

Proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Member's Bill to ensure policy development and implementation by public bodies is in line with principles of sustainable development and wellbeing by introducing a duty for public bodies to promote these principles and establishing a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing.

The consultation runs from 14 December 2022 to 24 March 2023

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).
(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Glasgow City Council

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

[REDACTED]

Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note, that this question is compulsory.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Glasgow have been working with local, national and international partners to effectively localise the 2030 agenda, though UN Sustainable development localisation and participation in the Thriving Cities initiative,

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note, that this question is compulsory.)

establishing a baseline for current performance and a co-developing a vision for a greener, fairer and healthier city.

We would therefore, welcome a sustainable development and wellbeing Bill because it supports a legislative drive to integrating sustainable development and wellbeing economy effectively in local policy and decision-making processes. Moving from 'hope based' governance to 'extreme ownership' governance as the consultation papers outline and supporting more effective action to protecting people and the natural ecosystems, we all depend on

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Other approaches such as the National Performance Framework, the Community Empowerment Act and, more recently, the Wellbeing economy monitor are positive steps forward, but specific legislation will more meaningfully support and complement these, driving forward a more balanced approach to protecting our natural and social systems, ensuring that in fostering prosperity for all, we also stay within our planetary boundaries.

As a result of Glasgow's experience in localising UN SDGs and collaborating with local stakeholders to understand what a Thriving City would look like, it became apparent that a better horizontal and vertical integration of policies and governance both locally, regionally and nationally became apparent as a key prerequisite to achieve a Sustainable Place. It is important to create a common framework and language approach to enable public bodies such as local authorities to better and more effectively work with local organisations and communities, mobilising action and achieving the truly transformational action required to address the complex challenges facing our social, economic and environmental systems. A sustainable development and wellbeing Bill would be a welcome means to help with that integration and transformation.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'sustainable development' should be defined in legislation?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.

Including sustainable development in legislation is necessary to translate commitments, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other global or national development goals into reality.

It will provide a more detailed insight into what public bodies roles and responsibilities are, but also outlines a commitment to contributing to effective sustainable development locally, regionally and nationally. It will help highlight the need to increase focus on the key pillars and objectives of sustainable development, supporting accountability and transparency.

Glasgow City Council welcome the Bill as a fresh approach to sustainability and move away from Bruntland Commission's definition, building on the Global Goals to focus on human and climate factors. A societal move to a wellbeing economy to replenishing nature rather than extraction would be most welcome.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'wellbeing' should be defined in legislation?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'wellbeing' should be defined in legislation?

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.

Glasgow is unclear what specific benefit would arise from the term being defined in legislation

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there should be a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the key functions of the proposed Commissioner should be (see pages 19 to 20 of the consultation document), what model of governance could be adopted (see page 22 to 23), and whether the Commissioner could play a role in strengthening existing duties or legislation.

The Future Generations Commissioner in Wales and who is independent from the Parliament, has already showed that it can more effectively promote sustainable development and ensuring that future generations and their voices are represented. There are costs associated with this, and, in order to comment, we would welcome more detail on what the proposed remit would be for a similar commissioner in Scotland.

Q6. What, in your view, should the title of the proposed Commissioner be?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

No Response

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there is a need for duties for public bodies to promote sustainable development and wellbeing in policy development and implementation?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response including views on any barriers to implementation of these duties and on how the effectiveness of implementation could be measured.

The nature of the requirement under any new duty will be critical. If it follows the Equality Duty and Climate Change duties in asking for due consideration; this would be a helpful and proportionate approach. However excessive requirements linked to a duty can often reduce the approach to reporting outcomes to a box ticking exercise; and stifle innovation.

In addition to this, the Public Bodies Duties on Climate Change already include consideration to 'acting Sustainably', it would be helpful to understand how existing duties will be integrated into a new sustainable development and wellbeing duty, without causing duplication or potentially overburdening public bodies, putting pressure on time and staff resources.

Financial Implications

Q8. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your response, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

The cost may be in kind as resource is directed to support the elements defined in legislation and the duty itself; and prepare responses for framework led by a Commissioner. This may have a knock-on effect on other aspect of service response and delivery.

Furthermore, there may be additional initial costs to reimagining and redesigning services or approaches but this may be balanced by medium to long term benefits, including to nature and social capital.

Equalities

Q9. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your response and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Any new duty around wellbeing and sustainability should be explicitly linked to the Fairer Scotland Duty and the General Duty on Equalities. It should also provide examples of how the Duties interlink so that authorities can ensure their own approach to fulfilling these interlinked duties is consistent and integrated.

Sustainability

Q10. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? (If you do not have a view then skip to next question)

Please explain the reasons for your response, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

Including a Sustainability definition in law can reinforce and reiterate support for a truly transformational and whole systems approach to addressing the climate and ecological emergency, the cost-of-living crisis and eliminating health inequalities, enabling a more collaborative and transparent approach to solving complex systemic issues. This will ultimately lead to better protecting and enhancing our natural environment, building a fairer, more equitable economy and creating a healthier and more resilient society.

General

Q11. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

No Response