



SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1ST NOVEMBER 2022

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FOR THE GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Partnerships Scrutiny Committee of progress towards the development of a regional scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Appended to this report is a report prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and presented to the Gwent PSB on the 29th of September 2022.
- 2.2 It sets out the direction of travel towards a regional scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB.
- 2.3 The Gwent PSB accepted all the recommendations in the report. The Scrutiny Managers in the five constituent local authorities are taking forward to work with a view to the regional committee being operational from January 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Partnerships Scrutiny Committee note the development of a new regional scrutiny committee to take forward the duties under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 For elected members to be aware of the changing arrangements.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Section 35 of the Act stipulates that there must be a local authority overview and scrutiny committee in place to:
1. Review or scrutinise decisions made by the PSB
 2. Make reports of recommendations to the PSB with respect to the PSB's functions or governance
 3. Consider such matters relating to the PSB that Welsh Minutes may refer to it
 4. Carry out such other functions that are imposed by the Act
- 5.2 This function has been carried out in the five local authorities in the region. With the creation of a regional PSB, scrutiny arrangements need to be in place to ensure that the above functions are carried out. It has been determined that the most effective way to do this, avoiding duplications and recognising the regional nature of the Gwent PSB, its plan and subsequent delivery is to create a new regional scrutiny committee.
- 5.3 The work will be taken forward by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the appended report describes the proposed arrangements in more detail.
- 5.4 The appended report details the membership agreed by the Gwent PSB for the regional PSB scrutiny committee and states that there will be two members per local authority. This is in line with the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013, which states that the members of a joint overview and scrutiny committee must comprise an equal number of persons from each of the appointing authorities.
- 5.5 The regulations also state that each appointing authority must ensure that, as far as practicable, the members of a joint overview and scrutiny committee reflect the balance of political groups for the time being prevailing among the members of the appointing authority. Therefore, in line with the political balance reported to the Annual General meeting of Council on 19th May 2022 the political balance for 2 members is 1 Labour and 1 Plaid Cymru.
- 5.6 Council noted the creation of the Gwent PSB at the meeting on the 27th July 2021 and the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny. This report explained that a Local Delivery Group will be set up to continue the delivery of the existing Caerphilly well-being plan, until 2023. Thereafter, the Local Delivery Group will be responsible for any local activity and actions under the Gwent well-being plan and any contribution to regional PSB activity.
- 5.7 Therefore in the context of Caerphilly work there is an ongoing requirement to scrutinise activity under the current well-being plan, until 2023. As such Partnerships Scrutiny Committee will continue to meet until this time, with the last meeting being in January 2023.
- 5.8 Thereafter, local activity will continue under the Gwent well-being plan 2023-2028. There are two options for scrutiny of this work:
- Option 1. Partnerships Scrutiny Committee continues to sit/ or additional meetings of Policy and Resources Committee are convened to cover the local activity, or

Option 2. Local PSB activity is referred to the most relevant sitting committee, depending on the project.

5.9 **Conclusion**

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the report on the establishment of the Regional PSB scrutiny committee and comment on the future scrutiny of local activity projects after January 2023.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions made in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The appended draft well-being plan is a regional report drafted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and therefore not subject to the impact assessment process in use in Caerphilly County Borough Council.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 A contribution of £2,140 in the current financial year will be provided to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to cover the expected additional costs of running the regional scrutiny committee. An annual amount, expected to rise with inflation, will be provided in each subsequent year. The money will be taken from the Members Services budget.

8.2 All statutory partners in the PSB will contribute an equal amount, with the exception of Blaenau Gwent who will provide support in kind.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

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

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

11.2 Local Government Act 2000

11.3 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

11.4 Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013

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Consultees: Councillor Sean Morgan, Leader of the Council
Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Councillor Gary Johnston, Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers: Welsh Govt guidance on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards- [Guidance on the scrutiny of public services boards | GOV.WALES](#)

Appendix 1: Report to the Gwent Public Services Board 29.9.22- Development of a Regional Scrutiny Committee