there was a joint workshop for SLT and Heads of Service which was facilitated by a colleague from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office.
- 2.7** The Future Generations report sets out a number of key findings and a total of fifty recommendations across a number of themes. All the recommendations are detailed in Appendix B and are set out under the following themes which reflect the [Cymru Can](#) missions and areas of focus;
- Implementation and Impact
 - Climate and Nature

- Health and Well-being
- Culture and Welsh Language
- Well-being Economy
- Food
- Budget Setting for Future Generations

2.8 The key overall conclusions in the report are

- People in Cymru are rightly proud that we have a shared vision for the Wales we want for future generations.
- The challenges we face are significant, but they are not insurmountable.
- Delaying action makes change more expensive and difficult. Future generations will live with the consequences of our decisions.
- A UK Government economic strategy focused solely on growth puts well-being at risk.
- The Welsh public sector's net zero target for 2030 is an important driver for change, but many public bodies will not meet it without additional resources.
- Prevention budgets are being cut, and essential activities deprioritised.
- Our food system is unsustainable.
- Culture is in crisis.
- Trust in our public institutions is declining.
- The capacity of the Welsh public sector is at breaking point due to rising demand and years of austerity.
- Partnership and funding structures are too complicated.

2.9 In the report the Commissioner asks politicians and public bodies for the following;

- No more short-term fixes.
- Supercharge actions with multiple benefits.
- Unlock private sector finance.
- A Real Living Wage commitment.
- Ringfence prevention funding.
- A national food resilience plan.
- Culture must be protected.
- Rebuild trust in decision-making.
- Invest in public services.
- Simplify partnerships and funding.

- Review and strengthen the WFG Act.
- 2.10** Together Appendix A and B provide information about work already being progressed and some of the concerns about the necessary capacity and resource needed to take forward some of the recommendations.
- 2.11** Work is already being taken forward by the Council in line with the report and this includes a greater consideration of prevention as part of the budget setting proposals for 2026/27, restrictions on advertising on Council assets, work through the PSB on a climate change risk assessment, work towards Real living Wage accreditation and work on placemaking with our four towns as well as the Let's Talk residents survey.

No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act

- 2.12** The Auditor General's report is about how Welsh public bodies are thinking and acting for the long term. Specifically, it is about how public bodies are doing what the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act) requires them to do. The report builds on audit work undertaken with individual bodies.
- 2.13** The relevant audit undertaken for the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the [setting of well-being objectives](#) was reported to Governance and Audit Committee in June 2025 and there were no recommendations made for the Council.
- 2.14** The Audit Wales report, No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act identifies a number of findings and there are four recommendations for Welsh Government.
- 2.15** In summary the findings are:
- The Act has increased prominence over 10 years.
 - There are instances where public bodies have given little or no explicit consideration to the Act. It is not driving the system-wide change that was intended, notably, there is still much to do to apply the Act to functions such as workforce planning, asset management, and financial planning.
 - There is variation in practice within organisations, and within and between sectors - , the health system in particular has some way to go in applying future generations thinking across its planning and delivery.
 - Accelerating progress under the Act starts with prioritising prevention. Without a more systematic shift towards prevention, budgets will be exhausted, and outcomes will likely be worse.
 - Public bodies also need to improve the information they use to inform planning and decision-making, get a better grip on resource implications, and make sure they can understand impact.
- 2.16** Delivering change will require action from all public bodies individually. But that will not be enough and they are working in an environment that does not always promote that change. There is action that government could take to create the conditions for progress. Several of the barriers to implementation we identified

in 2020 remain issues today, and the Act itself still merits detailed post-legislative review.

2.17 The report makes four recommendations. They are strategic recommendations to the Welsh Government, designed with the wider conditions for progress in mind. They call on the government to minimise funding uncertainty to help bodies plan effectively and to encourage investment in prevention. They also call on Government to take a fresh look at the assessment of performance and impact under the Act and to clearly set out a scope and timetable for its own evaluation of the Act in the context of wider scrutiny. The recommendations are detailed below.

- Recommendation 1 Post-legislative evaluation and scrutiny - In the context of our recommendation in 2020 the Commissioner's latest recommendation on post legislative review in 2025 and the Senedd Equality and Social Justice Committee's planned inquiry into post-legislative scrutiny of the Act the Welsh Government should now clearly set out a scope and timetable for its own post-legislative evaluation and any changes to the Act. (See paragraphs 133 to 139 of the report). Work undertaken by the Welsh Government in relation to recommendations 2 to 4, and the wider issues raised by this report, should also feed into evaluation and scrutiny.
- Recommendation 2 - Minimising uncertainty in funding - The Welsh Government faces its own constraints in setting longer-term budgets due to UK budget and political cycles. However, public bodies continue to describe the negative impact of annual settlements, late funding notifications, and in-year allocations. The Welsh Government should work with public bodies to explore and agree what can reasonably be done to minimise funding uncertainties and aid their medium and longer-term planning where possible. (See paragraphs 114 to 115 of the report).
- Recommendation 3 Promoting prevention - The Commissioner has recommended that the Welsh Government ringfences funding for prevention, which increases over time. This reflects calls from several organisations at a UK level. The Welsh Government should also explore other, complementary, ways of encouraging investment in prevention. This should include working with public bodies to strengthen the understanding of the levels of investment in prevention and its impact, build on work to embed prevention in the budget process, considering, for example, opportunities to bring funding together across different parts of the system to support prevention, incentivise and protect preventative spend at a local level and learn from others beyond Wales, for example, taking account of work that CIPFA is undertaking on understanding preventative spend. (See paragraphs 57 to 74 and 114 to 115 of the report).
- Recommendation 4 Understanding impact - The Welsh Government should work with public bodies to take a fresh look at the assessment of performance and impact under the Act. This work should consider how best to measure the impact public bodies are having and their contribution towards the well-being of Wales and how assessment of performance and impact can promote the aims of the Act and reinforce the need to work preventatively and collaborate. (See paragraphs 131 to 132 of the report).

- 2.18** Cabinet is asked to consider the findings and recommendations in both reports and to note the work already being undertaken by the Council which reflects the findings and recommendations in both reports including an increased focus on prevention. Work is also continuing to enhance performance reporting to demonstrate impact and outcome. Cabinet is also requested to approve the response to the Future Generations Commissioners report attached at Appendix A and Appendix B and endorse the proposal to distribute this report and appendices to elected Members and a range of partners.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The findings and recommendations in the Future Generations Report and the Audit Wales report will assist the Council in taking forward its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and embedding the five ways of working. The themes in the Future Generations Report reflect priority areas in Vale 2030 and the Council continues to work closely with the Future Generations Commissioner and his team.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are specific recommendations regarding Climate and Nature detailed in the Future Generations Report and the Council's response to these recommendations is detailed in Appendix B. The recommendations in the report reflect work and discussions within the Public Services Board and the Council and priorities in the PSB Well-being Plan and Vale 2030.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no employment implications directly associated with this report and work is progressing with regards to Real Living Wage accreditation.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

6. Background Papers

[Governance and Audit Committee June 2025 – Setting of Well-being Objectives Report](#)

Date/Dyddiad:

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am:

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Mr. Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Tramshed Tech
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Dear Derek,

Future Generations Report

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Future Generations Report which was published earlier this year. It is an extremely interesting and important report and the findings and recommendations resonate with the work of the Council and the vision and ambition set out in [Vale 2030](#) our new Corporate Plan.

Over the past few months, we have taken the opportunity to discuss your report in a range of forums including the Vale PSB, our Strategic Leadership Team, the Council's Project Zero Board and our Public Participation Network and Strategic Partnership Group. I would particularly like to thank Colleen Cluett for attending a workshop with our Strategic Leadership Team and Heads of Service where she provided more information about the report and facilitated discussions on a number of recommendations. We greatly appreciated Colleen taking the time to meet with us in person to talk in more detail about the report.

The recommendations in your report have been useful as a framework for discussions within the PSB and again align in many places with the work of the PSB and identified challenges.

I have discussed our response to the report with Cabinet colleagues, and we have completed the online survey and provided comments against a number of the recommendations. However, we also wished to take the opportunity to comment on a number of the recommendations which were specific to Welsh Government as these will also be of relevance to us. Attached to this letter is our response to your recommendations and I also wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some of the work being taken forward in the Vale which I am sure will be of interest to you and your team.

The Council's vision is for **Strong Communities with a Bright Future** and our Well-being Objectives are:

- Creating great places to live, work and visit
- Respecting and celebrating the environment
- Giving everyone a good start in life
- Supporting and protecting those who need us
- Being the best Council we can be

Against the backdrop of these wellbeing objectives are three cross-cutting missions that, in partnership, we will seek to tackle in the coming years which are the climate & nature emergencies, poverty and inequalities.

The structure and themes of the Future Generations Report reflect the many discussions we had as part of the development of Vale 2030 and the challenges we are facing. Last year we had our [Panel Performance Assessment](#), the third in Wales and that process assisted with the development of Vale 2030 and also picked up on some of the issues in your report. You will see from our response to your recommendations that there are many areas where we are already making significant headway and some key highlights are set out below.

Stronger engagement and building trust with our communities - We are currently undertaking [Let's Talk](#), our residents survey. This builds on the work undertaken in 2023 with Data Cymru and that has now been developed into a survey being used by many local authorities in Wales. This work will enable us to keep developing our insight into the needs and concerns of our residents and this will also inform the next PSB Well-being Assessment. We recognise the importance of building trust, and this was discussed at our recent PSB meeting and in particular the need to feed back to residents and service users and to keep the conversation going. Recent discussions at our Performance Scrutiny Committee and Governance & Audit Committee when discussing our [Annual Self Assessment](#) highlighted the further work needed in this area and I would welcome discussing this issue in more detail with you.

Assessing Climate Risks - The Vale PSB successfully bid for Shared Prosperity funding to engage external specialist expertise to undertake a climate change risk assessment in the Vale. Building on the work undertaken in neighbouring authorities we are now progressing this work with good engagement from partners and with work being undertaken to better understand lived experience. This work is due to be completed at the end of March with a view to seeking further funding to continue to take forward this work in partnership and for it to inform our next Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan. Earlier this year the PSB also approved a new [Climate and Nature Emergency Charter](#).

Good Food and Movement – In 2025 a new [Good Food and Movement Plan](#) was agreed for Cardiff and the Vale which builds on the work previously undertaken through Move More Eat Well. This work is a partnership approach through the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils and the UHB and progress is reported to the PSB. This work in particular links to PSB work in our most deprived areas and in [September](#) the Vale became the first Council in Wales to restrict the advertising of High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) products on Council owned sites and across

the Council's online presence. This is a testament to the strong working relationship between the Council and the UHB and has been the result of significant work.

Placemaking – We have developed [placemaking plans](#) for Penarth, Barry, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge. We have adopted the Placemaking charter and have ensured that placemaking is a key priority in Vale 2030. This work has been undertaken in partnership and in particular with our Town Councils. This work has provided an opportunity to build stronger relationships with local communities, business and other stakeholders and we will continue to embed the principles of placemaking across our work.

Real Living Wage – This is an area of work that the Council has been working to progress for some time and was also an issue discussed at the Vale PSB workshop in March which focused on the Well-being Economy and which your team also contributed to. I am pleased that in July of this year Cabinet approved work to begin the process of becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer, to ensure that those in our supply chains are paid a wage that recognises the true cost of living. This is an important commitment by the Council and aligns well with our work on a new People Strategy and our work on procurement. It follows the Council having paid the Real Living Wage to directly employed staff for over two years. We anticipate receiving accreditation formally in the coming weeks.

Vale Food Strategy – I am pleased to advise that the launch of the Vale Food Strategy is imminent. The Strategy has been developed through the [Food Vale](#) partnership and is a great example of successful partnership working in the Vale. Through the work of Food Vale, we have been able to support work on food insecurity, support work in our schools and in particular the Welsh Veg in Schools Project. We are also looking at community growing spaces and have launched a community kitchen toolkit. An update on the work of Food Vale was provided at our September PSB meeting, and this work shows how many of your recommendations come together under one programme of work linking economy, climate change and health and well-being together.

Budgets and Preventative Spend – The recommendations in your report around preventative spend have resulted in much discussion. We welcome the opportunity to work with your team on preventative spend which is proving to be very useful. This was also an area that we discussed with PSB partners as we are all facing challenges with regard to service demand and levels of resourcing. We are keen to explore this area of work further and recognise the value of investment in prevention. The Council's Chief Executive invited representatives from CIPFA, New Local and the Director of Public Health to a recent meeting of the Leadership Team and activity is progressing to build prevention into budgeting and considering a preventative fund to support this work.

Vale 2030 – Finally, I would like to reiterate that having read, considered and discussed the Future Generations report we have confidence in Vale 2030 and again thank you for the support from you and the team as we developed our five year plan. Delivery will not be easy, but we are committed to the priorities set out in our plan and to achieving our objectives. I look forward to continuing to work with you on embedding the Well-being of Future Generations Act and to continuing to improve well-being across the Vale.

If you would like to discuss our response in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Cllr Lis Burnett

Leader & Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Arweinydd Gweithredol ac Aelod Cabinet dros Berfformiad ac Adnoddau

Appendix B Future Generations Report 2025: Recommendations and Response

WG = Welsh Government

PBs = Public Bodies

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
Implementation and Impact				
1. Welsh Government should commit to a post-legislative review of the Well-being of Future Generations Act to strengthen its impact and to prepare for updates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. This review should include a public dialogue to engage people across Cymru in shaping the future of well-being policy.	X			The Council is supportive of a review being undertaken to reflect the progress and learning since the legislation was introduced. A review is critical to ensuring that the statutory guidance is reflective of changes made in the past 10 years, future direction and that the Act continues to have a significant impact on how we work.
2. Welsh Government must assess and streamline partnership structures to reduce complexity and improve coordination across Wales.	X			Whilst supportive of a review of partnerships there are reservations about timeliness and scope. There is a need to review the resourcing and expectations on partnerships and to evaluate their impact. However local circumstances should also form part of this review which should be open to consideration of different approaches in different areas which reflect local circumstances and priorities. The key question should be what is the purpose of the partnership and does it have the capacity and resource to deliver. As part of any review there is also the opportunity to consider the accountability and effective scrutiny of the partnership.
3. Welsh Government should ensure the responsibility of implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act remains with the Prif Weinidog / First Minister.	X			This is a matter for Welsh Government but the Act is an important piece of legislation that cuts across many areas of work.
4. Public bodies must ensure that staff responsible for corporate areas of change understand the WFG Act in a way that improves the quality and consistency of implementation through mandatory training and capacity development.	X	X	Accept	The Council has a Strategic Insight Board which has a responsibility for driving forward the WBFG Act corporate areas of change and is chaired by the Director of Corporate Resources. The Act and in particular the five ways of working are core elements of our ongoing Management Development Programme and also form part of our corporate induction as well as featuring regularly in discussions with Chief Officers. We are currently reviewing our Insight Board and this includes consideration of this report and we will also be considering if changes are needed to training and development for staff.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
5. Public bodies must increase engagement with the public to build trust, strengthen consensus, and bridge the gap between policymaking and citizens.	X	X	Adopted	Vale 2030 our Corporate Plan includes a commitment to 'Provide residents with more meaningful and engaging opportunities to participate and have a greater say in our work.' Improving engagement is also a key element of the plan which sets out the importance of involving residents and other stakeholders and continuing to improve. The Council recognises that in the current financial climate and with difficult decisions to be made it is more important than ever to engage with people and build trust. We have just launched Let's Talk a residents survey and are refreshing our Public Participation Strategy. Our Resources Scrutiny Committee is also embarking on a task and finish exercise focusing on communications and other scrutiny work is also taking the opportunity to engage more with stakeholders. Work already undertaken through placemaking has already helped to build trust and lay foundations and helped raise profile for further engagement on other topics. One area that has been identified as in need of improving is how we feedback on the results of consultation and engagement and the resulting decisions.
Climate and Nature				
6. Welsh Government should introduce a headline statutory target for nature's recovery by 2050 in primary legislation by 2026, with further targets reflecting the Global Biodiversity Framework in secondary legislation, a clear plan of action and long-term funding arrangements.	X			Although this is a recommendation for Welsh Government there are implications for the Council if adopted. We would be supportive of the development of targets and would be keen to be part of those conversations however, these will only be meaningful if accompanied by a clear plan of action at a national level and long-term funding arrangements. We also recognise that this could also have the benefit in leading to more joined up approaches if there are shared targets.
7. Using our land wisely matters more than ever. Following its next 5-year review of A Future Wales, Welsh Government should develop an integrated land and marine use framework that balances commitments to restore nature, support food production, improve climate resilience and deliver new housing and infrastructure. The framework should be accompanied by guidance and toolkits to support local decision-making.	X			The Council would welcome this and can also see how framework would link to placemaking. An integrated land and marine use framework would assist when considering the multiple priorities around land use and challenges of prioritisation. If this is progressed we would wish to be involved in the development of the framework and that there are accompanying resources and support.
8. Building on the investment in nutrient management boards and existing coastal and river forums, Welsh Government should expand their catchment remit as trusted decision-makers in river restoration. These partnerships should bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to co-create shared action plans, while enabling regulators such as NRW to work more collaboratively and drive positive, long-term change.	X			We would welcome steps that would lead to improvements in this area and believe this could strengthen our existing partnership arrangements.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
9. Within the next Government term, legislation is needed to give Natural Resources Wales the same regulatory powers as its English counterpart, including the authority to issue civil sanctions, such as stop orders and fines for polluting activities.	X			We are supportive of strengthening powers in this area but would welcome more information regarding what this looks like and how any income from fines is used to best support work in this area.
10. Welsh Government should establish an expert and cross-sector team, to support public bodies in preparing investment-ready proposals that can attract private sector finance for nature recovery and net zero, ensuring alignment with sustainable investment principles.	X			This could provide much needed additional resource and skills to this area of work. We would be keen to explore how this could also lead to more partnership work and co-designing of schemes. This could help raise awareness of opportunities and the sharing of experience and best practice as well as encouraging joint working. In order to meet the challenges of climate change there is a need to bring in significant support and expertise to support work across public bodies. There is also a need to be mindful of risks around private finance and consideration should also be given to opportunities linked to corporate social responsibility. There is an opportunity for local authorities to be involved in this work, in addition to the contribution of CJsCs.
11. Welsh Revenue Authority should be tasked with ringfencing environmental fines and charges to directly fund climate and nature action.	X			The Council is supportive of this approach and would suggest that there is a need for transparency and accountability with regards to how any income from fines and charges is used.
12. From 2025, public bodies must prioritise climate resilience, net benefit for biodiversity, and pesticide reduction in how they manage their estates, including their buildings, tenant farms, parks, roadside verges and other land assets.	X	X	Accept	We are making progress in this area and are keen to make the necessary changes however this can be slower than desired due to capacity and resource. However we would expect to keep making progress and exploring opportunities and learning from others.
13. Local renewable energy, including community and publicly owned energy has a pivotal role to play in achieving net zero. There is a need for more resourcing and support nationally. Public sector organisations should increase their collaboration with local energy projects by releasing land for joint ventures and committing to purchasing the electricity.	X	X	Accept	This would align to work that will be taken forward through the Local Area Energy Plan, however there will be constraints due to capacity and resource issues within the Council and for partners.
14. Climate resilience and adaptation must become a core public service priority. By the end of 2027, Public Services Boards should assess climate risks for their communities, updating their findings every five years as part of their well-being assessments. Public bodies must integrate these findings into their corporate and strategic planning.	X	X	Accept	The Vale PSB is currently working with consultants to undertake a risk assessment. This work has been delayed whilst resource to manage the work could be identified within PSB partners and funding was sought to commission consultants. Work is at an early stage and further resource for PSBs to undertake this work would be welcome.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
15. The public sector must become deforestation-free by 2028, ensuring supply chains do not contribute to global deforestation, habitat loss or human rights violations, including child labour and the abuse of Indigenous Peoples' rights.	X	X	Accept in principle	This will be challenging but is in keeping with work underway within the Council, an our local authority catering trading company. The Council would welcome further support and guidance to assist in taking this work forward as this is a complex area with many challenges which will be common across all public bodies including issues around the supply chain and gathering of evidence.
Health and Well-being				
16. Welsh Government should commit Wales to becoming a Marmot nation, adapting the Marmot model with tailored principles aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, to help reduce inequalities and improve the well-being of our population.	X	X	Accept in Principle	This is in line with commitments detailed in Vale 2030 our Corporate Plan and we would welcome further resource and support from Welsh Government to progress work in this area.
17. Welsh Government and the NHS Executive should ensure prevention is embedded at the start of all clinical pathways start, with performance measures adjusted to reflect this shift.	X			This is already reflected in the Social Services and Well-being Act and we would support further work in this area recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention. We would also be interested in more detail about potential measures.
18. Welsh Government should develop a plan to halt the rise in obesity within five years, reverse it within ten and create a Wales that supports healthy weight by default by 2035, reducing inequalities.	X			We welcome work in this area and already undertake a range of work to support healthy eating and encourage and support people of all ages to be more active. The Cardiff and Vale Good Food and Movement Plan, Food Vale partnership provide a framework for a range of activity and the Council's Healthy Living Team provide a range of excellent work including through play and the Golden Pass scheme as well as working in our schools and with those who may feel less confident about taking up sport. This is also an explicit target in Vale 2030, showing how the Council's work alongside partners contributes to the wellbeing of people in the Vale.
19. Public Bodies and Public Services Boards should work together, along with the private and voluntary sectors, to implement the social model of health, placemaking and/or the Marmot principles to improve action on the wider determinants and reduce inequalities in their areas.		X	Accept in Principle	The Council has signed the Placemaking Charter and has Placemaking Plans for each of the county's four towns. As part of this work there has been engagement with partners and discussion at PSB meetings and this will continue. As part of the Council's Corporate Plan and the PSB Well-being Plan there is a strong focus on tackling inequalities however due to resource and capacity it can prove difficult to build momentum into this work. However work being undertaken through the PSB in our most deprived areas and through the Amplifying Prevention Board have enabled new approaches to be developed and joint working in these areas that we are keen to continue. More sustainable funding to support work in this area would be welcome as well as clarity and guidance about how this work translates into meaningful delivery and impact.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
20. Public bodies should include prevention as a core strategic objective in corporate strategies and planning.	X	X	Accept	There is progress in this area including focused discussions within the Council's Strategic Leadership Team and the PSB and work being undertaken regarding the budget. Limited and annual budgets and resources mean that critical issues often take priority over embedding prevention at the earliest stage. This needs to be undertaken in an integrated and collaborative way within and across organisations and with support from Welsh Government.
21. Public bodies and Public Services Boards (PSB) should use the PSB well-being assessments and Regional Partnership Board population needs assessment to identify the most significant inequalities in their populations and develop targeted plans to close the equity gap in health outcomes.		X	Accept	There are a range of other important studies and assessments that are also relevant including the Annual Market Stability Report. There is a need to be more joined up with the assessment work and the use of the results and a review of the current guidance would be welcome to support more agile and meaningful assessments as work has evolved since the first round of assessments. Some services are geographically focused e.g. Flying Start and work in our most deprived areas but there is also a need for Vale wide approaches e.g. around dementia support. It is important that assessments pick up on the range of complexity and that work is ongoing.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
Culture and Welsh Language				
22. Welsh Government should introduce a Culture Bill to the Seventh Senedd Term (2026 - 2030), to make culture a statutory requirement for public bodies. This will strengthen the role of culture in national well-being and ensure culture receives the recognition and investment it deserves.	X			We recognise the important role of culture and would be interested in the scope and content of this Bill and what resources would accompany any new legislation.
23. Welsh Government should commit to a Community Right to Buy Act to empower communities to take ownership of valued local buildings, land, and community assets, ensuring they remain at the heart of thriving communities.	X			A new post has recently been created within the Council with a focus on Community Asset Transfers and as part of our Reshaping Programmes we have established a Strategic Assets Board. We recognise this as an important issue but are also mindful of the condition of some of our assets and the concerns that groups including Town and Community Councils may have about taking on the responsibility and the lack of funds.
24. The next Welsh Government should appoint a Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Arts and Sport.	X			This is a matter for Welsh Government.
25. All public bodies in Wales should develop a clear plan to increase the internal use of Welsh within public bodies. This will allow staff to live their working lives increasingly through the medium of Welsh, fostering a stronger bilingual culture in the workplace.	X	X	Adopted	The Council has a Welsh Promotion Strategy which we are reviewing and we continue to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language in the workplace including opportunities to learn and improve Welsh language skills and have recently undertaken a language skills audit.
26. All public bodies and Public Services Boards should sign up to Placemaking Wales Charter and integrate its principles into their work.		X	Adopted	The Council has adopted the Placemaking Wales Charter and has developed Placemaking plans for each of the four towns. This has been done through extensive engagement and partnership work with Town Councils. Placemaking has also been discussed by the Vale PSB with a number of PSB partners engaged in the Placemaking work.
27. All public bodies should produce an organisational volunteering strategy in partnership with employees and the voluntary sector to boost volunteering across the country.	X	X	Adopted	The Council already has a staff volunteering policy which enables staff to volunteer for up to one day a year. To support this policy a number of opportunities are promoted to encourage group activities. The Council also actively promotes a range of other volunteering schemes, for example Value in the Vale via the Housing department, as well as promoting volunteering with our strategic partner, Glamorgan Voluntary Services.
Well-being Economy				
28. Welsh Government should identify key sectors where the private sector falls short in implementing the real Living Wage – and develop plans to implement the real Living Wage with businesses in these sectors.	X			The Council has begun the process of being an accredited Real Living Wage employer and is supportive of work being undertaken by Welsh Government with businesses.
29. The Welsh Government should ensure all businesses receiving Welsh Government support meet a standard set of commitments aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This should include real Living Wage accreditation as a baseline requirement.	X			We are mindful that there may be implications for smaller business and there may also be an impact on costs. We would be interested in an impact report on this proposal.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
30. Welsh Government should set a target to double the size of the social business sector in Wales by 2035 and continue support to Social Business Wales and Social Investment Cymru to achieve this.	X			We would be supportive of work in this area.
31. Welsh Government should work with the wider public sector to launch a Co-operative Development Hub and support social enterprises in expanding into public and private sector supply chains.	X			We would welcome further support and encouragement in this area to increase opportunities and skills.
32. Welsh Government should urgently develop an action plan by 2027 to ensure Wales has the skills to achieve a just transition to a low carbon well-being economy, and at the same time improves post-16 educational outcomes and reduces inequalities.	X			We are supportive of a future focused skills plan associated with these issues and aiming to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. Any action plan should be co-produced with key stakeholders and take account of different sectors e.g. farming and agriculture.
33. Welsh Government should establish a commission to examine AI's impact across public services, workforce planning, and digital infrastructure, and set out a clear national direction for ethical and responsible AI deployment	X			There are already a number of groups looking at this so we do not consider there is a need for a new commission but to utilise existing mechanisms and to develop skills and capability and policy guidelines.
34. Welsh Government's economic mission and all four regional economic strategies of Corporate Joint Committees must fully embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act as the framework for designing economic development strategies and in implementing and measuring progress.	X	X		We support the embedding of the Act by CJsCs and for our activities to align.
35. By 2027 all public sector organisations must commit to a plan on how they will achieve real Living Wage accreditation.		X	Adopted	In July 2025 Cabinet agreed to begin the process of becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer, to ensure that those in our supply chains are paid a wage that recognises the true cost of living. This follows a two year period where the Council has paid its directly employed staff the Real Living Wage rate. This was also discussed within the PSB earlier this year at our meeting focused on the Well-being economy
36. Welsh Government and public bodies should ensure every community in Wales has access to a local repair and re-use hub by 2035.	X	X	Adopted	There are Repair Cafes in all four towns in the Vale and there is also a Re-use shop at our Household Waste recycling Centre in Barry and Benthgyl also operates in Barry and Penarth.
Food				
37. The next Welsh Government should develop a national food resilience plan to ensure equal access to local, affordable, healthy, and sustainable diets. Food and diets should be integrated into the duties, goals, and indicators of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.	X			We have welcomed the support from Welsh Government for Food partnerships and to tackle food insecurity. We would want any national plan to be undertaken with the involvement of a range of stakeholders and for the plan to be accompanied by sufficient and sustainable/ongoing resources.
38. Welsh Government should expand Free School Meals to all children up to age 16, ensuring every child in Wales, including children from households with no recourse to public funds, have access to healthy and sustainable food at school.	X			We support increased access to healthy and sustainable food and rolled out free school meals in our primary schools at pace but are mindful of the logistical implications of free school meals to all pupils up to the age of 16 in secondary schools. We would welcome further discussion on this issue.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
39. Welsh Government should scale up the Nutrition Skills for Life programme across all schools in Wales, ensuring that every child leaves school food literate, with the skills and knowledge to maintain a healthy and sustainable diet.	X			We would be keen to participate in any discussions about how this recommendation would be taken forward and what it would mean in practice.
40. Each Local Authority should develop a local food resilience plan in collaboration with Local Food Partnerships and Public Service Boards. Welsh Government should ensure that the proposed Community Food Strategy provides long-term support to develop these plans.	X	X	Adopted	A Vale Food Strategy will be published shortly and has been developed through the Food Vale Partnership with discussion at the Council's Strategic Leadership Team and Project Zero Board and the PSB.
41. Welsh Government and Local Authorities should ensure all free school meals contain at least two portions of locally and sustainably produced seasonal vegetables. Local Authorities should join the Welsh Veg in Schools programme to build resilient local horticulture supply chains.	X	X	Adopted	The Council is already part of the WVIS programme and is keen to further progress work in this area, however there are concerns about logistics, ability of growers to produce at the scale needed if the scheme expands at pace and our experience to date is there have been difficulties regarding supply e.g. due to numbers of growers, infrastructure and weather events. We are currently exploring the feasibility of an Agrihub which would assist in progressing work in this area. We would be keen to share more about our experiences and how some of these logistical issues can be overcome.
42. All public bodies should reduce or eliminate the provision of food groups which can be categorised as both 1) Ultra-Processed Foods (UPF) and also 2) high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) from their premises, such as schools, hospitals, leisure centres and care homes. Public bodies should ban the advertising and promotion of these food groups from all publicly owned advertising and marketing spaces.	X	X	Adopted	The Council was the first in Wales to ban the advertising of HFSS on its owned advertising and marketing spaces. We will continue to work with colleagues in Public Health to progress work in this area aligned to the Cardiff and Vale Good Food and Movement Plan. However, in order to progress all aspects of this recommendation there will need to be further work undertaken regarding the foods that are included in these categories and the scope of this recommendation. We have therefore classed this as adopted due to our progress in this area but also wish to highlight some of the challenges ahead.
43. Welsh Government, Local Authorities and Health Boards should collaborate to introduce a Welsh fresh fruit and vegetable voucher scheme for low-income households, helping families afford nutritious food while supporting local food growers.	X	X	More information needed	We are currently working through Food Vale to explore the feasibility of food vouchers and as part of that work can consider what may be viable in terms of fresh fruit and vegetables.
Budget				
44. Welsh Government should ring-fence funding for prevention which increases over time.	X			There is a need for a better understanding of how much we spend on prevention and for Welsh Government to actively encourage and support work in this area. This should go hand in hand with a streamlining of grants to reduce the administrative burden and to enable more flexibility locally. Multi-year budgets would assist with an increased focus on prevention.
45. Welsh Government should bring forward the budget setting process and produce multi-year funding settlement.	X			The Council would strongly advocate for Welsh Government taking forward this recommendation.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
46. Public bodies must set their annual budgets against the national well-being indicators of Cymru (following similar models in the Republic of Ireland and the City of Strasbourg).	X	X	More information needed	We are looking at what the benefits of doing this would be and would welcome further discussion, including on how the analysis could be used.
47. Public bodies should use the agreed definition of prevention between Welsh Government and my office to map their preventative spend and invest progressively more upstream towards primary prevention.	X	X	Accept in principle	The Council is happy to use the agreed definition of prevention and the Strategic Leadership Team recently considered this area of work, with representatives from CIPFA, New Local and Public Health. We are currently undertaking work on this in partnership with the FGC team. The current budget setting process considers prevention but pressures on budgets are considerable. Mapping preventative spend over a number of years would also help identify increases and reductions over time.

Recommendation For:	WG	PBs	Status	Comments
The Future is Now				
48. Welsh Government should develop a vision and plan for the Welsh public sector workforce of the future, identifying the skills needed to deliver services effectively in a changing world.	X			Within the Council this recommendation has been discussed and there is support for further work around the skills needed for the future, the potential of AI and how opportunities in the public sector can be promoted more to young people. The need for more apprenticeships and across a broader range of activities was identified as well as issues around work with schools and addressing issues of capacity within the public sector.
49. Every public body should create a long-term vision and plan for the future of each organisation, co-designed with partners and communities.	X	X	Adopted	Vale 2030 is the Council's Corporate Plan and this was developed with engagement with a range of stakeholders and has a strong emphasis on partnership working. Although this is a five year plan its vision is longer term and the actions planned for the next five years are focused on being more preventative and long term. The Council is grateful to the Commissioner's Office who supported the inception of Vale 2030 with a futures focused workshop and has provided input throughout the process. This was further recognised in the recent Panel Performance Assessment, which made timely recommendations on the vision and focus for the future. In line with the recommendations from our PPA we are continuing to focus on how we communicate and deliver this vision and the impacts of our work.
50. Each public body should appoint a Futures Champion in every public body to engage with the Hwb Dyfodol, embedding futures thinking across their organisation.	X	X	Adopted	A Futures Champion has been identified within the Council's Strategy and Insight Advisory Group and has connected to the FGC office. Work has been undertaken in the Council and through the PSB.