SHAPING OUR FUTURE IN WALES
GSWAG – a brief history
Bernadette Elias

Vice Chair of G-SWAG
Head of Governance and Partnerships, Blaenau Gwent CBC
Background

- Well Being of Future Generations Act offered new challenges
- CX in Gwent wanted closer partnership working and reduced duplication
- GSWAG partnership, formed in Autumn 2015
  - Gwent LA’s, Police, OPCC, ABUHB and ABUHB Public Health, SWFRS, NRW, WLGA, Welsh Government, OFGC.
Achievements

- By working together we have:
  - Developed joint methodologies for assessments and Well Being Plans, focused on reducing duplication
  - Co-produced a report outlining Well Being Priorities across Gwent, progressing actions funded through PHW
  - Made joint regional bids totaling £180k, one area of which is the discussion today – Gwent Futures 2035
G-SWAG member
Policy Officer, Caerphilly CBC
Getting it together

- Filling a gap in our knowledge base identified during the Well-being Assessment process
- Welsh Government PSB Funding for 2017/18
- Competitive tendering process led to the commissioning of Ash Futures Ltd
Project aims

- Produce a ‘Future Scenarios’ analysis of the Gwent area
- Help the five Gwent PSBs to consider the long term issues and ‘disruptors’ that might impact on our area
  - Emerging trends and developments around 10 key themes
  - The uncertainty around the emerging trends
  - The changing importance of these issues
  - Develop a range of scenarios
Project outputs

- Three volumes within the final report
  - Scenarios Report
  - Horizon Scan Summary Report
  - Horizon Scan Report
Director – Ash Futures
Scanning for what?
Different horizons

- Horizon 2 – near to mid-term future. Less well characterised and seemingly less urgent.
- Horizon 3 – mid to long-term future. Difficult to describe and much less certain.
Covering the ground
The scans

Electric vehicles: Charging ahead

The UK Government’s Industrial Strategy aims to support the development of infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) through £0.5bn investment in charging infrastructure and plug-in car grants. As the number of EVs rises so will the charging infrastructure requirements. 2017 data show that the UK added less than one new public charging point for every six new plug in vehicles. The figures make particularly grim reading for early adopters in Wales, where, despite having around half as many plug-in vehicles as Scotland does, it has just one tenth the number of rapid chargers. Of course, people can charge their cars at home but there are concerns about access to charging points and about grid capacity and stability.
Scenarios
Scenarios

- What might Gwent be like in 2035?
- Explore how trends and uncertainties might play out
- Help teams imagine how conditions for success might vary in the future
- ...and anticipate and rehearse important decisions
- Not predictions
Change happens quickly in Gwent

- Taking Charge
- Leading Lights

Citizens take responsibility

- Demanding Better
- Waiting Longer

Change is slow in Gwent

Citizens are dependent
Change happens quickly in Gwent

- Wales has invested heavily in technology. Government, businesses and citizens are globally connected. Employment is high.
- Low skill jobs have been lost to automation, but investment in skills is significant.
- The region’s success is partly down to a clear and shared ambition for well-being; and partly the result of a demanding electorate that holds government firmly to account.
- Local taxation has increased to address social issues. Society accepts that some people cannot get work and need to be looked after.
- More needs to be done to improve environmental well-being.

Citizens take responsibility

Taking Charge
Change happens quickly in Gwent

- The UK is adjusting to life post-Brexit. Central government and industry are working closely together to source new trade opportunities
- Opportunity is not evenly spread
- Citizens in Wales find it hard to accept that old jobs and industries are disappearing
- Government in Wales is working hard to restructure the economy but may be running out of time
- ...and regions that are slow off the mark risk falling further behind
- Long term needs such as the environment and healthy lifestyles have fallen off the radar
- The UK is struggling to cope with its ageing population and ageing infrastructure
- Rural areas are in decline. People flood into the cities looking for work and access to services
- Government is in command and control mode, focused on regeneration of strategic cities
- Wales - suffering outward migration and loss of jobs and prosperity - is struggling
- Local government has limited money. Many communities are severely blighted by drug use and related crime. Environmental degradation is getting steadily worse
- Public services are devalued and public servants are not respected
Citizens are dependent
Citizens take responsibility

- The world’s leading economies have concentrated on technology, innovation and environmental protection but the UK, which lost ground after Brexit, is not one of them
- Local communities, fed up with lack of action, have taken control and have focussed on circular economy practices
- People eat better, exercise more and demand healthier goods and services. Product leasing has increased and ownership has declined
- Wales is an enthusiastic adopter and the approach is paying off. The region and wider communities increasingly look an attractive prospect for people seeking a higher quality of environmental life

Demanding Better

Change is slow in Gwent
Taking Charge describes a future where citizens take responsibility for health and well-being and where government and businesses are innovative and forward-looking.

Wales, like the rest of the UK, has invested heavily in technology and its government, businesses and citizens are connected to opportunities around the world. Employment is high. Low skill jobs have been lost entirely due to automation, but investment in new skills is significant and essential for economic success.

The region’s current success is partly the result of a clear and shared ambition for well-being; and partly the result of a demanding electorate that utilises social media to track progress and hold the government to account against the plan to deliver it.

Local taxation has increased to address social issues. Much of it goes into skills training but society also accepts that some people cannot get work and need to be looked after. More needs to be done to improve environmental well-being.

Citizens take responsibility, change happens quickly in Gwent Welsh government runs online referendum on its annual budget. UK economy enters its 6th year of over 4% growth. UK is the 5th country in Europe to adopt a Citizens Income. The Welsh government runs online referendum on its annual budget. Wales trials a digital “Wellbeing Passport” for access to healthcare services. Parts of Caldicot Levels abandoned to sea level rise.

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And . . . .

- Postcards from the future
- Links to the horizon scans
- Drivers and uncertainties
G-SWAG member
Second stage

- Together, we have:
  - Held a major conference for leaders and policy makers across Gwent
  - Run a workshop in each PSB area
  - Each was bespoke to the needs of the area
Further work

- Individual PSBs are taking it further:
  - Caerphilly held a further workshop with members of its Futures Scenarios Group
  - Blaenau Gwent using the work to improve strategic planning – with Scrutiny Committee and CMT
  - Torfaen and Newport are working on how to create a community-wide Futures Risk Register