



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 15TH JULY 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Kirby - Chair

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, E. Forehead, L. Harding, B. Miles, J. Taylor, and L.G. Whittle.

Together with:

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), N. Kenny (Community Safety), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer).

Outside Bodies:

A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority), Inspector A. Boucher (Gwent Police)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click here to view](#). He advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C.J. Cuss, Mrs C. Forehead, G. Johnston, C.P. Mann, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, G. Simmonds, Co-opted member L. Jones and C. Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 28TH JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 28th January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period July 2021 to January 2022.

Members were advised that the next meeting was scheduled for 27th January 2022 and that there may be some changes to note on the Forward Work Programme, following the next item on the agenda.

Following consideration, and in noting the possibility of amendments, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the possible changes, the Forward Work Programme for the coming year be approved and published on the Councils' website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. PROGRESS UPDATE – THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023 (SEPTEMBER 2020 TO JUNE 2021)

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report which gave an update to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on the performance updates presented to the Caerphilly Public Services Board on 24th June 2021. The June 24th meeting was the last meeting of the Caerphilly Public Services Board, which has now dissolved in favour of a Gwent Public Services Board; to be formed from autumn this year. Members were also advised that it was the intention to maintain oversight and scrutiny of the existing Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan, which runs up until May 2023.

Members were referred to the performance reports that had previously been provided to them via email for their consideration and a deadline of 9th July for any question's members wished to raise or areas they may wish to focus on. No questions had been received from members, therefore none of the relevant officers had been required to attend this Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Members were advised that the Public Services Board had refreshed its areas of activity in the light of the COVID pandemic and particularly to focus on recovery plans and the partnership response to the issues faced by communities. Members were reminded that the existing plan would still run until May 2023. The PSB COVID recovery plans may result in possible changes to the Partnerships Scrutiny Forward Work Programme. Members were reminded that this Committee only meet twice a year and the 'Best Start in Life' report was already scheduled for the January 2022 meeting.

Members were advised that the Caerphilly Public Services Board website would continue until May 2023 and that all Board members would continue to act on behalf of Caerphilly until May 2023.

Members were referred to the 5-year cycle of the well-being plan and the areas that have already been scrutinised in depth being: Resilient Communities, Good Health and Well-being, Natural Environment and Apprenticeships and Volunteering. Members were advised that this meeting would include a report on Safer Communities. Areas still to be scrutinised were Best Start in Life, Assets, Procurement and Communications and Engagement. Members were

also advised of 2 new areas which they may wish to include in the Forward Work Programme, being Caerphilly Cares and Job Growth and Employment Support.

The Chair enquired whether the proposal to consider the 2 new areas, Caerphilly Cares, and Job Growth and Employment Support was agreeable to members. A member enquired whether the tackling poverty strategy could also be included, and members were advised that this had been taken into account in the Well-being Plan and would be dealt with under the specific areas to be scrutinised. A member also queried whether Child Poverty could be included as a specific area to be scrutinised. Members were advised that it was not the remit of the Corporate Policy Manager to decide which specific areas were to be scrutinised. The Chair advised members that it would be best to liaise with officers outside of the meeting to determine which scrutiny committee best to refer to.

A member proposed that local authority procurement performance be included as a future item to be scrutinised. Members were advised that the authority's procurement function would be referred to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. Members were advised that the Procurement area for this committee was a collaborative procurement with public sector partners to increase spending power.

Following consideration and discussion, the Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:

- i) The progress updates provided to the PSB be noted, and the new recovery areas, and consideration be given to the forward plan of scrutiny of thematic areas as part of its Forward Work Programme.
- ii) That the current Caerphilly Public Services Board website will remain until May 2023 be noted and all performance reports will be made visible on that, after their agreement and confirmation by PSB member Board Champions. Reporting of regional activity and projects will be made to the Gwent Public Services Board in future.

6. SAFER COMMUNITIES - PRESENTATION

The Scrutiny Committee were provided with a presentation by N. Kenny (CCBC Community Safety Officer) and Inspector A. Boucher (Gwent Police) on the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership. Members were advised that the Partnership consists of 5 Responsible Authorities, Gwent Police, Caerphilly County Borough Council, South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, and the Probation Service and these all work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder and make the community safer.

Members were referred to the community safety portfolio and statutory duties, including information sharing to reduce crime and disorder in the area. Members were given information on the Safer Caerphilly Working Group which is a multi-agency group that meets regularly to oversee the work of the Community Safety Partnership. It includes 5 key themes:

1. To stand up to Hate/Intolerance and Extremism in our communities. This includes dealing with hate crime and ensuring that the responsibilities for Prevent and Channel under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 are met.
2. Maintain an accurate picture of Anti-Social Behaviour and those responsible.
3. Serious Violence/Serious Organised Crime.
4. Community Mapping.
5. To enhance engagement and activity in relation to the Night-Time economy.

Members were given detailed information in relation to each of the 5 key themes, including staff training on Prevent, the process of dealing with anti-social behaviour, the consultation on the Public Space Protection Orders, the Safer Caerphilly Hub, After Dark Initiative and the New Community Safety Partnership Serious Violence Duty due in 2022.

A Member referred to the meetings that are due to take place between the Police and Councillors in relation to specific wards and queried whether the issue of speeding in Pontllanfraith would be considered. Members were advised of the current position regarding speeding in that area with the Go Safe Partnership, who regularly deploy the speed camera vans following incidents or in response to complaints received.

A Member sought clarification on the reference made to Council buildings and whether the footfall of 100 was per day, in relation to risk assessments carried out. Members were advised that this would be part of the counter-terrorism group which would be set up to look at the security of public buildings across the borough.

A Member queried whether there had been any prosecutions in relation to the recent grass fires in the borough. Members were advised that there were 24 grass fires, which included refuse fires, wheelie bins set on fire and mountain fires and there have been 15 referrals to the Youth Offending Service for the refuse and wheelie bin fires.

A Member sought clarification on the Outreach programme for children under 9 and whether their schools are informed when a child is involved in the programme. Members were advised that CCBC involvement is only with children over 10 years of age but where there is any dealing with anti-social behaviour issues, this would usually involve meetings where Education officers would be present. The Member was advised to contact the Police Inspector outside of the meeting as he had raised the question in relation to a personal matter in relation to car vandalism.

A Member wished to praise the Police for their recent engagement with the community in relation to Community Mapping and this was noted in the meeting. A Member also referred to local workshops with the Police in her area which were working well before the pandemic.

A Member enquired about goods seized by the Police and what happens to them. Members were advised that drugs are destroyed, cash is held until the Court awards it to a particular fund, stolen property is auctioned off following a Court order and alcohol is poured down the drain.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their detailed presentation, which was noted, and their colleagues for all their good work done in the community.

7. FORMATION OF A GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report which gave Member's information on the formation of a Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) from September this year as notified to scrutiny at its last meeting. The report also gave members further information on the proposals for Local Delivery Partnerships in each of the constituent local authority areas and information on the proposed regional scrutiny and continued scrutiny within the Council arrangements both pre and post 2023.

Members were referred to a single 'Gwent' report that is being presented to the relevant scrutiny, Cabinet and Council arrangements in each of the five local authority areas in the Gwent region. The report details the arrangements for a Gwent PSB from September this year and confirms the decision of the board members across the five existing public service boards to dissolve and merge as a single Gwent PSB.

Members were also advised that future arrangements will include Local Delivery Partnerships and the Gwent PSB will oversee these Partnerships and the ongoing delivery of the current Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan 2018-2023.

Members were referred to the detailed regional report appended to the report that updates on the progress towards the development of the Gwent Public Services Board. A common report is being provided across the region to all local authority elected member forums and sets out in detail, the background and existing structures across the region and a proposed regional partnership structure.

Members were advised that the Caerphilly PSB Annual Report was agreed in September 2020 rather than July, due to the disruption to PSB meetings by the pandemic. As the Gwent PSB will form from September 2021 Welsh Government have agreed that this year's Caerphilly PSB annual report will run from the period September 2020 to September 2021. Members were also advised that as this committee were not meeting until January 2022, this annual report would be provided at that meeting as an information item.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

A Member wished to express his concerns on the formation of the Gwent Public Services Board, specifically in relation to decision making. The member also sought clarification on any consultation process for this change and referred to the last meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee where they were notified of the changes to the Public Services Board and not given the opportunity for any consultation with members or the public. The member referred to the consultation process for the well-being plan and sought clarification as to why this had not been the same for the formation of the Gwent PSB and why it had not been referred to the Scrutiny Committee in the first instance. Members were advised that the Council were only one member of the Public Services Board, together with Health, Fire and Natural Resources Wales. Invited members also include Gwent Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health Wales, Welsh Government, and the Probation Service. Members were advised that the Council was a part of this large collaboration of public sector partners and had no more power to influence decisions than any other member of the board. Members were advised that public services board partners would be consulting on the next version of the well-being plan as had been done for the current well-being plan.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be noted, together with a request that the Public Services Board undertake a consultation in the forthcoming period. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the full set of recommendations be noted, together with a request that the Public Services Board undertake a consultation in the forthcoming period.

The meeting closed at 6.44 pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2022.

CHAIR