

### For Information

#### Purpose

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Wales Branch.

#### *EAUC-Wales Branch Developments*

#### Main Report

Since the last EAUC Board meeting there has been one Regional meeting held. This report details key items from this meeting – (Coleg Sir Gar - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014).

#### Future Generations Bill – National conversation

Helen Nelson, (Cynnal Cymru) gave an excellent overview of the National Conversation on the Wales we Want. There followed a very stimulating and interesting debate on the proposed goals and in particular:

- Are these the right set of goals to secure a long-term sustainable future for Wales?

Questions were raised regarding the development of the ideas – it was explained that the FG Bill Group and Transparency Group held some responsibility for reviewing the goals but it was recognised that the short time period leading up to the development of goals did lead to some challenges.

- What do these goals mean to you?

A lengthy and healthy discussion on the wording of the goals. The group recognised that there needs to be a lot more 'meat put on the bones' and that the goals should be seen as the overarching strategy only. The need for individuals and organisations to take ownership and develop their own vision was seen as important in this process.

- What are the key measures of progress against these goals?

Another lengthy discussion – and suggestions that goals should be viewed at the macro level e.g. climate change.

- How can we make these into shared goals and what role do different sectors have to play in achieving these goals?

Different sectors will need to shape their own measures of progress against common goals perhaps.

Members were asked to contribute their thoughts or comments on the proposed long-term goals, and how we can look at the opportunities available to us in addressing these challenges. This will become a formal response from the EAUC Regional Group.





### **Update from HEFCW**

HE Bill will have its reading in the summer of this year. The Bill would be broadly similar to the FG Bill. The Fee Plan is under discussion with the added dilemma on the decision to approve or disapprove. There are ongoing debates on the relationship of HE with WG (influence on the sector) – more information to come out in July. The risk assessment process now includes sustainability and carbon management. A new impact assessment policy is being developed which will also include the Welsh language.

### **ESDGC update**

A brief update on ESDGC with respect inclusion in the FG Bill. The legal issues associated with terminology for education was discussed – it may be that ESDGC is included within the Statutory Guidance.

### **Live Greener Project**

There was an overview of the 'live greener project' and encouraged updates of SD team projects. He explained that there is an online tool to help prepare for awards – bronze, silver and gold. Further, a discussion was held regarding the 'student switch off' – commenting that the previous efforts gave an average 6% reduction at each university. Other campaigns include 'blackout' and 'snap it off'. Green impact and snap it off to be run in Colleges from September 2014.

The next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Coleg Cambria, Deeside

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