

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru

Welsh Local Government Association



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Swansea Council Natural Environment Scrutiny meeting.

Swansea

21st September 2018

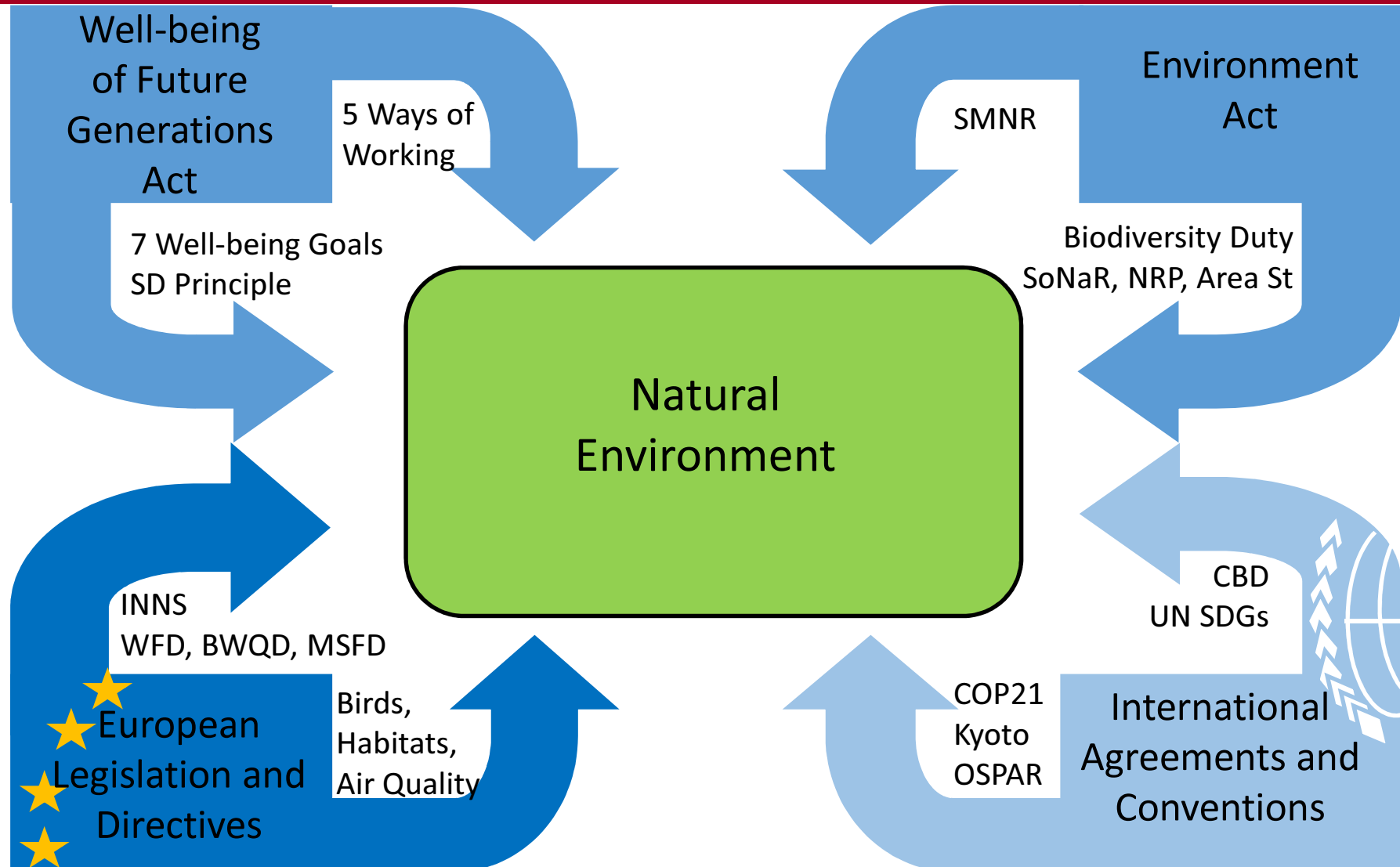
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Background



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Environment

Scrutiny is an essential part of improvement and governance arrangements.

Is staffed, supported, informed and resourced effectively by all.

Is recognised by all as an important part of community and citizen engagement.

Impact

Scrutiny regularly engages in evidence based challenge of decision makers and service providers.

Finds viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.

Decision makers give public account for themselves for portfolio responsibilities.

Allows the voice of local people to be heard.

Practice

Scrutiny is non-political, methodologically sound and evidence based.

Is councillor led.

Meetings are well planned, chaired and conducted.

Scrutiny builds good relationships with internal and external stakeholders and the public.

1. What are the long, medium and short term legal and financial consequences of not meeting the requirements under the Act?



- Short Term – whilst still in EU – failure to meet requirements could result in infraction (EC ECJ)
- Medium Term- (Transition) EU Legislation still applies as above
- Long term – legislation will be UK-based what replaces European Commission and European Court of Justice

2. How will you measure success (or lack thereof) of Councils under the Act? What do performance measures look like?



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- Outcomes or Outputs?
- Compliance
 - Biodiversity Duty
 - Carbon budgeting
 - WB Goals and Ways of Working
 - Water Framework Directive (Good Environmental Status)
- National Indicators

3. How are these requirements linking in with England and wider to contribute to overall improvement of the natural environment and biodiversity?



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- Communication
 - Quadrilateral meeting (UK + devolved Ministers)
- Brexit
 - Frameworks
 - Brexit –our land
- Climate Change
 - UKCCC advice and guidance
- National Marine Planning

4. Will success or failure of meeting the acts requirements mean enhanced or limited access to grants?
Will grant applications be success dependant?



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- SRG – which is from WG ensuring a joined up approach i.e. emphasis on cross-sector/inter-organisation collaboration.
- WFG – strategy, policy and planning should be shaped and informed by 5 WoW and will be audited on how these have been applied
- Environment Grant - [Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being in Wales 2019-2023](#).

5. What do you see as the main **barriers** going forward for Councils and how can Councils overcome barriers taking into account austerity?



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- Awareness – getting Biodiversity Duty out there as part of the proper exercise of the public body functions.
“Environment in all policies AND all policies in Environment”
- Breaking out of silo thinking – money spent in other departments and other sectors must also include biodiversity duty.
- WFG principle – what ever you do should seek to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales

6. Is there anything you think individual Councillors can do in their wards to contribute to success and maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity?



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- Raise awareness
- Work in schools- give nature a home
- Involve communities in environmental issues
- 'Plastic-free communities' [Aberporth, Chepstow.]
- Water refill
- Litter picks KWT
- Beach cleans – Marine Conservation Society, KWT
- River Clean ups [Cardiff Rivers Group]
- Marine Litter Plan [80% marine litter is of terrestrial origin]
- Pledges – Clean Seas Wales partnership
- UN Clean Seas <http://www.cleanseas.org/about>

Wales Marine Litter Action Plan



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- Terrestrial and Marine inextricably linked
- Clean Seas Wales Partnership
- Engagement, education and cross promotion
- Year of the Sea
- Volvo Round the World Ocean Yacht Race
- Pledges (businesses, communities, individuals, organisations)
- UN Clean Seas Campaign <http://www.cleaneas.org/about>

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