



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH JANUARY 2022

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF WELL-BEING INCLUDING
LOCAL COMMUNITY AREA ASSESSMENTS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND CORPORATE
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce to Members the consultation draft of the assessment of well-being (the Well-Being Assessment) in line with statutory timelines.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the local Community Area Assessments being undertaken on the five community planning areas in the county borough.
- 1.3 To outline the consultation process and next steps for the draft Well-Being Assessment and future development of the Well-Being Plan for Gwent (2023-2028).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 statutory guidance 'Shared Purpose – Shared Future' sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. This means that the first Gwent Well-Being Assessment must be published by 5th May 2022. The timeline of the assessment and plan is linked to local government elections.
- 2.2 The Well-being Assessment is being developed on a regional basis for the first time. However, local Community Area Assessments are being undertaken in communities across Gwent. For the county borough these communities are the five community planning areas:
 - Rhymney
 - Mid Valleys West
 - Mid Valleys East
 - Islwyn
 - Caerphilly Basin

- 2.3 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are a statutory consultee under Section 38 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The draft Well-being Assessment is available at the hyperlink to the Gwent PBSs website at 'Background Papers'. The Executive Summary is appended to this report at Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The Community Area Assessments are currently being drafted. The Rhymney area assessment is appended to this report to allow members insight into the content of them. The remaining four assessments will be complete by the end of the month but were not able to be shared in time for committee timescales. They will be circulated to members electronically for comment.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Partnerships Scrutiny Committee note the draft Well-being Assessment and associated Community Area Assessments and provide any comments.
- 3.2 Given the size of the document the further recommendation is to allow Members additional time after this meeting to provide any comments, by the 15th of February 2022. The five local area assessments will be complete by the end of January and will be circulated shortly after this evening's meeting.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To allow Members the opportunity to consider and comment on the draft Well-being Assessment.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Well-being Assessment is the primary partnership planning document for the PSB partners and is developed on a 5-yearly cycle. As well as informing the work of the PSB it should be used within the individual member organisations to inform corporate planning. It is a public document and the data and information within it is designed to be useful for anyone with an interest in the well-being of the area.

The joint Well-being Assessment draws on the knowledge and experience each of the five former PSBs gained when producing the last assessments in 2017. Officers have been working in collaboration across the region to develop the document.

- 5.2 Producing a joint assessment is different to producing one for each of the local authority areas. There are aspects that are best considered at a regional (Gwent) level, and others that are more local, affecting individual communities or areas. The assessment has been produced around the four well-being themes set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Social, Economic, Environmental, and Cultural.

The Assessment brings together a range of information to help explain what Gwent and its communities look like and what is important in planning for the future. Data has been collected at both national and local levels; and engagement has taken place with people and communities living and working in an area.

- 5.3 The statutory guidance states that the use of evidence and analysis should usefully be divided into two main components:

Situation Analysis – painting a broad picture of well-being within the board's area so that potential priorities for the area can be identified (the assessment of local well-being, the work we are doing now).

Response Analysis – the detailed analysis of individual issues and themes to inform the development of the Local Well-being Plan, this will be developed with the PSB over the Spring period.

In preparing and publishing the assessment (situation analysis) of the state the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area the board must:

- Set out the communities that comprise the area;
 - Analyse the state of well-being in each community and the whole area
 - Analyse the state of well-being of the people in the area;
 - Include predictions of future trends of the area;
 - Refer to the National Indicators;
 - Take into account a number of statutory reviews and assessments when preparing their assessment.
- 5.4 The Gwent PSB was established on 1 October 2021 and as such the timescales for developing the first regional Well-Being Assessment have been a challenge, and it is anticipated that the draft will be updated throughout the consultation process. This task of developing the assessment was assigned to the PSB Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) officer sub-group. The draft assessment was reviewed and agreed by the PSB in their December meeting to enable the consultation process to begin
- 5.5 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are a statutory consultee body under Section 38 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and a copy of the assessment must be provided to Committee. The full document is hyperlinked at Background Papers. However, the key headlines are included within the Executive Summary (appended). A PowerPoint presentation is also being used to take Members through the document.
- 5.6 The data and assessment will improve over time, with further amendments throughout the consultation process, and in the next phase (Response Analysis). We know that there is more work to be done on including the outputs of engagement exercises in each chapter, and that further work is may be needed to refine the Community Area Assessments.
- The ongoing consultation process will include expert officers, that is staff within member organisations with responsibility for services that deliver on, or who have knowledge of, economic, environmental, social and cultural factors. In effect to 'sense check' the headlines in the assessment and consider their views as it moves through to Response Analysis.
- 5.7 The timeline for completion of the final Well-being Assessment is included at appendix 3. Thereafter, the officers supporting the PSB will be working on developing the Gwent Well-being Plan to be published by May 2023.

5.8 **Conclusion**

This report presents to Members the draft assessment of well-being for their consideration and comment.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions made in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report is for information only and reports on the draft local assessment of well-being prepared by the Gwent Public Services Board, acting as a collaborative body.

7.2 The work of the Gwent Public Services Board is consistent with the five ways of working as set out in the sustainable development principle in the Act, since it allows Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to consider how the actions of the Public Services Board are:

- Long Term – Balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
- Prevention - Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse to help public bodies meet their objectives
- Integration – Considering how the well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, or on the objectives of other public bodies
- Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the board to meet its well-being objectives
- Involvement – Involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Caerphilly county borough Policy Officers have taken the lead role in completing the document providing the overview guidance and steer for a range of partnership officers, authorship roles have been shared among many partners. In addition, Caerphilly Policy Officers have shaped and guided the engagement processes working with others across the region to get a shared understanding of how consistency can be brought to the process. Some additional Policy Officer capacity has been funded, through Welsh Government regional allocation, to be able to manage the additional workload. This capacity will be in place within the next few weeks.

9.2 Caerphilly currently administers the Gwent PSB providing all back-office support and

support to the Chair and PSB members. The Leader of Caerphilly Council was elected as chair of the Gwent PSB for its first two-year period.

- 9.3 Given the larger proportion of capacity being devoted by Caerphilly Policy Officers to the regional work the Community Area Assessments for the county borough are yet to be completed but will be available for comments by the end of the month.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 This report has been sent to all consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Section 38 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Consultees: Councillor Philippa Marsden, Leader of the Council and Chair of the PSB
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Councillor Gez Kirby, Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Education and Corporate Services
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rob Tranter, Head of legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer
Vicki Doyle, Policy Officer
Heather Delonnette, Policy Officer
Paul Massey, Policy Officer

Background Papers:

[Link to Gwent PSB Well-being Assessment \(Draft\)](#)

Appendices:

Community Area Assessments:-

Appendix 1 Upper Rhymney Valley
Appendix 2 Draft Well-being Assessment - Executive Summary
Appendix 3 Assessment Timeline