



Arts Council of Wales

Wellbeing Future Generations Policy Statement (Sustainable Development)

October 2016



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

Arts Council of Wales | Sustainable Development Policy Statement

Scope

This policy statement sets out how the Arts Council of Wales implements its vision of developing and sustaining a creative Wales, where the arts are central to the life and well-being of the nation in compliance with the Wellbeing Future Generations (2015) Act.

The Wellbeing Future Generations legislation aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, and strengthen governance arrangements within the public sector. The Council is committed to investing in the future of the people of Wales and we aim to ensure all our organisational actions and policies are resilient.

We will take into account the following in everything we do:

- Citizen focused decision making
- Operating within environmental limits
- Long term thinking and planning
- Recognising the impact of our actions in a national and global context

This policy compliments INSPIRE, the Arts Council of Wales Arts Strategy that has excellence and innovation in the arts and encouraging more people to enjoy and take part in the arts, in all their forms, at its heart.

This Policy was approved by our Council in October 2016 and will be reviewed annually thereafter.

Background

In April 2015, The Welsh Government passed into law the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The legislation aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, and strengthen governance arrangements within the public sector. Public bodies need to make sure that, when making their decisions, they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales (and indeed the rest of the world) in the future.

The legislation places a statutory duty upon public bodies in Wales - of which the Arts Council of Wales is one - to adopt sustainable development as the central organising principle upon which all other organisational decisions are made. We must provide evidence on how this is being implemented in practice to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

To make sure that relevant public bodies are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven Well-being Goals. One of these Goals specifically refers to arts and culture – “a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language”.

The 7 key goals to improve the well-being of Wales:

1. A Prosperous Wales
2. A Resilient Wales
3. A Healthier Wales
4. A More equal Wales
5. A Wales of Cohesive communities
6. A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh language
7. A Globally responsible Wales

The Act also outlines 5 ways that public bodies need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle that will allow us work together better, avoid repeating past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing. These are:

1. **Long term** – looking ahead to anticipate the outcome and the impact of actions for future generations.
2. **Prevention** – looking to do less harm and preventing problems
3. **Integrations** – finding better ways to integrate services and developments to maximise their impact
4. **Collaboration** – working together to maximise resources and achieve more.
5. **Involvement** – involving those that are the recipients of actions in their design, making sure that diverse voices are heard and listened to.

The positive role that the arts can play in the cultural, social and economic life of the nation sits comfortably with the well-being goals. There is virtually no aspect of public policy that need be untouched by arts and creativity. From community engagement to international relations; arts and health to cultural tourism; public art to town centre re-generation – the arts offer meaning, authenticity and enjoyment. The Arts create and sustain jobs, enrich education services, bring people together, improve our quality of life. A thriving arts sector committed to excellence and innovation that contributes to the cultural, social, economic and environmental well-being of Wales

To ensure we meet these challenges, we will apply the following principles:

- Adopt sustainable development as one of the Council’s central organising principles, changing the working culture to one that works on the basis of long-term thinking, and considers the wider economic, social and environmental costs of everything we do.

- Clear leadership to enable us to improve and innovate our strategic thinking and planning. Putting the well-being of the people of Wales, now and in the future, at the centre of the decision making process.
- Commitment from all staff throughout the Council to applying sustainable development principles to their work by developing smarter working practices.
- Taking account of the full range of economic, environmental and social impacts and issues in everything we do based on good evidence.
- Engaging audiences and increasing community engagement and participation.
- Effective partnership working with other organisations.

The Arts Council services will be supported by the corporate Well-being of Future Generations Framework action plan. This is a supporting document which explains what the Act means to the arts council and its work and provides the context for the corporate objectives and work-plans over the 5 year period. The action delivery plan is produced and reviewed annually.

Our Commitment to Sustainable Development

We regard the lawful and correct treatment of future generations as a fundamental obligation and we endorse and adhere to the Sustainable Development Principles set out above. Our staff are expected to do whatever is necessary to ensure compliance with WFG Act, and follow our Sustainable Development procedures through the five ways of working process.

The Arts Council is committed to full compliance with the Wellbeing Future Generations Act 2015 and the Council's work will be monitored quarterly by the WFGA Monitoring Group. An annual report on Sustainable Development will be presented to Council and published and a summary of this document will be included in the Arts Council of Wales' Annual Report and Accounts.

Contact

Questions about sustainable development and requests for information should be directed in the first instance to info@arts.wales and marked for the attention of the Director of Enterprise and Regeneration.