



SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2022 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Johnston - Chair

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, C.J. Cuss, G. Enright, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles (Vice Chair), D. Preece, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, and C. Wright.

Cabinet Members: Councillors C. Andrews, J. Pritchard, J. Simmonds and E. Stenner. Morgan.

Together with:

Officers: K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), H. Delonnette (Senior Policy Officer), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available following the meeting via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items – [Click Here to View](#). It was noted that voting on decisions would take place via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D. Ingram-Jones, J. Reed, J. Taylor, and Cllr A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

3. GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN – 2023-2028.

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report which provided the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, as a statutory consultee, the consultation draft of the Gwent Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023-2028, for their consideration and comment.

Members were advised that the Gwent PSB had developed its draft well-being plan for the region and the report was presented to the Gwent PSB at its meeting on 29th September 2022. The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, as the relevant local authority overview and scrutiny committee, are a statutory consultee for the local well-being plan under Section 43 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Members were also informed that the draft well-being plan is framed around three high-level well-being objectives and will be underpinned by work across the region to embed eight 'Marmot' principles designed to reduce inequity between populations across a range of determinants of well-being. The draft well-being plan is subject to a formal 12-week public and stakeholder consultation, commencing October 2022. Members were referred to the following recommendations in the report, for members to consider and comment upon:

- The proposal to adopt the Marmot framework as the underlying basis of the PSB Well-being Plan.
- The wellbeing objectives and associated activities.
- The proposed linkage between the Gwent PSB wellbeing plan and the council's emerging corporate plan.

Members were advised that the Gwent PSB has developed the draft well-being plan for the area following the production of an assessment of local well-being using a range of data for the region, and public and stakeholder consultation. The local assessment of well-being has informed the development of the draft plan and was presented to scrutiny committee on 27th January 2022. The draft well-being plan is the first well-being plan of the regional PSB and sets out the well-being objectives of the PSB and the steps it intends to take to meet those objectives.

Members were informed that the plan must be published within 12 months of an ordinary election and must be subject to a number of formal consultation and approval processes and the views of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are important in refining the draft well-being plan. A similar scrutiny consultation process is being followed in each of the five local authorities in the region.

The Senior Policy Officer gave Members a presentation on the draft well-being plan, which explained how the assessment information was used to produce the draft well-being plan, and highlighted the details provided by the Corporate Policy Manager, including details of the 3 objectives. Members were also informed of the development work being done to the draft well-being plan, the consultation process and events, and that the Gwent PSB has agreed to become a 'Marmot' region, to include the 8 Marmot Principles:

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

7. Tackle racism, discrimination, and their outcomes
8. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

A Member sought clarification on a number of issues, whether the 5 year plan would be reviewed and updated during the 5 year period, whether culture and language could be included in the links to the well-being goals, and whether the 'steps' to achieve the 3 objectives could acknowledge the impact of the PSB, where any gaps had been identified. Members were advised that the 5 year plan would be updated during the 5 year period of the plan, and the 'culture and language' aspect would be considered as part of the consultation. Members were advised that the PSB recognises that local authorities are already acknowledging some aspects of the Marmot Principles. Members were also advised that the 5 year plan should be flexible and incorporate any changes during the period, together with an annual report, and the inclusion of the Welsh language in the Marmot principles had been acknowledged.

A Member referred to the reviews undertaken in Manchester and Coventry and noted the results, including life expectancy being shortened in more deprived areas. Members were advised of a recent event held in Newport which had been attended by Professor Marmot, and noted that Gwent will be the first area in Wales to be looked at.

A Member referred to one of the villages in his ward that didn't have a GP Practice, library or regular transport service, and sought clarification as to how residents of these types of villages would be included. Members were advised that not all elements could be dealt with by the PSB and noted that the lack of GP practices would be a matter for the local health board and that the local authority is responsible for libraries and transport.

A Member queried how some residents of 'poorer' communities within the borough would be able to access the PSB during the consultation period, and also noted that the venues arranged for the 'in person' consultation were to be held in some of the most affluent areas of the borough. The Member suggested possible attendance at local food banks would be more appropriate to provide the service to residents who are struggling. Members were advised that paper copies were available on request, together with pre-paid envelopes for their return, and that there may be the opportunity of attending some other local areas during the consultation period, however this could not be guaranteed due to the capacity of the small team.

A Member referred to the Marmot Principles and noted the lack of progress in the area, with ongoing issues of diet, job opportunities and security. Regular progress updates were requested and it was suggested that Community Councils could be involved in the consultation. Members were advised a workshop had been arranged for the Town and Community Councils on 23rd November, and Members were also informed that performance management measures were yet to be determined or developed, although 6 monthly updates were available.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and commented on:

- The proposal to adopt the Marmot framework as the underlying basis of the PSB Well-being Plan.
- The wellbeing objectives and associated activities.
- The proposed linkage between the Gwent PSB wellbeing plan and the council's emerging corporate plan.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR THE GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD.

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report which informed the 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. Members were referred to the appended report prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and presented to the Gwent PSB on 29th September 2022. Members were advised that the Gwent PSB had accepted all the recommendations in the report and that 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.

Members were also informed that the local authority will continue to scrutinise local activity under the Gwent well-being plan 2023-2028, with the following two options for scrutiny of this work:

- 1) Partnerships Scrutiny Committee continues to sit/or additional meetings of Policy and Resources Committee are convened to cover the local activity, or
- 2) Local PSB activity is referred to the most relevant sitting committee, depending on the project.

A Member suggested that option 1 would be the preferred option. Members were advised that the scrutiny required, going forward, would be greatly reduced and would only be for local projects and activities. It was suggested to Members that the minutes from the Regional Scrutiny PSB meetings could be included as information items at future Policy and Resources Scrutiny committee meetings instead of continuing with Partnerships which would have a much reduced role.

Members discussed the attendance of the PSB meetings by representatives from Caerphilly and the method by which information would be received back. Members were advised of the possibility of the information being referred to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee if they are picked up through the minutes and reports on local activity would go to the most relevant scrutiny committee, for example Education projects to be considered by Education Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Committee noted 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.

The meeting closed at 6.41 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2023.

CHAIR

