

Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

Policy & Guidance  
(General)  
5.2.12

# Guidance on using the Future Generations Framework for projects

## Background to the Framework

This draft Framework has been developed by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, in partnership with New Economics Foundation (NEF) Consulting, to help Public Bodies to use the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act as a 'framework for thinking' when developing and designing projects. It has been tested and used by a number of public bodies and refined based on their feedback.

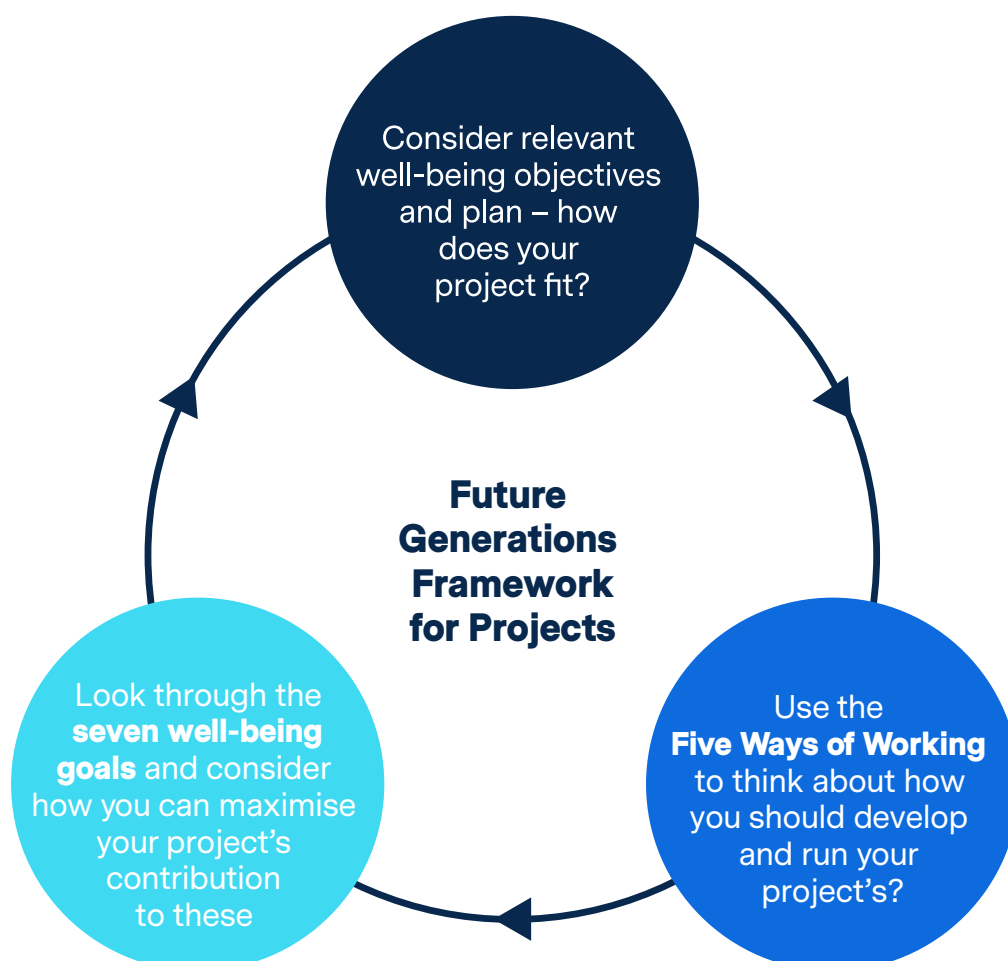
All bodies responsible for projects in Wales which receive public funding should be able to clearly understand and articulate how their projects are designed to support the intentions of the Act. The Framework helps translate the legal concepts (in the Act) into easily understandable and project focussed prompts, which when followed will help design better/more robust projects.

The Future Generations Framework expresses the **five ways of working** and the **seven well-being goals** as statutory prompts for consideration to inform thinking and shape the development of major projects, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of projects.

It asks Public Bodies to consider their own **well-being objectives** and the **local well-being objectives and plans** (produced by Public Services Boards) to ensure that the project contributes to delivering these alongside the national well-being goals.

This Framework can be used by all those involved in designing and developing projects in Wales as well as by individuals, community groups and others seeking to question or challenge how well Public Bodies are using the Act, and in particular using the five ways of working to inform their decisions.

**The Framework was developed initially for use on infrastructure projects, however it can be applied to a wider range of projects**



# How to use the Framework

The Framework has been designed to be an interactive tool, articulating the Act, to drive the design and implementation of projects. It is in three parts:

## 1

### **Making the connections:**

each Public Body has set its well-being objectives; Public Services Boards (PSBs) have collaborated to undertake local well-being assessments and have developed well-being objectives and plans for their areas. In each case these objectives must maximise the body's contribution to all of the national well-being goals. You should consider how you can support the delivery of these objectives by making connections and integrating your project within the context of local well-being of the area.

## 2

### **Using the Five Ways of Working**

as your starting point to maximise contribution to the seven well-being goals:

Embedding the Ways of Working will, for many public bodies, involve a radical change of working practices that may prove challenging. To achieve this change, the Framework encourages people to consider the Ways of Working early on and throughout the process:

- **Initial project development:** start with considering the five Ways of Working as early on in the development of the project as possible. How can you use these principles to take all reasonable steps to meet the well-being objectives and contribute to all seven well-being goals?
- **Reviewing the project:** the Framework also asks bodies to consider the Ways of Working at the end of the process. This will allow opportunity for reflection and developing practices to improve future projects. The framework should support you to think holistically, and help you to demonstrate and evidence how you are thinking and making decisions differently.

## 3

### **Reflecting and demonstrating change**

#### *Early and repeated:*

- **The Framework has been designed to be an iterative and interactive tool to assist early thinking, as opposed to a tick-box or checklist to complete.** The aim is not for this to be a method for justifying decisions when they have already been reached but to help organisations reach better decisions in the first place. The aim is to help articulate the Act as it relates to (infrastructure) projects and to assist public bodies to develop projects which are in line with the Act.
- To be used in this way, the Framework needs to be used early on in the scoping phase of a project to consider the strategic direction to address the need identified. The framework can then be used to drive the design and implementation of the project as it progresses.
- When you revisit the framework, you will be able to demonstrate how, through your project, you are making the best contribution to your well-being objectives and the well-being goals, in order to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. You will be able to evidence how the framework has helped you to do this.

# Considerations around the Framework:

## How the well-being goals relate to each other

- The Act does not give the power to prioritise particular goals, and each goal is ascribed an equal weighting of importance for the future generations of Wales. The goals are also designed to be mutually reinforcing, which means that bodies are expected to consider maximising their contribution to all seven well-being goals as if they were one.
- The Framework will help you to consider how the different areas of well-being are related to encourage further integration – we have only listed some examples, if you identify other links you can add those.
- It is possible that some projects will not have an obvious link to all goals, but public bodies are expected to evidence that they have thought creatively about how to contribute to all goals, even if the impact may be indirect for some, whilst ensuring that they are not undermining or forgetting any of the goals.
- The same applies to the well-being objectives: if there are conflicts between objectives, the statutory guidance clearly requires the Public Body to use the sustainable development principle and its five ways of working to resolve such conflicts.

## Integrating strategic and project-based considerations of the well-being goals and objectives (which are designed to align to the goals)

- The Framework integrates two dimensions of each goal (as expressed in two columns):
- Considering how the project is the most effective strategic solution to address the identified issue, particularly in terms of promoting the intentions of the Act, and
- Designing particular features into projects to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act.

## Status of this Framework

We are making this Framework available to Public Bodies, and others, under our power to provide advice, so it can help people understand how the Act should be considered when designing and developing projects or other major initiatives.

We want this Framework to evolve and are keen to receive feedback on its usefulness. We are committed to keeping it under review and to update it regularly based on feedback. We are therefore encouraging those who have either read or used the Framework to send their feedback to us via [contactus@futuregenerations.wales](mailto:contactus@futuregenerations.wales). If you have used the Framework, and found it useful, please share your experience with us.

We are also seeking to further develop this Framework so that it can be applied at a Policy / Programme level. If you would like to be involved in supporting this work and/or testing the Framework please do get in touch.